

OLD NORTH



MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

SPRING 2018 • VOL. LV, NO. 1



*"Man's mind,
stretched to a
new idea, never
regains its original
dimension."*

Oliver Wendell Holmes

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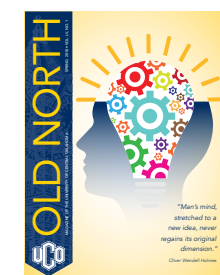


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...a magazine published by the University of Central Oklahoma for its alumni and friends.

On the Cover



Welcome to the spring 2018 issue of Old North magazine where "Stretching the Mind" is the theme. Articles in this issue are intended to show some of the ways UCO works to help students — and faculty and staff — do just that, with the idea that an educated mind makes for a better world. Enjoy!

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Encouraging Our Commitment to Learning

Spring is an inspiring time to visit the UCO campus. Years of planting, sculpting and tending have reimagined the contours of our university home. Alumni and friends who return after some years are delightfully surprised to discover the lovely dimensions and recent additions to the landscape. Here at UCO, we embrace and direct change.

This *Old North* edition focuses on one of the enduring objectives of education — namely, the continuing personal and institutional commitment to learning. We spend our lives learning, formally in schools and universities and independently throughout our lives as we sharpen our curiosity and skills, fueled by our interests and passions.

Each of these stories offers us insight, perspective and, at times, inspiration on a range of issues, from personal to professional. They are linked by our Central culture, dedicated since the 1890s to stimulating curiosity and consistently encouraging a life of learning.

Expanding our minds and our horizons is a dynamic process that moves us beyond the acquisition of information. Abraham Lincoln believed that when we think differently, we act differently. We question our assumptions and seek understanding and clarity amid the noise and false echoes that can surround us much of the time.

We know that when we make those defining leaps forward, we see our world, and ourselves, through refocused lenses.

A relevant, favored quotation, authored by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, is inscribed on walls at UCO: “Man’s mind, stretched to a new idea, never returns to its original dimension.” When we truly are learning, we take on fresh contours, opening new pathways of knowing each time we pursue our curiosity.

Expanding minds necessarily involves creativity. Sir Ken Robinson teaches that once we have awakened, stimulated and sustained our creative interests, we not only



UCO President Don Betz speaking at the Chickasaw Plaza, an outdoor area, with terraced seating, located on the southeast side of Old North.

think differently about ourselves, but act differently toward each other.

Expanding our minds is not a solitary endeavor, but is appreciably enhanced via collaboration and connection with others. Together, we can apply this awareness to serve a broader societal purpose. Here at UCO, we aspire to create a culture of learning, leading and serving. This purpose is achievable only as a community of learners and doers. We encourage one another to explore and develop talents and capacities, both for personal growth and for the common good.

Together, we are dedicated to “model the way” for one another and to mentor our students. Our actions in pursuing knowledge and then applying it in service to our community, state and one another address the promise of our mission.

The UCO mission stands as a living

reminder of our collective commitment to the pursuit of knowledge.

Our mission embraces the theme of this publication.

We are here to “help students learn, so that they may become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders.”

I invite you into the following pages as vibrant confirmation that the UCO mission is alive and well, and affirms the rewards that diligent study, relevant experiences and effective teaching and mentoring can produce.

My best wishes to each of you,

Don Betz



Thank You

The UCO Alumni Association
celebrates the contributions and impact of its
LIFETIME MEMBERS

Thank you for your continued commitment to the university. You are Central to its success!

Preventing Childhood Injuries

One firefighter and a committed group of UCO students and their professor have developed a plan to prevent childhood injuries, the leading cause of death in Oklahoma for children ages 1-14.

By Lorene A. Roberson

The stories that Louis Marschik heard at The Children's Center Rehabilitation Hospital were crushing.

There was the one about the child who will spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair — because she did not know to look both ways when crossing a street.

Or the story of the child who did not know the difference between candy and medicine.

Or the one who did not know he should not place his hand on a hot stove.

The stories are endless. And the images of the kids are haunting for Marschik, a veteran firefighter who serves as a public education instructor in charge of the OK CHILD Injury Prevention Program.

"The visits to the children's hospital were so eye-opening to me. All I could think was, 'Oh my Lord, these kids will never be the same again.' I'm a father and grandfather so it really hit me hard to see kids in such horrible situations," Marschik said.

Marschik knows that a simple message learned at a young age could have prevented some of the tragedies from happening. So for two years, he has focused on creating that message. His interest began in 2016 when he was tasked with rebuilding the Oklahoma City Fire Department's Injury Prevention Program, once part of a national initiative that ended in 2009. Oklahoma's version of the program now is housed in the Fire Prevention Division of the Oklahoma City Fire Department.

Even with more than 20 years as a front-line firefighter, rebuilding the injury prevention program has been eye-opening. Marschik has traveled the state talking with teachers and school administrators to learn about injury prevention programs in the schools.

He discovered that preschool through high school (PK-12) health and physical education teachers were the most likely to teach injury prevention. He also learned that unintentional injury is the leading cause of deaths for Oklahoma children from 1-14 years of age, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Further, he realized that Oklahoma teachers desperately need updated curriculum to teach injury prevention to young ones. Most of the classroom materials they had were at least 10 years old. They wanted fresh and fun lessons for their students.

"I knew nothing about creating lesson plans. I didn't even know that injury prevention existed at so many levels when I was working at the fire station," he said.

Marschik had plenty of credible research, but who was going to help him write lesson plans for PK-12 students? He approached several organizations, including Schools for Healthy Lifestyles, a group in downtown Oklahoma City that promotes healthy lifestyles among students, families and educators.

One name came up repeatedly in conversations — Rachelle Franz, Ed.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies at UCO, who was known for her expertise and her passion for teaching the benefits of physical activity. She also had an impressive reputation for building community partnerships.

So, Marschik reached out to her.

The energetic Franz dove into the OK CHILD Injury Prevention Program last fall. The project, she explained, fell underneath Central's WSCC Institute for Coordinated School Health (Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child), which she and other colleagues launched a few years back. She wanted her WSCC students to gain experience creating PK-12 lesson plans, and she was fortunate to receive a UCO Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR) grant to support the endeavor.

"Our students learned how to integrate health knowledge while serving the community by producing lessons for today's teachers and teachers of the future," Franz said.

Franz — who has taught middle school physical education classes in Virginia, Kansas and Oklahoma — worked with Central students Tara Lawson, Callie Morgan and TrueTu Yang on developing instruction in nine areas: motor vehicle, fire and burn, choking, poison, fall, gun, bike and pedestrian, water and severe weather.

The final lesson plans, released in August to Marschik and the OK CHILD Injury Prevention Program, are each about seven pages long in an easy-to-read format. An example: The Motor Vehicle Safety lesson plan includes "Car Safety 101" for third through sixth graders. Hula hoops are used as teaching tools. "Friendly" review questions are provided for teachers to use in their classes.

The lesson plans also meet the Oklahoma Health Education Standard. All the education regulations were yet another discovery for Marschik, who said he was glad to have Franz walk through the regulations with him.

As for the UCO students, Callie Morgan is now a first-year



UCO professor Rachelle Franz and Oklahoma City firefighter Louis Marschik have worked together with a team of UCO students to create lesson plans so children can learn how to lead safer lives, preventing life-altering, even fatal, accidents.

health teacher at Hilldale Elementary School, part of Putnam City Schools in the Oklahoma City metro.

"Working on this project changed Callie's future, helping her see the need for health education in a new way. It was a game-changer," Franz said, noting similar stories for Lawson and Yang.

Franz's current class, "Teaching Health Concepts in PK-12 Schools" is creating more lesson plans for the program.

"The project started as this little thing, and it just continues to grow," Franz said. "Louis brought a lot of people to the table."

Marschik and Franz eventually will meet with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to get the program on all teachers' agendas. For now, though, Franz and her students are focused on creating quality health lessons for injury prevention.

"My students enjoy building lessons when they know they will be used by others in our state. It makes their work more than 'just a grade,'" Franz said. "They know their work makes a difference in the lives of others."

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

Oklahoma City firefighter Louis Marschik recently created a website where teachers can find injury prevention lesson plans, designed by UCO professor Rachelle Franz, Ed.D., and her students. Marschik's goal is to expand his OK CHILD Injury Prevention Program from the Oklahoma City metro to elementary teachers throughout the state. Visit www.okchildinjprev.com.

Remembering T.C. Cannon

By Gypsy Hogan

The late T.C. Cannon, recognized as one of the most significant Native American artists of the 20th century, is being remembered in several national exhibits on the 40th anniversary of his death.

Cannon died May 8, 1978, in an auto accident outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the age of only 31, but not before giving a new voice to Native American art. He also left behind a host of people who wished they had known him better and longer.

One of those is Central emeritus faculty member Bill Wallo, one of Cannon's art professors while he attended Central from fall 1970 to spring 1974.

As a professor, Wallo gradually learned that his "student" already had studied for two years and distinguished himself at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe. Cannon also had spent a short time at the San Francisco Art Institute before joining the Army, becoming a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne where his time in Vietnam would include two Bronze Stars for service in the 1968 Tet Offensive.

So, what brought him to Central?

Wallo's short answer is, "A woman."

With just six months left in the military, Cannon met Barbara Warner, and they soon married. They began their marriage in Santa Fe and ended it less than two-and-a-half years later in married student housing at Central. The more practical Warner encouraged the move to Edmond, close to her family and a college that would be more affordable.

"He really came here to study literature, but ended up taking art classes, too," Wallo said. Central's art department recently had moved to what had been the campus' student union (today's Art Building). It offered relatively new studio spaces filled with south sunlight and good vibes. Art students George Oswalt (BAEd '73, MEd '77), Noel Torrey (BAEd '87) and Marvin Embree (BA '73) — who continue to be part of the Oklahoma art scene — joined Wallo and Cannon in marathon sessions of creativity, each in their own different style. A campus cartoonist dubbed the group the "Formidable Five," Wallo said, a moniker that stuck.

"During the years I knew him, I always saw two sides of T.C.," Wallo said recently. "One side was that of a reticent Indian/cowboy who could sing like the incarnation of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan — guitar, harmonica and all. He also had a Will Rogers style of wit and was well known as a ladies' man.

"However, his other side was that of an amazingly serious and sober veteran, a warrior-artist aged far beyond his years and incredibly dedicated to study. In fact, I found him to

T.C. Cannon used a mirror to create this self-portrait. He gave the piece to the Wallo family, inscribing on the back, 'For Michael, who was too young to know me,' reflective of his premonition that he would have an early death. Michael Wallo, M.F.A., now a graphic designer at UCO, was 4 years old at the time.



be the most bittersweet, haunted and mystifying person I have ever known,” Wallo said of Cannon, who was a member of the Kiowa and Caddo nations.

By 1972, the campus group of artists had gelled. Wallo believes Cannon found a much-needed grounding as he tried to settle within himself his experiences as a Native American, Vietnam veteran, coming-of-age in the 60s. In addition to his artwork, Cannon wrote poetry and songs, read and studied a wide range of subjects, and performed on guitar and harmonica in local bars.

Then, in 1972, two major things happened.

In January, Cannon’s divorce was finalized, with him telling his wife, who wanted the divorce, that he would never marry again, which he didn’t.

Wallo said, “He asked me to go with him to student housing to get some of his things. I didn’t even know he was married.”

Not long afterward, Cannon received a call from Adelyn Breeskin, curator of contemporary painting and sculpture for the National Collection of Fine Arts in Washington, D.C. She had selected Fritz Scholder for a two-man exhibit on young American artists. She asked Scholder to pick the other. He chose Cannon, his former Institute of American Indian Arts student.

While there has been criticism by some of Scholder using his students to find his own Native American style of art, there can be no doubt Scholder’s choice of Cannon brought their future success.

