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## RADKE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

• BRYAN TRUDE, Senior Staff Writer •

Dr. William Radke, UCO Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, has announced his retirement following the conclusion of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Radke, who first came to UCO in 1975 as a professor of biology, will conclude a 38-year Central career that also includes stints as Assistant Dean of the former Office of Sponsored Research and Grants, Assistant Dean of the Jackson College of Graduate Studies and Research, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, a position he was hired to by then-provost and current UCO President Dr. Don Betz.

"I feel with our President in place that many of the initiatives that we began in the academic community will be carried forward," Radke said. "When [Betz] left to take the chancellor position at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls, I was able to continue with a lot of his vision, to expand and add to it, and create the concept of transformative learning at UCO."

Radke earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in zoology from Minnesota State University in Mankato, and a Doctorate in zoology from the University of Arizona.

"My very first day, I actually remember my very first class of students," Radke said. "I was teaching what was then called general zoology, and I can still remember the names of many of the students, and I guess it was because it was my first class. I was inspired by their interest and enthusiasm for the topic."

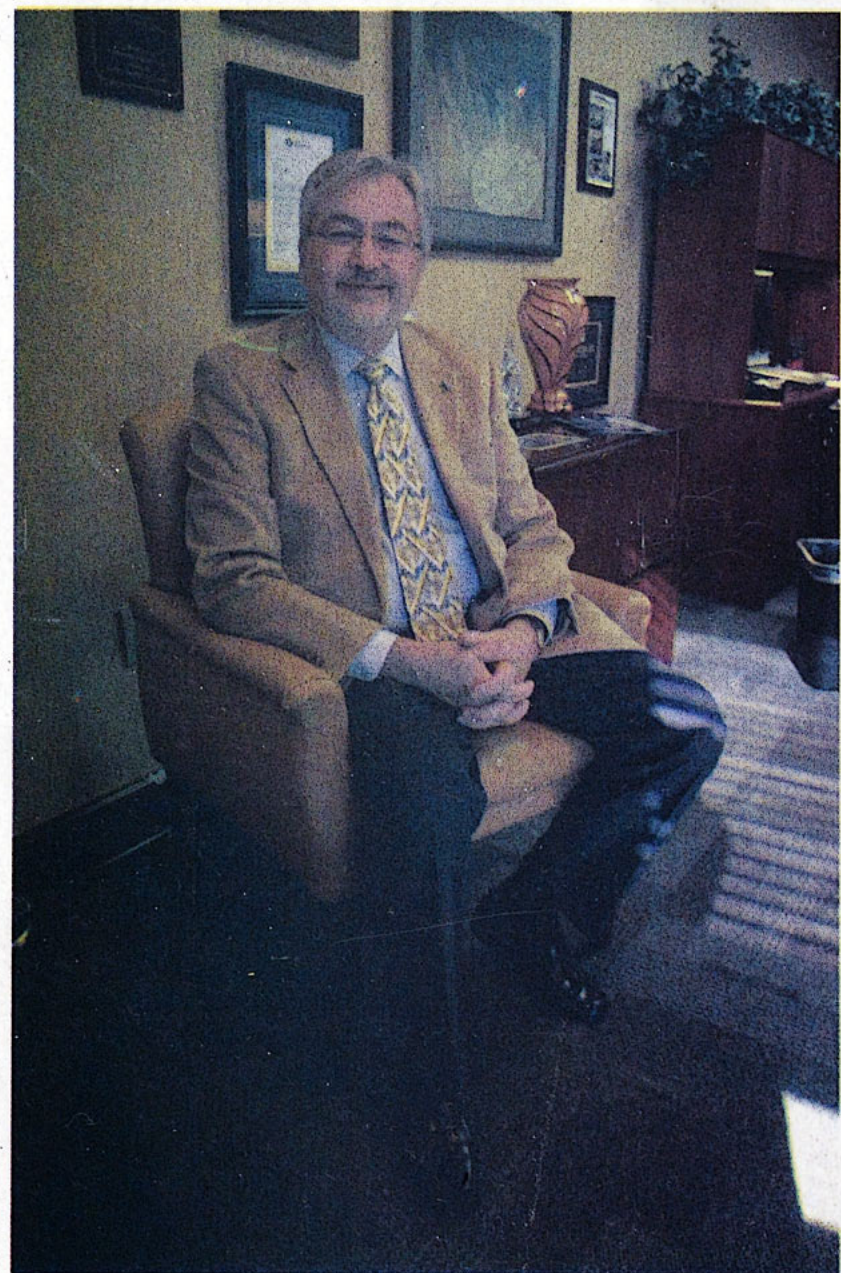
Radke's role as Provost, who oversees the deans, is an important one in guiding and shaping the university's academic direction and policy. Radke's programs and policies helped to make UCO a leader in the field of transformative learning, and led to the creation of the "Central Six" tenants of transformative learning.

"I think this is a good time," Radke said. "A good time for a new Provost to come in and understand his vision, so that

when [Betz] leaves, that Provost can carry that vision on with whoever the new president is. It provides a transition between Betz and whoever the next President will be . . . I want to give the President plenty of time to pick a new Provost who will help him carry forward the academic vision he and I formed so many years ago."

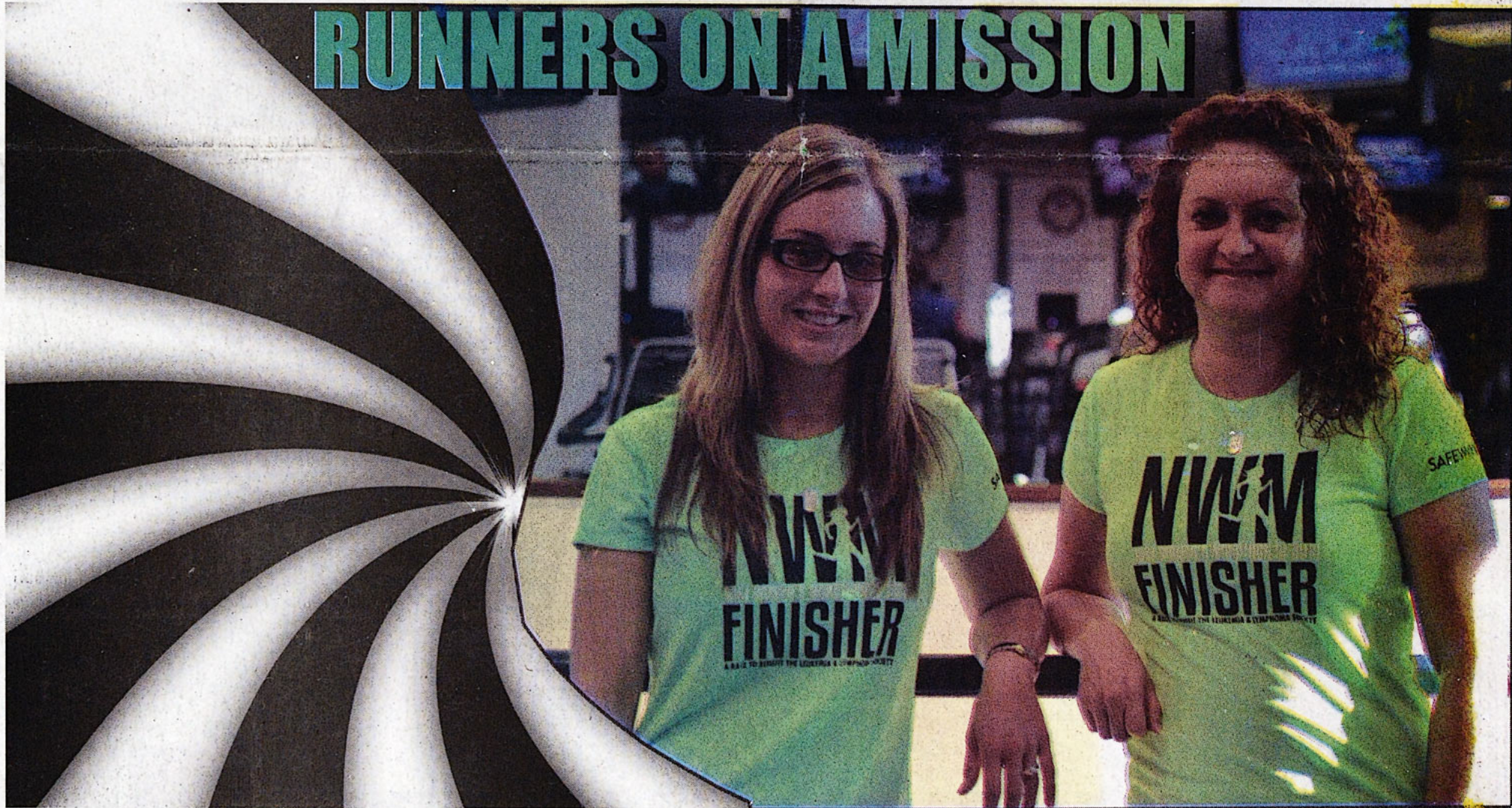
Following his retirement, Radke plans to renew his interest and study of ornithology, including taking an extended bird watching trip to Africa with colleagues. Radke also plans to spend more time with his wife, who maintains a residence in Cambridge, Mass.

