

# OLD NORTH



MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

FALL 2017 • VOL. LIV, NO. 2

## Facing *the* Challenges





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<p><b>4 Tracking Crabs in Grand Cayman</b> UCO graduate student Kinsey Tedford just completed her third summer in Cayman, researching a species that's declining.</p> <p><b>6 Health on Track</b> Martha Brennan explains how she knew a radical cancer fighting treatment was her only choice, and why she'd do it again.</p> <p><b>10 International Recruitment, Tough</b> Schools across the country are now competing for international students, a goal that's increasingly difficult.</p> <p><b>14 Bee Curious</b> Sounds easy enough, but think again. The new <i>E. barthelli</i>, named for Provost John Barthell, has been enlightening.</p> <p><b>20 Standing on the Shoulders</b> Vice President of Student Affairs Myron Pope looks back at one Central student who helped him arrive in his role today.</p>	<p><b>24 Breaking Language Barriers</b> UCO professors have helped develop an exciting program for younger students to learn English and succeed in school.</p> <p><b>26 Chasing the Dream</b> Steve Hansen, M.F.A., new dean of UCO's College of Fine Arts and Design, brings major creativity to his job.</p> <p><b>32 Mitchell's Expansion, Done!</b> For so long a dream, the building now has it all — trendy Green Room, dance and theater class areas, dressing areas and more.</p> <p><b>34 Honoring Our Own</b> Meet UCO's five new Distinguished Alumni, all to be honored Oct. 13 on campus. Ticket deadline is Sept. 29.</p> <p><b>40 Look Out World!</b> April 4-7 will be exciting days on the Central campus when 5,000 undergraduate researchers and mentors are expected.</p>
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...a magazine published by the University of Central Oklahoma for its alumni and friends.

## On the Cover



Madison Payton is a sophomore from Miami, Oklahoma, double majoring in Forensic Science and Criminal Justice. A member of last year's UCO Cheer Team, her spirit seems to defy the many challenges of today, some of which are examined in this issue of Old North magazine.

Photo by Lauren Bieri,  
UCO Photographic Services

## In Every Issue

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The University of Central Oklahoma  
Alumni Association Presents:

**Thursday, Oct. 12:** Bronchtobberfest  
5 - 8 p.m. at the Patriarch in Edmond

**Friday, Oct. 13:** Golden Bronchos Reunion Breakfast  
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Nigh University Center

**Friday, Oct. 13:** Distinguished Alumni Luncheon  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Nigh University Center

**Friday, Oct. 13:** African American Chapter  
7 p.m. - Meet and Greet at Eddie's Bar & Grill

**Saturday, Oct. 14:** Homecoming Carnival  
11 a.m. - West of Wantland Stadium

**Saturday, Oct. 14:** Homecoming Game  
2 p.m. - Nebraska Kearney vs. the Bronchos

## Q&A with President Betz

Don Betz, Ph.D., is now in his seventh year as UCO president. During his time, Central has had a rise in the number of degrees granted while state funding has dropped from 50 percent in 2008 to 22 percent for this academic year. Now seemed a good time to ask about the challenges he sees ahead.



**Q. What's the No. 1 challenge you see facing UCO today?**

**A.** That would have to be funding. We begin the 2017-18 year in high spirits, but we also have realistic expectations. We lost another \$2.63 million in state support this year. However, we're focused on creating new partnerships and new sources of support to meet our campus needs.

**Q. What are those needs?**

**A.** In February 2017, we reopened Old North after its closure for 17 years. There is a succession of capital projects planned or underway that are designed to meet the learning and working opportunities for our staff, faculty and particularly our students.

An example is the new STEM Teaching and Research Center that's expected to be completed by next fall. It will expand the opportunities for relevant undergraduate research in a variety of disciplines, including Forensic Science and Nursing. It represents UCO's active response to the metro's and state's call for more graduates in those fields.

A second example of responding to the educational needs of the region will be the expansion of the Liberal Arts building, to be started in January 2018 and occupied by the summer of 2019.

**Q. Is it just about buildings?**

**A.** Definitely not.

UCO has focused on creating the optimal learning environments for our diverse student population — recent high school graduates, as well as nontraditional students returning to the university to change the trajectory of their career options and to more adequately meet the needs of their families. We also have a significant population of high school students who earn college credit at UCO each semester. One common characteristic is that they all utilize ever-changing technology in their work and their personal lives. This will continue into the future, requiring a capacity for adaptability that may prove to be challenging for many. This is the essence of Kevin Kelly's assertion in his book, "The Inevitable," when he writes, "All of us — every one of us — will be endless newbies in the future simply trying to keep up." One of our continuing institutional responsibilities is to prepare our graduates for a life of change and a passion for learning. Their success in this new high-tech world is essential for their futures as well as Oklahoma City's and Oklahoma's prosperity.

**Q. So, is it about building an environment to make them all tech-savvy citizens who know how to get the information they need?**

**A.** No. UCO and other universities are dedicated to our graduates being more than career-ready. We prepare them to be citizen-ready.

Throughout their time at UCO, our students are continually and intentionally directed toward hands-on experiences in the community and state through a combination of volunteer internships and campus responsibilities. They also have outreach into the community through more than 200 student organizations. The positive outcomes include increased exposure and awareness of the metro's challenges and opportunities. In turn, prospective employers are able to more effectively assess our students' capacities and attitudes, which in turn can lead to satisfying careers for our students. About 82 percent of our graduates remain in the state, the majority in the metro area, contributing to the growth and vitality of the area and our fellow citizen. It is clearly in the OKC Metro's and the state's best interest to appropriately fund higher education so that we can achieve these desirable outcomes and build the future of the state.

University of Central Oklahoma's  
**Bronchtobberfest**

Featuring a live performance by  
**Handmade Moments**

**5-8 P.M. • THURSDAY, OCT. 12**  
**The Patriarch Craft Beer House & Lawn**  
**RSVP at [CentralConnection.org/Homecoming](http://CentralConnection.org/Homecoming)**



# tracking crabs

## In Grand Cayman

By Gypsy Hogan

A low grade on a test has led Kinsey Tedford on a journey she could never have imagined as a freshman who thought about being a nurse.

Instead, she just completed her third summer of research work in Grand Cayman, where she has made nightly searches for the area's indigenous land crabs. Dressed in reflective vests, she and her volunteers patrol the highways and search the brush for the crabs that are dwindling in numbers because of development.

Spending six to seven hours a night, they count, measure and sex their finds. She compares her counts to rainfall and moon phases to look for any correlation, as she also looks for migration patterns.

While her target is land crabs, the black land crab specifically, all land crabs return to the ocean to release their eggs for reproduction, Tedford said. Unfortunately, with today's development, that prehistoric, nocturnal walk to the ocean and back now usually means crossing a busy highway. Part of Tedford's research work has included tabulating how many are killed by motorists.

"I also look at which road has the highest activity and at what times," she said.

"This is important research from the Department of Environment's point of view," Jane Haakonsson with the department said in a Cayman television feature about Tedford's work. "We know they get run over. We know people like to eat them, but we don't really know how many we have. And you can't conserve and save something that you really don't know, so this is really important research."

Islanders do know that not that many years ago, the land crabs could be seen "all over the road" and in their backyards migrating to the ocean and back.



Tedford's Cayman internship has been under the direction of UCO Biology professor David Bass, Ph.D. He has done research work in the Caymans since 1999, with officials there sending him various specimens to identify since the 1980s. One of the world's leading experts on fresh water invertebrates, Bass has helped Cayman officials, as well as those on other Caribbean islands, prevent the destruction of fresh water habitats that contained endangered species.

"Several have given me special titles, like 'Guest Scientist' or 'Visiting Scientist,'" Bass said. "I get an official status with the government, but nonpaid. I benefit, though, because they cut the red tape for me to do research."

He and his wife, Donna, both remember seeing crabs "everywhere" as late as 2003. Then they began to notice a decline. "I'd bring it up with people in the Caymans, but they weren't

interested. Land crabs aren't showy, touristy," he said.

However, they are one of the larger animals on the island and have been one of the largest in population. From an ecological standpoint, they help with nutrient recycling and help distribute seeds, through their diet and movement.

Eventually, Cayman officials worked with Bass to establish a place for a graduate student to spend several months in the summer collecting data on the crabs. Tedford seemed the obvious pick, Bass said.

"She's independent, works extremely hard, focuses on the task while being open-minded and treating people with great respect," he said, noting he had to have that kind of confidence in someone to assure that all his years of building good relationships would remain.

Tedford said that while her nighttime work is fairly consistent, her daylight hours are not.

The Cayman government maintains a cluster of apartments for lodging for scientists like Tedford. Her roommates this summer were a West German turtle biologist and "two shark people, one from the United Kingdom and the other from South Africa." The international camaraderie is definitely a plus, Tedford said.

So, while part of her day may involve data entry and emails to Bass, she might also help one roommate tag turtles or walk the beach looking for nests. Her skills as a certified diver have allowed her to help with other research projects.

She'll graduate in May with her master's. Tedford hopes to start a doctoral program next fall, depending on who has lab funds and space for her to continue invertebrate work, ideally in an island setting.

That's a far stretch from the freshman undergraduate who got a D on her first biology exam and had to be coaxed into talking to the professor, launching a mentorship that changed her life.

"I've always enjoyed the outdoors," said the student who has ceased thinking about being a nurse. "I just never ever thought it would be a career."

"So, I guess making a D was not that bad," she said, joking about her first college biology test. "He'd kill me if I did that now."

*Gypsy Hogan is editor of Old North magazine and publications editor for UCO's Office of University Communications.*



Professor David Bass and graduate student Kinsey Tedford explore sites in Grand Cayman where they are doing research.

## tracking herself

Just starting her third year of graduate school, Kinsey Tedford already has an impressive, four-page curriculum vitae, the academic equivalent of a resume.

She has written 10 grant proposals for scholarly research work, four of them funded. She has made nine research presentations with David Bass, Ph.D., her biology mentor. And she has been a co-author with Bass on four published scientific articles, with several more currently under review or in preparation.

Then there's the 4.0 GPA and graduate teaching (one invertebrate zoology lab last fall and three labs last spring covering freshwater ecology, marine ecology and general biology. Awards, scholarships, volunteer activities, professional societies, relevant coursework and membership in student organizations — she definitely has made good use of her college experience.





# Health On Track

By Adrienne Nobles

In just a few minutes of conversation, one easily gets a sense of the kind of person Martha Brennan is. Determined and direct. Also, gregarious and kind. It's this mix of qualities that's helped make her successful as the University of Central Oklahoma's head track coach. She pushes her athletes to face challenges head-on — and expects nothing less of herself.

*continued on page 8*





**Daughter-mom team, Grace and Martha Brennan, who are supportive of each other making tough health decisions.**

Her latest challenge, though, happened off the track. In the spring, Brennan elected to have a prophylactic double mastectomy — a bold move to cut her risk of breast and ovarian cancer after she tested positive for the BRCA2 genetic mutation.

“When I first found out I had it, my OB/GYN said, ‘You’ve got a lot of big decisions to make.’ I was like, ‘What are you talking about? When is the surgery?’”

According to the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, women who have the BRCA2 mutation are 45 percent more likely to develop breast cancer by age 70. The BRCA1 mutation has a similar effect. The mutations are usually inherited.

Brennan inherited it from her mother, who died at age 54 from breast cancer. Just the decision to get tested for the genetic mutation is difficult for many women who are considered high risk. Brennan put it off for years. However, Academy Award-winning actress Angelina Jolie in 2013 motivated her to think seriously about getting tested.

Jolie, who lost her mother to ovarian cancer, tested positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation and went public with her decision to have double mastectomy. Two years later,

she opted to remove her ovaries to reduce her risk of getting breast and ovarian cancer.

Such surgeries remain controversial, as women who test positive also have the option of having more frequent screenings, like mammograms and MRIs.

“I think I’m an outlier in being aggressive on things like this. But the decision was never even a question — just when could I do it. It felt like a ticking time bomb. I knew I wasn’t going to feel at ease until that tissue was gone.”

Also, like Jolie, Brennan has been very open and public about her decision and the process, using social media and everyday conversations to share her story and inspire others to take charge of their own health.

“My team is a part of my family, and I expect to know what’s going on with them off the track. So, they should also know what’s going on with me.”

She also hopes to take away some of the taboos people feel in discussing breast and ovarian cancers and the elective mastectomy and breast reconstruction process. She conceded that her openness can make some feel uncomfortable, but, ultimately, she feels it’s been worth it.

“It opens the door. It shows that Martha is vulnerable, not everything is perfect in

her life, but that’s ok. Then others feel they can do the same thing. We all have an identity or persona that we’ve built, and there will be things that come along that don’t fit that, and that’s ok. You can face it. You can talk about it. Everybody has a dang pile of something; it’s just a matter of when it comes up.”

That openness also serves as a valuable example for her four daughters — ages 9, 12, 15 and 19 — who will each have to make their own decisions about getting tested for the gene mutation as adults.

Her oldest daughter, Grace, is a sophomore at Kansas State University, but she spent substantial time with her mom going through the process. She went with Brennan as she got her first “fill,” a step in the breast reconstruction process. She said it was difficult to watch, but her mom made it better by joking about what size she should choose and then wanting to go out for ice cream afterwards.

“We want her around for a lot of years, so, of course, we supported her doing this. And I know I will for sure get tested and will probably opt to do the same process if I’m positive.

I’ve realized, though, what a role model she is for everyone else, too. She wants to

impact lives. She’s always coaching, always mentoring,” Grace Brennan said.

Brennan-the-coach had to coach herself through the process, too. After getting tested in January 2017, she scheduled the double mastectomy a few months later on April 24. It was a six-hour surgery that left Brennan feeling far worse than expected.

“I was so pissed when I came out (of surgery). I hurt from my waist up. I couldn’t lift my arms. I thought, ‘What the hell? This was elective!’ I cried about it. I didn’t want to look at myself in the mirror.

“But the really emotional thing was that I knew my mom and so many other women go through breast cancer, and I’m not looking at what are my chemo options, what my radiation plan is. I don’t have to do that. I thought of all the women that do, and if they had only known a couple years earlier. Like my mom — she would be here today.”