Thanks to that exhibit, Cannon landed a contract with Jean Aberbach, owner-dealer of Madison Avenue’s Aberbach Gallery, who also bought the bulk of Cannon’s work in the exhibit.

“In retrospect, his success happened quickly,” Wallo said.

Cannon returned from the exhibit’s opening with a steady income, freed from having to market himself, excited about the ability to

Exhibits honoring Cannon this year include “Of God and Mortal Men: Masterworks by T.C. Cannon,” originated by the Heard Museum in Phoenix, where it runs through April 15. Additionally, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, has originated “T.C. Cannon: At the Edge of America,” open March 3-June 10. It will travel to the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa for exhibit July 14-Oct. 7, then at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian in New York, March 16-Sept. 16, 2019.

“You gotta be beyond yourself ... out making visions and painting skies and clouds and galaxies and suns and moons and taking into your mind all that goes on in your heart.”

– T.C. Cannon, written on the back of picture he sent from Vietnam

focus on creating, on the verge of international fame — and with the money to rent his own apartment.

“He continued to enjoy attending the university and working in the studio spaces,” Wallo said. “He created some of his major paintings in the art department’s studios.”

Meanwhile, the two-man exhibit toured Europe, making Cannon better known there than here.

The exhibit also solidified what Cannon’s work represented. Entitled “Two American Painters,” Scholder and Cannon were credited with showing an ongoing presence and strength of the Native American that was being overlooked by the social revolutions of the day.

In an interview with Wallo 12 years after the exhibit, Breeskin said that Cannon had completely shattered the existing code of silence, becoming the first Native American voice allowed to communicate the complex impact of 500 years of Native American genocide.

Cannon’s former wife, Barbara Warner Cannon Ross, a member of the Ponca Nation, followed her own path, working 18 years at the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, its executive director when the Oklahoma legislature dissolved the 44-year-old commission in 2011.

Ross held forth a similar idea about Cannon’s work in a 1995 interview with author Joan Frederick.

“I wish people could realize those inner feelings that he had ... It’s something that he exhibited in his everyday life, trying to portray his people on canvas for what they were. We (Native Americans) weren’t just savages or heathens or dirty Indians, but we were pregnant women, women waiting on a bus, people suffering because of the bomb. We were human beings.”

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

Located in the UCO Archives is an artist proof of ‘Grandmother Gestating Father and the Washita River Runs Ribbon-Like.’

It’s based on a painting Cannon did while at Central, Bill Wallo said. Cannon later did a limited-edition woodcut of this and other paintings. The ‘Grandmother’ painting was further popularized in large offset lithographic poster reproductions.



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2018

Date	Opponent
AUG 30	PITT STATE
SEPT 6	NEBRASKA KEARNEY
SEPT 15	LINDENWOOD
SEPT 22	NORTHWEST MISSOURI ST
SEPT 29	FORT HAYS STATE
OCT 6	CENTRAL MISSOURI
OCT 13	MISSOURI WESTERN
OCT 20	WASHBURN
OCT 27	MISSOURI SOUTHERN
NOV 3	NORTHEASTERN STATE
NOV 10	EMPORIA STATE

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Channeling Creativity

As an artist faces the challenge of a blank canvas, Kyle Cohlmia looks into an empty gallery that calls her into action.

As curator of exhibitions for the UCO Melton Gallery, as well as the Mitchell Education Center Gallery, she is charged with finding artistic endeavors that will meet a number of campus needs.

“First and foremost, I want to bring in artists who can inspire our College of Fine Arts and Design art students,” said Cohlmia, who just completed in February her first year on the job. “But it does cross my mind — how can a show relate to a broader scope of students? Artists want that, too, meaning people inspired from different content areas.”

Dagmar Rossberg, a lecturer in UCO’s English department, finds the gallery exhibits meet her needs nicely. She routinely asks her English students to attend a gallery exhibit, then write an essay. “It gives them something different to write about — and I get something different to read,” Rossberg said.

The Melton Gallery’s first exhibit for the 2017-18 academic year — “Restructuring Vulnerability” by artist and former UCO student Brandi Downham — is a good example of an exhibit playing out in multiple ways.

The intriguing exhibit name was matched with large, almost floor-to-ceiling canvases, where the artist used multiple layers of acrylic, drywall mud, and pieces of personal photographs, fragments of sketches and journals to convey cryptic messages and feelings.

“Each piece represents a memory; a reflection of my life and moments kept,” the artist wrote in describing her pieces.

Rossberg’s syllabus included the show as one of her class assignments. Her students wrote about the artist showing her vulnerability through her choice of colors and words. One student saw the transition of colors from dark to light as representing “darker days are becoming light again.” Still another student saw the artist reflecting on her memories. “She saw why she was so vulnerable and restructured herself,” the student wrote.

Students in the College of Fine Arts and Design were asked to write poems, their individual response to one of Downham’s pieces. For the closing catalog, Cohlmia used three student poems, each published alongside the painting of inspiration.

The invitation was “extending the concept of vulnerability to another form of self-expression and adding a voice to how we might personalize these large-scale, abstract works,” Cohlmia wrote.

The student narratives proved as interesting as the canvases themselves, each student providing a narrative as original as the artwork itself.



The larger-than-life paintings of artist Brandi Downham, above, whose work appears layered with hidden messages, offered UCO students in a number of disciplines the challenge of interpretation and reflective writing.

Cohlmia is hopeful that future exhibits will allow instructors in other areas of campus to incorporate the art exhibits into their curriculum.

In the meantime, the exhibits offer anyone on campus a quiet retreat, a place to reflect and let the mind find new thoughts and ideas of its own.

Upcoming Exhibits

MELTON GALLERY

March 1-29

“Continuum” showcasing the legacy of past and present UCO ceramics with Dean Steve Hansen and Gayle Singer, Barbara Weidell and Eric Hoefler.

April 10-19

“Can’t Touch This: Visualization and Technology” will feature only projected or display-driven imagery, including work from members of the UCO Design Department.

May 4-5 for Spring Commencement

“Senior Capstone” showcasing the capstone projects of

UCO’s College of Fine Arts and Design seniors, the work of emerging artists as they launch their careers.

KROTTER FAMILY GALLERY, MITCHELL EDUCATION CENTER

March 13-April 9

“Momentum OKC 2018 Spotlight Artists” will represent Oklahoma’s emerging art world, featuring artists Brenna Baer, Christ Schultz and Marissa Raglin. In collaboration with the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition, the exhibit will follow the main exhibit’s closing in Oklahoma City.



Chair

Obscured nostalgia suspended in a moment
Casting histories and Solomonic proverb,
All is Vanity.
Sit here to absorb identity.
She is witness to corporeal forbears, withered
from years of spilled milk, dinner table debates,
the weight of abandonment.
Dropping sentimental pessimism,
one can never fill her the same way, the same
relationship.
Memories remain frozen, implied existence
through absence.
She is defined by passage of time,
a temporal construct.

By Blair Summers (BA '17)

Brandi Downham, Artist
Keep in My Heart
60" x 84"
Acrylic, graphite, colored
pencil, sketch book pages,
drywall mud

Traveling Abroad with Tykes

By April (Atkinson) Perry, Ph.D.



* Stock photo showing a child whose parents do NOT know how to pack.

UCO alumni April and Lane Perry have extensively traveled internationally, as well as lived in New Zealand from 2008-2012, where they each completed doctoral programs. Amazingly, their travel, particularly international travel, has not slowed with the addition of children — Prescott, born in 2013, followed by Penny Lane in 2017. Not yet age 5, Prescott has traveled to 10 countries, and Penny Lane will have three stamps in her passport by the end of 2018. Because of their international travel experiences — particularly with small children — we asked April to share some of her favorite travel tips with Old North readers.

Note: UCO played a role in international travel becoming a part of the Perrys' professional careers. Their first study-abroad experience came in 2008 when they were UCO employees who led a group of 48 leadership students to Italy. They are now at Western Carolina University in North Carolina where April (BA '05; MEd '07) is an assistant professor and director of the higher education graduate program, and Lane (BS '05; MEd '06) is director of the Center for Service Learning. Both lead study-abroad experiences regularly.

For me, the minimalist approach always works. We don't like to lug around a lot of bags, bulky items and kid stuff that can make international travel exhausting. So, my travel tips are rooted in the "less is more" approach. It amazes me how much we don't need.

First, here are some of my packing hacks, specifically for international travel, possibly involving multiple destinations.

- Pack in gallon zip-close bags. It keeps everything organized — especially when packing for multiple people and small items for kiddos. Squeeze the air out of the bags to make

them as compact as possible.

- If you will have access to laundry, less is definitely better. I pack outfits for about five days regardless of how long our trip will be. We once traveled Europe for five weeks with a toddler, and I still only packed clothes for five days.
- Pack in layers, and mix-and-match to feel like you have more outfits than you really do. For example, pick a favorite scarf to keep you warm in cool weather, then double as a swimsuit cover-up or beach mat when it's warm.
- Kiddo still in diapers? Just pack the amount you need to

get you there and settled. Then, buy locally — especially important if traveling for more than 10 days.

- Depending on the age of your children, a travel bed may not be needed, but for us, this was an essential item for ages 6 months to 3 years old. Unlike the traditional pack-n-play, we invested in a compact (slightly larger than a brief case), lightweight, travel bed. Although the child doesn't know the difference, this was a game changer for us, especially since we were changing accommodations regularly. The travel bed also doubles as a safe play space in homes/hotels that aren't always kid-proof.
- Bring a lightweight, easy stroller. We use a cheap umbrella stroller. It does the job, and if it gets worn out on the trip or ends up in lost luggage, we're not out much.
- Invest in a good baby carrier. I am sold on Ergobaby™ products, ideal for those age 2 and under, which can be worn as a front or back carrier with the child facing in or out. On our recent trip to Ireland, we decided against taking a stroller. With Prescott being 4-1/2 and feeling "too old" for a stroller, and Penny Lane being only 3 months and too small for a compact umbrella stroller, we opted to let Prescott walk everywhere and carried Penny Lane in the Ergo. It was a risk, but it worked beautifully, and saved us the hassle of toting around a stroller.
- A cloth, foldable highchair is a handy device that folds up to the size of your hand and will clip onto any chair for an instant toddler seat/high chair — perfect for those under age 2.
- We also have an item called a Monkey Mat. It, too, folds into a pouch about the size of my hand. Unfolded, it's a 5-foot-square

piece of ripstop nylon with loops on the corners. It dries quickly, shakes off sand and dirt easily, and is great for picnics, the beach and more.

- Pack lightweight, easy snacks — stuff that doesn't get smashed or expire. Although our girls eat whatever we eat at meals, having a few snacks on hand can be a lifesaver. For example, I always pack a handful of instant oatmeal packets. This way, no matter what time zone, hotel or Airbnb we wake up in, I can make a quick breakfast.
- Pack only a few toys, primarily for the plane ride and restaurants, as they find new things they like along the way. We generally let the girls pick a few small toys or books to purchase during our travels. Not only does it give them something to play with while we are traveling, but it doubles as a souvenir to help them remember their experiences. (Think about an easy-to-read children's book in another language).
- Being minimalist travelers/packers, I don't pack a lot of "just-in-case" items. That said, I always pack a change of clothes in our carry-on. It never fails that there are diaper explosions, overnight long flights, delayed/canceled flights — we've seen it all. That extra set of clothes has been a life saver.

In-the-Air Tricks

Long, international or overnight flights can be stressful when traveling with small children. We have two secret weapons: movies and melatonin.

Most long-flight planes have TV screens, and/or most people have their own electronic device such as a phone, tablet, etc. Pick up some over-the-ear headphones for children, as I have found the standard earbuds don't usually fit or feel comfortable to kids.