"I think in the 25 years I was in the classroom, I had probably over 5,000 students," Radke said. "I think that is a lot of impact I have had on the future, on student thinking and on their various successes in their careers and lives. I think that is the biggest impact I have had over 38 years here."



Dr. William Radke poses in his office, January 16, 2013. Radke currently acts as UCO's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. He will retire following the Spring semester. Photo by Bryan Trude, The Vista

## RUNNERS ON A MISSION



Nike Women's San Francisco Marathon finishers, Brittney Criswell (left) and Danielle Dill (right) pose at UCO's Wellness Center, Nov. 9, 2012. Photo by Cyn Sheng Ling, The Vista

• LINDSEY RICKARDS, Staff Writer •

Many long distance runners find the task less daunting with comfortable tennis shoes, flexibly fit clothing, and an armband to secure a music device. These are not essential ingredients for running a marathon, but they are luxuries that make the task of a 26.2-mile endurance test easier to complete.

Race day is a chance for runners to establish that the immense trainings they've subjected themselves to prove worthy. Silent eagerness occurs at the starting line as runners take their place in a crouched lunge position. The gun's explosion sounds signaling runners to set out on their trek. A steady stride provides runners with a good pace and sound mind to complete their journey.

These are constituents of marathon running that will eventually lead to a well-deserved conclusion of a willing individual in an endurance competition.

For some taking home the gold medal after a race against hundreds or thousands of competitors is a goal to achieve. For others finishing the race without walking, no matter how slow the pace, is a sufficient reward. Self-accomplishment is enough to boost any ego when it comes to the personal achievement of finishing a marathon, though for some people self-fulfillment is not the only component that drives them.

Brittney Criswell, coordinator of health promotion and Danielle Dill, assistant director of fitness and health promo-

tion at UCO, run to help others.

The two proudly wear lime green NIKE dry-fit finishers shirts and silver Tiffany necklaces, trophies they had received from NIKE for completing the marathon. Criswell disclosed that all participants in the race received a Tiffany's necklace instead of a traditional medal.

**"This sucks, but not as much as cancer."**

Criswell and Dill successfully completed their first full marathon on Oct. 14, 2012 during the NIKE Women's Marathon in San Francisco. "Greater cause than just yourself," Dill explained in her reasoning for competing in Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Team in Training events.

NIKE was Dill's fourth Team in Training (TNT) event after completing a half marathon, a triathlon, and century bike ride. Since she had previously participated in other TNT endurance events she knew what to expect when it came to the fundraising.

The NIKE Women's Marathon was one of many charitable fundraising events held by the LLS Team in Training program as a way to involve people in their mission. The mission of LLS, according to their website, www.lls.org, is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Criswell and

Dill believe that the idea of helping others kept them going during the race. "This sucks, but not as much as cancer," said Criswell, recalling her thoughts during the marathon.

Fundraising options are unlimited, but to participate one must raise a certain amount of money. Criswell and Dill raised the combined amount of \$5,450 for LLS.

"Fundraising seemed scary to me at first," said Criswell, "but I learned that once people realized what I was raising money for and that their donation was truly going to help another human being, I think that it made it easier."

To raise money for LLS the two organized events, like a Zumbathon, which took place at the UCO Wellness Center, and a Jam Night, which took place at Mojo's Blues Club in Bricktown.

According to Dill over 12 metro Oklahoma City instructors volunteered to teach and lead the Zumbathon class. 75 participants paid \$10 to take the class. All of the proceeds from the class went to LLS.

According to Criswell donation boxes were set up throughout the bar during Jam Night. The club donated 20 percent of its sales to LLS, while the bartenders and musicians donated 100 percent of their tips. "Fundraising takes hard work and commitment," said Dill, "It has been so great to have so much support from family, friends, and co-workers."

Early every Saturday morning for 18 weeks, Criswell and

Continued on page 4



**THE VISTA**

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Editorial

**MOLDED MEMORIES, POPCORN CEILINGS**



"He isn't asleep, is he?"  
I was. It was August 1996. First day of kindergarten. Though hazy, that day feels like the raised edges of Lego blocks, smells the olfactory child of pepperoni pizza and peaches in dense syrup, and tastes like playground sand. Since I had strategically placed myself out of sight during naptime to play blocks with my buddy Michael, at the end of the day, I stumbled wearily to my mother's classroom; collapsed on the cool tile.

My mother, an art teacher at the time, busied herself putting paintbrushes and colored pencils into their proper places. When she noticed my sleeping frame, she grabbed the camcorder she'd brought to capture my first day. Amid filming, one of her co-workers strolled past the doorframe. He stopped. *He isn't asleep, is he?* The question was asked with high-viscosity skepticism. For not only did this five-year-old pick the most uncomfortable place on god's green earth to sleep, but I had done so facedown, arms stiff at my side.

That VHS memory gave way to mini-DVD memories to iPhone memories. Bringing me to this Monday. My last first day of class.

"Did you go to sleep on the floor?" my mother texted me Monday evening.

"I didn't. But I lied down on it. For nostalgia."

-My mother, in her wisdom, responded, "Different perspective. Everything is up."

Until that message, my day had passed like a parade—a familiar and superfluous eternity. Monday was cold wind on dry, cracked skin. Monday was cheap coffee in a green thermos. Monday was surrounded with pink faces much more relevant than myself.

At the end of my last first day, I lied down on beige carpet, surrounded by a sprig of dirty laundry. Instead of cold tile, I stared at a popcorn ceiling. Beyond that ceiling, a night lit by streetlights and the yellow glow of living rooms. Beyond those lights, the cosmos. I'm small. Meaning, I'm still capable of awe.

And if you don't feel that way, if

you ascribe to the nauseating hipness of cynicism and perpetual complaining, I hope something makes you feel as small as you are. Don't be a prime example of that Woody Allen-ism, "The food here is terrible, and the portions are too small." That mentality makes the days a burden. A burden, which leaves you facedown, bent by the weight of your self-imposed negativity.

Mold now eats away at the magnetic tape within the "Josh's First Day of Kindergarten" VHS on a shelf in my parents' home. It looks no different than recordings of Grand Ole Opry broadcasts and Power Ranger episodes. I don't mind. It's a record of a former life. And I've discarded plenty of those. I'm free of tethers. While I'm at the end of college, I'm at the beginning of, well, everything else. *Everything is up.*

Josh Hutton  
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Cartoon by Evan Oldham

**CAMPUS QUOTES**

What do you think about the ban on assault rifles?

**JILLIAN WHITAKER**

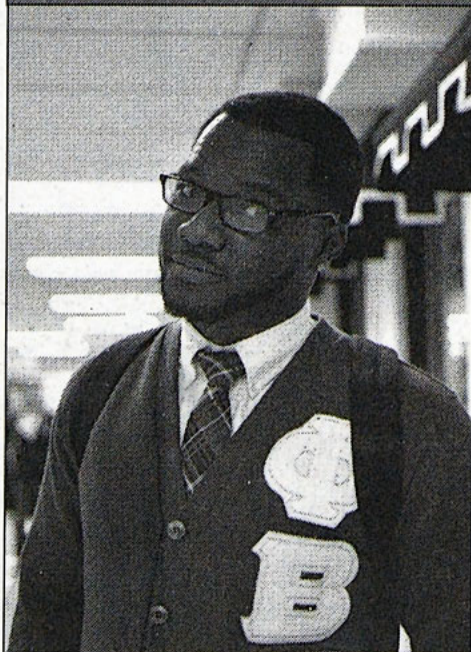
Broadcasting - Senior



"It's a good thing but if people want to get it, they will get it."

**TYLER BREAD**

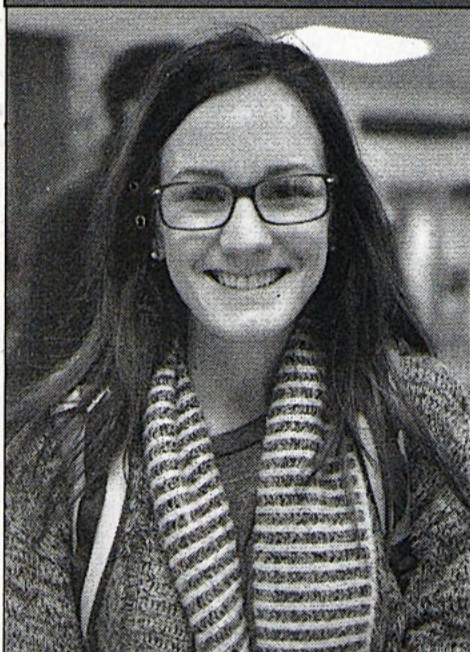
Industrial Safety - Junior



"I think it's a good thing because it's a military weapon and it should be kept out of the street."

**SARAH MOSS**

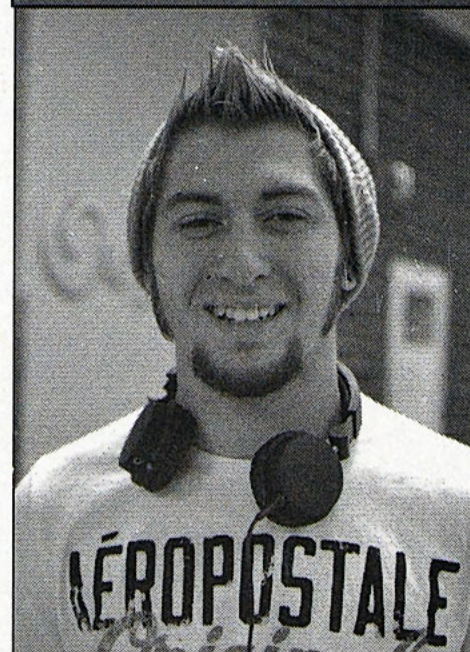
Speech Pathology - Junior



"I don't really know much about it. So, I don't have a strong opinion."