Brennan is thankful to her strong support system for pushing her through, including her girls; her husband, Bob, a professor at UCO; her best friend, Richelle, who flew in from Alabama to be there as she recovered; and her mom, who was her high school coach and whose spirit cheers her on to this day.

Brennan’s own spirit quickly rebounded. She was back at work in three days and doing what she jokingly called “girly push-ups” within a couple of weeks. She brought her friends and social media followers through the breast reconstruction process and had her surgery on July 31. She’ll have one more surgery in the fall to remove her ovaries.

She’s inspiring others to take proactive steps, too. One of her fellow coaches was encouraged to talk to his wife about her family health history and what preventative options might be available.

Now, Brennan will guide her twin sister, who also tested positive this year, as she starts down a similar path.

“Me going first helped her make her decisions and the process less intimidating.”

Always coaching. Always mentoring.

*Adrienne Nobles is Assistant Vice President for University Communications.*



**Martha Brennan, third from left, and daughters Bella, Ivy, Eve and Grace Brennan.**

## Stay On Track

**Evaluate your risk:** Do you have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer? Have you had a breast augmentation?

**Talk with your doctor:** Your doctor can help you determine if you are high risk and should consider testing for the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation.

**Check with your insurance:** Coverage varies depending on the level of your risk and age.

**Consider all options:** Determine whether surgery or screening is right for you.

**Advocate:** Martha Brennan encourages women to be their own best advocates when it comes to their health — ask questions and don’t be afraid of being too pushy.

**Support:** Friends and family can help best by encouraging and supporting a woman’s decision regarding her health.

**Learn more from the National Cancer Institute at [cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov).**



# Recruiting International Students, Challenging

By Dennis Dunham, Ph.D.

When I first began my career, the question I was often asked was, “Why bring international students?” Now the question is, “How can we bring more?” The answer is quite complicated.

Western Michigan University recently slashed its out-of-state tuition rates (international rates included), pinning them to 1.25 percent of the in-state rate. The reason: declining in-state high school graduation numbers alongside state funding falling much lower than it has in recent memory. A quick calculation therefore shows that the cost per semester at Western Michigan University is \$500 less than University of Central Oklahoma’s tuition for the exact same number of credits.

Oklahoma’s lower tuition cost has always been one of the “talking points” in my response. High-quality education at an older, more established university, at half the price of comparable universities, has an edge. However, that advantage is rapidly disappearing. Some universities in surrounding states (Kansas, Arkansas, Texas) have begun offering in-state tuition to international students. In fact, numerous universities around the country are offering in-state tuition to sponsored student agencies (those that pay the tuition). Some are even offering in-state tuition to students who transfer from international partner universities. Frankly, the competition is kicking our collective butt.

International students are flocking to Canada, Australia and New Zealand because they offer easier visa entry, as well as easier access to part-time jobs off campus. The biggest winner this year is Ireland, rising to No. 6 in the world for study abroad



destinations, offering lower costs and lenient work requirements. In the meantime, our international students cannot simply take part-time jobs because they may “displace an American.” This is despite fast-food companies begging Congress for some leniency because they cannot find enough Americans to fill open positions. Then there were all those prisoners in Maine who were released early so they could help fill summer employment gaps. I suppose some may believe that is a much better plan than giving a bit of a helping hand to highly skilled international students, who contribute over \$27 billion to the United States economy.

But wait, there’s more. We continue to put huge barriers on entry into the United States by asking one simple question, which students must answer at the U.S. Embassy visa interview office: “How can you prove you are going to return to your country upon graduation?” Dear readers, quickly try to think of some convincing answers to that question. Here are some: “I’m the only son, and I must take care of my family.” Or, “My father owns a business, and I must return to take over for him.” And here is one that really works: “I am leaving my children at home while I finish college.”

A student of mine from Ecuador applied for a master’s in computer science with a 4.0 GPA. Tests of English as a second language showed that he was a near native speaker. His GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores were through the roof. But when it came to the question about how to prove he would return to his country after graduation, he said, “I don’t know.”

Such honest answers will get applications quickly rejected.

Now comes what I see as the grand finale. Washington and the media seem to be competing to see which can send out the most unfriendly, unwelcoming message to prospective students abroad. This was the No. 1 concern when I was in India recently. Students widely cited a news article that stated an international student had been pulled out of class and deported. Since I know that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would not do that to an international student who has their documents in order, one can only conclude that it was an undocumented student — if it happened at all.

Here, on the other hand, is a story, widely reported in India that can be verified:

- Hindustan Times, Jan. 11, 2016, “Why is U.S. turning back Indian students?” and,
- The News Minute, Jan. 12, 2016, “Why I will never go back to the US: Indian student recounts deportation horror.”

Many aspiring and excited students from India arrive at various points in the United States, only to be given pop quizzes by border patrol on English and mathematics. Yes, it’s true. The U.S. Department of State and the Customs and Border Patrol often act as the universities’ “extra admission” officer by refusing to grant visas to students if they don’t have the GRE or the SAT scores they think they should. Hundreds of these students have been detained, some handcuffed. An estimated 60-70 were returned to India. America’s welcome mat is more tattered than it has been in recent history.

*continued on page 12*

# South Korean Student Hopes To Return

*Editor’s Note: In early May, UCO professor Joe Hight wrote the following for his regular column in The Journal Record, which gave permission for this to appear in this issue of Old North magazine. Hight, a UCO alumnus, gives good insight into how international students enhance the learning experiences of others.*

Ho Dae Lee has just arrived back home, perhaps to an uncertain future.

Ho Dae’s home is Gunpo, South Korea, which he considers a “small town” even though it has more than 286,000 residents. That is relatively small when compared to the more than 10 million people in Seoul, 14.3 miles from Ho Dae’s hometown. The Seoul area has 25 million people, more than six times the number of people in Oklahoma. The country itself has more than 50 million people compacted in a country the size of the state of Virginia.

He left Oklahoma City on Monday to begin a 24-hour journey back to South Korea. Even though he is a sophomore at the University of Central Oklahoma, Ho Dae had to return home to serve in the army there. It’s a 21-month requirement that will begin in September.

*continued on page 12*



**Ho Dae Lee, left, works with other students on a class presentation before having to return to South Korea.**



## Recruiting (con't from page 11)

However, borrowing from my 30 years of experience in international education, I believe that this crisis, too, shall pass.

We must keep our focus on that which we do best. Students from at least 100 countries would quickly say that America has the greatest and most prestigious higher educational system in the world. And, perhaps unknowingly to them, it even continues to improve constantly. Rethinking our current methodology, however, is now essential.

Our first step is to work on our image. Not just here, but abroad. We actually are welcoming. Just ask our students. They love it here. We have dedicated and passionate staff and faculty who make it their business to give students a positive and welcoming experience. Of course, there are more things that universities can do. However, too much is out of our control.

As a Korean language speaker, I know of a proverb that says that it takes two hands to make a clap. We have the full



**One of UCO's most popular events is the annual fall International Festival with its sampling of international foods and live entertainment. Open to the community, it's planned for 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, in the Edmond Farmers Market area.**

attention and motivation of university professionals, but without the U.S. government on many levels, without the awareness of the media, there will never be a change in the American consciousness. I propose that

we learn to clap together, make a real sound and finally put a smile on our welcome mat.

*Dennis Dunham, Ph.D., is Executive Director of UCO's Office of Global Affairs.*

## Returns to Korea (con't from page 11)

Considering the escalating tensions between the United States and North Korea, Ho Dae had been getting many questions here about what has been happening there. I've heard them myself in the class that Ho Dae just completed with me.

"They ask me if it's really critical back in Korea. It happens a lot," Ho Dae told me after a recent class. "I heard some of my friends now in the army are preparing for war. But I'm confused about whether it's a critical situation or not. The army is always preparing for war, and nothing happens."

North Korea "is always taunting us, and nothing happens. I'm not concerned at this point."

Ho Dae's home is about 50 miles from the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that separates South Korea from North Korea. The DMZ is just over 32 miles from Seoul, about the same distance from Guthrie to Oklahoma City. However, the distance is vast when considering relations between

the republic of South Korea and socialist North Korea under its Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. It's so vast that Ho Dae said his generation never wants to reunite with the north again, even though the "older generation" does.

Ho Dae has never been to the DMZ either. It's not a place where South Koreans want to visit. Ho Dae tells a story of a South Korean woman jogging near the area who was killed by a bullet shot from North Korea.

His journey to Oklahoma began after a company hired by his parents, Kang Ik and Su Mi Lee, placed him at UCO so he could study abroad. His mother owns an English academy and his father is a computer programmer for Samsung, the dominant electronics giant there that has been given credit for South Korea's modernization. He had been to the United States only once before when he attended an English camp in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, at age 10.

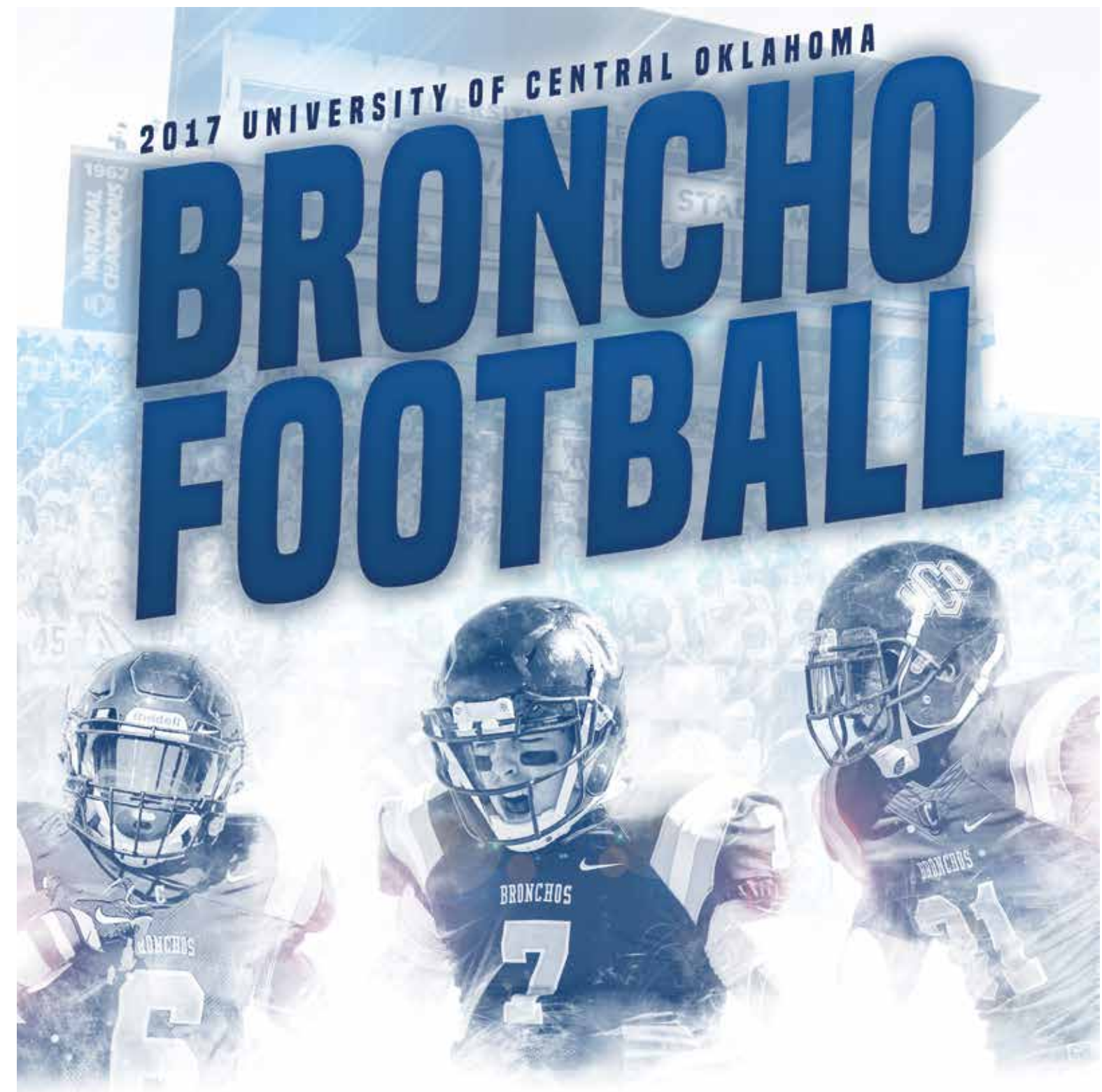
Or was he 12 then? In Korea, age is

calculated at the point of conception and based on the New Year's on Jan. 1. Ho Dae was born in December 1996, so he is 20 years old here but 22 in South Korea. He laughs when trying to explain his age to me, but is patient when I ask for the third time.

That's Ho Dae, a happy, go-lucky guy with wispy black hair who likes how Oklahomans always smile and say "What's up?" even when they don't know you. The type of guy who likes this country's Chick-fil-a, Whataburger and pizza with ranch dressing on it. The type of guy who hopes he can return to UCO for his junior year.

I do, too. I'll treat him to pizza with ranch dressing when he does.

*Joe Hight is a Pulitzer Prize-winning and Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame editor who is the University of Central Oklahoma's endowed chair of journalism ethics and president of his family-owned business, Best of Books in Edmond.*



**8/31 VS LINDENWOOD (H)**

**9/7 VS PITT STATE**

**9/16 VS FORT HAYS STATE (H)**

**9/23 VS MISSOURI WESTERN**

**9/30 VS EMPORIA STATE (H)**

**10/7 VS NORTHWEST MISSOURI**

**10/14 VS NEBRASKA-KEARNEY (H)**

**10/21 VS MISSOURI SOUTHERN**

**10/28 VS CENTRAL MISSOURI (H)**

**11/4 VS WASHBURN**

**11/11 VS NORTHEASTERN STATE**





# Bee Curious



Female, *E. barthelli*

By Gypsy Hogan

The short story is that UCO's Provost John Barthell, Ph.D., has had the honor of having a species of bee named in his honor, the orchid bee *Eufriesea barthelli*. And while the obvious connection is Barthell's extensive work in bee research worldwide, the story of how a new bee species like *E. barthelli* comes to be is more like a scientific mystery novel.

