



connect to Central

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UCO Hosts More Than 4,000 for NCUR 2018

Central recently hosted 4,142 individuals on its campus for this year's National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 4-7. Conference attendees represented 463 institutions from all 50 U.S. states and 18 countries. Along with poster, oral and performing arts presentations, attendees experienced talks from four plenary speakers, who included former NBA player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, United Nations Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement Ramu Damodaran, President of SONIC, America's Drive-In Claudia San Pedro and former speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives T.W. Shannon. More than two years of planning, help from 900 volunteers and input from 23 separate committees – comprised of UCO faculty, staff and students – culminated in a successful event focused around the conference's theme "Connection to Place."

Central Student Named 2018 Newman Civic Fellow

Central senior Kalen Russell, a strategic communications major from Muskogee, Oklahoma, earned recognition as one of Campus Compact's 2018 Newman Civic Fellows. The Newman Civic Fellowship is a one-year experience, emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Through the fellowship, students gain a variety of learning, scholarship, post-graduate and networking opportunities, including attendance at a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows, in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. Russell's accolades also include a first-place finish in the 2017 Martin Luther King Enterprise Oratory Competition and a speech presentation in front of Oklahoma legislators during 2018 "Higher Ed Day."

UCO Archivist Appointed as Oklahoma Archives Chair

Gov. Mary Fallin has appointed Nicole Willard, director of archives, special collections and library development for UCO, as the new chair of the Archives and Records Commission for the state of Oklahoma. The Archives and Record Commission, part of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, is a five-member statutory board created in 1947. The commission has the exclusive authority, with few exceptions, for the arrangement and placing of all public records and archives of state officers, departments, boards, commissions, agencies and institutions. Other members of the commission include Vice Chair and Secretary Susan McVey, director for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries; Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb; Oklahoma State Treasurer Ken Miller; and Gary Jones, state auditor and inspector.





Central Design Again Sweeps OKC ADDYs

UCO's Department of Design again won several top awards at the local 2018 American Advertising Awards (ADDYs), continuing a tradition of winning developed over the past nine years at this competition. The UCO Design Department brought home 29 gold, 27 silver and 20 bronze awards, while UCO student Nik Long won the "Best of Illustration" category with his illustration piece "King of the Swamp," and student Oanh Le took home top honors in the "Best of Show" category for her brand design, "Handsome Hound." UCO Design also brought home the BRAGGY Award, which is awarded to the university with the most winners. Previous UCO Design staff and alumna McKenna Sanderson and current UCO Design staff member and alumna Monique Ortman brought home gold and silver awards from the "Professional" category.



UCO Jazz Ensemble Places First at Festival

UCO School of Music's Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Brian Gorrell, earned first place at the 48th Annual Next Generation Jazz Festival, in Monterey, California. The ensemble tied with the University of Denver Lamont Jazz Orchestra and beat out the University of Miami's Frost School of Music Studio Jazz Band, in second place, and the Sacramento State Jazz University Ensemble, in third place. This year was UCO's first visit to the festival. In addition, Central student and trombone soloist Evan Drumm, recently named Outstanding Collegiate Jazz Musician by the Oklahoma Jazz Educators, was recognized as one of only four "Outstanding Soloist" award recipients, for his improvised solo.



Central Broadcast Students Win at State Showcase

The Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association (OBEA) recently honored UCO professional media students at its annual student broadcast competition, with Central students receiving 13 awards for student-produced radio and television broadcasts. Twelve Oklahoma universities and colleges participated in the OBEA student competition, which generated nearly 230 entries. Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Enid, Woodward and Lawton media professionals judged the student productions. Additionally, Central junior mass communication and professional media student Vy Luong, of Vietnam, won one of six 2017-18 Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation Scholarships. The scholarships, worth \$2,000, are open to broadcasting students throughout the state who demonstrate their work in the field as well as an active involvement on their campus.



President Betz Named Oklahoma Creativity Ambassador

Gov. Mary Fallin named UCO President Don Betz as one of seven 2018 Oklahoma Creativity Ambassadors, for his work in education. Betz received his award at the 2018 Oklahoma Creativity Ambassadors Gala, which promotes and celebrates Oklahoma's creativity and innovation in education, commerce and culture, by honoring the work and contributions of individuals who are among the state's most creative leaders. Fellow 2018 honorees include Enoch Kelly Haney, for arts and politics; Lou Kerr, for philanthropy and community development; Steve Prescott, for medical research; Wade Scaramucci, for architecture; Richard "Dick" Sias, for philanthropy and arts; and B.J. Thomas, for music.