**JONATHAN COOPER**

Music Production - Freshman



"I think it's a little overboard. There are people out there who are really crazy but there're people who just want to have guns."



Concert

# ACM@UCO TO HOST THE ELUSIVE JEFF MANGUM



Former Neutral Milk Hotel frontman, Jeff Mangum, will be performing two shows at ACM@UCO Performance Lab January 19. Photo provided

• ALEX CIFUENTES, Contributing Writer •

Jeff Mangum, renowned folk artist, will perform two shows on Saturday at ACM@UCO's performance lab. The early show, which begins at 6:30 p.m., has already sold-out, but a second show was added Saturday night at 10:30 p.m. due to the concert's popularity.

"There are a lot of students coming out of the woodwork that weren't able to get tickets the first time around, that are now looking to get tickets for the later show," said ACM Business Development Center Manager Derek Brown.

Mangum's stop at ACM is part of his 2013 U.S. tour, which launched Wednesday in St. Louis, Mo. Many of the shows, much like Mangum's early show at ACM, have sold-out due to the scarcity of Mangum's concerts. Mangum is well known for his lack of public appearances after the dissolution of his band Neutral Milk Hotel in 1998.

"I don't think we have had any other show that has sold-out on the same day," said Brown. According to Mangum's website, "There are

rumors going round that that this is to be Jeff's final tour. It is not, although this is clear his acoustic show will not be returning to any city he has already visited anytime in the foreseeable future."

Mangum's website also states that pictures and recordings of any sort are prohibited during the concert, which also includes cell phones.

The concert will be a 75 minute acoustic set and will also feature Tall Firs, an underground electric folk rock band, based out of New York City.

ACM was able to lock in Mangum's performance through their relationship to local concert promoters.

Mangum rose to fame as the vocalist and guitarist of Neutral Milk Hotel, as well as co-founding The Elephant 6 Recording Company. He recently played the Coachella music festival in 2012, and also Occupy Wall Street affiliated group, Strike Debt's telethon November 15.

Opinion



## Little Miss SUNSHINE

By Kara Stewart

### Chasers

The new semester is off to a chilly start: the beautifully unseasonable seventy-degree weather ended around the same time as all of those horrible zombie-apocalypse memes.

As you're huddling, layered more than Ralphie's little brother in "A Christmas Story," towards your too-hot classroom, to a chorus of sniffing and snotty noses, I want you to consider something for me:

What dream are you chasing?

If we're being honest, this is college, and we're all here for something. The freshmen, with their sweatpants and their swagger, they're here because that was one of three options given to them following graduation. The seniors, with their red-eyes and tired expressions, are just trying to make it through this last spring semester. Everyone in between is getting lost in all the static.

But then what do you do? Where do you go?

For people like me, we don't know how to do anything else: you go back to school. Others can't wait to get out and start "really" living life, whatever that means. Some are chasing down those diamond rings and dirty diapers. Some of you are going to move back into your parents' house because there are too many music producers and not enough jobs to go around. We're all chasing after something,

and the sooner you can recognize what it is, the better off you are.

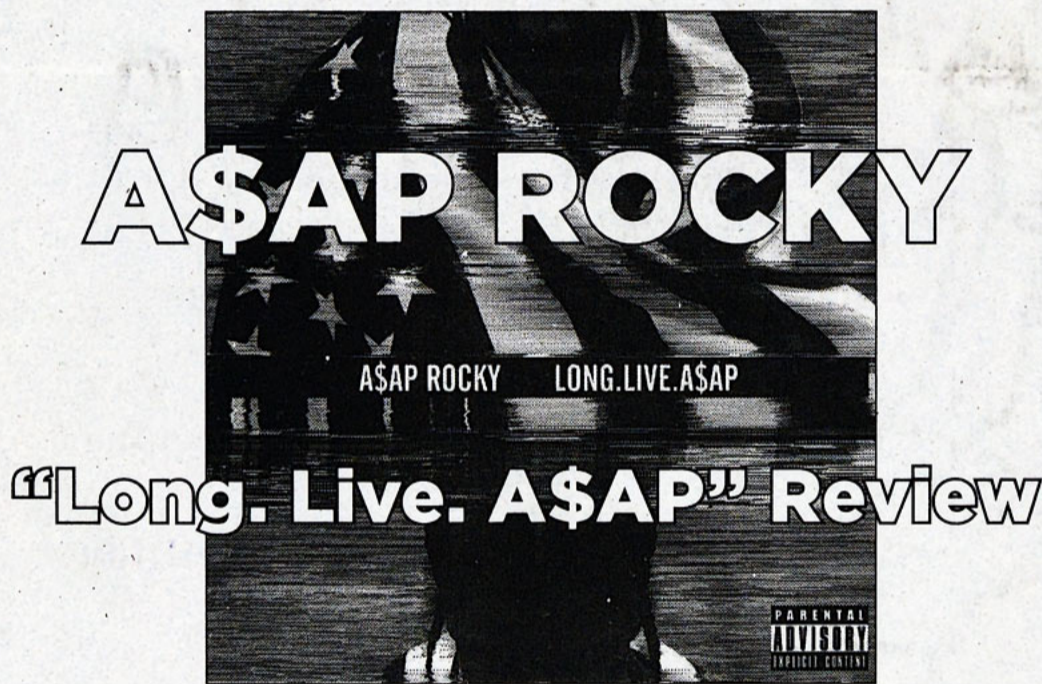
Don't wait until your senior year to realize you really love photography; at the point in the game, it's wasting a lot of hours to suddenly switch majors. Don't over-think what it is that you want: if nothing else, flip a coin. That moment when the coin is in the air, you'll (hopefully) realize what it is that you're looking for.

That may not work for you. It didn't work for me.

In fact, it took a very long time to fully understand what I enjoyed, and how I was going to make a living out of it. Those people that design and test videogames for millions of dollars? Those people are just lucky. The rest of us? Well, we're going to have to work at it.

Do whatever you need to do: talk to your closest friends, make a pro and con list, take random classes you will never otherwise need. Spend more nights researching the job market on the internet than you do out drinking; revert back to your childhood and spend hours coloring in your room. Take an afternoon off and ask a million questions that you didn't realize you were dying to know.

Whatever you need to do, do it. Just make sure you figure out which direction it is you're walking before you have to start back-tracking.



## "Long Live A\$AP" Review

Review by BEN LUSCHEN, Managing Editor

A distinct generation shift is on the horizon in the hip hop genre. Consider this: we live in a time in which Eminem has found Jesus, Lil Wayne has already booked the King of Diamonds for his retirement party and former teen actor Drake is considered an industry vet. Where have the years gone?

As other rappers seem headed toward greener pastures, plenty of youngsters seemed poised to take their place. Last year saw monumental solo studio albums from Black Hippy members ScHoolboy Q, Ab-Soul and Kendrick Lamar. The Odd Future collective continue to prove their antics may have some staying power. Some new acts like Big K.R.I.T. have made a yearly habit of releasing critically acclaimed mixtapes. Meanwhile, on the east coast, the A\$AP Mob – and most notably ringleader A\$AP Rocky – has gotten some attention lately, both in a positive and negative sense.

A\$AP Rocky's debut major studio album "Long Live A\$AP" was the first big name rap LP of 2013. Rocky rose to a certain degree of fame in 2011 after the release of "LiveLoveA\$AP," a mixtape which was generally well-received by critics. Still, Rocky drew some criticism from fans who called his subject matter shallow and his rhymes pedestrian.

Does "Long Live A\$AP" do anything to sway fans from these opinions? Not really, but anyone still focused on Rocky's materialistic subject matter is missing a much bigger picture.

The undisputed highlight of "Long Live A\$AP" lies in its production. From the very first title track (produced largely by Jim Jonsin and his Rebel Rock associates) sets a tone more commonly found in the summer's biggest urban conscious gangster movie than a rap album released in mid-January. The album also boasts a couple of space odyssey-type scores produced by Hit-Boy (whose recent list of records reads like last month's Hot 40) including the single "Goldie" and the epic ride that is "1 Train."

"1 Train" definitely deserves its own subsec-

tion within this review. I can't emphasize how rare tracks like this are; a collection of seven prominent artists on one song without much connection in way of previous collaborations or label affiliation. "1 Train" is a statement on the arrival of a new class in hip hop. The collective talents of Rocky, Kendrick Lamar, Joey Bad\*\*\*, Yelawolf, Danny Brown, Action Bronson and Big K.R.I.T. (who average just 26 years of age) aren't here to get the baton passed to them, they're here to take it.

Other highlights include "F\*\*\*\*\* Problems," a predictable but well-done collaboration between Rocky, Drake, 2 Chainz and Kendrick Lamar and the Skrillex produced "Wild for the Night." "PMW (All I Really Need)" which is more or less a sequel to last year's successful ScHoolboy Q single "Hands on the Wheel."