*continued on page 16*





For *E. barthelli* — a beautiful species with a coloring of brilliant blues, greens and purples — its path to being named began in the summer of 2010. That’s when the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Pollinating Insects Research Unit was assisting Carlsbad Caverns National Park, in southeastern New Mexico, with an inventory of its bees. Field technician J. D. Herndon was walking through Ponderosa pines in a higher elevation of the park when he saw a brilliantly colored bee land on a nearby thistle. Thinking it unusual, he captured it.

Herndon then contacted Terry L. Griswold, Ph.D., a world-

renowned research

entomologist

with the

U.S.

Department of

Agriculture who

was working

on the Carlsbad

project. Griswold, whose

offices are on the campus

of Utah State University,

also is a curator of the

U.S. National Pollinating

Insects Collection,

a worldwide assembly

of more than a million

specimens.

“He told me he

thought it was an

orchid bee,” Gris-

wold remembered

in a recent tele-

phone interview,

describing when the specimen

arrived in his office. “When they got it out, I

knew. It was exciting to see, knowing that genus

was not known to be in the U.S.”

Not long afterward, Griswold sent a technician

from his lab down to assist with collecting. That’s when a

second orchid bee was discovered in the Guadalupe Mountains of

west Texas, just across the New Mexico border.



Griswold became interested in field biology as a teenager, spending time with his father, who at the time was working to become an accredited high school biology teacher. In 1979, as a graduate student at Utah State, Griswold knew it was his career path. He doesn’t count the number of bee species he has discovered, instead the number of genera — kind of like not counting the number of tables set, but rather the number of banquets planned.

Nonetheless, Griswold was excited about these two orchid bees. He began trying to determine who they were, what was their name.

Coloring was noted — not just overall, but on various parts, including the tiny hairs on bees that can be colored differently than the attached body part. Measurements were taken of their overall size, as well as the size and shape of their various body parts — including their tongues, which proved helpful in solving Griswold’s big question.

At this point, some may wonder how long a bee’s tongue could possibly be.

“They’re really long in this group,” Griswold said. “They can be as long as their bodies. When flying, the tongue lies under the body of the bee with a flap that covers it. When they come to a flower, it’s essentially a straw.”

One puzzling feature was the condition of the two bees’ wings, which were like new. That led initially to the conclusion that they were from close by, maybe part of a larger population in the area. Worn wings would have indicated the likelihood they were caught in a storm and blown to the area. Species distribution maps using mathematical models, however, later showed that the area where they were found was not conducive in habitat, and it was more likely the bees were transported to the area. This is something that can happen inadvertently when goods, especially things like logs and produce, are shipped from one area to another.

Griswold’s detailed bee analysis was run through a series of “keys,” binary questions with answers that can lead the researcher down a path to see if there is a match to a known species.

Bingo. Griswold concluded they were orchid bees of the genus *Eufriesea* of the group *coerulescens*, and most likely *E. coerulescens*, a rare species from Mexico.

However, when he started comparing the anatomy of the two bees to other specimens of *E. coerulescens*, “they didn’t really look like what we had here. I decided we needed to make sure.”



So, about three years ago, he contacted a colleague at the University of Kansas, Victor Gonzalez, Ph.D., also a research entomologist, who has worked on projects with Griswold and Barthell.



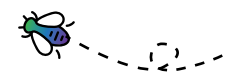
Research entomologist Victor Gonzalez, left, shares a close-up view of the *E. barthelli* with naming honoree, John Barthell.

Gonzalez teaches and works with the university’s Snow Entomological Collection, which includes about a half-million bee specimens. Gonzalez, originally from Colombia, spends his breaks and summers doing bee research.

To solve the mystery of the two U.S. bees, Gonzalez and Griswold began gathering specimens of *E. coerulescens* from their professional collections as well as from others around the world. The goal was to find something that matched their two mystery bees. Studies were made of bees collected as early as the 1800s, some badly damaged or having been poorly repaired, as the case of one bee that had the legs of another type of bee glued to its body.

In the end, the men found more than they expected.

“When you start down a path, you don’t know where it is going to take you,” Griswold said, the voice of years of experience.



The researchers did find that the two bees were in fact the orchid bee *E. coerulescens*. This was confirmed by their anatomical studies and by examining the first specimen of *E. coerulescens*, which was collected in the 1800s in Mexico and located in the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, France.

*continued on page 18*

## Provost Barthell Known For His Own Bee Research

UCO Provost John Barthell earned his doctorate in entomological sciences in 1992 from the University of California – Berkeley, where he also received his bachelor’s in zoology — and where he experienced the excitement of undergraduate research.

Barthell’s research was inspired by his mentor Howell Daly, Ph.D., during brown bag lunches they had together while watching bees on Observatory Hill, a historical site on the U. C. Berkeley campus. Barthell began to wonder what kind of bees were dependent on nesting habitats found on the Berkeley campus. This launched him into several studies examining the role of host (flowering) plants and female bee nesting sites on the Berkeley campus and elsewhere in California. One of these species, *Habropoda depressa*, was originally named from specimens collected on the campus almost a century before being rediscovered and studied by Barthell and his colleagues in the 1990s. (Entomologist Victor Gonzalez and Barthell first connected professionally during these studies.)

Since then, more comprehensive studies have been conducted on urban bee species found in the Bay Area by Barthell’s former graduate adviser, Gordon Frankie, Ph.D., and his colleagues and students at the University of California.

In the last three years, Barthell has been the principal investigator of four National Science Foundation (NSF) grants for the study of honey bees in Turkey and the nearby Greek island of Lesbos. Senior personnel on that grant include former UCO colleague John Hranitz, Ph.D., as well as Gonzalez; Charles Abramson, Ph.D., at Oklahoma State University; and Tugrul Giray, Ph.D., and José Agosto, Ph.D., from the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras.

Barthell also was a co-principal investigator for a \$600,000 grant from the NSF for undergraduate research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics with Charlotte Simmons, Ph.D., the grant’s principal investigator. She is UCO’s associate vice president for Academic Affairs.



However, in searching through all the different specimens, Gonzalez also found three bees filed with *E. coeruleus* that did not actually match the bees in that species.

Much more research confirmed that in addition to identifying the two mystery bees, he also had discovered three new species of bees.

The discoveries are amazing. Then they're not.

There are about 20,000 species of bees in the world, Gonzalez said. In the U.S., there are about 3,500 species. Some estimate, however, that there may be 500 more species that have not been named.

"It's hard to know how much we don't know," Griswold said. "There's easily a hundred undescribed specimens in our collection here. No one has the time to do it. There are just so few of us who do this kind of work." (Gonzalez estimates that in North America, there are no more than 10 people "actively working on discovering and documenting bee diversity as we do.")

Funding for such bee research just isn't there, Griswold said, acknowledging "medical research is probably more important."

"But we do serve a critical function. You need to know a name for what you're working with so it has meaning," Griswold said.

Barthell and Gonzalez said as much in their own interviews.

"We may be losing some bee species that we don't even know about," Barthell said.

Gonzalez said, "Every time you name something, people now know it and promote the study of it."



Gonzalez was the one who named the three new species. Their names became official with the publishing of a 47-page article in April in the *Journal of Hymenoptera*. (Hymenoptera is a large order of insects — more than 150,000 living and about 2,000 extinct — covering sawflies, wasps, ants and bees.)

So, after seven years of research, the paper confirmed the identification of the two mystery bees, plus the identification of the three new species. Both Gonzalez and Griswold were listed as authors, along with University of Kansas graduate student Marianna Simões.

While scientific rules require species be named in Latin, Gonzalez found ways to honor three people who have meaning to him. The one new species, *E. oliveri*, is named for his son, Oliver, now age two-and-a-half. The other two were named for colleagues he admires and wanted to honor — *E. engeli* named for professor Michael Engel, Ph.D., of the University of Kansas, and *E. barthelli*, named for Barthell.



Male *E. barthelli*

(Note: the word *barthelli* rhymes with the word why.)

While researching the two mystery bees, Gonzalez found an *E. barthelli* in a collection at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, founded in 1551. The specimen *E. barthelli* was collected in 1995, although Gonzalez identified another *E. barthelli* specimen housed in the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, France, that was collected in 1900.

Gonzalez explained his reasoning in naming the species for Barthell: "In my opinion, the role he has played in securing grants for research involving undergraduate students has been key.

He cares about student development and well-being."

And he cares about bees, knowing that 98 percent of everything humans eat comes from other parts of the world where bees are needed to pollinate and diversify weed species.

Barthell's grants from the National Science Foundation, for research in Greece and Turkey, are now in their twelfth year with two more years to go. "I set it up with the idea that the problem (of bee survival rates) is not local, but global," Barthell said. "And that it's critical for students to understand the importance of the origin of a species, and how it is that they spread and what that does."

In the future, Barthell said, he hopes to spend time in the tropical forests of Central Mexico learning more about a new species that has caught his attention, called *E. barthelli*.



### Watch This!

Orchids and orchid bees — particularly the male orchid bee — have evolved in tandem to create a fascinating interaction that can be seen in numerous videos found online. Visit YouTube.com and search for "orchid bee pollination" to view how the male orchid bee, as he strives to create a unique scent for mating, enters the center "bucket" of an orchid. There, he becomes drunk-like on the orchid's oils, having to struggle out of the orchid's only exit. As he struggles to be released, the orchid places two pollen sacks on the back of the bee, that he then unknowingly shares with the next orchid.



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# Standing Shoulders ON THE

By Myron Pope, Ed.D.

Each morning when I sit down at my desk in historic Old North, I face a framed picture that has followed me around since I completed my doctorate in 1997.

A friend of mine was at a campus poster sale, and she bought me a small graduation gift — a reproduction of the Norman Rockwell painting entitled “The Problem We All Live With.” It illustrates the integration in 1960 of New Orleans Public Schools by the brave, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges. My friend had this poster framed, and it has hung in every office that I have worked in during my professional career in higher education. I do not take for granted my ability to exist as a vice president of a major, predominantly-white institution of higher education in this country. I remember very well that I am only one generation removed from my mother, who was not able to even attend such institutions due to the ugliness of George Wallace standing in the school house door as she was preparing to depart her hometown to attend college. The bravery and sacrifice of those who worked to overcome the barriers of segregation are at the forefront of my mind when I see that picture each day.

Having been in Old North now since its reopening in February, my thinking has drifted back to thoughts of the first African-American students to attend this great institution. There are many stories of the “firsts” to attend institutions around the country and around this state. However, I had not heard much about the first African-American students to attend Central. After a brief query of some around campus, I came across some transcripts from interviews during the early part of this century which chronicled the lives of some of the first African-American students and faculty at Central.

Of particular interest to me was the story of Murray Butler, one of the first African-American male students to matriculate through Central.

A graduate of Douglas High School, Murray Butler arrived at Central in 1955. His grandfather settled in Oklahoma in the 1890s on 320 acres of land on the northeast side of town and started farming it. His father, for whom Murray was named, continued the farming tradition, but ultimately drove a school bus for the Oklahoma City Public Schools. He desired for his five children to have more, so he worked hard to send them to college. Murray was the third of five children, and his older sister, Christine, was already in college at University of Xavier in New Orleans when Murray graduated from high school. The cost of supporting her attendance limited his father’s resources for Murray. His father mentioned his challenging situation to the school superintendent, “Mr. Grady,” who recommended that he take Murray to “Central State” to attend college. His father was skeptical about any predominantly white

*The bravery and sacrifice of those who worked to overcome the barriers of segregation are at the forefront of my mind when I see that picture each day.*

institution in the state accepting black students, but Mr. Grady insisted that he take his son to the campus to get enrolled. He eventually relented, and thus began Murray’s journey toward a degree at Central.

In reading about and viewing many documentaries about the integration of schools

during the era, I have witnessed much dissension and violence. Murray insisted during his 2006 interview that he had a very positive experience during his time at Central, and that he never witnessed such discord. Some of the first students to greet him were several white young men who he knew from high school. During his high school career, he was a very good student and a leader. He was a member of the student council, and there were students from other Oklahoma City Public Schools — John Marshall, Douglass and others — who were part of the Intra City Safety Council. These welcoming white students had been a part of this group that met monthly and were committed to assuring safety inside and outside the schools during this turbulent time. Murray said that he immediately felt at home when he saw them.

He indicated that his father was his primary role

model, and he was not hesitant about letting people know. He recalled a situation in a speech class in which he and his classmates were required to do an extemporaneous speech about a famous person or someone they knew and admired. The other class members did speeches on Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, while he spoke about his father. Murray stated that the teacher was taken aback by his speech and how he adored his subject. She even admonished the rest of the class by stating that they should know their subject as well as Murray, and they should admire their father as much as he did. Murray stated that his father was a common man with a twelfth grade education, who was knowledgeable of human beings and could relate to all people well. He told how his father encouraged him to not let words bother him and

*continued on page 22*

**Vice President for Student Affairs Myron Pope and the Norman Rockwell image that reminds him of how his success is on the shoulders of others who made courageous sacrifices.**





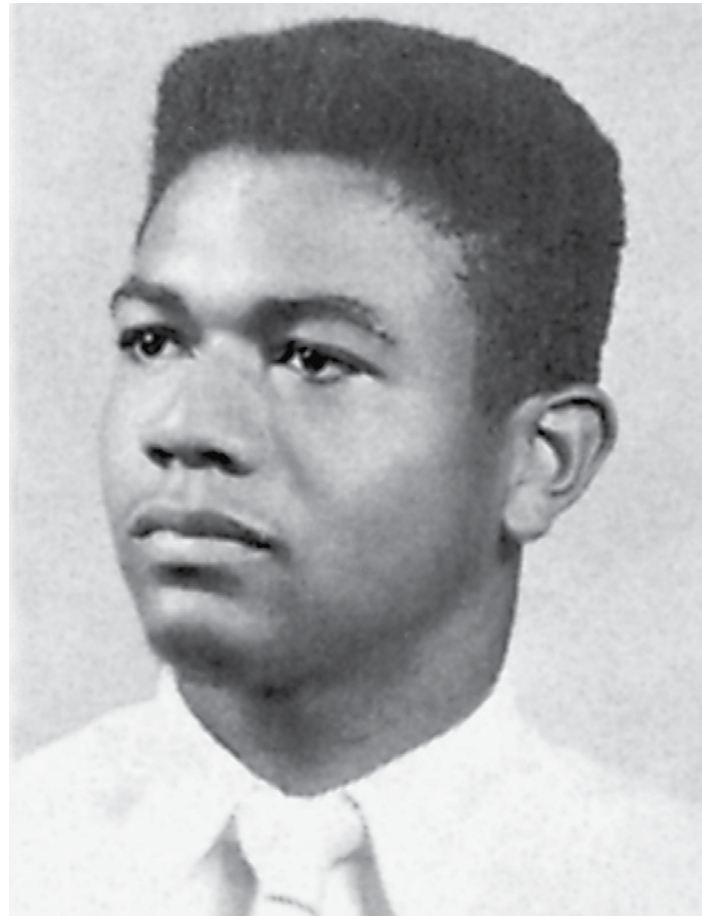
only to harm others when he needed to protect himself. These were the values and expectations that guided him through all of his life and definitely during his time at Central.