The Perry family traveled in September to the National University of Ireland in Galway, where they attended a week-long conference. The academic half co-presented research.

With a good movie, comfortable headphones and some plane snacks, you can buy yourself at least a few hours.

And when it's time to go to sleep, melatonin is the magic trick! Melatonin is a natural sleep aid that releases endorphins to tell you that you're tired. Most adults use a pill form, but melatonin also comes in drop form, perfect for children. (Of course, check with your doctor first!) Another tip: We take the melatonin at 'bedtime' according to the time zone of the destination. This helps tremendously with jetlag and getting our bodies on the right time zone.

On-the-Road Tips

Although many of the sightseeing activities we do are for adults, we always do some special kid activities, too, such as a

children's museum, aquarium, etc. We also make it a priority to stop at public parks daily.

Generally, filling our days with busy sightseeing and lots of walking is exhausting for small ones. For that reason, we splurge on special treats daily. If it's ice cream they like, use that as motivation — or reward — for good behavior.

Also, we have found that managing our kids' expectations of each day's activities helps tremendously. Before we go to bed, we reflect on what we did and saw that day, and we talk about the next day's plan. They then know not only what to expect, but we can prepare them for any strenuous activity, i.e., lots of walking. It also helps get them excited about the next day's attractions.

Life Tips

Lane and I have decided that in life, we'd much rather have experiences than things, and that's why we travel so much. We lead a modest life in North Carolina, but we still recognize our extreme privilege to explore the world the way we do. People often ask how we travel internationally so much with a kiddo — and now two. Most of our international travel (at least in the last five years) has been for work. Luckily, we have incredibly fulfilling jobs that allow us to strive for a work-life balance and to bring our girls along to conferences and study-abroad experiences.

If you have the opportunity to travel internationally with children, it's mind over matter. The logistics are possible. You just do it! Yes, you will move at a slower pace, but it is so rewarding to see the world through their eyes.

I pray that my girls never take for granted these experiences, and they become increasingly self-aware, reflective, appreciative and respectful of all races, religions and cultures — understanding their roles and responsibilities as globally-minded citizens.

For more information or contact details, check out April Perry's website at aprilperry.weebly.com.

So Many Good Books, So Little Time

By Joe Hight

My father, Wilber Hight, used to read technical manuals from cover to cover. He could build, put together and repair about anything. Technical manuals were his guides.

They were my guides to boredom.

Instead, I pored over our encyclopedias, world almanacs, “The Guinness Book of World Records” and even my father’s “Farmers’ Almanac” — because he could grow about anything, too. I read anything about heroes and heroines. He was one to me. He survived on his own since he was 16, was an All-State football player and firefighter, and fought bravely and survived Japanese suicide squads and malaria during World War II. He worked hard physically all his life.

He didn’t want that for his youngest of seven children. My parents knew books and education were my way out. They knew the importance of expanding our minds.

I believe doing that means expanding our knowledge through actual books. Textbooks. Fiction books. Nonfiction. Young Adult. Even children’s books can expand an adult’s mind.

“So, when the time comes for you to set off on your own, heavy winds will sweep past your own building, and great gray clouds will congregate above.” The words written by Matt de la Pena in “Love,” a book beautifully illustrated by Loren Long, tell of a time when we venture out on our own. Both de la Pena and Long recently came to Oklahoma on tour with Best of Books at the same time their book was hitting No. 1 on The New York Times’ bestselling list.

“Your loved ones will stand there like puddles beneath their umbrellas, holding you tight and kissing you and wishing you luck.

“But it won’t be luck you’ll leave with.

“Because you’ll have love.”

As my parents discovered that I wouldn’t be a technical-manual type of guy, they also understood the power of books in my life. I began to understand the power of storytelling, too, like Ernest Hemingway displayed in my favorite, all-time book, “The Old Man and the Sea.”

You can use that power to soar to far-away places. Or, places near you. I just finished “Atlas Obscura,” a Christmas gift from my wife, Nan. It’s a book about some really odd places. I learned South and Southeast Asia have Buddha statues that tower over our Statue of Liberty. I discovered that a former monk is building a 13-story cathedral of recycled and donated materials in Madrid. I want to

visit the places in person, but Nan says she will never stay overnight in Iowa’s Villisca Ax Murder House. But I bet she’ll go to the five Oklahoma places in the book: the Museum of Osteology, Wichita Mountains (buffalo herd), Center of the Universe in Tulsa, 45th Infantry Museum and the grave of Elmer McCurdy at Guthrie’s Summit View Cemetery where my grandparents, dad and mom, a brother and sister, and other relatives are buried. By the way, Oklahoma received two pages in the book, more than some countries received.

The power of books and expanding your mind have been proven in scientific studies, too. Children with parents who have two bookshelves in their house learn three times faster than the average student. Students who read text in print scored significantly higher than those who read texts digitally. Older people who read regularly are 2½ times less likely to have Alzheimer’s disease. Six minutes of reading an actual book can reduce stress by 68 percent, more than listening to music or drinking a cup of tea.

“... Those who read consistently exhibit significantly greater memory and mental abilities at all stages of life,” a Business Insider article said. “They’re also better public speakers, thinkers and, according to some studies, better people.”

I recently created a pile of 14 books on my nightstand for my upcoming reading list. Those books include authors

with UCO connections: Constance Squires’ “Live from Medicine Park” and Sheldon Russell’s “The Yard Dog.” I recently finished and would recommend Russell’s latest book “The Bridge Troll Murders.”

I do have a few technical manuals to read, but those may have to wait until, well, forever or until I read Meg Gardner’s “Into the Black Nowhere,” Tim Washburn’s “The Day after Oblivion,” Bob Schieffer’s “Overload,” Ron Chernow’s “Grant” and the current and future books on my reading list. And, if you’re like me and have too many books, read Damien Thompson’s “Books Make a Home/ Elegant Ideas for Storing and Displaying Books.” I found you can build about anything with books.

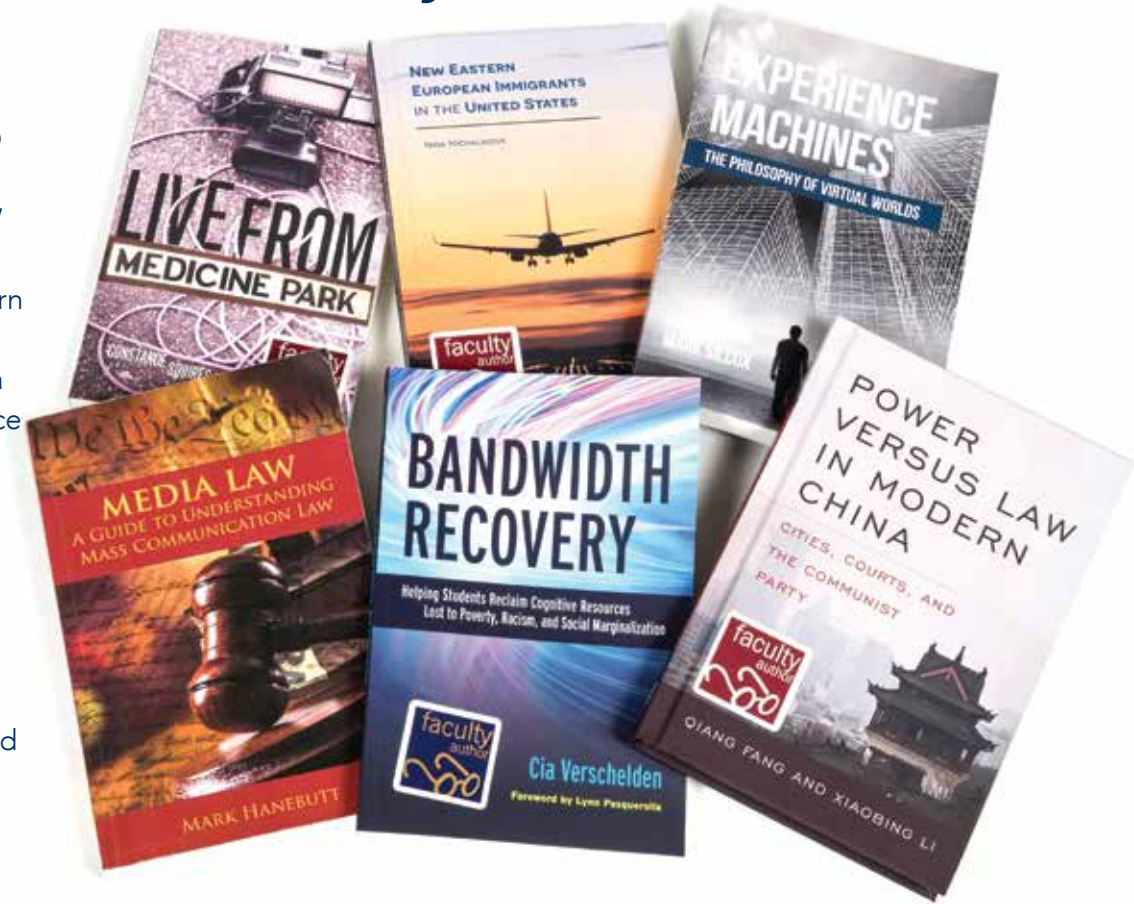
As my dad found out with me, we all have different ways of expanding our minds and lives.

Joe Hight is a Pulitzer Prize-winning and Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame editor who is the Edith Kinney Gaylord Chair of Journalism Ethics in UCO’s Mass Communication Department, director of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and president of Best of Books in Edmond. He has a book scheduled for publishing this year by The RoadRunner Press.



Sharing Recent Faculty, Staff Books

Looking for some books to expand the mind? Try one of the recent works of UCO faculty and staff, including “Live From Medicine Park,” a novel by Constance Squires, Ph.D.; “New Eastern European Immigrants in the United States,” by Nina Michalikova, D.; “Experience Machines: The Philosophy of Virtual Worlds,” by Mark Silcox, Ph.D.; “Media Law,” by Mark Hanebutt, J.D.; “Bandwidth Recovery,” by Cia Verschelden, Ed.D.; and “Power Versus Law in Modern China,” co-authored by Xiaobing Li, Ph.D. Not shown is “The Political Economy of Robots,” by Ryan Kiggins, Ph.D.



At a recent book signing are, from left, back row, Mark Silcox, Ph.D.; Ryan Kiggins, Ph.D.; Xiaobing Li, Ph.D.; and Cathy Webster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts, which hosted the event. Front row are Constance Squires, Ph.D., and Nina Michalikova, D. Authors not pictured are Mark Hanebutt, J.D., and Cia Verschelden, Ed.D.