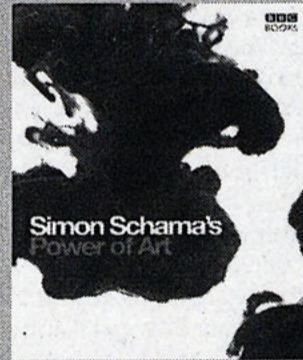
"Long Live A\$AP" is a fine debut, but there's one thing that keeps it from being a generational milestone. Rocky doesn't really say anything of worth in this album. There is the mellow and thoughtful conclusion to the album "Phoenix" (produced by Danger Mouse) – a good song, but its presence doesn't make up for the repetitive sex and party lyrics that make up the rest of the release.

Still, the mere sound of "Long Live A\$AP" is, frankly, awesome. There may not be an artist out there right now better at selecting beats, and Rocky's lyrics and delivery have taken great strides since he hit the national scene in 2011.

Label  
A\$AP Worldwide / Polo  
Grounds / RCA

Score  
**8.1**

Book Review



## Power of Art by Simon Schama

• review by JEAN LONGO •

Historian Schama certainly has a powerful method of telling a story. He tells the tales of eight different artists: Caravaggio, Bernini, Rembrandt, David, Turner, Van Gogh, Picasso and Rothko. The book was written to accompany the television series published by the BBC, but it is not necessary to have seen the series to enjoy the book. I read the book several years before watching the series, and after watching the series I picked up the book again. Reading through it again, I could imagine the visual sets that the series provides.

Schama writes about these eight artists and their work focusing on a pivotal piece for each individual. The sections on each artist are engaging and the accompanying illustrations are wonderful. His writing style reads like an action movie with killings, excessive self-mutilation, speech impediments, imprison-

ment, suicide, and insanity. In his perceptive style, Schama reveals the lives of these artists and the difficult situations they overcame while developing their artistic talents. He simultaneously explores the social, political, and cultural factors which facilitate a greater understanding of what the artists were facing at the time he was creating. He explains what we are looking at and helps us understand the passions at play when the artist undertook his works, putting the person up front rather than the genre.

Most of the artists are individuals I have admired, yet he manages to remove them from the hero status that I assigned to them and turn them into struggling artist with their own demons. This is an engaging book that can be read as a whole or in parts and will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the arts.



Jean Longo is a Research & Instruction Librarian at the University of Central Oklahoma.

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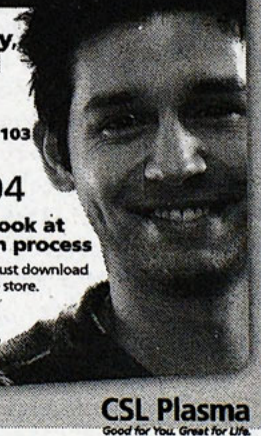
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# Week of activities planned for UCO's 'King Week'

• MERVYN CHUA & BROOKS NICKELL, Staff Writers •

UCO's annual King's Week at Central will be from Jan. 21 to 25 led by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). The proceedings are to celebrate the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and all those who were part of the civil rights movement. King's Week at Central will involve collaborations with other organizations.

To kick start the week, the Volunteer and Service Learning Center will be accepting volunteers to help with the Regional Food Bank on Monday, Jan. 21.

"Even though there are no classes, there is still a day of service and students can volunteer with the Regional Food Bank," Meshawn Conley, director of ODI said.

## Day of Service

The University of Central Oklahoma's Volunteer and Service Learning Center is no stranger to lending a hand. The past four years the VSLC has received a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from National Campus Compact, a coalition made up of almost 1,200 college and university presidents, to aid in the MLK day of service. This year, however, the VSLC has decided to reallocate the funds, from purchasing supplies for donation to various organizations, to providing transportation for volunteers to and from one of the four volunteer sites chosen for the MLK day of service, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, as well as providing a stipend for a service learning faculty position.

Dr. Christy Vincent and her health communications class will be filling this role by helping the VSLC put together a marketing campaign for Central Pantry, the newly opened emergency food pantry for students.

The transportation will provide for 57 people to be taken from campus to the volunteer site. Lyndsay Holder, Assistant Director, VSLC, allows that this will open up new avenues for an increase in the number of students able to volunteer and provide a wider range of students with volunteer experience.

"The charter bus allows those without transportation to participate. This affords opportunities like allowing international students to get a feel for what service in America is like to increasing the number of students able to attend the day of service."

The scope of service, according to Dill, will be different at all locations. In addition to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, where volunteers will be sorting food, students will also be volunteering at Infant Crisis Services, The Hope Center of Edmond and Oklahoma City Public Schools Teachers Warehouse.

Joel Richardson, student leader for the OKC Teachers Warehouse site, and a volun-

teer enthusiast expressed the importance of not only this site but also the whole of the service day.

"Teachers from underprivileged schools can come to the warehouse and get free school supplies. It's a great chance for us to give back to the community."

Chelsea Holley, Public Relations Chair for Big Event, provided some insight into the scope of service for volunteers. Holley volunteered at the Infant Crisis Center in the past.

"The Infant Crisis Center is a different volunteer experience. We got to make blankets for infants and handed out articles of clothing. We also got to play with the kids for about an hour and a half. Many of the children aren't as privileged, they often times don't receive much attention. Its tangible service, interacting with those that you're helping."

## Other Events

UCO has also partnered with Enterprise-Rent-A-Car for the third annual Martin Luther King Enterprise Oratory Competition. Enterprise-Rent-A-Car will be providing cash prizes as participants compete with their developed speeches centered on the Dr. King quote, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

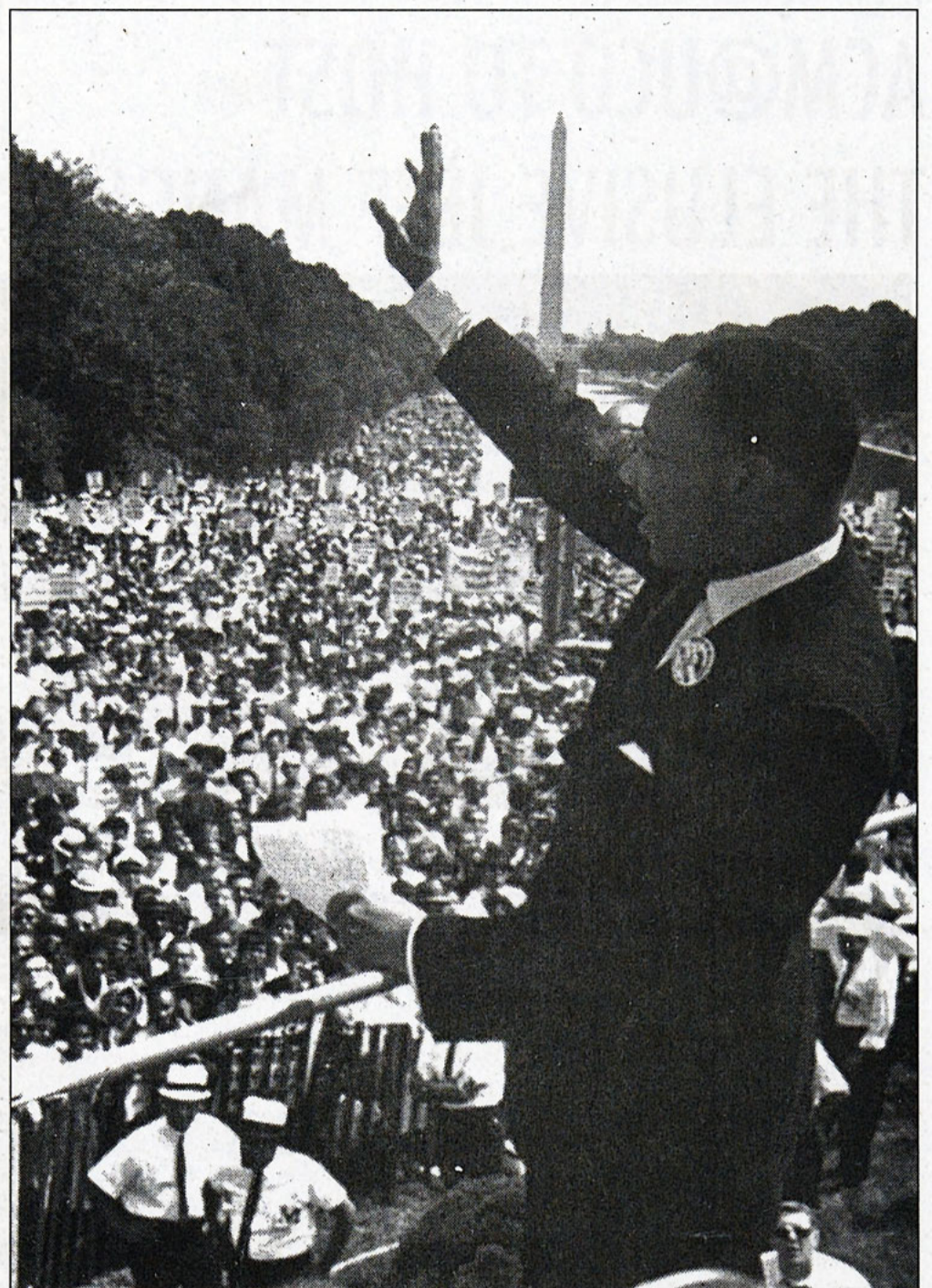
Among the highlights of the week includes UCO's Unity March. Faculty and staff and students will meet at 2 p.m. outside Barnes and Noble of the NUC and march around campus.