As the vice president of student affairs, I was curious about Murray's involvement on campus. He worked quite a bit, so he was not able to participate in many activities. He was a part of the student senate as a freshman representative. As a representative, he conveyed concerns that his peers perceived to the student senate, but, fortunately, he indicated, there were not many issues to report. Beyond that, he stated that he spent little time on campus as he had to commute. He joked about these commutes because he and several of his friends compiled a significant number of tickets racing between Edmond and Oklahoma City. These tickets caused him to have many encounters with the local justice of the peace.

Another particularly funny story involved several African American football players, including J.W. Lockett who played on Central's 1962 NAIA national championship team. Interested in chemical engineering, Murray frequently could be seen carrying his chemistry books across campus. The football players would tease him and call him "Einstein," and they would ask him what he was doing with those chemistry books. He informed them that he was going to be a chemist, and they teased back saying, "It must be rough trying to be a chemist." Murray would call back that since he couldn't play football, he had to do something. The players eased on their teasing after that encounter, and they became casual acquaintances. Murray said that although he and the players weren't close friends, one of them actually encouraged him to return to school after Murray had to leave for financial reasons.

Murray initially enrolled at Central to pursue a degree in engineering. He did well in many of his math classes, but like so many Central students historically, he had to work to afford college. He was challenged by a math teacher, Mrs. Trammell, who questioned his commitment to becoming an engineer because he worked so much. He did well in his classes, but his teachers frequently inquired very genuinely about whether he was keeping pace with his classmates. Ultimately, he had to leave Central in 1958 because of finances. He subsequently was drafted in 1959, and he served in the army until 1962. Around that time, he got married, and it was not until 1971 that he finally returned to complete his degree. He attended school at night, and it took him four years to complete his degree in business management. He probably could have graduated sooner, he said, but he had not received a degree check. He recalled meeting with an adviser by the name of Ms. Freeburg who confirmed his graduation. That was one of the happiest and proudest moments of his life, he said, especially considering his father's expectations of him to complete his degree.

His degree allowed him to advance in his professional career at Tinker Air Force Base, where he worked until the age of 53 in November 1990. He moved to Kansas City in 1991 and became an educator, teaching for many years. He noted that he had three children, and it was his example of completing his degree that led them to attend college and complete their degrees.



**Murray Butler**

Murray mentioned that he did not experience any challenges on campus, where he said he had a great learning experience that was quite memorable for him. However, during his military years, which took him to the Deep South, and other experiences during his career, he was exposed to the realities of Jim Crow.

Murray Butler's story is one of the many that I have heard about those who paved the way for me to be at Central. Their courage allows me to serve this great university, which has a focus on serving all our students from the metropolitan area and beyond.

The opportunities are available to those who qualify, but the work to ensure that they have a positive, supportive academic environment is partially my responsibility. I stand upon the shoulders of giants like Murray Butler in conducting this work.

*Myron Pope, Ed.D., is Vice President for Student Affairs.*

To hear or read a complete transcript of Murray Butler's 2006 interview, visit [library.uco.edu/archives/oralhistory/search/](http://library.uco.edu/archives/oralhistory/search/) to see an alphabetical list of all oral histories in the Chambers Library collection.

*Note: Murray Butler, who lives in Oklahoma City, was named to UCO's inaugural Luminary Society in 2015. The society recognizes those whose service and contributions have brought distinction to and positively influenced the life of the university.*

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# Rompiendo Breaking las barreras Language del idioma Barriers

By Lorene A. Roberson

Central student Linda Lopez remembers firsthand the national housing market crash of 2007.

Lopez and her family were ensconced in a three-bedroom, two-bath home in Covina, California, a tight-knit community just 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. She and her husband had good jobs. Their four kids were healthy. Lopez's nine siblings lived nearby. Life was good.

Then came the housing crash that affected 10 million Americans — leading to the worst financial collapse since the Great Depression.

Lopez and her husband, determined not to lose their investments, sold their California home and bought one in Oklahoma City in 2008. Prior to moving, the family had never stepped in the Sooner State. Lopez, however, thought it would be a good place to rebuild their lives.

For Lopez, part of the rebuilding eventually would involve earning a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at Central.

It was an opportunity she didn't see coming.

Since 2012, Lopez has worked as a paraprofessional at Hawthorne Elementary School. Two years ago, the school's principal approached her about a new program called the Bilingual Teacher Pipeline Project. The project's goal is to channel more bilingual teachers into Oklahoma City's public schools, a district with a student population that is 52 percent Hispanic and growing.

Hawthorne's statistics are even higher — 80 percent of their 660 students are Hispanic with only one bilingual teacher. So Lopez, along with her daughter Alexis, jumped at the chance to take part in the enterprise. Both are fluent in Spanish and English, and both work full time at Hawthorne.

"Our kids at Hawthorne need so much help. I try very hard to help those who don't speak the language," said Linda Lopez.



The Bilingual Teacher Pipeline Project is helping Linda Lopez and her daughter Alexis Lopez, (below) use their bilingual and teaching skills to help students at Hawthorne Elementary in Oklahoma City, where they both work full time.



Photos by Steve Sisney, The Oklahoman, Copyright 2017

The project covers tuition and teacher certification costs for those paraprofessionals working in Oklahoma City Public Schools. The state legislature's passing of House Bill 2157 gives the district the option to pay them to become certified teachers.

"The program is an excellent example of an innovative approach to improving education for students in grades PK-20 in the metro Oklahoma City area," said James Machell, Ph.D., dean of UCO's College of Education and Professional Studies.

"Conversations about the potential for a program like the Bilingual Teacher Pipeline Project began about seven years ago with several UCO faculty being key thought leaders. Through the efforts of many, the program has taken off," Machell said.

One of those thought leaders is Paulette Shreck, Ph.D., head of Central's Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She recalls the program's beginnings — a conversation in a little coffee shop in northeast Oklahoma City years ago. Machell and Shreck, along with April Haulman, Ph.D., and Regina Lopez, Ph.D., both faculty in Curriculum and Instruction, and a few others, all knew it was a good idea from the get-go.

The project took off when Mary Melon, executive director of The Foundation of Oklahoma City Public Schools, got involved.

For Shreck, what has surprised her most is the number of paraprofessionals who are interested in the program.

"The commitment of these students and their strong desire to complete their degrees, along with their willingness to do what it takes to make it happen, is a wonderful surprise," Shreck said.

"This may not be a surprise as much as a reminder of the tenacity of people who really want to accomplish something in their lives. Being surrounded by students in the Pipeline program is an amazing experience. It gives me hope for the future of education."

Eight of the 34 program participants are enrolled at UCO with some taking courses on more than one campus. In addition to Central, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City and Rose State Community College are participating. UCO's first group of students is expected to graduate in 2019.

Meanwhile, the tenacious Linda Lopez thinks about when she arrived in Oklahoma almost 10 years ago. Her youngest son didn't speak English and, frankly, didn't want to learn, she said.

"It was really, I mean really, hard for him the first days of school here in Oklahoma," she said. "So my daughters and I worked with him. Now he is bilingual and is an Advanced Placement student enrolled in engineering at Metro Technology Center.

"Things like this make you want to be able to go to school so you can help others."

*Lorene A. Roberson oversees communications and public relations for UCO's College of Education and Professional Studies.*



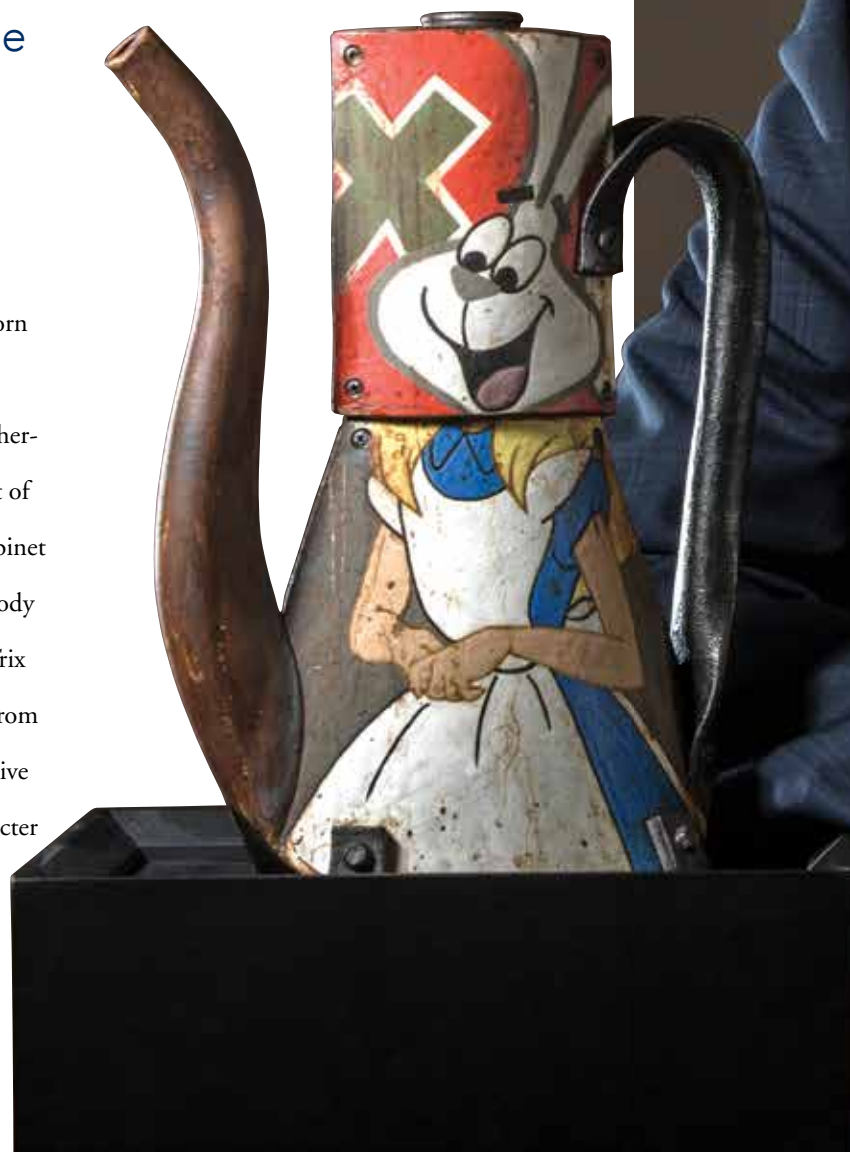
# Chasing the Dream

An interview with the new dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design, Steve Hansen

By Angela Morris

**S**unlight from the office windows illuminated the ceramic teapots, which adorn the shelves and desk of Steve Hansen, M.F.A., the new dean for the UCO College of Fine Arts and Design. The teapots — evocative of patched, weather-worn tin ornamented in pop culture imagery and riveted together in a form reminiscent of a gas can — are original artworks of this new administrator. One teapot, placed on a cabinet top in the northeast corner of the office, particularly stands out for its symbolism: the body of Alice from “Alice in Wonderland” with the head of the famous cartoon rabbit from Trix cereal. In the Lewis Carroll tale, the white rabbit is the catalyst of change, taking Alice from her ordinary life to her extraordinary experiences. Hansen has encountered a few figurative white rabbits in his day, and similar to his comedic substitution of Carroll’s iconic character with the Trix hare, Hansen discusses his successes with levity, humility and humor.

*continued on page 28*





# Chasing the Dream An interview with Steve Hansen

**Q.** At UCO, we are proud to attract nontraditional, working class students, many of whom call Oklahoma home. I understand there are some parallels with our students and your own blue-collar family lineage.

**A.** Yes, I grew up in the rural Midwest, the son of a housing contractor and the grandson of a contractor and farmer. The winters are often harsh that far north, and like in Oklahoma, the weather will occasionally try to kill you.

**Q.** Can you describe how you got your start in the field of art?

**A.** I've always loved art ever since I was a kid, so if a birthday or Christmas was coming up, and my parents would ask me what I wanted, I would say a "How to Draw Dogs" book, paper and charcoal. When it came time to go to college, there was some pressure to choose a more traditional career, something in the medical field. So, I took x-ray technology for a year and a half, but quickly realized that while it's really great that people love that work, I was not one of those people. Luckily for me, I married while I was still in college, and my wife always had faith in my ability to succeed in whatever I chose. So, I quit x-ray technology and began coming to art in stages. I started with journalism, then gravitated towards the creative aspects of advertising, and since my school didn't have an advertising degree, I decided to minor in art to see if the two would nicely pair in preparing me for advertising. So, I started taking art classes, and that was it. As soon as I started taking art classes, I just told my wife, 'This is what I want to do.' Then, I gave it everything I had.