President Betz’s Spring Book Selection

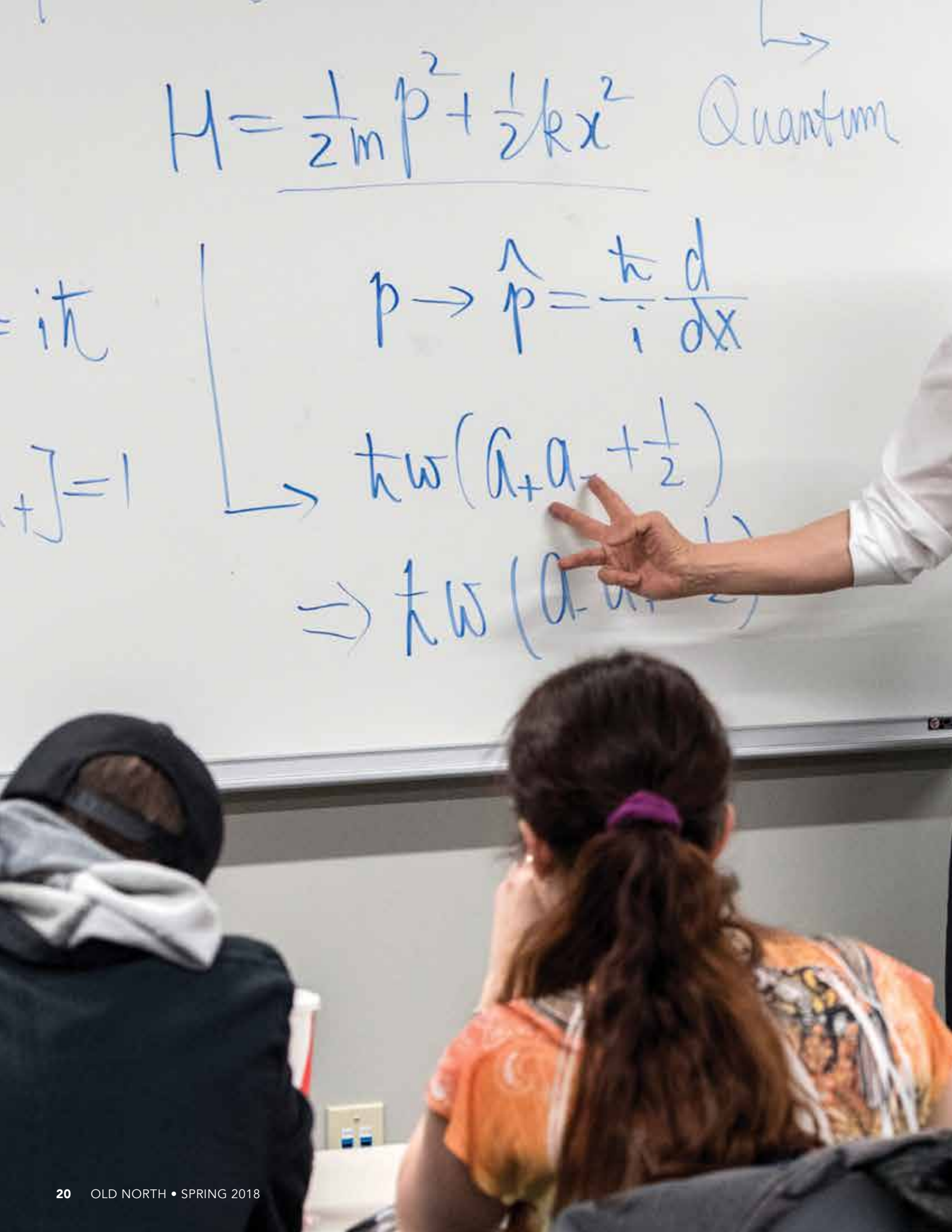
How We Got to Now Six Innovations That Made the Modern World

By Steven Johnson



Wei Chen Shares His Amazing Journey

By Gypsy Hogan



As a professor, UCO's Wei R. Chen, Ph.D., frequently tells his students to embrace change. It's advice that comes from a man who has had more than his share of "opportunities."

Born in China, he came of age during China's Great Cultural Revolution, from 1966-76. It was a time of massive shifts in cultural, political and social norms, including closing all colleges in China in 1966.

"Later, colleges reopened, but only to selected people with good political backgrounds," Chen recently said, noting that someone with his family background had no chance of being chosen. "I was a very good student, but there was no opportunity for me to go to college."

So, like most young people, he would become a peasant, a factory worker or a soldier.

After high school, he became a metal cutter in a factory where they manufactured propane bottles.

"Being a factory worker at that time was considered a good job. But to me, I was so frustrated because I was deprived of an academic opportunity," he said.

However, almost two-and-a-half years into his factory work, the Cultural Revolution ended, and the country prepared to open colleges and accept students based on their academic performance. Chen saw his chance, so he worked all day and studied all night for about two months as he prepared to take the required college entrance exam.

With 10-years of pent up demand, college openings would go to those with the highest scores.

When Chen began the school year at Shandong University, he joined the first class of college students



Wei Chen, touring the Old Summer Palace in Beijing in 1982, as he prepared to leave China to attend the University of Oregon on scholarship.



Wei Chen enjoying graduation from the University of Oregon when he received his doctorate degree.

to follow the Cultural Revolution. They were a unique group, aged 15-35, with an appreciation and desire to excel that were possibly unmatched, Chen said.

At the end of what he now calls the most academically rigorous four years of his life, Chen received his degree in theoretical high-energy particle physics — and a scholarship to study in the United States, another big change.

In 1982, he became a graduate student majoring in particle physics at the University of Oregon. With only limited English skills and even less cultural background, he embraced the change and moved forward.

Six years later, he had a doctorate degree, was married and became the father of his first child.

While his personal life went through many changes, Chen's professional life also seemed filled with changes.

After getting his doctorate, he taught college for a year, did a short-term post-doctoral fellowship, then became a founding faculty member of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) in Oklahoma City where he taught for 10 years.

It was at OSSM that he gained valuable experience and gained confidence in his teaching abilities, he said. Combining Eastern and Western teaching approaches, he developed his own three-part teaching philosophy. First, teach according to each student's background, knowledge and skills. Second, incorporate experiential learning, a learning-by-doing approach. And third, use an interdisciplinary approach, knowing that in today's world, teamwork needs people with different skill sets.

By age 35, Chen had 17 years in the education field and research experience in high-energy physics. His career

path seemed set when change came calling, and he answered, "Yes."

It was the early '90s, and a research team at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center was beginning to use lasers for cancer treatment. With his background in physics, Chen had the opportunity to join them.

"I arrived in the right place at the right time," Chen said.

Within a few years, the team had developed a laser immunotherapy using local laser irradiation combined with local injections of a novel compound called glycated chitosan that activates and mobilizes the body's own immune system to fight cancers.

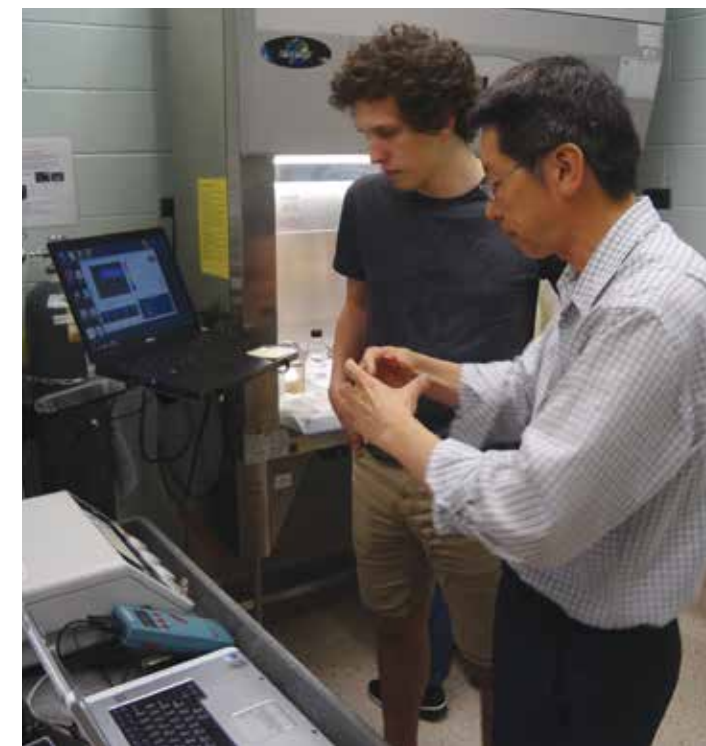
Today, the team has seven U.S. patents and more than 100 peer-reviewed articles. They have taken laser immunotherapy from a simple concept to a bench-top research project to clinical trials with promising outcomes for treating late-stage metastatic cancers.

Still open to new challenges, Chen began teaching at UCO in 1999 while continuing his work in cancer research. Soon he was caught up in academia as in research, maintaining his 12-15 hour workdays.

In 2000, he led a UCO academic team that developed UCO's Biomedical Engineering undergraduate degree — the first in the state. Today, the program is accredited by ABET, the internationally recognized accreditor.

To further collaborations between faculty and students in different fields, he helped establish UCO's Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Education and Research (CIBER).

continued on page 24



UCO student Austin Doughty and his mentor Wei Chen work with the laser equipment in one of the labs where Chen and his students research laser immunotherapy cancer treatment.

Understanding Laser Immunotherapy

A healthy human body has a functional immune system that protect against invasions, such as a virus or bacteria. However, cancer cells are normal cells turned bad, and they have the ability to evade the immune system. Even worse, they can move from one place to another, becoming the so-called metastasis, which causes 90 percent of cancer related deaths.

Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, proton therapy and other modern cancer therapies — all are part of an arsenal of medical treatments used to fight cancer. However, they do not work well once the cancer starts to spread.

"The cancer-related death rate today is still close to that of the 1970s, because the current treatment approaches can only achieve limited success against metastatic cancers," said cancer researcher and professor Wei R. Chen, who's also dean of UCO's College of Mathematics and Science.

"The ideal cancer treatment strategy should not only destroy the primary tumors, but also activate the host immune system to recognize and destroy metastatic tumors," said Chen.

To do that, Chen and his team have been working on a novel solution, laser immunotherapy, for more than 20 years.

They use a laser to break apart the tumor cells and release tumor antigens. In addition, a special compound, glycated chitosan (GC), is injected into and around the tumor. Combining with the tumor antigens, GC helps stimulate the immune system to recognize and kill the tumor cells.

Chen's research shows that the treatment activates antigen-presenting cells that present the tumor antigens to T cells, another type of immune cell, which can be stimulated into killer cells. Activated, these T cells move around the body to locate and kill cells with the same antigens, including metastatic tumor cells.

Even better, these T cells have a long-term memory. They're like shepherd dogs who can detect the wolves far from the flock and kill them. Chen said the hope of his therapy is that it will detect and kill not only tumor cells, but also continue to detect those cancer cells when they form again.

For now, the mechanism is hypothetical, Chen said. However, his team is working hard to verify the hypothesis, supported by a \$1.34 million grant awarded in 2017 from the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

While laser immunotherapy is still being developed, Chen and his team have conducted clinical trials in Peru, treating breast cancer patients who had failed all available treatments and been given 3-6 months to live. "Laser immunotherapy in that study has significantly prolonged the patients' survival rates," Chen said.

continued from page 23

The concept of interdisciplinary education and research has been a driving force in the development of the new 57,000-square-foot Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching and Research Center now under construction on the south side of the UCO campus.

In 2016, after a year as interim dean, Chen was named dean of UCO's College of Mathematics and Science. He continues to teach, in addition to having a research lab on campus where 10 to 15 of his brightest students — both undergraduate as well as graduate — work each semester in some phase of the laser immunotherapy research project. The work supplements trial studies that have been done since 2009 in Peru where late-stage patients have received the laser immunotherapy treatments with success.

For Chen, it's as if his multi-disciplinary career mirrors his multi-disciplinary life, where he finds satisfaction in academia, teaching and research. He has the knowledge that his work can lead to the alleviation of pain and suffering for many, in addition to the satisfaction that his students are growing in knowledge and experience.

Altogether, it's something that a frustrated young factory worker in China could never have imagined.

Wei Chen's Teaching Honors

2008 — Named U.S. Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie

Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

2011 — Received the Medal of Excellence in Teaching Award from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence

2012 — Awarded the Educator Award by the International Society of Optics and Photonics



Dwight Adams, director of UCO's Forensic Science Institute, congratulates Wei Chen on the latest grant for his research.

What Others Say ...

Wei Chen is an exceptional teacher and mentor ... a globally-recognized scholar focusing his myriad talents and attention on developing life-long learners and life-saving research. ... He creates extraordinary opportunities for students to work and discover in his labs with him. ... His personal story is the "stuff" that produces memorable books and films. ... I smile each time I see Wei, knowing he has made a difference in someone's life today.