"We're inviting faculty and staff and students to participate which is a true representative of what Martin Luther King is about - all of us coming together," Conley said.

The week will be wrapped up with the reading of a book entitled, "King's Dream." The book relates to the famous "I have a dream speech" at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington in 1963. It talks about the history that led up to the speech, breaking down each aspect and illustrates the history behind the events that led to why Martin Luther King Jr. said what he said.

When asked why this week was important, Conley had this to say.

"The civil rights movement is such a critical part of our lives and Martin Luther King is an iconic person. There were many great men and women who did great sacrifices. Even though it is nearly 50 years later, we cannot forget the time in our history. It's important that we learn about it and celebrate it, so we don't repeat the mistakes of the past."



In this Aug. 28, 1963 file photo, The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. waves to the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington. The march was organized to support proposed civil rights legislation and end segregation. (AP Photo/File)

## Schedule of 'King Week' events

- **VSLC MLK Day of Service Project**  
Monday, January 21, 2013  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Sign-up is until Friday. Call the UCO VSLC (405-974-2621) for more information.
- **Martin Luther King Unity March**  
Tuesday, January 22, 2013  
2:00 p.m.  
Nigh University Center - African American Mural
- **MLK Enterprise Oratory Competition**  
Wednesday, January 23, 2013  
3:00 p.m.  
Nigh University Center - Ballroom A
- **Book Club Discussion - "King's Dream: The Legacy of Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' Speech"**  
Thursday, January 24, 2013  
1:30 p.m.  
Nigh University Center - Room 300

## Obama's executive orders tighten gun control regulations



Newtown, Conn. School Superintendent Janet Robinson, left, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, before a special hearing on gun violence held by the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Continued Pg. 1

## Runners

Dill met for their large group Team in Training long run to prepare their bodies for the event. Criswell stated that TNT provides each participant with a training plan, which includes shorter runs and a cross training guide to complete individually during the week.

Coaches provided through LLS led the TNT practices. "The coaches run with you," said Criswell recalling the marathon. She also mentioned that she suspected the TNT coaches to have ran over 30 miles throughout the marathon to encourage other runners.

"The people in this program are top notch," said Dill.

All members of the LLS TNT participants received an official TNT race day shirt to wear during the marathon. Participants ranged from volunteers to survivors. "To look around and see a sea of purple is pretty powerful," said Dill.

The two would like their participation to influence others to take part in LLS events. "It is my hope that someone can hear about my Team in Training journey, and that they will be in-

spired to either donate to LLS or take the next step to participate in a team in training event," said Criswell. "truly together, we can find a cure for cancer, and its organizations like LLS that make this possible."

After the long journey runners experienced exhaustion. Some, like Dill, crossed the finish line and sat on the beach and as waves gently coaxed their legs they thought of how on this day they played a part in a cause greater than themselves.

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# Uncertainty surrounding 2014 Afghan withdrawal date



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the conclusion of their joint news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 11, 2013. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

• JOSH WALLACE, Staff Writer •

On Jan. 11, President Obama welcomed Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai to Washington for high profile talks centered on the future of our country's military presence in the Greater Middle Eastern country. More specifically, the talks were based around the proposed troop withdrawal the Obama administration is planning for 2014, and what number of U.S. troops will remain in the country, if any.

Obama first mentioned the planned mass withdrawal of troops back in the summer of 2011, where he announced the withdrawal of 10,000 troops and supported his position, stating, "We are starting this draw down from a position of strength. Al Qaeda is under more pressure than at any time since 9/11, of course, huge challenges remain. This is the beginning, but not the end of our effort to wind down this war."

While the Obama spoke of the need to withdrawal, he gave no specifics at the time of how many troops would remain. In the days leading up to the meeting with Karzai, the administration startled many when Ben Rhodes, Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor, eluded to the fact that a total withdrawal might be on the table, stating, "We wouldn't rule out any option."

Rhodes' statement startled many, includ-

ing fellow Afghan coalition member, Germany, which currently has 4,300 troops stationed. Elke Hoff, a defense expert and member of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government, spoke to Reuters on the impact German soldiers would face, adding, "We would possibly have to completely pull out because we don't possess sufficient transport and protective measures. I find it somewhat annoying, that it's been announced unilaterally and apparently only with US-American interests in the foreground"

When the two leaders eventually met, the possibility of a total troop withdrawal seemed to be taken off the table, but the exact number of troops who would remain wasn't clear. The Pentagon has requested that as many as 20,000 soldiers remain in Afghanistan, while the White House put their desired numbers in the 3,000 to 9,000 range, which would be focused on continued training of Afghan military forces and to combat threats from terrorist organizations associated with Al Qaeda.

The prospect of the White House's proposal to keep such a limited force has once again sparked the question as to whether the Afghan government and its security forces are capable to handle the withdrawal, and

whether they would be capable of keeping the country secure. UCO President, Don Betz, who has worked in the past with the United Nations concerning Middle East peace issues, maintains a Twitter account where he often links to issues regarding international affairs, and recently posted links to a couple of articles on his feed that outlined the concerns.

Betz believes that the numbers the being given by the Obama administration are basically a way to gauge the public and their opinion on the situation and how best to find a exit strategy to the longest U.S. conflict, adding, "Basically what you're seeing in the public eye right now, I believe, is a public airing of the numbers to see how they will be accepted by the public and various interest groups. I think what you're going to see, depending on what the situation is that you're dealing with, you're going to see a definite downturn in the number of American troops."

He went on to add that he believes that the most likely scenario he believes that remaining, will be an emphasis of keeping a number of soldiers to continue training Afghan forces. He added, that while that number could be relatively large at first, ultimately it will continue to shrink due to

the fact that, "the US interest in the region and the us ability to keep itself involved economically and diplomatically inside the US has been dwindling for some time."

Kurt Volker and George Robertson, two former members of NATO, penned one of the articles Betz posted. In their editorial for Financial Times, Volker and Robertson outline a possible scenario associated with maintaining such a small force.

Specifically they outline how next year NATO forces will be at their lowest level in five years, while the Taliban will be at their strongest level since 2002. The fear is that the Taliban will attempt to take advantage of the situation, taking key areas of the country, and possibly sparking an all out civil war with the government.

Volker and Robertson go on to say that the idea of continuing to spend and fight this year, and for the U.S. to withdraw risk having the country collapse makes no sense. Instead, they argue that if we "want to avoid a civil war, major human rights abuses and the haven that Afghanistan again becomes a risk for exporting extremism, we need to start working out a Plan B, one that focuses on achieving substantive goals, not the timing of our exit."

## The Vista Archives

THE VISTA  
"I can only say it's unbelievable"  
Students, staff & faculty grieve with aftermath of Wednesday's bombing

UCO360.COM

# UCO receives grant to expand its degree completion program

• Adam Holt, Staff Writer •

UCO is expanding their degree completion program after receiving an education initiative grant.

Operation Degree Completion (ODC) is an initiative by the university to find students who left school only needing a small amount of hours to graduate and help them receive their degree. So far, 523 students have earned a degree since the program was implemented three years ago.

The grant will allow the university to expand ODC. The program will now include what is known as "reverse transfer."

UCO will now look for students who transferred from Oklahoma City Community College, Rose State College, and Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City who did not finish a bachelor's degree at UCO. Enrollment management will analyze these student's records and see if they can be rewarded an associ-

ate's degree from their original school.

The grant has allowed UCO to employ degree completion advisors at the respective colleges in order to help find and analyze student records for reverse transfer.

Amy Rogalsky, special assistant to the vice president of enrollment management, is excited about the expansion of ODC, and believes it is one of, if not the, first program of this type in the state.

"It's such a simple idea, but it had not been done on a larger scale [in Oklahoma]. I mean, what's bad about it?" she asked.

Former students are often surprised to learn that they qualify to receive an associate's degree or that UCO wants to help them finish their bachelor's.

"Some kids are taken aback. Some first thought it was a scam," Rogalsky said.

The university received the \$251,596 gift Sept. 1, 2012 through an education organization named TG.

"[TG] is a non-profit group out of Texas that funds education initiatives," Rogalsky said.

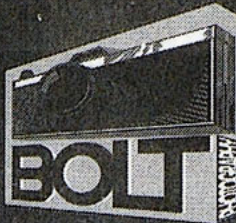
According to the organization's website, TG philanthropy benefits students of low- to moderate-income families. TG also favors proposals that serves the needs of first-generation college students and students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in undergraduate and graduate education.

The ODC is also spurred by Complete College America, a national non-profit that works with states to increase the number of Americans with career certificates and college degrees and close attainment gaps for underrepresented populations.

Gov. Fallin is an avid proponent of Complete College America.