**Q.** Can you describe your first big-break as an artist?

**A.** My first big break was when I met Ivan Karp. Ivan Karp was the talent scout for the Leo Castelli Gallery in the 1950s, the gallery where many pop artists actually got their start. Ivan was responsible for discovering Jasper Johns, and he was also Andy Warhol's agent for a long time. So, while I was finishing my B.F.A. in art in Michigan, I took slides of my work to New York, and I showed them to Ivan, who was at his gallery OK Harris at the time, 1987. He said that he'd like to see the work in person and asked could I show it to him next week. And so I said yes, I can do that. And then I had to figure out how I was going to do that. I found a friend of a friend who let me hang my work on their walls in New York. Ivan came and looked at it, and he just said, "I like this work. I'd like to give you a show." The soundtrack in my head was immediately "Big Time" by Peter Dinklage. It really felt like my life had changed. It was also a big reason why I got my first job teaching.

**Q.** So, you spent 30 years at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, first as a professor of art and most recently as the chairperson of the Visual Art, Communication and Design Department. What attracted you to redirect your career to UCO?

**A.** Part of it is a challenge, and part of it is being able to give my experience back in a different way. As the chair of a really diverse department at Andrews, I was very successful in bringing together three departments that hadn't been put together before, and so it seemed like I have some talent when it comes to being an administrator and getting people to work as a team and work together towards goals. I like to think I'm able to communicate a message that people can get behind. One of the things that I really came to enjoy in my role as a department chair was helping faculty through the tenure and promotion process and being a mentor to faculty. I'd been teaching undergraduates for 30 years and loving it, but I hit a point in my life when I felt it was probably time for me to change from being a student mentor to being a faculty mentor. And UCO seemed like the perfect place for me to do so.

**Q.** How do you plan to apply the skills you've garnered to this new position?

**A.** Because I've been a successful artist, I can point to my success, and I talk about how I achieved it. I think if you're a student, it's far more believable that you can be a success if your faculty are successful, and as a faculty member, I think it's far better if your administrator also has modeled success in one of your disciplines. And so that's sort of what I look to be able to do — to say, I did this as a faculty member, so you can do it, too. There's nothing particularly different from me than most faculty members.

**Q.** What were some of the things that made you fall in love with UCO and the College of Fine Arts and Design?

**A.** What I really liked were all the stories I heard about an unselfish attitude. I keep hearing stories pretty much from every level about how faculty and administrators are interested in the common good, and how if one has a little bit more than they expected, they are willing to help somebody who has a little bit less. And a lot of universities aren't that way. I also thought my boss, Provost John Barthell, would be an excellent person to work for. I like his attitude concerning transparency — letting everybody know where they stand, where the money is, where the money isn't. So, it seemed like it is going to be a very good working environment. And then, of course, during the interview process, I was able to meet the department chairs and directors, and they all seemed like they would be

really exciting people to work with — very passionate about their individual area and yet still willing to work as a team.

**Q.** As a new resident of Edmond, what are some of your first impressions of the community and the campus?

**A.** I come from a much smaller town, so one of the things that is very exciting to me is just the availability of everything. I'm a big fan of music and theater, and so I keep hearing about Lyric Theatre and, of course, Mitchell Hall, and there's Carpenter Theatre and Shakespeare in the Park. So, the opportunity to immerse in a depth of cultural experience is really exciting to me. I'm excited to work with all the divisions; they are all so packed full of talent. Take ACM@UCO and Scott Booker, for example. Not only is he a great guy, he's got three Grammy's in his house. For master classes at ACM, he has brought in Roger Daltrey, Jackson Brown, Elvis Costello. Those are incredible experiences for students. People are just trying to make a living out of their passions, so we give them the tools and opportunities to be able to do that. If you've got a passion and interest in making original music, and you're asking yourself how do you make a living out of that, well, you go to the ACM, and you're being mentored by people who are touring musicians who are making a living out of it, and the CEO of the unit is the manager of the Flaming Lips. Why wouldn't you do that if you want to make a living in contemporary music? You would go there; I would go there.

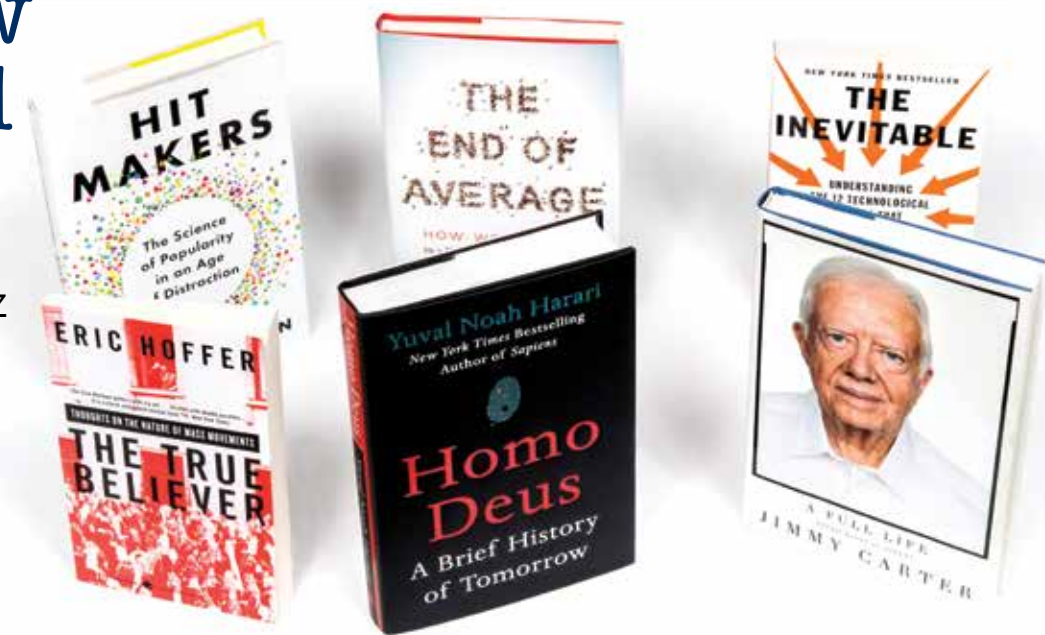
**Q.** Now you actually have a little bit of a background in music and theater as well. Can you tell me about that?

**A.** I love theatrical performance, so I was in a number of plays in community theater and also served on a board of directors for a local community theater in Michigan — Twin City Players. I've also always loved music. If I were a better musician, I probably would have been a musician. But I think we are all sort of born with talents we can develop up to a certain point. I was never going to play as well as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Eric Clapton or the people whose work I really loved. I just didn't start early enough and don't have the innate ear. Whereas, I come from a family that have made stuff with their hands from generation to generation. What I found with ceramics, eventually, was there was no limit. Because I had both a genetic gift for working with my hands and a passion for creating art, I could be as good as anybody who worked in clay. So, when you find that thing where there isn't any limit to how good you can be, then you want to grab that and chase it.

*Angela Morris is a grant writer for the College of Fine Arts and Design. She has a bachelor's in English and journalism and a Master's of Fine Arts in creative writing, both from UCO. She's currently working on a doctorate in literary and cultural studies at the University of Memphis.*

## Looking For a Few Good Fall Reads?

President Don Betz recommended these books at UCO's recent 2017 Faculty and Staff Fall Forum.





### Feeding Our Own

Sometimes, helping a student get a college degree means helping them feed themselves and their families. UCO's Central Pantry has grown from serving just 24 people its first month of operation in November 2012 to serving about 145 a month over the last school year. In turn, nearly 400 family members, including more than 100 children, were also served, said Eric Hemphill, coordinator of the pantry since its beginning. Campus volunteers staff the pantry. The UCO community donates food items, along with cash for purchases from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Homeland Foods also donates products. To learn more about the program, visit [uco.edu/centralpantry](http://uco.edu/centralpantry), email [centralpantry@uco.edu](mailto:centralpantry@uco.edu) or call 405-974-2621.



**AACSB  
ACCREDITED**

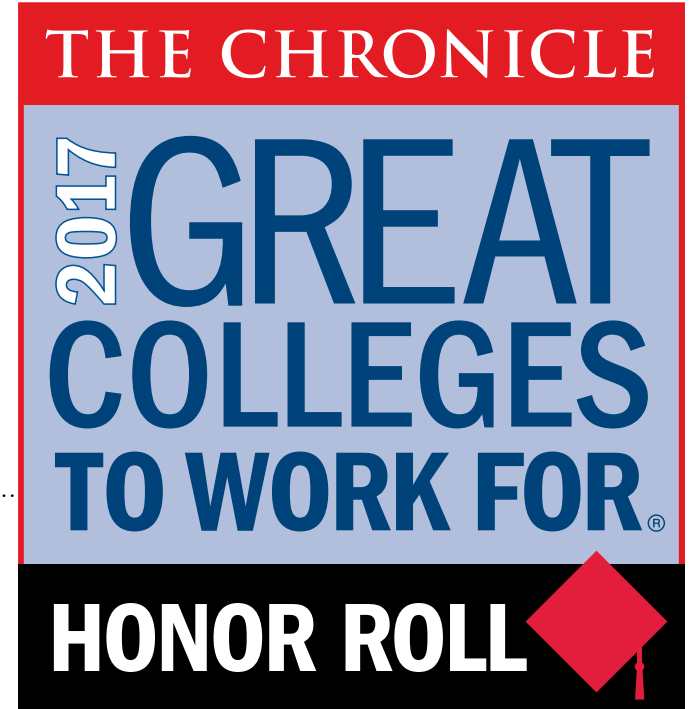
### Taking Care of Business

UCO's College of Business now has accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Less than 5 percent of business schools worldwide have earned the elite accreditation.

Founded in 1916, AACSB is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools. In other College of Business news, two new majors have been added within the Master of Business Administration — Healthcare and Energy Systems. Central's MBA is a 35-hour program that can be completed in 16 months. Classes are being offered at UCO Downtown, located in the Carnegie Centre in downtown Oklahoma City.

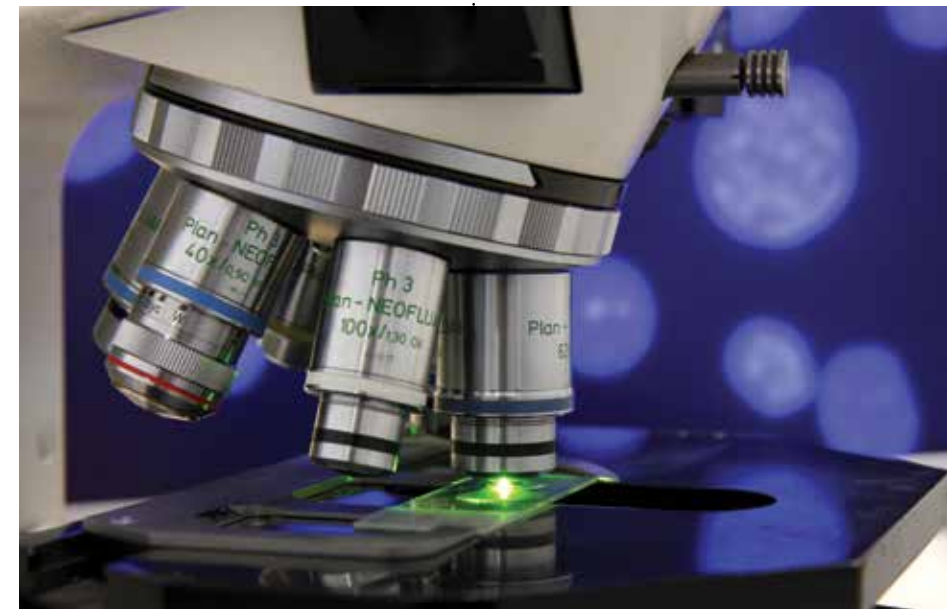
### Great Place to Work

For the ninth time in 10 years, The Chronicle of Higher Education has named UCO one of its "Great Colleges to Work For." The 2017 recognition also came with the distinction of being named to the "Honor Roll" for UCO ranking the best nationally in nine of the survey's 12 categories. Each year, The Chronicle conducts a direct survey of faculty and staff at universities and colleges throughout the country. Responding is voluntary and anonymous. Central ranked among the best nationally in the categories of collaborative governance; confidence in senior leadership; job satisfaction and support; professional/career development programs; respect and appreciation; supervisor/department chair relationship; teaching environment; tenure and clarity process; and work/life balance.



### Cancer Research Grant

For more than two decades, Wei Chen, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering and dean of the College of Mathematics and Science, has worked to develop a new type of cancer treatment for late-stage, metastatic cancers. Those efforts



recently got a big boost, as Chen received the first and only National Institutes of Health Research Project Grant awarded to a non-research university in Oklahoma. The \$1,374,355 grant will support research work on his unique cancer treatment method, laser immunotherapy.





## Mitchell Theatre's Expansion Successfully Completed

The Mitchell Hall Education Center has opened, welcoming fall students to long-awaited areas. The 20,000-square-foot addition to Mitchell Hall Theatre offers practice areas, a Green Room for stage performers, modern dressing room areas, office and classroom space, costume storage, an art exhibit space, plus easy movement to and from Mitchell's backstage. Then there's the basement storm shelter. Part of the funding for the \$5.75 million expansion came from the "Build Mitchell Hall" capital campaign. Bond financing, to be repaid with College of Fine Arts and Design academic service fees, will cover the balance.



**(Top)** Architects designed the addition so that historic Mitchell Hall Theatre appears from the front as it always has, while the addition's north and east sides have a newer style. **(Above)** Space for organizing and storing costumes is a big hit.



From left, Meghan Clark Brasuell, facilities/production manager for Mitchell; Kyle Cohlma, curator of the College of Fine Arts and Design galleries and collections, which includes Mitchell's new Jay Krottinger Family Gallery; and Latricia Reichman, M.F.A., Mitchell's wardrobe technician. Above right, Theatre majors Joshua Forster, left, a sophomore, and Zane Criton, a junior, practice in the new theater rehearsal room. Below, Dance majors Emmett Prince, a sophomore, and Alexis Hendrix, a senior, practice in the new dance rehearsal area, a major improvement over the space in Wantland with no air conditioning.





# Honoring Our Own

The UCO Alumni Association will hold its annual Alumni Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 13, in the Grand Ballrooms of Nigh University Center.