— President Don Betz

I was aware of Wei Chen even when we were teaching together on campus in the mid-1990s. He remains one of the most enthusiastic and student-centered educators I have ever known. His success with cancer research is no surprise, but the manner in which he accomplished his findings, by emphasizing an explicit role for students at our institution, is truly unique.

His indefatigable sense of humor and ability to withstand setbacks are the hallmark of the most creative and decent of human beings. Students always note his kindness as well as his guidance in their careers. He has opened his home to many students during holidays (e.g., Thanksgiving) and other occasions when they would not otherwise be able to be with their families.

— Provost John Barthell

Cody Bahavar (BS '16), a research assistant for four years, now studying at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine: Dr. Chen is an amazing guy. He's like a father figure to his students. ... He works hard to help his students and to improve UCO programs. ... He brings in good students and gives them good opportunities. ... He's someone I'll always look up to and couldn't be more grateful to him.

Austin Doughty, graduating in May with a degree in Biomedical Engineering, a research assistant for four years: He always puts as much time as he can into us as students. ... After I started college, my family had a difficult time. Dr. Chen called me into his office and told me, 'This will pass. Focus on the future. You have worked hard for this.'

Aamr Hasanjee, graduating in May with a degree in Electrical Engineering and plans to attend medical school: There are two things that stick out in my mind about Dr. Chen. One, he is so positive — always looks for the good. Two is the level of care that he delivers to his students. He has sat me down in his office and given me personal advice about my future, my relationships. ... One night, we worked later than usual in the lab, 8 or 9 p.m. He told us, 'You guys get out of here. I'll finish up.' Then he gave us \$20 to go buy some dinner.

National Grant, Welcomed Surprise

By Jim Stafford

Editor's Note: Each semester, about 10 to 15 UCO students work in a campus research lab supporting the development of a cutting-edge laser immunotherapy treatment for late-stage metastatic cancer. The work got a major boost last year, as described in the article below.

When an email from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) landed in his inbox on the eve of spring break last year, Wei R. Chen, Ph.D., refused to open it.

He read the subject line, which told him that the score of his NIH R01 grant application was ready for viewing. He put it aside.

Not today, Chen told himself. He didn't want to deal with the anticipated rejection before the academic break because his funding applications had been rejected many times before.

"I didn't want to ruin my spring break," the UCO professor of biomedical engineering and dean of the College of Mathematics and Science said.

Over the past two decades, he and his collaborators have worked to develop a novel treatment for late-stage, metastatic cancers that combines laser irradiation and immunotherapy.

"Metastasis causes 90 percent of cancer-related deaths," Chen said. "We are still searching for an effective method for treating metastatic cancers."

Chen and his collaborators developed a treatment method known as laser immunotherapy (LIT). LIT uses the combination of local laser irradiation and the local administration of an immunological stimulant to treat tumors. This induces systemwide, anti-tumor responses within the immune system.

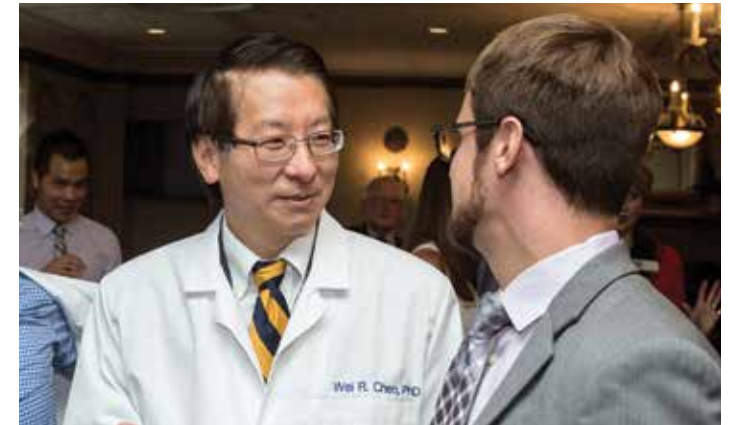
The R01 grant application was submitted to support continued work into the mechanics of laser immunotherapy.

Chen waited a week to open the NIH email because he knew the chances were slim that his application would receive a qualifying score.

"Less than 10 percent of grants get funded, and that is even for the research institutions," Chen said. "It is harder still for institutions like the University of Central Oklahoma, the non-research institutions."

So, it came as a jolt of good news when Chen logged on the NIH website the next weekend and discovered that his application had received such a high score that he was assured of being funded.

The NIH, through its National Cancer Institute, awarded Chen a \$1.34 million, five-year R01 grant to support the continuation of his work on his cancer treatment method. He is the first scientist at an Oklahoma non-research university to receive an R01 grant, which is considered to be the gold standard of research grants.



Researcher Wei Chen visits with those who gathered on campus for a celebration of the \$1.34 million grant he received last year.

Chen's laser immunotherapy treatment has been used successfully to treat late-stage breast cancers in clinical trials in Peru, as well as in a well-documented case involving an Oklahoma man with late-stage metastatic cancer.

"He was diagnosed four years ago with late-stage melanoma," Chen said of the patient. "He was given three to six months to live. Then, by chance, he learned that I'm working on a new method for treating melanoma. He called me, and I arranged for my collaborator to treat him with our methodology.

"After several sessions, we not only removed the melanoma on his head, but also destroyed the metastasis in his lungs," Dr. Chen said. "Now after four years, he is healthy and tumor free."

Chen's technology has been licensed by St. Louis-based Immunophotonics Inc., which is working to take the laser immunotherapy into U.S. clinical trials, hopefully by the end of this year. He also includes UCO students — both graduates and undergraduates — in his research.

Support from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) has been critical to Chen's research.

"OCAST funded me with an Oklahoma Applied Research Grant in 2000, which supported my research and allowed me to perform critical experiments to test the concept of LIT and lay the foundation for further study," he said.

The NIH grant, awarded in mid-2017, was an extremely rare show of confidence in his research. "It is very difficult to get funding for biomedical research, particularly at the R01 level," Chen said. "I'm really fortunate to receive this grant."

"This R01 grant demonstrates the recognition by biomedical research peers of the importance of laser immunotherapy, of my research network in Oklahoma, as well as of the research capacity at UCO," Chen said.

Jim Stafford writes about Oklahoma innovation and research and development topics on behalf of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST).



The above photo is of early day Edmond, probably late 1889-90, useful in visualizing early street names. The photo is taken from Broadway looking east with the original St. John's Catholic to the left at First and what was East Street on the original plat map. East Street became Boulevard. Edmond's one-room school house is shown to the right at Second and Boulevard, not far from where it sits today. Campbell Street is three blocks north of the original St. John's location.

Still Wondering About Campbell Street?

In the spring 2017 issue of *Old North* magazine, readers were asked to share any information they might have about who the Campbell is in Campbell Street.

The inquiry was prompted when Central's new west entrance returned to its original design, with Campbell Street aiming into the front doors of Old North.

While the phones never rang and the mailboxes remained empty, research continued — until Deborah Baker at the Edmond Historical Society posed the most plausible explanation.

She pointed to a map in the back of a booklet, "Edmond, The Early Years," second printing in 1976, by the late Stan Hoig, Ph.D., a journalism professor at Central until retiring in 1986.

The map is dated 1890 and identified as the original plat for Edmond. On the map are Hurd, Campbell, Edward and Ayers streets. What is now Thatcher was called North Street, the farthest street north on the plat map.

Hoig wrote, "The sources of Edmond's first street names are uncertain ... Hurd very likely was named for A.A. Hurd, solicitor for the Santa Fe in Kansas. The origin of Campbell, Edwards and Ayers is unknown, but likely they were named for men associated with the Santa Fe or with the Seminole Town Co."

The mysterious street names for years were minor compared to the even bigger mystery of why Edmond was named Edmond. In 1927, Stella Barton Fordice wrote in her thesis that she had

interviewed the town's first residents, John and Cordelia Steen, who worked for the Santa Fe. The couple told her that Edmond was the name of a Santa Fe railroad official.

It wasn't until 1991 that local historian Lucille Warwick ran across a blurb in an 1891 issue of *The Edmond Sun* that backs up the Steens' account.

The article was about traveling railroad agent Edmond Burdick visiting Edmond in August 1891. He was quoted as saying that the town named for him was a "source of pleasure." Nothing since has been found to indicate Burdick ever lived in the area nor had family who did, and nothing more was known about him — until 2012.

That's when Nina W. Hager, an exhibit director at the Edmond Historical Society, put together an exhibit with Burdick's photograph and history, concluding a two-year effort on her part to find more about Edmond's namesake. With the help of the internet, she located a copy of the publication "Railway Officials of America from 1901," that then led to more information about Burdick.

Maybe future research will put a face with Campbell Street, but it's doubtful that it will have any connection to the university that grew at the east end of that early street.

— Gypsy Hogan

Publications Editor, University Communications

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ALUMNI NOTES

'68 Billie Fogarty (BSEd '68) was the featured speaker at a recent meeting for the Edmond Genealogical Society. She is a former history teacher and now instructs genealogists on researching techniques. Active in genealogy for many years, she has served in several organizations.

'71 Denyveta Elliott Davis (BSEd '71, MEd '77) recently presided over the 10th National Conference of African American Librarians in Atlanta. She is president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and a member of several other organizations. She is retired from the Metropolitan Library Systems where she contributed 32 years of service.

'72 Bill Young (BSEd '72, MEd '77) has been appointed to Oklahoma's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Commission by Gov. Mary Fallin. He is a manager of safety services at OG&E and a longtime adjunct instructor of industrial safety at Central.

'74 Jack Werner, Ph.D., (BS '74) has been recognized by the National Association of Home Builders as a master instructor, one of only 12 master instructors nationally and the only one in Oklahoma. He has taught courses with the home builders for several years and was one of the first to participate in the Certified Aging in Place training in 2010.

'77 Retired Rear Adm. **Greg Slavonic** (MEd '77) was nominated by the Trump administration to serve as assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserve affairs. Most recently, he was chief of staff to U.S. Sen. James Lankford. He began his military career as a recruit, then rose through the ranks while completing combat assignments in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. He was named a UCO Distinguished Alumnus in 2006. Slavonic also served as the College of Liberal Arts' 2008 Leader in Residence.



'80 David James (BSEd '80) has joined the Edmond North High School wrestling coaching staff as an assistant coach. He previously served as the head coach at Central, leading the Bronchos to 12 national championships during his 34-year tenure.



'81 Linda Barnett (MEd '81) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Edmond's Sequoyah Middle School, where she is an English teacher.

'84 Michael Hester (MEd '84) is now superintendent of the Batesville School District in Arkansas. Previously, he was assistant superintendent of secondary education at Topeka Public Schools in Kansas.



'86 Master Sgt. **Gerald Sonnenberg** (BA '86) received the Meritorious Service Medal at his retirement from Air Force Reserve at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He served more than 31 years in the Air Force, including nearly 12 years on active duty. He is also an award-winning Air Force journalist.

'87 Chris Bockelman (BS '87, BS '89) recently was named senior vice president and chief financial officer for Ozark Guidance. He is a certified public accountant and is president of the Oklahoma Ambulatory Surgery Center Association.

'89 Betty Dobry (BA '89, MA '00) has joined the Language, Humanities and Education division at Eastern Oklahoma State College as an English teacher. Previously, she taught at several Oklahoma City metro area colleges, including Oklahoma City Community College, Redlands Community College and Oklahoma State University-OKC.

'91 Greg Shamburg (BS '91) is now president and chief executive officer of the Denny Price Family YMCA in Enid. He has more than 25 years of experience in education and leadership development.

'92 Kristy Stark (BA '92) is now interim director of communications and intergovernmental relations for the City of San Marcos, Texas. She began her career with the city in 2010.

'92 Tania Graham (BBA '92) is now chief operating officer for Delta Dental of Oklahoma. She joined Delta Dental in 1990 as a part-time administrative assistant and has served in

several roles, most recently as vice president of operations.