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**CROSSWORD**

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- Across
- 1. Beg
  - 6. Wallop
  - 10. Lowlife
  - 14. Cliffside dwelling
  - 15. Corn \_\_\_\_
  - 16. Decline
  - 17. Long
  - 18. Beef buy
  - 19. Final notice
  - 20. Break into fragments
  - 23. Filter
  - 25. One way to stand by
  - 26. Speculative
  - 30. Enlarge, as a hole
  - 31. Corrode
  - 32. Big \_\_\_\_ Conference
  - 35. "\_\_\_\_ on Down the Road"
  - 36. Lawn mower's path
  - 38. "Buona \_\_\_\_" (Italian greeting)
  - 39. "... \_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
  - 40. Water-filled ditch surrounding a castle
  - 41. Shed tears of grief
  - 42. Committed to live and work in a specific place (2 wds)
  - 46. Strong woody fiber
  - 49. Druid, e.g.
  - 50. Clergyman who also has a secular job (hyphenated)
  - 54. "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
  - 55. Long, long time
  - 56. In pieces
  - 60. At sea
  - 61. "Cast Away" setting
  - 62. Come again
  - 63. "Trick" joint
  - 64. Airhead
  - 65. Pirate's pal
  - 13. Allocate, with "out"
  - 21. "Comprende?"
  - 22. Covered with gold
  - 23. Clip sheep's fleece
  - 24. "Cut it out!"
  - 26. Diagram showing family lineage
  - 27. About to explode
  - 28. Director's cry
  - 29. \_\_\_\_ Wednesday
  - 32. Parenting challenges
  - 33. At attention
  - 34. Back of the neck
  - 36. "My boy"
  - 37. "This means \_\_\_\_!"
  - 38. Flowering vine
  - 40. Bit
  - 43. Small harpsichord
  - 44. Anger
  - 45. Render harmless
  - 46. Element B
  - 47. Come to mind
  - 48. Glide along on ice
  - 50. Move by taking steps
  - 51. Bust, so to speak
  - 52. 100 centavos
  - 53. "Let's \_\_\_\_"
  - 57. Appear
  - 58. Morgue, for one
  - 59. "Don't give up!"
- Down
- 1. Be worthwhile
  - 2. "Malcolm X" director
  - 3. Victorian, for one
  - 4. Military air base
  - 5. Unit of fineness of silk fibers
  - 6. Rigid support for a broken bone
  - 7. "Crazy" bird
  - 8. Condo, e.g.
  - 9. Characteristic carrier
  - 10. Weapon with a long, pointed blade
  - 11. Conspiratorial group of plotters
  - 12. Accord

**RANDOM FACTS**

Since weightlessness causes the spine to expand and straighten, astronauts may measure up to two inches taller in space than they do on Earth.

The bonnets and caps of city fire hydrants are painted certain colors to alert firefighters to the amount of water pressure available from that hydrant.

During WWII, La-Z-Boy manufactured seats for tanks, torpedo boats, gun turrets, and armored cars.

**SUDOKU**

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3			6		1			8
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			3	1				6
7	9		4			1		

**WORD SEARCH**

- ALLOUD
- APRON
- ARROW
- BEAMS
- BEGAN
- BREAKING
- CARROT
- CURLS
- DEMAND
- DOZEN
- DRUMS
- EARNED
- ENTRIES
- FEBRUARY
- FOSSILS
- LATER
- LENDS
- LENGTH
- MENDS
- MISTAKES
- MOODS
- NAVAL
- NOISY
- ORGAN
- PAINS
- PAPERED
- PLURALS
- POTTED
- PRESS
- PROVIDE
- PULLED
- PURELY
- RANKS
- RECORD
- RENTED
- SCALES
- SCHEME
- SHOCKED
- SOLID
- STRAY
- STRIPS
- THREE
- TORNADO
- URBAN
- VIDEOS
- VOTES
- YEARS
- YO-YOS

V S H O C K E D B P U R E L Y  
M I S T A K E S L E N G T H O  
Z G D B R E A K I N G V O G Y  
P A P E R E D O R L D A R P O  
R R O H O E N T R I E S N A S  
O R T U T S C T L G M N A I C  
V O T E S D S O E P A O D N K  
I W E I U L S Y R D N N O S F  
D C D O A S R E S D D A M D O  
E C L R P A T A D C D V S M S  
F A U I U A E R N B A A C E S  
E L R R L M P S A K E L H N I  
P T B N L Z S R C Y S A E D L  
S E A S E S L N O I S Y M S S  
F A N P D D O Z E N P R E S S

**DAILY QUOTES**

Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace.

- Victor Hugo

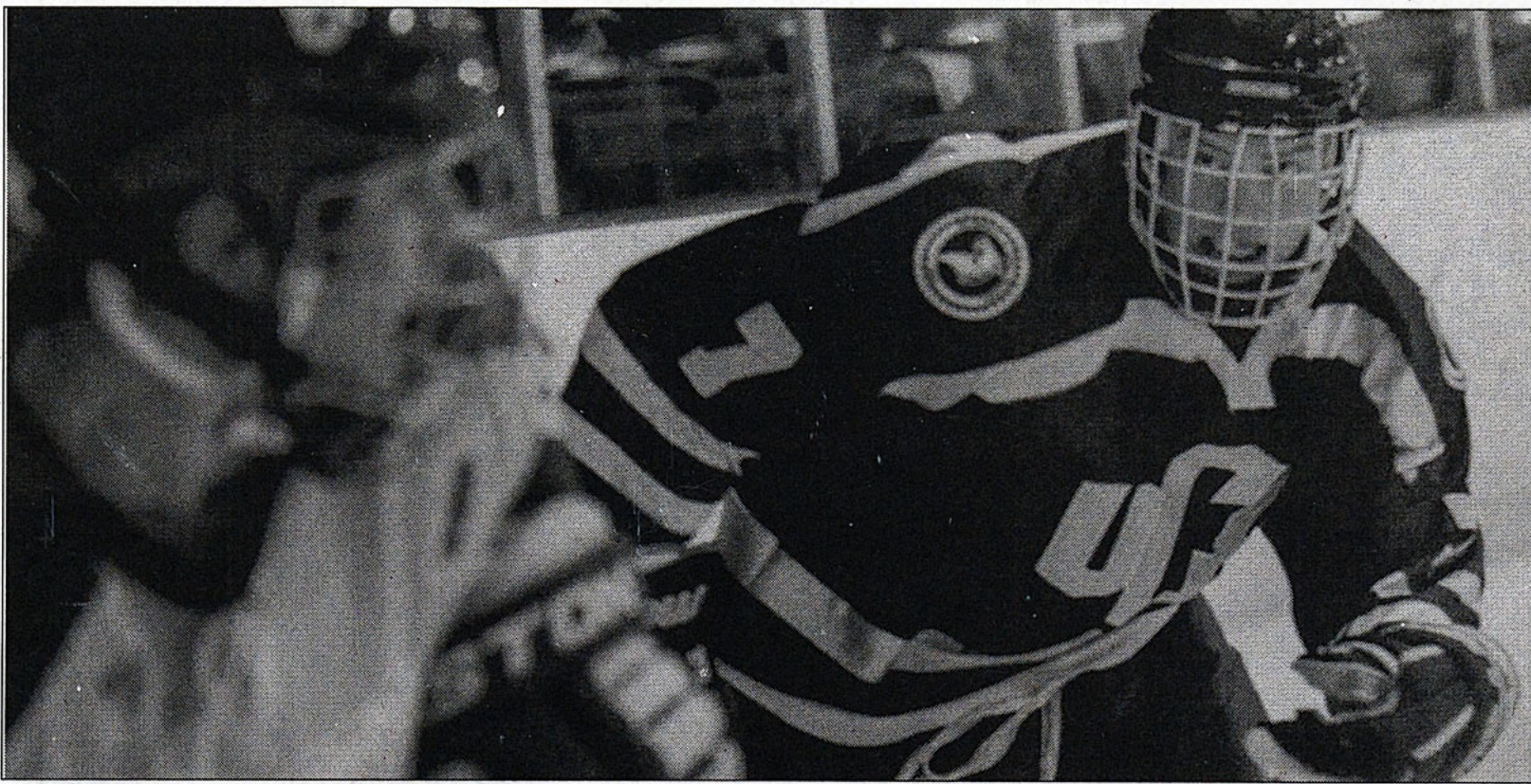
A man must be willing to die for justice. Death is an inescapable reality and men die daily, but good deeds live forever.

- Jesse Jackson



Hockey

# Hockey team continues road trip



UCO freshman Brandon Gorges (7) in a match against Oklahoma on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012. Photo by Betsy Timken.

points. Spraggs and Dule lead the team in goals with nine apiece and Bledsoe leads the team in assists with 11, adding five goals.

The Wildcats from Arizona University are led by Brian Slugocki, who has 20 more points than any Bronchos player. Slugocki has netted 20 goals this season and added 19 assists. The senior from Scottsdale, Arizona also has nine power play goals.

Steven Sisler has the most minutes in goal for the Wildcats. Playing in 19 games, the junior has a 3.55 Goals Allowed Average and a .89 save percentage.

Arizona trails the Bronchos in the rankings coming in at the number 18 spot.

The next two matchups will be much bigger for the Bronchos. Arizona State is ranked number one in the country, receiving 23 first-place votes. The Sun Devils have a 22-4 record.

Kale Dolinski leads ASU with 46 points this season by way of 26 goals and 20 assists. The sophomore has netted six power play goals this season. A big step up for the sophomore who finished his inaugural season with the Sun Devils with 46 points on 21 goals and 25 assists.