Receiving the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards are Ron Armstrong (BS '77); Carlos Evans (BBA '04); Raúl Font, Ed.D., (MEd '84); Milena Govich (BM '99); and Rachel Vincent (BA '00). Read more about the honorees in the following pages.

Then, plan to join them at the awards luncheon. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by calling UCO Alumni Relations at 405-974-3553 or registering online at [CentralConnection.org/DAA](http://CentralConnection.org/DAA).

Tickets must be reserved by Friday, Sept. 29.

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

## Ron Armstrong (BS '77)

Ron Armstrong used his family business acumen and his UCO education to secure a position with an Oklahoma City "big eight" accounting firm in 1977. This started a journey to his current role at the helm of one of the largest heavy- and medium-duty truck producers in the world.

In April 2014, Armstrong (BS '77) became PACCAR's chief executive officer, also serving on its board of directors. Over the last 24 years with PACCAR, he has held a number of positions, including president, executive vice president and senior vice president of financial services. During the company's 110th year in 2015, PACCAR set revenue and net income records of \$19 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively.

Prior to joining PACCAR, Armstrong was a senior manager at Ernst and Young, where he spent 16 years. There he progressed to senior accountant, audit manager and senior manager. He served a broad range of clients, with emphasis in manufacturing and oil and gas. He also led the office's recruiting efforts and was an instructor for national training courses.

Armstrong graduated from Central summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in accounting. In 1977, he passed the Certified Public Accountant exam. He also attended the Executive Development Program at Northwestern University.

As a young man thinking about college, he chose Central for its size and its convenient location to his family's business, where he worked part time. However, Armstrong said, he got much more from the experience itself. "UCO provided me the confidence that I could excel with proper effort and focus."

Always an excellent student, he likes to remember his college days tutoring other students in upper division accounting classes. However, he also recalls a certain rainy day and a lesson in humility.



"It was the spring semester of my junior year, the last day. I remember leaving campus, secure in the knowledge that I once again achieved a 4.0 GPA," Armstrong shared. "My brief euphoria was abruptly interrupted when I rear-ended another car within two miles of campus on the rain-slick roads."

Armstrong hopes UCO will continue to provide an excellent education that incorporates the real-life requirements students need to succeed. He wants current students and alumni to get involved.

"Engage. Get Involved. Be part of the discussion. Make your voice heard. Make your group, department or company the best it can be."





## Carlos Evans (BBA '04)

How did Carlos Evans become the chief commercial officer and founding partner of Tall Oak Midstream at just 35 years old?

For Evans, the answer is much like his favorite quote from Lao Tzu — “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

His first step toward success came when his mother decided to move the family from Guatemala, where he was born, to the United States. Evans spent time in Napa Valley, California, before finally settling in Oklahoma City when he was in middle school.

Today, Evans (BBA '04) leads the commercial and business development team at Tall Oak Midstream. He also oversees the execution of the company's crude oil service agreements.

Prior to joining Tall Oak in early 2014, Evans was the manager



of gas sales for Chesapeake Energy Corporation. He also served in a variety of positions with Chesapeake Energy Marketing, including as a manager of the commercial gas business unit and gas scheduling.

Evans received his bachelor's degree in finance from UCO.

“I wanted to find a local university where I could have an impact while getting a high-quality education at a reasonable cost. In addition, my dad and grandpa both graduated from UCO,” wrote Evans.

While at UCO, Evans reconnected with his now wife, Kristi, a friend since middle school. He also was a founding member of Central's Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity chapter, started in 2002. One of his fondest memories was his experience with the UCO College of Business's London Study Tour, led by then Finance Department Chair Randal Ice, Ph.D., now interim dean of the College of Business.

“I was working full time and learned about the study tour, but didn't pursue it because of finances. Through a scholarship, I was able to attend and had a great experience. To this day, I still refer to that trip with friends and business colleagues. Dr. Ice understood how big of an impact that trip would have on me and made it possible through identifying the necessary scholarships. I will always appreciate that.”

Evans recently established the Carlos P. Evans Endowed Scholarship at UCO to help today's finance majors. The scholarship was awarded for the first time at this year's annual Presidential Partners Lunch, held each spring.

Evans said he hopes students will continue to get the most out of their college experience.

“Enjoy this stage in your life and take the extra effort to maximize your experiences. Make the effort to have a deep level of understanding of your focus, get involved and hold leadership positions in various organizations that interest you — even if they don't apply directly to your major.”



## Raúl Font, Ed.D. (MEd '84)

Raúl Font, Ed.D., has devoted more than 40 years of his professional career to education and serving his community. As president of the Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA), he has brought to life his agency's mission of enriching the mental and physical health and social well-being of the communities he serves.

Font (MEd '84) joined the LCDA as president in April 2015. He is responsible for policy implementation, operations and community development programs.

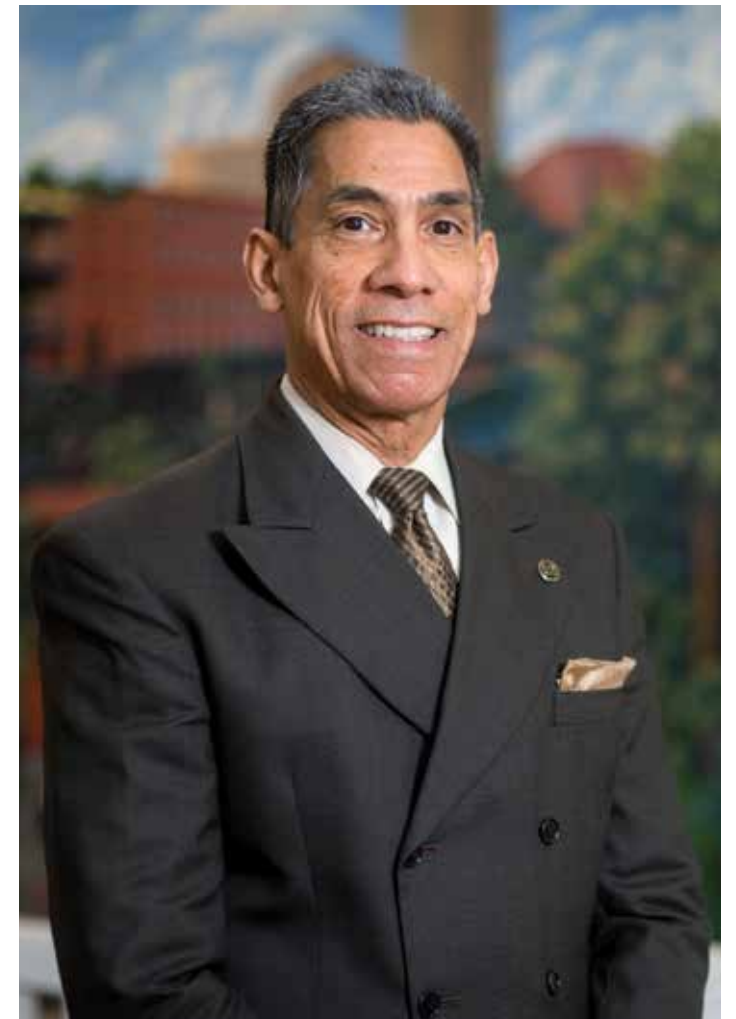
Prior to the LCDA, he served as the assistant superintendent for instruction/external resources with Santa Fe South Schools Inc. — a charter school in south Oklahoma City serving a high concentration of Hispanic families. He also has taught in all grades, from first to doctoral-level courses in multiple states, holding every education position other than superintendent.

Among his many appointed positions and organizations, Font is a founding member of the LCDA, a national board member of the State Legalization Impact Assistance Grants program in Washington, D.C., and a national English-as-a-second-language consultant for the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, D.C.

Font received his Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Mayaguez in Puerto Rico and his master's degree in bilingual education/English as a second language from UCO. He also obtained his doctoral degree in education administration, curriculum and supervision from The University of Oklahoma.

It was UCO professor April Haulman, Ph.D., who recruited Font to pursue a master's degree in the university's bilingual/multicultural education program.

He considers his time at Central as anything but traditional. “As a parent of three young kids, I commuted every night,



to what was then Central State University, to complete my degrees,” he wrote. Getting that degree, however, has contributed to his success, he said.

He takes seriously what Central has meant to him and his family, and he encourages others to do the same.

“Remember that as you complete your degree, not only do you represent yourself and your family, but also the institution that granted your studies. You are the face of the institution out there.”

He also encourages alumni to join the alumni association.

“I like the idea of offering free membership to the alumni association. It tells the student that you are still welcome here, even if you cannot or will not financially contribute to the university.”



## Milena Govich (BM '99)

Not many students can take 27 hours in one semester and embark on majors in two completely different worlds, while still finding time to give back to their campus community.

But not every student is Milena Govich. The actress and director is proof that when good, old-fashioned, hard work and immense talent combine, the results are powerful.

Govich (BM '99) first gained national attention on television in CBS' "Love Monkey" and in three seasons of "Rescue Me." She also starred in the Dick Wolf series "Conviction," which led to her role as the first and only female detective on the Emmy-winning series "Law & Order."

She found directing success with her recent selection for the American Film Institute's prestigious Directing Workshop for Women under the mentorship of Paul Feig. Her short film, "Temporary," premiered at the 2017 San Francisco Independent Film Festival.

A native of Norman, Oklahoma, Govich was her high school valedictorian before coming to Central. She double majored in vocal performance and pre-med. Her mother — UCO faculty member, Marilyn Govich, Ph.D. — was the biggest reason she chose Central, she said.



"She is an extraordinary voice and music professor, and I wanted to continue my training with her. I grew up attending music theater performances at UCO that always impressed and inspired me. And as a pre-medicine major as well, I knew the science classes would be taught by faculty instead of teaching or graduate assistants," she wrote.

UCO's supportive environment continually pushed her to achieve more, she said, even when it seemed impossible — like when she took 27 credit hours in one semester.

"No one ever told me I couldn't do it or shouldn't try. I learned to push my own limits and have continued to do so ever since," she said.

Govich stretched her limits past graduation, moving to New York and appearing on Broadway in the musical revival of "Cabaret." She began in the role of Lulu, featuring her singing, dancing and playing violin. She then performed on Broadway in the musical revival of "The Boys from Syracuse" and in the musical "Good Vibrations." She also starred as Millie in the first regional production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," and she starred in the title role of "Sweet Charity" at the Lyric Theatre.

She currently resides in Los Angeles and is developing TV/film projects with her husband and producing partner, writer and composer David Cornue.

## Rachel Vincent (BA '00)

Author Rachel Vincent grew up at Central, learning to navigate real-world expectations while balancing marriage and motherhood. From Chaucer to urban fantasy, Vincent gathered all her newly acquired knowledge and wrote her way onto the New York Times bestseller list.

Vincent (BA '00) is the author of more than 25 novels for teens and adults. She is best known for the "Shifters" novels, a present-day fantasy series about a female shapeshifter carving out a place for herself in a patriarchal society.

A former English teacher and a

champion of the serial comma, she said she remains convinced that writing about the things that scare her is the most cost-effective form of therapy.

Vincent chose to attend Central at age 19 after her husband was transferred to Tinker Air Force Base for his first permanent duty assignment after her freshman year.

"College was my first real opportunity to interact with the world on an adult level," she wrote. "That feels like a strange thing to say, 17 years removed, but in my late teens and early 20s, UCO was my introduction to real-world expectations."

She remembers fondly the Liberal Arts

building, where she studied with friends in front of Pegasus Theater. She learned she was pregnant her junior year and wondered how she would balance it all.

"I took several classes with Dr. Pamela Washington, and when I found out I was pregnant with my daughter late my junior year, she took me into her office and told me about defending her doctoral thesis within days of giving birth, as a way of telling me that I could do anything. She was right."

She hopes UCO will continue to provide a great education at a great value, while also serving as a formative influence on young minds.

"UCO needs to share innovative thoughts and ideas with students who may not have had a chance to see much else in the world and remind them that we don't exist — as students or as people — in a social or educational vacuum. We need to show them that we are a global community, and that broad horizons foster wisdom. You cannot understand the world if you only ever experience one small corner of it."

Her advice for fellow students and alumni is to embrace the Central community. "Look around you and search out opportunities you may not be aware of yet. This is a generous community. Take advantage of that and give back when you can."





# Look Out World!

By Dana Jackson-Hardwick

UCO will get a jolt of excitement April 4-7, as the campus hosts the 32nd annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

About 5,000 student presenters and faculty mentors from across the United States and the world are expected to attend the premier forum that showcases undergraduate research and creative and scholarly activity in all disciplines.

Overall, the event is expected to have an economic impact of \$2.5 million in Oklahoma City and Edmond with 90 percent of the participants needing lodging and meals.

The return, however, is greater than that as the community will have a chance to see the best work students have to offer. There will be scholarly poster and oral presentations, as well as art exhibits and creative performances from all corners of the academic curriculum. All presenters will have been selected through a competitive review process.

New to the conference this year are pre-conference workshops. Interdisciplinary in design, attendees will focus on themes that are UCO and Oklahoma strengths, including forensic sciences, American Indian studies, the business energy sector, early childhood education through an international lens and interdisciplinary arts.

With 22 planning committees — and key support from

President Don Betz, Provost John Barthell, Vice President Myron Pope and the UCO Alumni Association — all hands will be on deck to make the event successful. Presentations will be spread across campus in eight buildings. At the same time, campus departments will host open houses to showcase UCO's research, creative and scholarly activities, as well as efforts to show what makes UCO an exemplary metropolitan university.



Planners want to make the event fun as well as memorable.

Chartwells has planned menus to showcase

Oklahoma and southern-style food. Attendees

are invited on Friday night to celebrate

the conference and local music with the Academy of Contemporary

Music Metro Music Fest. There will be

opportunities to spend time in Edmond, as

well as the National Cowboy & Western

Heritage Museum, the National Memorial,

Bricktown, the Myriad Botanical Gardens

and the Boathouse District, among

others. Students also will be offered visits to

the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, and the

aquarium and museums in Tulsa.

For more information about NCUR and attending the event, visit [www.cur.org/ncur\\_2018](http://www.cur.org/ncur_2018). For those wanting to volunteer, please email [ncur2018@uco.edu](mailto:ncur2018@uco.edu).