'93 Kimberly Shook (BSEd '93) is the 2017 National Indian Education Association Classroom Teacher of the Year. She was Oklahoma's Indian Education Classroom Teacher of the Year in 2016. She is in her 25th year in the classroom, 17 of those years at Sunset Elementary School in Edmond.

'93 Michelle Flanders (BSEd '93) is now principal of John S. Charlton School in Camden Wyoming, Delaware. She previously was assistant principal. Prior, she served as assistant principal and educational diagnostician at Kent County Community School.

'99 Heather Holeman (BA '99) now is an anchor for the 4:30 and 5 p.m. newscasts at KFOR-TV. Previously, she provided traffic updates for KFOR on weekday mornings.

'01 Adam D. Gardner (BBA '01, BS '10), M.D., family medicine, recently joined the St. Anthony medical staff and St. Anthony Physicians Group. He completed his medical degree at the University of Oklahoma, College of Medicine, and a family medical residency with St. Anthony Hospital.

'02 Morgan Robinson (BFA '02) recently had his artwork shown at Kasum Contemporary Fine Art in Oklahoma City. The work was from his "Dichotomy" series — sculptures in elegant modern shapes, powder-painted in black or white, interacting with twisted and painted bunches of rebar steel cable. He also works as a custom cabinet maker.

'02 Shelly Gonzalez (BA '02) has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices as a residential real estate agent. She previously worked in retail, home health, and as a juvenile detention officer and social worker. She's been an Oklahoma Swift adoption subcontractor for four years.

'03 Aaron Stepp (BA '03) has been promoted to business banking manager at Arvest Bank. He is responsible for overseeing sales and service related to micro and small businesses. He most recently was a vice president and a commercial banker.

'05 Brandy Sitts (BFAEd '05) was named Secondary Art Educator of the Year by the Oklahoma Art Education Association. The award honors an art educator for a diverse set of skills and accomplishments, including artistic production, leadership roles and more. She is Putnam City's fine arts and gifted/talented coordinator; however, she was recognized for her work teaching visual arts in Moore Public Schools last school year.

'05 Rachel Wiley (BBA '05) has joined Arvest Bank as a regional portfolio manager. She has worked in the financial services industry since 2003.

'06 Torie York (BA '06) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Edmond Santa Fe High School, where she teaches AP government.

'06 Terri Allison (BS '06) has joined the Cleveland County Sherriff's Office as an accountant. She previously worked at Devon Energy for more than 12 years.

'06 Randy Ward (BA '06) now co-anchors "Good Morning Texoma" at KSWO News. Previously, he was the assistant news director at KSAN/KLST in San Angelo, Texas.

'07 Chelsea Blackburn (BSEd '07, MEd '10) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Cheyenne Middle School in Edmond. She has taught at the school for three years and is a sixth-grade math teacher. Previously, she spent six years at Washington Irving Elementary and two years at Ida Freeman Elementary, both in Edmond.

'07 Mary Mazariegos (BA '07, MEd '11) is now assistant principal for the new Santa Fe South Schools, a K-12 charter school in Oklahoma City.

'07 Heath Hayes (BA '07) recently was named to the Oklahoma Gazette Forty under 40 Class of 2017. He is the director of peer programming and integration for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and administers the Employee Assistance Program.

'07 Debbie Crouch (BSEd '07) was named the 2018-19 Edmond Teacher of the Year during the district's Celebration of Excellence on March 6. She has been a kindergarten teacher for nine years at Centennial Elementary in Edmond.

'07 Crystal Inga (MEd '07) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Will Rogers Elementary in Edmond, where she is the enrichment teacher. Previously, she was a third-grade teacher at Charles Haskell Elementary in Edmond.

'08 Chris Berry (BS '08, MEd '10) is now district executive director for the YMCA, covering both Edmond locations and the Guthrie branch. Beginning his career with the Edmond YMCA while in high school, he later became a full-time sports coordinator, sports director and finally the associate executive director. He also has served as executive director for the Shawnee YMCA and executive director for the Northside Branch in Oklahoma City.

'08 Cyndi Munson

(BA '08) recently was named to the Oklahoma Gazette Forty under 40 Class of 2017. She is a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and co-founder of 2020 Oklahoma, a political action committee working to increase the number of women in the Legislature by 2020. She also received the YWCA Social Justice Activator Award for Civic Engagement.



'08 Noah Milligan (BA '08, MFA '11) has joined First Liberty Bank as vice president, commercial loan officer. He has a broad range of experience as a credit analyst and also has helped manage a large commercial real estate portfolio in a national lending platform. He also serves on the board of directors for Creative Oklahoma.

'08 Neuropsychologist Christopher Copeland, Ph.D., (MA '08)

recently established his practice with OU Physicians. He also is an assistant professor for the University of Oklahoma College of



Medicine, where he completed his clinical neuropsychology residency and clinical psychology internship.

'08 Blake Kerr (BBA '08, BS '10) is a member of the Oklahoma Gazette Forty under 40 Class of 2017. He is the founder and senior CPA of B.A. Kerr Financial PLLC in Edmond. He also is a board member of Urban Bridge Inc. and treasurer of Thunder Networking Group OKC.

'09 Rachael Gruntmeir (BFA '09) is a member of the Oklahoma Gazette Forty under 40 Class of 2017. She owns The Black Scintilla, a boutique in Oklahoma City. She is a volunteer for the Russell Westbrook Why Not? Foundation and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

'09 Brandy Robles (BA '09) is now an attorney for Winters & King law firm. Her areas of practice include estate planning, trust administration, elder law, probate, adoption and guardianships. She is a member of the Oklahoma and the American bar associations.

'10 Carissa Stevens (BA '10) is a member of the Oklahoma Gazette Forty under 40 Class of 2017. She is owner and interior director at Scout Studios. She is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City and has held leadership positions for Arts Council Oklahoma City.

'11 Allison Morris (MEd '11) is Teacher of the Year at Clegern Elementary/Clyde Howell Elementary schools in Edmond for the 2017-18 school year. She has been a guidance counselor at both schools since 2013.

'11 Maria Atkinson (BA '11) recently celebrated the second anniversary of Jasper House Haiti, a nonprofit she founded in the port town Jacmel, Haiti. The nonprofit is a transitional home and school for women turning away from sexual abuse, prostitution and domestic violence.

'11 Larin Wiens (BS '11) has joined the Lippard Auctioneers team. Previously, he worked in the Downtown Oklahoma City marketing department and the Chesapeake Energy land department.

'11 Dante Jones (AAS '11) recently appeared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" as part of the hip-hop duo "THEY." He is part of the original ACM@UCO class that began in fall 2009 and is a Grammy award winner.

'12 Claire Barker (BS '12) is now a loan officer assistant for Guild Mortgage in Durango, Colorado. She has a background in internal audit and six years experience in banking and lending.

'13 Danielle Daughy (MEd '13) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Charles Haskell Elementary in Edmond. This is her fifth year at Charles Haskell, where she is a second-grade teacher. Prior, she was a Title I reading and math tutor at Mid-Del Public Schools.

'14 Katie Wagner (BA '14) has joined the litigation division of Hall Estill as a firm associate in the Oklahoma City law practice.

'14 Sydney Rappe (BAEd '14) recently participated in the "Open Jar Residency," a program that

provides networking opportunities for those performing on the East Coast. She was one of only 14 nationwide chosen for the program. Participants work with a personal Broadway mentor, network with directors and agents, participate in a developing Broadway show and more.

'14 Rob Hoffman (BBA '14) has been promoted to assistant vice president, commercial banking, at the Southwest Bancorp subsidiary Bank SNB Oklahoma City – Waterford location. He will focus on servicing commercial banking clients.

'14 Jimmy Bullock (BSEd '14) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Russell Dougherty Elementary in Edmond. He's a fifth-grade teacher.

'14 Courtney Bradford (BA '14) was selected for the Edmond Sun Business Times magazine's Top 20-Under-40. She currently works in the marketing and public relations department for the City of Edmond. She has worked with the Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce and is a graduate of Leadership Edmond.

'15 Kelsey Wilson (BS '15, MS '16) is now the life enrichment/wellness director for Touchmark at Coffee Creek. She is responsible for directing the Full Life Wellness & Life Enrichment Program, which includes planning and overseeing events and activities.

'16 Steven Stefanick (MEd '16) has been named to 2017's NextGen Under 30, an annual program honoring young millennial leaders in Oklahoma. He is an assistant principal at Harding Charter Preparatory High School

and a district testing coordinator and student council adviser.

'16 Cody Pepper (BS '16) was selected for Oklahoma Gazette's Forty under 40 Class of 2017. He is the associate director of philanthropy, major gift fundraising and stakeholder engagement for the Oklahoma chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

'17 Shelly Hickman (MEd '17) has joined Epic Charter Schools as the managing director of external affairs. She is the chief media spokesperson and is responsible for strategic communications, marketing and community relations.

'17 Hannah Eckel (BS '17) is now an exercise specialist for Touchmark at Coffee Creek. Prior, she was a physical therapy technician for Valir Health in Oklahoma City.

'17 Jacqueline Rasnic (MEd '17) is the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year for Edmond North High School. She is an AP language/English teacher.

'17 Evan Drumm (BMed '17) is the Oklahoma Jazz Educators and Oklahoma Music Educators Association 2017 "Outstanding Collegiate Jazz Musician." While at Central, he was a lead trombonist for the UCO Jazz Ensemble 1.

'17 Megan Prather (BA '17) is now managing editor of The Hennessey Clipper. At UCO, she was a reporter and managing editor of The Vista. She worked for the Oklahoma Gazette as an editorial intern and freelance reporter.

'17 Ashton Stewart (MEd '17) is now assistant principal at F.D. Moon Academy in Oklahoma City. Prior, he was a sixth-grade teacher at Van Buren Elementary.

Several Central alumni are Teachers of the Year for their respective schools in the Putnam City School District. **Michelle Canning** (BAEd '99), **Patsy Holland** (BSEd '96), **Eric Boswell** (BSEd '01), **Melissa Pagonis** (BSEd '14), **Kaitlin Nummy** (BS '11, MEd '17), **Kieran Walsh** (MEd '15) and **Michelle Koehn** (BSEd '91) are among those receiving the honor.

Faculty and Staff

Lori Beasley (MEd '81), Ed.D., was appointed by Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin to the SoonerStart Interagency Coordinating Council. The council advises and assists the state Department of Education in planning family-centered services to help infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. Beasley is a professor in the Department of Human Environmental Sciences. She joined the faculty in 1996.

Shikoh Shiraiwa (BFA '06, MEd '11), library technician for Archives and Special Collections at Central's Max Chambers Library, recently presented at the University Museums and Collections Conference, hosted by the University of Helsinki and University of Jyväskylä, Finland, with 30 countries represented. Shiraiwa's presentation was titled, "Evolution of Native American Art: Traditional to Contemporary Art Exhibition to Celebrate Native American Heritage Month."

Jim Wimmer, M.F.A., assistant professor in Central's design department, received the 2017 Art Educator of the Year, Higher Education award from the Oklahoma Art Educators Association. Prior to joining the faculty at Central, she was a teacher at Edmond Memorial High School. She is also a commercial artist.

Mitch Bell (BM '04, MM '09), coordinator of Academic Operations - Music Performance for the ACM@UCO, was recently a guest on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" He appeared along with the Los Angeles-based hip-hop duo "THEY." The band includes ACM@UCO alumnus Dante Jones.

Todd Steidley (BSEd '89), head wrestling coach at Central, has been inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Prior to coaching at Central, he was the principal at Claremore High School and the assistant principal and head wrestling coach in Ponca City. While a Broncho wrestler, he won a NAIA national championship in 1987.