All three games begin at 7:30 p.m.

Chris Brannick  
Sports Editor

UCO Hockey team is in for a three game weekend beginning tomorrow with a matchup against the University of Arizona followed by a

two-game series against the Arizona State University.

The Bronchos, currently ranked 17th in the country in the American College Hockey Association Division 1 Rankings, head into the weekend with a 14-12 record and are riding a three-game winning

streak. On Friday, Jan. 11 and again on Jan. 12, the Bronchos captured two wins against the Buffalo Bulls. The first coming in a 3-2 decision on Friday and the Bronchos followed that with a 7-0 drubbing of the Bulls.

The season has been different for

the Bronchos. After a trip to the National Tournament last spring, this years squad is filled with freshman. That hasn't stopped Central in the least bit however, The top three scorers on the team are all freshman. Riley Spraggs, Jordan Bledsoe and Rylan Duley lead the team in

Associated Press

# One Harbaugh in, one out for Super Bowl picks

Barry Wilner

AP Pro Football Writer

For those fans clamoring to see someone new in the Super Bowl, the NFC is giving you what you want.

Sorry about the AFC.

Yep, same old, same old is ahead, with the New England Patriots hosting the Baltimore Ravens for the second straight conference championship game Sunday. With a similar result, too.

New England (13-4) is a 9½-point favorite to reach its sixth Super Bowl in the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick era. The Patriots' quarterback and coach are 3-2 together in the big game, but the last two appearances have been losses to the Giants.

That surely must irk the two men who otherwise have dominated the last 12 NFL seasons.

The Patriots have never lost an AFC title game at home (4-0, three of those in those 12 seasons). They certainly came close last January when Lee Evans couldn't hold onto a pass in the end zone in the final moment that would have sent the Ravens to their second Super Bowl and first since the 2000 season, when they won it all.

New England will move the ball on Baltimore (12-6) and could resort to running it more often than in the past. Not only is Stevan Rid-

ley a 1,000-yard rusher, something very rare for the Patriots, but the Ravens aren't nearly as stout as they once were at stopping the run. With the emergence of Shane Vereen and consistency of Danny Woodhead if he is healthy, the Patriots are deep in the backfield, too.

The loss of star tight end Rob Gronkowski will be damaging for the Patriots, but not overwhelmingly so. Aaron Hernandez will pick up the slack in receptions and the blocking of Michael Hoomanawanui against Houston was exemplary.

Where the Ravens could prosper is in a revitalized pass rush. Terrell Suggs finally is approaching his top defensive player status of 2011 after returning from a partially torn Achilles tendon. Paul Kruger already is a dynamic sack guy.

Ray Lewis' pending retirement adds an emotional boost for Baltimore.

But in the end, New England's offense will be too persistent, too sharp and too deep for Baltimore to stop. Look for Wes Welker, Brandon Lloyd and Hernandez to have strong games, and for the Patriots' defense to keep Joe Flacco, Ray Rice, Anquan Boldin and Baltimore's dangerous offense from doing too much damage.

And look for the Patriots to be in New Orleans next month.

PATRIOTS, 30-24

San Francisco (minus 3½) at At-

lanta.

Had the Falcons kept the rout going against Seattle in last Sunday's divisional round, the spread here would be different. But Atlanta (14-3) nearly blew it, raising questions among the odds makers about how good the Falcons really are.

They're plenty good, as their last-minute rally to beat Bryant's 49-yard field goal to Matt the Seahawk proved. The issue: San Francisco (12-4-1) simply is better.

Of the remaining four teams, the 49ers are the most balanced. They have the best defense by far; only Seattle's unit really challenged them among all the playoff qualifiers.

Atlanta will struggle to run against Patrick Willis, Justin Smith, NaVorro Bowman and Co. So the Falcons will take to the air, a wise decision when you have playmakers Tony Gonzalez, Roddy White and Julio Jones.

Problem is, the Niners' secondary is as good as any, even if the interceptions were down this season. And the pass rush, sparked by Aldon Smith (19½ sacks), is formidable.

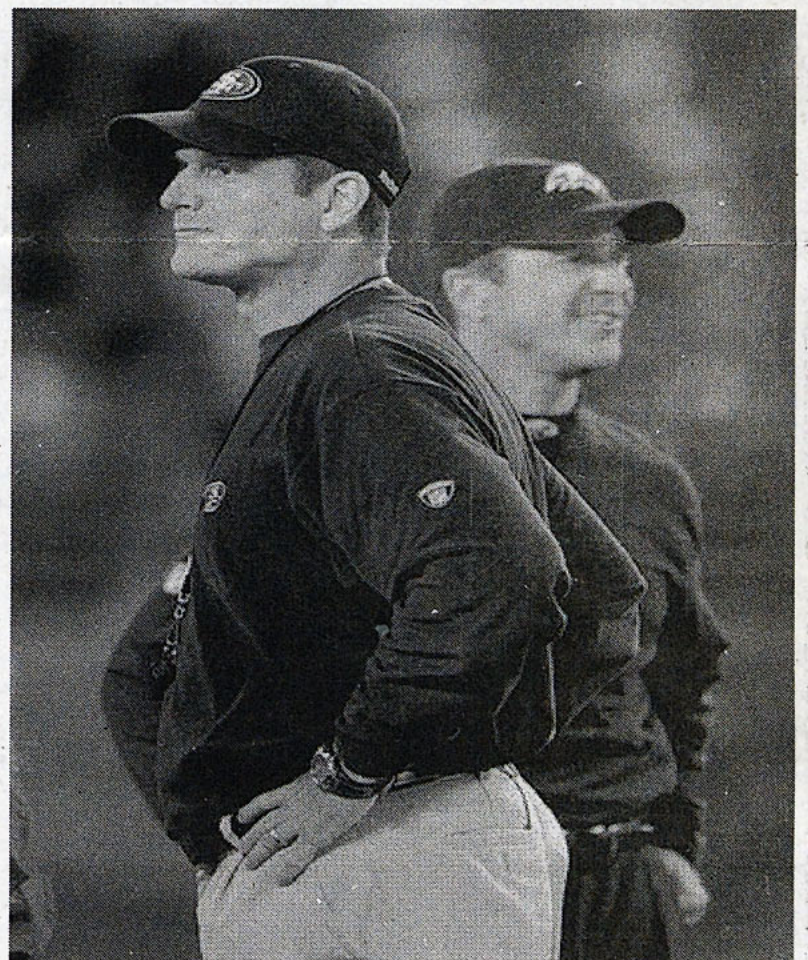
Where San Francisco has an edge over last year, when it lost at home to the Giants for the conference crown, is in its passing game. Second-year QB Colin Kaepernick has added a dynamic dimension with his strong arm, escapability and overall athletic skills. Michael Crab-

tree has developed into a dependable receiver with big-play abilities.

Add that to Frank Gore's run-

ning, and Atlanta's D will be over-

matched.  
49ERS, 23-16



FILE - In this Nov. 24, 2011 file photo, San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh, foreground, stands alongside his brother, Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh, before an NFL football game in Baltimore. One step from the Super Bowl once more, the Ravens and 49ers believe this year will be different. (AP Photo/Nick Wass, File)

Opinion

# Full Timeout: The hero and the villain on the same bicycle, and a legacy in question



Chris Brannick  
Sports Editor

Timeout. Lance Armstrong is admitting to using performance-enhancing drugs during his illustrious ride through France. The seven-time winner of the biggest bicycle race in the world, despite years of denial, is making what we all thought all this time clear. And thank you to Oprah for pulling the information out of him.

But what has this done for us? All of you sports fans that care to chime in on the relevance of this confession please, let me know what you think. The main question at hand here is what will the

legacy of Armstrong be. Will we remember the fight he fought those seven consecutive years and the Livestrong campaign he not only started but also brought to the forefront of everybody who has ever been affected by cancer.

Armstrong raised a lot of money and a lot of awareness but was also paid a lot of money. The United States Postal Service paid Armstrong millions of dollars in sponsorship money and what does that do for them. How do they feel in all of this. The scandal has been there forever. Years have gone by with Armstrong denying the use and even suing multiple people for their accusations against him.

The yellow bracelets are everywhere you look but might not be everywhere you look in the very soon future. Many people hit to Twitter to respond to the confession. Some say, the guy still did a lot to raise awareness to the fight against cancer. More people seem to think that the cheater, liar and deceiver Armstrong will have no opportunity to make up for what he did. Replacing the famed Livestrong with "Lie-strong." The differ-

ences were vast and the jokes poured in too.

All of this comes in wake of the announcement by the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame not electing any new members to the Hall. The drama and turmoil surrounding the illegal use of PEDs hindered the voters and there is no doubt the effect of the dark cloud that has hovered over baseball for years now, might not be going anywhere.

So why confess now? Armstrong confessing doesn't exactly clear his name. There are some people who have been busted for using and came out and admitted right away that they were wrong and made a mistake. Those people seemed to have slipped out from under the dark cloud with ease and got away scot-free. But the Armstrong confession after years of denial doesn't appear as if it will help him escape.

Whatever the legacy holds Armstrong will forever be linked. Years of good cannot erase what happened and in the modern day sports world, this kind of thing will not go away.