*Dana Jackson-Hardwick is Assistant Director for UCO's Office of High Impact Practices.*

## ALUMNI NOTES

### 1980's

**Mark Beutler** (BA '86, MEd '88) has been named public information manager for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. He most recently served as communications manager for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. **Keith Carter** (BBA '88, MBA '94) recently was named an Arvest Wealth Management client adviser at the Arvest branch in Del City. He has 23 years of experience in the financial planning industry, including teaching courses at the university level.

### 1990's



Photo courtesy of the Edmond Sun

**Chris Goodwin** (MEd '93) reported in August as the new fire chief for the City of Edmond. He began his new role upon retiring from the Oklahoma

City Fire Department with 24 years of service. He was one of three deputy fire chiefs in Oklahoma City. He has served on the Joint Labor Management Committee in Oklahoma City and is a member of the Metro Chiefs Association, as well as the International Fire Chiefs Association. In 2007, he was the recipient of the City's Best Award for outstanding job performance and meritorious service. Active in the community, he works with various church



ministries and also is a coach. **Jerrod Moser** (BS '94) recently was selected to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety

and Health (NACOSH) as a management representative for a two-year term. He is currently the director of health and safety at OG&E. **Wes Self** (BS '93) was named the first teacher of the year for Heartland Middle School in Edmond. An eighth-grade math teacher, he previously taught for 17 years at Summit Middle School. He also coached football for 19 years. **Scott Williams** (BA '96, MA '98) was reappointed to a four-year term for the Board of Juvenile Affairs, ending in July 2021. He serves as an at-large member with juvenile justice experience. He is the chief executive officer of NxtLevel Solutions and was previously an adjunct

professor at Langston University, where he taught criminal justice, corrections and juvenile justice courses. **Chad Harper** (BAEd '98) has been named



a finalist for the 2018 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year award. An educator for 18 years, he teaches STEM at Mustang High School.

**Nick Migliorino** (MEd '98) is now the superintendent of Norman Public Schools. Most recently, he served Norman Public Schools as the assistant superintendent for

### Robert Romines, Medal of Excellence



**Robert Romines, Ed.D.**, (BSEd '94, MEd '98) recently was named the winner of the Medal for Excellence in Elementary/Secondary Administration. The award was given by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

Romines serves as superintendent of Moore Public Schools, beginning his career in the district in 1994. He began as a fifth-grade teacher and held various administrative positions prior to becoming superintendent in 2013.

He was recognized for his leadership and compassion through some of the most challenging times. Soon after being named superintendent, a F5 tornado hit Moore, killing seven students and damaging several buildings in the district. His relationships within the community, along with his excellent communication skills, were crucial during this time.

Other challenges — such as cuts to education funding, as well as increased focus on testing — prompted Romines to survey staff members throughout the district. He noted their frustrations and created a video, "Breaking the Silence," that shared joys and concerns of Moore teachers. The video has become a tool used to advocate for public education, and as a result, state testing has been decreased and the teacher evaluation system was revised.

He was recognized for his outreach efforts to communicate the numerous good things happening in the district. He used videos, social media and advisory committees to engage community members and show the progress of Moore Public Schools.



administrative services, as well as the district's chief technology officer.

## 2000's

**Amber Williams** (BA '00) has joined the Country Music Association as vice president of communications and talent relations. She is a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. **Rob Davis** (BAEd



'02) was named a finalist for the 2018 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year award. He has been an educator for 15 years, teaching history at Yukon High

School for the past three years. **Jordan Jobe** (BBA '05) recently joined BKD CPAs & Advisors, an audit and assurance practice, as an associate. **Dina Scheirman** (MBA '06) has been named a mortgage loan officer for First Liberty Bank. She has nearly 20 years of mortgage lending experience. **Brooke**



**Bisel Kusch** (BS '08) recently was named teacher of the year by the Oklahoma Association for Career and Technology Education (OkACTE). She

represented the family and consumer sciences division of OkACTE at the 50th annual Oklahoma Career Tech summer conference in Oklahoma City. She is a family and consumer sciences teacher for Drummond Public School. **Kimberly Neill** (BMed '08) was the 2017 Teacher of the Year for Will Rogers Elementary in Edmond. She has taught at Will Rogers for nine years. **Brenda Davis** (MEd '08) recently was named the 2017 James Burnett Distinguished Principal by the Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals. She is the principal of

Arbor Grove Elementary in the Putnam City district.

## 2010's

**Katy Fabrie** (MA '14) has joined Gooden Group in Oklahoma City as an account director. Most recently, she served as a marketing specialist at Paycom. Prior, she was a senior writer for High Five Media. **Michelle Nhin** (BA '14) of Edmond recently created the "Refuge Supper Club," after learning of similar events in other parts of the country. The club brings refugees together with others in the community to share an informal meal, prepared by the refugees with recipes from their native land. **Zachary Butler** (BS '16, BBA '16) has joined BKD CPAs and Advisors, an audit and assurance practice, as an associate. **Taylor Bollinger** (BA '16) recently was named as an account executive for Price Lang Consulting. While at Central, she was president of the Public Relations Student Society of America and received the Gean B. Atkinson Excellence in Advertising Scholarship. **Anne Antonelli** (BS '16) has been named an assurance associate for RSM US LLP — a provider of audit, tax and consulting services. U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class **Roshni Patel** (BS '16) recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio. **Tara Nowell** (BS '16) and **Jimmy Belobraydic** (BS '16, BBA '16) have joined the Oklahoma City office of RSM US LLP as tax associates. **Lauren Laird** (BBA '16) has been promoted to membership director at the Edmond

Chamber of Commerce. She began as an intern while a Central student, later becoming coordinator of member relations. **Taylor Binkley** (BS '16) was recently named an associate at BKD CPAs and Advisors. She is returning to the company, having previously worked as an intern. **Patrick Towne** (BFAEd '17) has been named drama director at Edmond North High School. He has served as director and choreographer for several productions at Upstage Theatre, along with being a private voice and dance instructor.

## Faculty/Staff

**David Ford, Ph.D.**, was named as Champion of Character for Humility at the Edmond City Council meeting in June. He retired after 40 years in higher education, serving Central from 1990-2016. **Vicki Jackson, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Biology at Central, recently was selected as a member of The Nature Conservancy's 2017-18 Oklahoma Conservation Leadership Academy (OCLA). Through a competitive application process, only 34 members from the entire state of Oklahoma were selected.



*Kaitlyn Henry writes Alumni Notes and In Memory. She is a marketing assistant for UCO's Office of University Communications. Please send notes to UCO, University Communications, 100 North University, Box 201, Edmond, OK 73034, or email ucomm@uco.edu with "Alumni Note" in the subject line.*

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**Vice President, University Communications**

Charles Johnson

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**Art Director** Craig Beuchaw (BA '92)

**Photographic Services** Daniel Smith

(BA '77, MEd '93)

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## Megan Byrum, DaVinci Scholar

The DaVinci Institute this spring named **Megan Byrum** (BSEd '16) one of its 2017 DaVinci Scholars.

Byrum completed this spring her first year as a teacher at Santa Fe South Early Childhood Center in Oklahoma City. She was recognized for her project to involve students in community service.

Byrum received \$1,000 for creating an in-depth proposal to encourage fifth graders to help their neighborhood animal shelter during winter months.

"Her work at Santa Fe, a Title 1 school, is truly making a difference," James Machell, Ph.D., dean of Central's College of Education and Professional Studies, said.

The DaVinci Institute recognizes the contribution and potential of higher education faculty members, and of promising pre-service and in-service teachers.

**Teacher Megan Byrum visits with one of her students at Santa Fe South Early Childhood Center in Oklahoma City.**



## Hight, Dunham — New Book Deals



UCO's **Joe Hight** signed this summer a two-book agreement with RoadRunner Press, which asked him "to write two books that make a difference in people's lives." His first book will be an investigative narrative on his brother, a Roman Catholic priest, who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and was shot and killed by police in 2000. It's expected to be published early next year. Hight is UCO's endowed chair of journalism ethics in the Mass Communication Department and director of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, housed at UCO.

UCO's **Dennis Dunham, Ph.D.**, executive director of UCO's Office of Global Affairs, released in August his second work of fiction, "The Father, the Son, and the Hidden Grave." Two fathers have four days to develop a plan that they must execute in 20 days — or risk losing their sons. Dunham has spoken and written extensively on the broken father/son relationship and the question of how a father who never had a father becomes one to his son or daughter.





## Sharing Sweet Memories

Edmond elementary school educator Linda Skinner has shared with readers a photo of her parents when they were dating and students on the Central campus in the late '30s.



**Central students DeRoy Skinner and his wife-to-be, Mildred Cordis, in the late 30s, on the steps of Evans Hall.**

Skinner was featured in the last issue of Old North magazine for her work in developing a program for Oklahoma third graders, titled "Before the Land Runs: History in Context." Her work was inspired by her parents, her father a member of the Choctaw tribe and her mother an Oklahoma farm girl.

"It was one of their favorite photos of those days," she said. "They talked about Old North and their dorms, and that on Sunday nights, when the dorms didn't serve food, they would picnic in Fink Park," she recalled.

Both of her parents were good students, but her father's performance was even more outstanding because of his efforts to put himself through school. "He rarely got any sleep because he worked all night and went to class in the day," she said, noting that UCO alumnus and Luminarium John Kessler helped her father get his night job.

"Many years later, when I was teaching second grade at Russell Dougherty, we were studying communities and friendships, and I invited my father and John Kessler to come to school together and be with us, telling us stories of their days together," she said. "It was so beautiful."

## Lance Robertson, Senate Approves



**Lance Allen Robertson** (MPA '15) has been named U.S. assistant secretary of aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was nominated by the Trump Administration and received U.S. Senate confirmation in early August.

He has served as Oklahoma's director of aging services since 2007, where he has been responsible for 17 major aging services programs. Previously, he was an administrator at Oklahoma State University for 12 years. There, he co-founded the Gerontology Institute and was the director of a regional professional association, Partnerships for Aging. He is a past president of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Reared in Oklahoma by his grandparents, Robertson used his own life experience to write, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren." His work was included as a chapter in the book, "Godly Grandparenting: A Christian Guide for Today's Families."

## McKibbin, Nationally Recognized



**Jeff McKibbin** (BSEd '77, MEd '78), an educator in athletic training at Central since 1980, was inducted in June into the National Athletic Trainers' Association. He's only the fourth Oklahoman to garner the honor in the organization's 67-year history. McKibbin, director of Central's Graduate Athletic Training Program, made significant contributions

to updating the Oklahoma Athletic Training Practice Act (1996) and the Oklahoma Concussion Law (2015).

He also has been inducted into the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers' Association, the Mid-America Athletic Trainers' and the UCO Athletic halls of fame.

## IN MEMORY

### 1940's



**Johnny Stone** (BS '49) of Edmond died May 5, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy as a pharmacist's mate during World War II. After returning

from service, he opened Stone's Pharmacy in downtown Edmond, then joined Pfizer as a sales representative. In 1960, he partnered to form Howell-Stone Insurance. He was a former president of the Edmond Chamber of Commerce and the Edmond Hospital Board, and he was inducted into the Edmond Historical Hall of Fame. After retirement, he worked as a marshal at Oak Tree Golf and Country Club, where he was a charter member. **Virginia Worthington** (BSEd '49) of Santa Maria, California, died Dec. 13, 2016. She was a teacher at Westside Elementary for 22 years.

### 1950's



**Quincy Matthews Dawes** (BSEd '50) died Jan. 29, 2017. An educator for 34 years, she received the Outstanding Teachers Award in Secondary

Education in 1976. She was a member of Oklahoma, Payne County and Cushing retired teachers' associations. **Dan Mitchell Jr., M.D.**, (BS '54) died Feb. 26, 2017. He served in the Korean War as a member of the Army's 325th hospital training unit. After graduating from Central, he attended The University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. He completed his

residency at The University of Oklahoma Medical Center, practicing in Montana and Oklahoma, before establishing Springs Radiology in Enid. He was a Mobile Meals volunteer and a member of the Enid Rotary Club.

### 1960's



**Leon "Norman" Hancock** (BSEd '61) died March 15, 2017. A teacher and coach, he worked at Monroney, Mustang and Thackerville high schools. He

enjoyed traveling and exploring history. **Donald Kellogg, Ph.D.**, (BSEd '62, MT '65) of Ada died March 2, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy and spent three years teaching physics and science at U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City before joining the faculty at East Central State College (ECU). Later, he became the director of the Center of Excellence for Science and Mathematics Education for the University of Tennessee at Martin where he served six years. He was a recipient of ECU's Distinguished Former Faculty award in 2012. He also served as a science and mathematics adviser to the Oklahoma Department of Education. **Raymond Nance** (BSEd '63) died May 14, 2017, in Oklahoma City. Early in his career, he was a teacher at Emerson School in Oklahoma City, where he was recognized by DuPont Magazine for his development of an after-school program. He later worked in vocational rehabilitation for the Oklahoma State Department of Human Services. He also served as director of the Social Security Disability unit, retiring in 1997. **Damon Johnson** (BAEd '64, MEd '72) died May 23, 2017, in Edmond. After leaving teaching in 1975, he and his wife began

a weed control and lawn care business in Edmond. **Ward Fowler** (BAEd '64, MT '68) died May 12, 2017. After many years as an educator, he became an expert at buying and selling antiques. **Edward**



**Schaul** (BS '65, MA '93) died June 12, 2017. He retired from Schlumberger as a petroleum engineer. **Cheryl Bredeson** (BSEd '67) died Feb. 27,

2017. An educator, she had a passion for teaching low-income and disadvantaged elementary students. She taught at Apollo and Coronado elementary schools in Putnam City. Later, she taught at Pioneer Elementary in Noble. She also was a teacher in the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, district and in three Lubbock, Texas, elementary schools. She was named Lubbock and Regional Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2003-04 school year, becoming a finalist for Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.



**Jack Pointer Jr., J.D.**, (BA '67) died March 27, 2017. He attended Central on a football scholarship. After earning a law degree from

The University of Oklahoma, he worked in the public sector for two years. Then he began a successful 45-year private practice. **John Windolph** (BS '69, BA '70) died March 25, 2017. After Central, he earned his master's in Native American western history from The University of Oklahoma. There he worked in the Western History Archives department as a researcher and graduate assistant. He was a member of the Indian Posse of Westerners and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.