Cindy Guthrie, budget coordinator for the UCO Wellness Center; **Brittany Platt** (BA '13), customer service representative for Transportation & Parking Services; and, **Mike Liskey**, assistant director for Facilities and Operations, were recently selected by the Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce for Leadership Edmond Class XXXIII. Leadership Edmond is a program to identify, educate and develop a select group of Edmond citizens for positions of community leadership.

Eric Hemphill (MEd '161), manager of sustainability and alternative transportation; **Laura Butler-Claussen**, director of public affairs and leadership; **Guillermo Martinez Sotelo**, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of Modern Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies; and, **Bucky Dodd**, Ph.D., (BA '06, MEd '08), UCO's chief learning innovation officer, have been chosen for the Edmond Sun "Business Times" magazine's "Top 20-Under-40."

Travis Linville, adjunct professor for the ACM@UCO, recently performed at The Blue Door in Oklahoma City. In 2017, he released "Up Ahead," an Americana and folk album and was named a "Country Artist You Need to Know" by Rolling Stone.

Chris Butler, Ph.D., UCO professor of biology, was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Tulsa Audubon Society. His topic was "A Naturalist's Year in South Africa."



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.

Working to Eliminate Homelessness

Nathan Box (BA '07) is now director of philanthropy for Skid Row Housing Trust in Los Angeles. The trust focuses on providing permanent, supportive housing so that people who have experienced homelessness, prolonged extreme poverty, poor health, disabilities, mental illness and/or addiction can lead safe, stable lives in wellness, Box said. He most recently was director of fundraising and community relations for Kent Youth and Family Services in Kent, Washington, a suburb of Seattle.



Nathan Box suits up for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, part of his work as director of the Skid Row Housing Trust in Los Angeles.

Just days after starting his new job, Box shared on Facebook, "Today, I walked Skid Row with a formerly homeless man who is now a resident of Skid Row Housing Trust and serves as a 'peer advocate.' At times,

I was scared, nervous and aware of my privilege. The work before me is daunting, but now I know how much it matters."

Welcome Home

Eddie Griffin (MEd '79) returned to Central in October as director of Athletics, a place where he led the Bronchos to three national wrestling championships from 1979-1982. He also was named National Coach of the Year in 1979, '81 and '82 by the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics.

He most recently was president of the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Association. Other stops include athletic director for Oklahoma City Public Schools and Northeastern State University, as well as head wrestling coach at Clemson University.

In 2008, Griffin was inducted into the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame.

"We are delighted to welcome Eddie Griffin back to UCO," said UCO President Don Betz. "Eddie's relationships with Central's alumni and his network of colleagues and friends throughout Oklahoma and beyond will be distinct assets for UCO's athletics programs."

"Our goal will be to win championships in sports, as well as in life, for our student athletes," Griffin said.

Lauri Monetti (MEd '08) returned to Central in January as director of alumni relations after nearly a decade in the nonprofit sector. She most recently was development director for WovenLife (formerly Easter Seals Oklahoma).



UCO's new director of Athletics Eddie Griffin, left, joins UCO President Don Betz during an event announcing Griffin's new position at Central.

Prior to WovenLife, Monetti worked to coordinate development, communications and events for organizations such as the Oklahoma Arts Center and the American Red Cross. She also served as an adjunct professor

at Central from 2008-10, and as the assistant director and interim director for UCO Career Services from 2003-07. Her husband, Scott Monetti, is UCO's director of housing and residential life. She started Jan. 2.



UCO Legend Returns, Shares Life Lessons

- Stay in college and get a degree.
- Get your rest — that's part of staying in school.
- Stay away from small, hang-out groups where one person can get you in trouble.

That's just some of the advice **Booker T. Washington** (BSEd '61) shared with student athletes and future teachers during a campus visit on Feb. 1.

In 1961, Washington became Central's first African-American athlete to graduate. That was after leading Central to national championship basketball titles in 1960 and '61.

While other African American players left for the pros, Washington said he looked the other way.

"I could have made it to the pros ... but I wanted a degree, something to fall back on, and I'm glad I did," he told students gathered in Hamilton Field House.

Earlier in the day, as part of the kickoff of Black History Month, Washington received the Outstanding Alumni Award, presented by Central's African-American Faculty/Staff Association.

Athletics Director Eddie Griffin called Washington a UCO legend, as well as a longtime friend. "If you'll listen, you'll walk away with some good things," he promised the crowd.

"This man's a true trailblazer who



UCO student athletes stood in line for the opportunity to shake hands and talk with UCO athletic legend Booker T. Washington, who was there to share his wisdom.

defied the odds and overcame the barriers that came with being a black man on a predominantly white campus," Central's Barry Lofton said in introducing Washington.

Despite Washington's impressive athleticism — a standout in football, basketball, track and swimming — Washington said his parents always wanted him to get a degree and be a teacher.

So, he got his teaching degree, then was recruited by legendary Marcus Haynes of the Harlem Magicians, where he played for two years. He then played for Reece "Goose" Tatum's Harlem Road

Kings before starting his own teams, the Harlem Wizards and the Harlem Entertainers, which he took on the road for 20 years.

However, he also became a teacher, retiring from Oklahoma City Public Schools after 20 years of service. He then spent eight years as a part-time instructor in the school system's adult education program. He currently works part time as a substitute.

At the end of his presentation, which included a quick round of questions about his experiences, students surrounded him to meet him and shake hands with a legend and a teacher.

UCO Alumna Receives 'Oscar of Teaching,' Milken Educator Award

In a surprise presentation in December, Central alumna **Debreon Davis** (BA '08) received the Milken Educator Award and \$25,000 to spend however she wishes.

Davis is in her first year as principal at Edmond North High School, previously serving as assistant principal at Edmond Memorial High School.

She was surprised with the Milken award during a school assembly before State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister and Lowell Milken, chairman and co-founder of the Milken Family Foundation, as well as cheering colleagues, students, dignitaries and media.

The event was part of the Milken Family Foundation's national tour of surprising outstanding educators. Davis was among 44 recipients receiving the award nationwide this school year and is the only one from Oklahoma.

She joins six other UCO graduates who have received the award in the past. They are: Sarah Vann (BSEd '83); Jennifer Evans-Lowery (BSEd '99); Pam Holland (BSEd '95); Paula Dyer (BSEd '91); Tim Rose (BA '86); and, Suzanne Craig (BA '94).



The Milken Educator Award was conceived by the Milken Family Foundation to attract, retain and motivate outstanding talent to the teaching profession. It is the nation's premier teacher recognition program, hailed as the "Oscars of Teaching" by Teacher magazine. Over the past three decades, the foundation has funded more than \$138 million in Milken Educator Awards, including \$68 million in individual awards to more than 2,700 recipients.



TRAILBLAZERS — Members of the First Generation of Black Students of UCO gathered together at the recent kickoff event for Central's Black History Month. Shown above are, front row from left, Alene Dunlap Kirk; event honoree Booker T. Washington and wife, Donna Washington; Lillie Buckner; and Marian Martin. Back row are Marvin Provo, Richard Brown, Melvin Combs, Roger Fields and Blanton Nash. The First Generation group attended Central in the late '50s and early '60s, paving the way for Central's integration.

Hoke, Journalism Hall of Fame



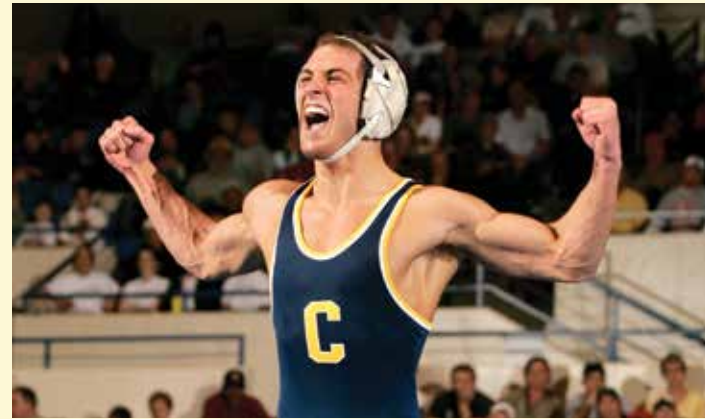
Doug Hoke (BA '80), director of photography at The Oklahoman, will be among nine inductees at the 48th anniversary celebration of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame on May 3 at UCO.

Hoke began his award-winning career at Northwest Classen High School where he won the 1975 Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association Photographer of the Year award.

At Central, he worked for the yearbook, The Vista and campus photographic services. In his third semester in 1976, he joined the photo department of The Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times. In March 1977, he was promoted to a full-time staff position, where he soon won awards for sports and fashion photography. He also freelanced for many magazines during the '80s and '90s, including Sports Illustrated, with 18 assignments in 1984 and at least one photograph there for 20 consecutive years. Other magazines included Sports Illustrated for Kids, Entrepreneur, Business Week, Progressive Grocer, Working Woman, Newsweek and Texaco. In 2007, he was named director of photography at The Oklahoman.

The Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame was founded in 1971 by former UCO Journalism Chair Ray Tassin, Ph.D. A total of 418 professionals have been inducted, all listed at www.okjournalism.uco.edu. Plaques with photographs of the honorees are on display in the Hall of Fame in UCO's Nigh University Center. The UCO Department of Mass Communication is the hall's host.

The hall is supported with funding from UCO. The Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation is sponsoring this year's luncheon. The lapel pins given to each inductee will be funded with donations from individual hall of fame members.



Evans, National Wrestling Honor

In early March, Central wrestling great **Kyle Evans** (BS '08) became the 14th UCO wrestler inducted into the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame. Evans was a four-time All American and two-time national champion. His junior year, he became the first in UCO history to complete a full season undefeated, leading the Bronchos to their 15th team championship.



Writing Award, Old North Feature

Lorene Roberson, center, won a first-place award from the local chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for her feature, "Exchanging More Than Knowledge," that ran in the fall 2016 issue of *Old North* magazine. The article focused on a visiting Turkish scholar and Central's work with aging exercisers, led by UCO associate professor Melissa Powers, Ph.D. Pictured with Roberson at the awards event are UCO students Jordan Broiles, left, and Alexis Wade, who are members of the organization's student affiliate.



CHAMPIONS — Some of UCO's 1982 national championship football team reunited for the team's 2017 induction last fall into the UCO Athletics Hall of Fame. The group is one of only two Central teams to ever win a national title, the other being the 1962 team. Pictured above are 1982 team members as well as coaches and staff. From left, front row, are Randy Jones, Juan James, Daric Zeno, Randy Page, Willie Henderson and Tim Stone. Second row are Don Campo, father of team member Bob Campo; coach Archie Tredway, trainer Danny Black, Ray Griffin, Stanley Reid, Toby Daugherty and Lester Baldwin. Third row are head trainer Jeff McKibben, coach John McGivern, Chetti Carr and Danyne Webb. Fourth row are John Preston, Dwain Banks and coach Ben Young. Fifth row are David Rolle and Chuck Mitchell. Back row are Robert "Bo" Mathews, Doug Williams and head coach Gary Howard.

Got Some
Good News
to Share?



Send special announcements to *Old North* magazine, where sharing the success of UCO alumni is a big deal.

Email ghogan@uco.edu (subject line: For Old North magazine) or mail to Gypsy Hogan, University of Central Oklahoma, 100 N. University Drive, Box 198, Edmond, OK 73034.

IN MEMORY

'43 Retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. **William Kincannon** (BAEd '43) of Alexandria, Virginia, died July 1, 2017. He was commissioned as a Naval officer at Notre Dame in 1943 and spent his career as a Navy meteorologist. Retiring from active duty in 1964, he later worked for the Department of Defense.

'58 **Joe Phillips** (BSEd '58, MT '65) died Aug. 22, 2017. An educator, he retired from the Mid-Del school district in 1995. He served as a teacher and coach for 37 years at Midwest City High School and Carl Albert Junior High.



'60 **Allen Greeson** (BS '60, BBA '60) died Aug. 27, 2017. In 1956, he joined the Marine Corps, then served the Oklahoma City Police Department from 1957-62. He later worked for TG&Y, ending his career as the company's director of internal audit and loss prevention. He also owned and operated Greeson Accounting Service in Edmond.

'60 **Nelda Tebow** (BSEd '60) died Nov. 17, 2017. She had a long career with Oklahoma City Public Schools, serving in a variety of roles, including classroom teacher, instructional television teacher, elementary consultant and curriculum coordinator. Later, she worked as a consultant for a publishing



company. She also held leadership roles in several professional and social organizations.

'63 **Chester Moore** (BAEd '63, MEd '74) of Mustang died Sept. 29, 2017. In education for 39 years, he was a teacher, coach and administrator. He also was a member of the Bridge Assembly of God Church in Mustang for 34 years.

'64 **Ella Mae Spurgeon Port Willmon Millar** (BS '64) of Edmond died Aug. 6, 2017. Throughout her life, she served in Tehran, Iran, with her family as the first missionaries sent by First Presbyterian Church of Edmond. She also taught home economics and English in New Mexico and Oklahoma. In 2007, her family was honored as Central's Family of the Year.



'66 **Irma Kidwell** (BSEd '66) of Oklahoma City died Oct. 5, 2017. She worked for Oklahoma City Public Schools for 35 years. After retirement, she remained active in her church.



'69 **Robert Heiliger** (MEd '69) died Aug. 29, 2017. An educator, he was a vocational agriculture teacher in Carrier, Oklahoma, raising champion hogs and sheep. He later taught math and science in Wakita, Oklahoma, and was school superintendent in Pernell, Oklahoma. He ended his career as a counselor at Putnam City High School.

'69 **David Shelden** (BBA '69) died Sept. 30, 2017. After earning a master's degree, he began teaching with Oklahoma City Public Schools, where he worked until retirement. After retiring, he served in the Peace Corps, teaching social studies for two years at a rural high school in Papua New Guinea. Later, he volunteered for several charities and museums in Central Oklahoma.

'72 **Phyllis Tipton** (BSEd '72, MEd '93) died Aug. 16, 2017. In 1996, she was the Shawnee Teacher of the Year and one of 12 finalists for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. She retired in 2017 after 45 years of teaching in various school systems. She also was an assistant professor of education at Oklahoma Baptist University and was an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Sorority of Women Educators.

'72 **Frankie White-Pontious** (BSEd '72) died Nov. 1, 2017. She was a teacher for Oklahoma City Public Schools until retiring.



'74 **Jeanne Fleetwood** (MEd '74) of Edmond died Sept. 12, 2017. She taught in Oklahoma City Public Schools for 13 years. In 1995, she joined New Covenant United Methodist Church where she volunteered.

'75 **Linda VanBuskirk** (BA '75) of Edmond died Oct. 22, 2017. She had a 41-year career working in research and training for the Federal Aviation Administration.

'79 **Billy West** (BBA '79) of Yukon died Sept. 4, 2017. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Yukon where he was active in the United Methodist Men's group. He also was a member of Young Men's Club of Oklahoma City and a former youth leader of Southern Hills Christian Church in Edmond.

'79 **Edwin "Ed" Scheihing** (MBA '79) died Nov. 15, 2017. He was a claims adjuster for Ohio Casualty, retiring in 1997 after 30 years. An Eagle Scout, he remained active in the Boy Scouts of America. He also volunteered at the Edmond Historical Society Museum, Taste of Edmond, Edmond Arts Festival and Park Pals.

'83 **Janice Dickerson** (MEd '83) of Piedmont died Sept. 8, 2017. She was a retired teacher, teaching at Piedmont and Deer Creek. Following retirement, she worked for several years at Williams-Sonoma.

'84 **Connie Henderson** (BS '84) died Aug. 17, 2017. She was a certified public accountant and enjoyed serving alongside her husband as a dedicated pastor's wife.

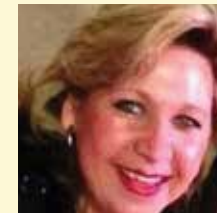
'86 **Maurice "Rusty" Aldridge** (BSEd '86, MEd '99) died Dec. 1, 2017. An educator, he taught science, special education and physical education in various state schools and overseas. He also coached wrestling, girls' basketball and track. He was an accomplished musician, as well as an emergency medical technician. He also was a reserve deputy for the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department.

'88 **William "Bob" Butcher** (BS '88) died Oct. 10, 2017. He began his career in the meat processing business at the family-owned Butcher Meat Packing Co. He later worked as a metal goods and services supplier for Metal Supermarkets in Oklahoma City for more than 17 years.

'91 **JoAnn Kopp** (BS '91, MEd '93) of Edmond died Aug. 24, 2017. She was a National Board-Certified Teacher and worked for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic, Coronado Elementary and Putnam City North High schools.

'92 **Nonna McCorkle** (MEd '92) of Edmond died Sept. 15, 2017. She was an educator for more than 30 years in the Mid-Del school district. She was a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America and Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, recently receiving her 50-year membership pin.

'92 A memorial service for **Jill Renick** (BS '92) was Sept. 23, 2017, in Richardson, Texas. She was the spa director for the Omni Hotel in Houston when Hurricane Harvey hit the city on Aug. 26. She volunteered to help evacuate hotel guests. Tragically, she became trapped in an elevator in the hotel basement and drowned before help could reach her. While at Central, she played outfield for the women's softball team and was on the Dean's Honor Roll. She was a member of the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, as well as a board member for the Oklahoma Governor's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports.



'93 **Eric Bejcek** (BBA '93) of Mustang died Aug. 27, 2017. He worked as a social worker for 22 years at the Canadian County Department of Human Services. He also was a foster parent. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and similar outdoor activities.

'99 **David Ross** (BBA '99) died Aug. 8, 2017. He was the manager of Universal Mobile Homes Inc., his family business. He received several awards, including the Clayton Homes Top World Class Retail Dealer and also was honored by the Manufactured Housing Association of Oklahoma.

'08 **Sean Murphy** (BA '08) died Oct. 3, 2017, in Oklahoma City. He was an oil and gas attorney. He attended Forest Hill Christian Church where he was a deacon and worked with the children's and music ministries.

Former Faculty and Staff

Robert Curley, Ph.D., died Nov. 5, 2017, in Oklahoma City. He taught at Central for 19 years, retiring in 2013.

Barbara Parrish, Ph.D., died Aug. 25, 2017. She was an accounting professor, retiring from Central in 2011.

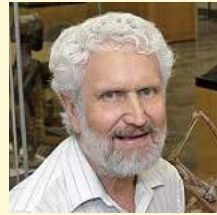


Maurine Strong died Jan. 21, 2018, in Arlington, Texas. At Central, she was an assistant financial secretary for three



years in the early '50s while her husband, Robert Strong (BSEd '55), was a student.

William Hommel, Ph.D., died Jan. 4, 2018, at age 82. He was an art professor at Central for 25 years before retiring in 2011. He was a recognized expert on African art and curator of the Art and Culture of the Mende and Timne of Sierra Leone, Africa, exhibit in the Max Chambers Library. He recently served as a volunteer African art consultant for the Cincinnati Art Museum.



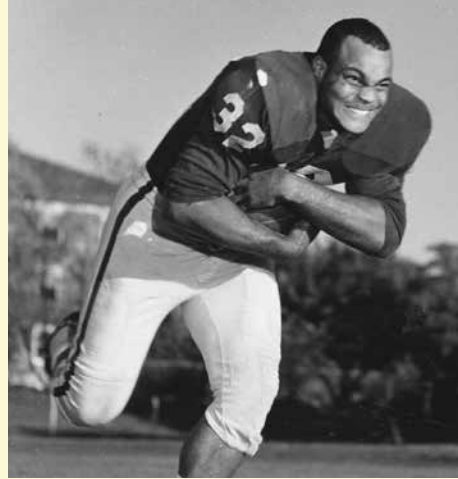
Odus Rice, Ed.D., died Oct. 24, 2017. He served Central for 38 years, retiring in 1998. He was a faculty member in the College of Education and Professional Studies, serving in the Department of Professional Teacher Education. He later was an associate vice president.

A celebration of life for **Elaine Bartgis**, Ph.D., was Dec. 19, 2017. She was an associate professor and assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts, retiring in 2013. She then was an adjunct professor until 2017.

Roger Greider, Ph.D., of Oklahoma City, died Nov. 26, 2017. He was a lecturer in the Decision Sciences department in the College of Business for one semester.

Tom Trittipio, Ph.D., died Aug. 26, 2017, in Florida. He was a professor and chair of the marketing department, retiring in 2002. In retirement, he had several Fulbright appointments and taught in the Semester at Sea Program, traveling the world with students and other faculty.

In Memory, R. L. Briggs, UCO Football Great



R.L. Briggs Jr., a member of Central's 1962 national championship football team, died Nov. 30, 2017.

He played for the Bronchos from 1961-64 as a starting fullback, second in scoring with 211 points and third in career rushing with 3,208 yards, an average of 5.1 yards a carry.

He was the first African American from Amarillo, Texas, to be drafted in the National Football League, drafted by the Washington Redskins in 1965 and playing one season.

In 1966, he married his college sweetheart, Agatha Gayle Harkey, who survives him.

He worked as a dockhand for Teamsters Local Union 886 from 1968 until retiring in October 1998.

In 2001, he was inducted into the UCO Athletics Hall of Fame. In 2015, his 1962 team was inducted into the hall for being the first to win a national title for the Bronchos.

The Central 1962 football team were honorary pallbearers for his funeral, held at the East Sixth Street Christian Church in Oklahoma City.

In Memory, 'Betty' Raines, Centralville Alumna



Elizabeth "Betty" Raines died Feb. 5, 2018, in Edmond. She was the widow of Robert R. Raines Sr., a 1959 UCO Distinguished Alumnus. The couple met while in the military during World War II, when she served in the U.S. Marine Corps

Women's Reserve. Returning from service, they moved to Edmond and joined the influx of veterans who enrolled at Central with their GI Bill benefits. In 2009, Betty Raines shared their experiences on campus and in "Centralville," where GI families lived in converted military housing, located northeast of Murdaugh (Old North, fall 2009 issue). "Bob" Raines followed a career in corrections, serving as warden or director of corrections in Oklahoma, Washington, Arizona, Kansas and Maine before he retired and the couple returned to Edmond. They were married 64 years when he died Dec. 14, 2010. Betty Raines is survived by her daughter, Becky, of Edmond.



Hump Day—

What's a good way to get students engaged and over those pesky Wednesdays? Evidently, a ride on a camel. For the third year, UCO's Student Programming Board received funding to bring the popular camel rides back to campus for a Wednesday in September.

— Staff Photo by K.T. King
UCO Photographic Services

UCO FINE ARTS AND DESIGN SUMMER ARTS CAMPS

June Sessions:

- ACM@UCO Rock Camp
ages 12-18
- Dance Summer Workshop
ages 8+
- HS Drama Workshop-*Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*
ages 13-18
- Drama Day Camp-*High School Musical*
ages 7-12
- Summer Jazz Workshop
ages 14+

July Sessions:

- Adults Strings Chamber Music Camp
ages 19+
- ACM@UCO Rock Camp
ages 12-18
- Dance & Down Syndrome Music Theatre Camp
ages 13+
- Strings Chamber Music Camp
ages 11-18
- HS Drama Workshop-*Little Mermaid, Jr.*
ages 13-18
- Drama Day Camp-*Honk!, Jr.*, ages 7-12

Enroll Now! Register by April 30 for early bird discount!
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Tom & Marye Kate
Aldridge Foundation