**Mona Walker** (MED '69) died May 25, 2017. She taught music and English for 34 years, mostly at Del City High School. She also taught adult education and GED preparation courses for Oklahoma City Public Schools.

## 1970's

**Kenneth Ward** (BS '70) died Feb. 24, 2017, in Edmond. He was a computer systems analyst, specializing in optimization and routing for trucking companies. He enjoyed traveling with the Oklahoma City Ski Club and participating in races. He was also a member of the First Unitarian Church choir and active in the Oklahoma City Traditional Music Association.

**William Langwell** (MED '70) of Edmond died April 26, 2017. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. From 1965-1991, he worked as a science teacher and assistant principal for Oklahoma City Public Schools. **Richard Stump** (MED '71) died March 19, 2017. He spent his career in education serving in many different roles in Putnam City and Western Heights school districts. **Peggy Sullivan** (MED '72) died May 2, 2017, in Midwest City. An educator, she taught in Newkirk and Harrah. She was honored as District Teacher of the Year in 1980 and Zone Teacher of the Year in 1984. She spent the last nine years of her career teaching remedial reading, retiring from Russell Babb Elementary in 1986. **Peggy McMillen** (BA '72) of Oklahoma City died March 3, 2017. She was a full-time mother and grandmother. Over time, she attended many art workshops throughout the country. She enjoyed spending time at Grand Lake and walking in Grand Boulevard Park. **Rhonda Howard** (BS '78) died April 14, 2017. She worked as a registered nurse and enjoyed bonding with her patients. **Frank Saxton** (BA '79) of Newalla died March 20, 2017. He served in

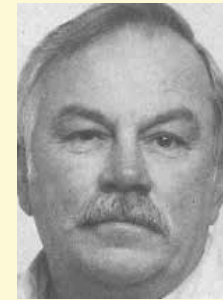
the Army National Guard for 34 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He retired from Tinker Air Force Base as a logistics engineer. He was a marshal at Choctaw Creek Golf Course and a leader for Boy Scouts Troop 65.

## 1980's

**Ron Beard** (BAED '81) died April 26, 2017. A U.S. Marine, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He taught high school history and was involved with the Edmond Youth Council. **Turner Mann** (BS '84) died March 2, 2017, in Oklahoma City. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Midway during the Vietnam War. He worked as an investigator for the State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services, retiring after more than 25 years. He served on the Midwest City Council, Ward 2, for 12 years and was involved in the Midwest City Rotary Club. **Harry "Ben" Grindstaff** (MBA '85) of Mustang died March 15, 2017. He served in the U.S. Army, retiring as a staff sergeant. He had a long career working as an electronics engineer for the Federal Aviation Administration, where he retired in the early 1990s. **Patti Riley** (BS '86, MBA '06) of Frisco, Texas, died May 24, 2017. She worked as a CPA for many years and was a past president of the Oklahoma City chapter of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs. She spent her career working at Kerr McGee and Epworth Villa, before retiring from Cantex. **Carol Gill** (BS '86, MS '89) died April 10, 2017, in Garland, Texas. She was a paralegal for the Hall Group in Dallas and was a member of Church of the Servant. **Robert Smith** (BBA '87) died May 2, 2017. He served three years in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. He worked in transportation and freight management for many years, eventually ending his career as a truck driver and dispatcher for Swift Transportation.

## 1990's

**Dee Vick** (BBA '92, MBA '93) died May 13, 2017. He began his career at J.G.V.E. Inc. Engineering & Surveying, eventually becoming company president. An Eagle Scout, he supported scouting, serving as vice president of the Last Frontier Council. He was active in the Del City Chamber of Commerce and the Midwest City Rotary Club. **Wilbur Johnson** (BS '94, MED '95)



died March 31, 2017, in Oklahoma City. After serving in the U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Navy, he worked for American Airlines as a mechanic, then as an aircraft line maintenance supervisor. He also volunteered with the Disabled American Veterans of Oklahoma. **Patrick Baker** (BSEd '99) died April 24, 2017. He was involved with RAIN Oklahoma and was influential in the Oklahoma HIV/AIDS awareness movement. He was a children's librarian for 14 years and worked for the District of Columbia Public Schools. An author, he wrote and published a children's book, "My Father is in Prison," to help children cope and thrive despite their circumstances.

## 2000's

**Charles Warren, J.D.**, (BS '05) died March 15, 2017. After graduating from Central, he received his juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. **Jill Vaught** (BS '05, BSEd '06, MED '12) died Feb. 25, 2017, from a fire in her home. During her 12-year teaching career, she taught in the Western Heights and Oklahoma City school districts, her final assignment as a second-grade teacher at Linwood Elementary in Oklahoma City. She was a

master teacher for Teach for America the past two years and was a team leader for her grade level for six years.

## 2010's

**Mark Wood** (BA '14) of Altus died March 31, 2017. He was the vice president of marketing and production for Engraved Valor, a laser engraving company.

## Faculty/Staff

**Lonnie Gilliland, Ed.D.**, died June 24, 2017. He served Central from 1971-96 as a professor in the College of Special Arts and Sciences. He was also the chair of the Department of Safety Education. **Melvin Lee, Ph.D.**, died July 4, 2017. He served Central from 1964-2000, retiring as a professor of Music. He later returned as

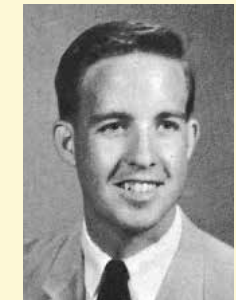
an adjunct professor from 2001-2011. He spent 10 years performing with the Lyric Theatre and 23 years with the Oklahoma City Symphony. He also was inducted into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Hall of Fame.



**Virginia King** (MT '65) died April 16, 2017, in Yukon. She was an assistant professor of art at Central for 22 years, retiring in 1987.

After retirement, she served as a docent at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. **Sheldon Buxton, Ph.D.**, died April 27, 2017. He was a professor at Central for 15 years before retiring in 2005. He also served as the dean of the College of Education

at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, along with many other positions in education. Most recently, he was the superintendent



at Luther Public Schools. **Stewart Beasley Jr., Ph.D.**, (BSEd '66, MED '69) of Edmond died April 21, 2017. He was a psychology professor at Central from 1971-1994. He later opened a full-time psychology practice, but continued to teach classes at Central, as well as other institutions. **Christopher Burkey, Ph.D.**, died May 24, 2017. He served Central for 22 years, retiring in 2015 as a professor of Funeral Services. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a U.S. Civil War enthusiast.

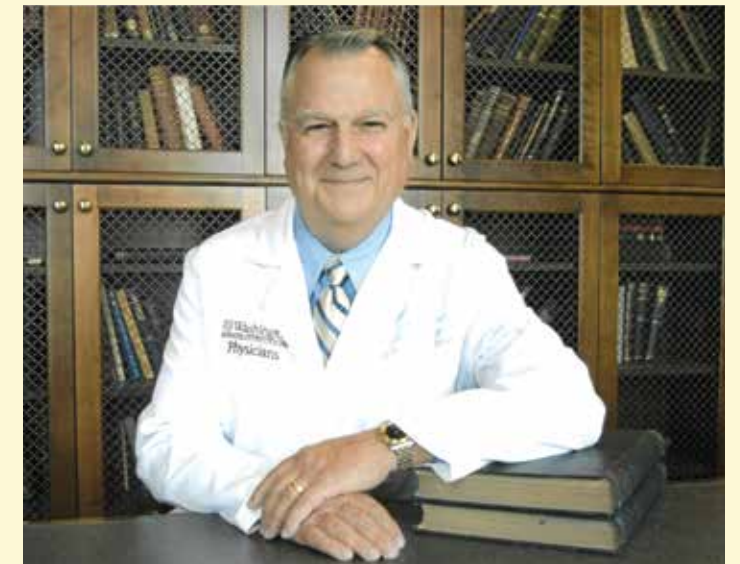
## Dr. J. Gail Neely, 1939-2017

Central has lost a much admired and loved alumnus, J. Gail Neely, M.D., Fellow of American College of Surgeons, who since 1999 has funded UCO's annual Neely Teaching in Excellence Award. Dr. Neely, 77, died Aug. 20, 2017, at his home in St. Louis, Missouri, after a 13-year battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Dr. Neely was a surgeon, a professor and a researcher at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Ten years ago, he said in an interview, "Here I am, 67 years old, and as we speak, I am on a Sunday afternoon in the operating room lounge ready to start an operation, working on an NIH grant and working on a lecture I will give next week. This is nuts! I should retire, but I can't find anything else I love more."

The Neely Teaching in Excellence Award was named by Dr. Neely in honor of his parents and the UCO professors who made a difference in his life. The award is given to two professors annually with each also receiving a \$1,000 check. Until last year, Dr. Neely came to campus to present the awards at Central's fall forum. Last year and in August, members of his family represented him at the event.

At Washington University, he was a professor of otolaryngology specializing in head and neck surgery. He was also director of its facial nerve center, director of research in otolaryngology and a professor in the occupational therapy program.



Neely graduated from Central in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science. In 1979, he was named a Central Distinguished Alumni and in 2015 one of Central's inaugural 125 members of the Luminary Society.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, six children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to UCO or Concord Trinity UMC Living Memorials. Donations may be made to the Neely Excellence in Teaching Award endowment that he established by visiting [www.centralconnection.org/neely](http://www.centralconnection.org/neely).



# Old North Magazine, Award Winners

Old North magazine and its writers won several awards at the annual conference of the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association in July.

UCO Alumnus Jack Scammahorn, Ph.D., and magazine editor Gypsy Hogan received a Grand Award in Sports Writing for Scammahorn's article, "Black & White," about his participation in UCO's

1962 national championship football team, an integrated team that together faced racism and stayed focused on teamwork.

Hogan won an Excellence Award for Full-Length Feature for her article, "Against All Odds." The story was about UCO's Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Charlotte Simmons, Ph.D., and her unlikely achievements as a college student, mathematician, professor and higher education administrator.

Hogan also won an Excellence Award in the Featurette Category, for "His Tour Well Done," a short feature about emeritus professor Gene McPhail, Ph.D., and his last visit to Old North. The honored professor



Old North editor Gypsy Hogan and alumnus Jack Scammahorn



died the week after the Feb. 23 reopening of his beloved building.

Hogan, magazine art director Craig Beuchaw and Photographic Services director Dan Smith together received an Achievement Award for Magazine. The team entered the fall 2016 and the spring 2017 issues.



## Letters to the Editor

The following letter was in response to the article "Black & White" that appeared in Old North magazine, fall 2016.

I am humbly thankful for allowing me to tell our story and place the spotlight on our 1962 football team.

We all lived it and thought nothing was all that different back then. But 1962 was a time of transition to integration, and along with integration, turmoil.

Again, thank you.

**Jack Scammahorn**  
(BSEd '63, MT '70)  
Overland Park, Kansas

The family of UCO Emeritus Professor Gene McPhail, Ph.D., (1928-2017) responded to an article about his last visit to Old North, found in the spring 2017 issue.

The article was great. It made our hearts warm upon reading it.

We are very appreciative of this honor that has been given to our dear Papa. Thank you so much!

**Jake Fisher** (BA '17)  
Edmond, Oklahoma  
Grandson of Gene McPhail

Always good to hear from a long-time respected campus professor.

Just read through the new spring Old North magazine, and it is beautiful! Great work.

Thanks,

**Kaye Sears, Ed.D.**  
UCO Professor  
Human Environmental Sciences

## Campus Eclipsing —

On their first day back to fall classes, students got a special treat — the Aug. 21 eclipse of the sun. Although not in the total eclipse band, they donned the special glasses and got a look at the 85 percent coverage, experiencing a lowering of temperature and dusk effect.

Photo by KT King,

UCO Photographic Services

Tell us your thoughts and suggestions about Old North magazine and its contents. Old North readers are who we serve!  
Email thoughts to ghogan@uco.edu or mail to Gypsy Hogan, University of Central Oklahoma, 100 N. University Drive, Box 198, Edmond, OK 73034.





**ACM@UCO Alive!**

Monday–Tuesday Oct. 2–3, 7pm  
Monday–Tuesday Nov. 6–7, 7pm  
Monday–Tuesday Dec. 4–5, 7pm  
ACM@UCO Performance Lab,  
329 E. Sheridan Ave. in Bricktown

**School of Music:**

**UCO Edmond Jazz Fest**  
Monday–Saturday Sept. 25–30  
For full list of events, visit  
[www.UCOEdmondJazzFest.com](http://www.UCOEdmondJazzFest.com).

**Design: Think Big!**

Opening Reception, Thursday  
Oct. 12, 4–5pm  
NUC, Donna Nigh Gallery,  
3rd + 4th Floors  
Exhibit open through Friday, Nov. 3.

**Theatre Arts: Eurydice**

7:30pm, Thursday–Saturday Nov. 2–4  
and 2pm Sunday Nov 5,  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

**Dance: High School Dance Festival  
Showcase**

Friday–Saturday Nov. 17–18, 7:30pm  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

**CFAD presents Holiday Central**

Friday–Saturday Dec. 1–2, 7:30pm  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

**Broadway Tonight: Diavolo Dance  
Theatre**

Tuesday Jan. 30, 7:30pm  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

**School of Music: Man of La Mancha**

Thursday–Saturday Feb. 15–17, 7:30pm  
and Sunday Feb. 18, 2pm  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

**Kuleshov International Piano  
Competition**

Thursday–Sunday Feb. 22–25,  
Radke Fine Arts Theatre

**Dance: Kaleidoscope Dance  
Company Concert**

Friday–Saturday March 2–3, 7:30 pm  
and Sunday, March 4, 2pm  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

**Theatre Arts: The Mousetrap**

Thursday–Saturday March 29–31  
7:30pm and Saturday March 31, 2pm  
Mitchell Hall Theatre

For tickets, more events and other information, visit [cfad.uco.edu](http://cfad.uco.edu)