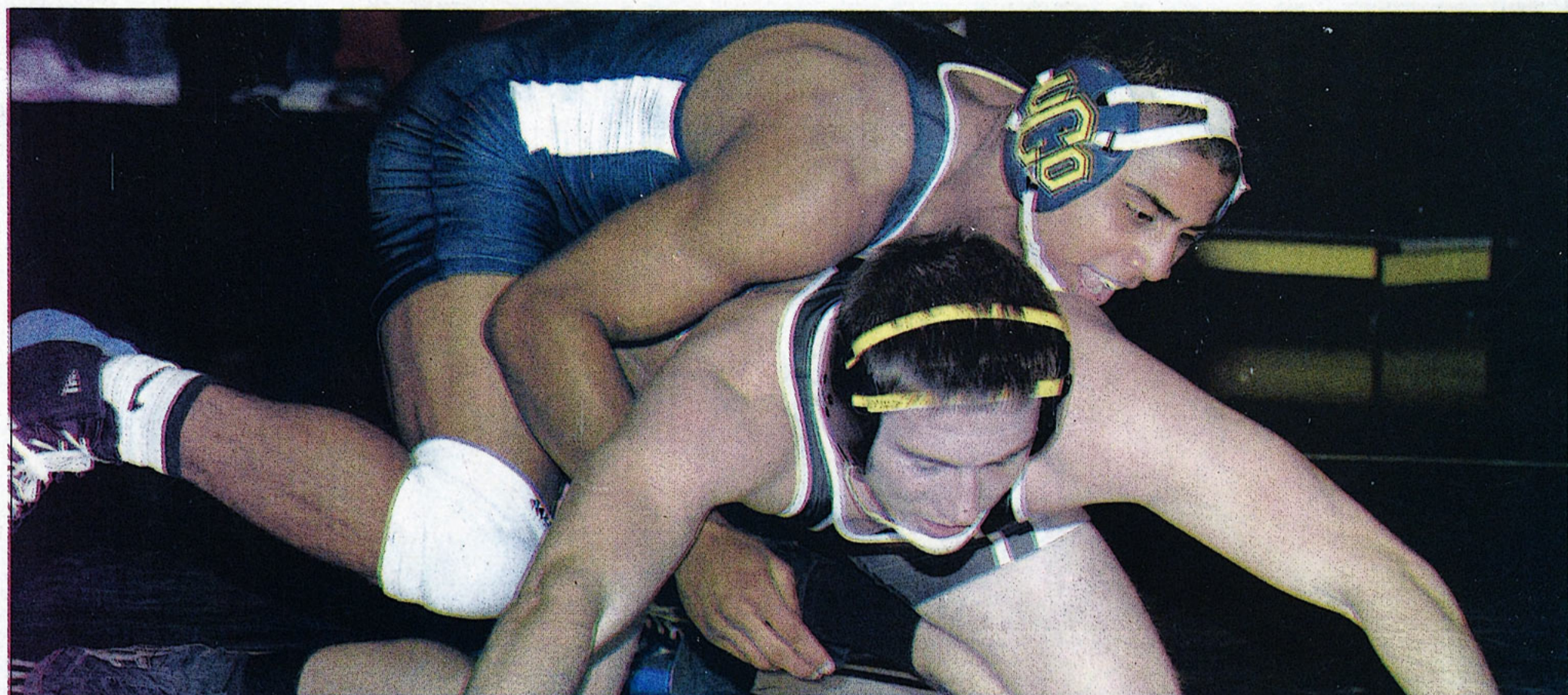


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every coupon, every offer



Wrestling

# Wrestling showdown tonight



UCO junior Jordan Basks wrestles against Mitchell Means on Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. Basks is currently ranked number two in the 149 lb. weight class. Photo provided

Sam Philbeck

Contributing Writer

No. 3-ranked Central Oklahoma hosts the No. 13-ranked Nebraska-Kearney Lopers Thursday night in a showdown between two of the best programs in the country.

"When we get together we lay it out on the mat," said Central Oklahoma coach David James when he talked about the upcoming matchup between the two heavy-weight teams.

"I know what their lineup is, I know what our lineup is and it's going to be ten matches that are going to be very tight," James said.

The Lopers, 3-2 overall and 1-0 in conference matches, come into Thursday's match following elimination in the NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals at the hands of then No. 2-ranked Newberry Wolves.

Those same duals the Bronchos finished third losing to the newest number 1-ranked Notre Dame 19-13 in the semi-finals, but coming back to beat no. 5 Wisconsin-Parkside 26-12 in the consolation finals.

LAST YEAR: The then No. 4-ranked Lopers came to Edmond on a three-match winning before the No. 6-ranked Bronchos upset them and handed them their third loss of the season in a 25-6 victory.

The Bronchos opened up with three straight victories before the Lopers fought

back to close the gap to 10-6. The Bronchos added to their lead, which they never relinquished when they won the final five matches.

**ABOUT THE BRONCHOS:** The Bronchos haven't competed since the NWCA Division II National Duals.

The Bronchos finished third in the Nationals following a Jet Invitational title where UCO crowned five champions, a second, third and two fourth place finishes.

UCO has five ranked wrestlers in their respective weight classes - Casy Rowell (third, 133), Jordan Basks (second, 149), Chris Watson (seventh, 165), Kelly Henderson (fourth, 174), Tanner Keck (fourth, 184) and Cody Dauphin (eighth, 285).

Rowell leads the team in wins (16) and points (63). Along with Rowell, three other wrestlers have 10 or more wins - Basks (10), Keck (13) and Trison Graham (14). Four wrestlers have seven or more wins - Cory Dauphin (7), Cody Dauphin (7), Zach Aylor (8) and Znick Ferrell (9).

**KEY MATCHUP:** While the main storyline might be the first and third ranked teams facing each other, the main event could be the matchup in the 149 class when the No. 1-ranked Raufeon Stots goes against the No. 2-ranked Jordan Basks.

"A little bit of style conflict between the two, but I anticipate that to be worth the price of admission," James said when speaking about the matchup.

The defending national champ Stots (16-2), comes into the matchup with a win over Basks already this season in a 6-5 decision in the UNK Holiday Inn Open back in November.

Since then Basks has gone 8-1, winning five straight and winning a gold medal at the Jet Invitational.

Each wrestler has eight wins in division matches this season.

**START TIME:** The match begins at 7:00 pm at Hamilton Field House.

## NCAA Division II Rankings

1. St. Cloud State
2. Notre Dame (OH)
3. Central Okla.
4. Newberry
5. Wisc. Parkside
6. Upper Iowa
7. Kutztown (PA)
8. Findlay
9. West Liberty
10. Colorado Mesa
11. Pittsburgh-Johnstown
12. Grand Canyon
13. Nebraska-Kearney
13. Minnesota Mankato
15. Fort Hays State
16. Ashland
17. Adams State
18. Indianapolis
19. Augustana
20. Ouachita Baptist

## The Lineup

- 126- Ryan Brooks
- 133- Casy Rowell
- 141- Trison Graham/Ben Morgan
- 149- Jordan Basks
- 157- Cory Dauphin
- 165- Chris Watson/Zach Aylor
- 174- Kelly Henderson
- 184- Tanner Keck
- 197- Znick Ferrell
- 285- Cody Dauphin

Basketball

# Broncho Men's Basketball in midseason form

Whitt Carter

Staff Writer

Maybe a new calendar year was all UCO Head Coach Terry Evans' new squad needed.

After limping out of the gates in November and December to a 3-7 record, the Bronchos have won three out of four- including three in a row- in 2013.

UCO (6-8, 4-2) has reeled off a run of conference victories, started by an upset of #8 Washburn at Hamilton Field House, 72-67, and followed by beating Truman State, 85-80, and Lindenwood, 78-75, during last week's two-game road trip.

This young Broncho squad has been a fun, and nerve-racking bunch to follow. Nine of the 14 contests have been decided by six points or less, with Central Oklahoma posting 5-4 in those games.

More interesting than that? UCO has played six games in which the result has come down to the last possession. That's right, a half-dozen games have been decided by three points or less. In those six games, UCO is only 2-4.

But as of late, UCO has been able to close games out, winning all three games during the win streak by five points or less.

One of the reasons for the recent hot play is junior forward Josh Gibbs.

The Sam Houston State transfer was named MIAA Player of the week last week, after leading UCO to the two aforementioned conference road victories.

Gibbs posted a season-high 27 points and seven boards in the win over Truman State, only to follow with a double-double (22 and 11) showing against Lindenwood only two days later.

Not only did he carry the offense, but he also did it at an efficient level. Gibbs shot 60% from the field and a scolding 56% from long range during the week.

Gibbs has had help, however, and the help

has come late in games. Freshman guard/forward Cal Andrews canned a three with only :37 left against Lindenwood to bury the Lions, senior guard Jamell Cormier knocked down two free throws with only three ticks left against Truman State to seal the victory.

"Anytime you can go on the road and win in this league, you've done something right," said Evans.

He's right, especially for such a young, inexperienced squad. Only two players from this year's squad saw minutes at UCO last year. Whether they redshirted, transferred in, or are just new guys on campus, it's taken a little time to get used to Broncho basketball.

So, sure, this was expected. But this Broncho ball club has been impressively competitive, as seen by the close games and their record in those contests.

And more importantly, Evans' top players are getting comfortable, which should continue to sharpen the attack.

Gibbs has upped his averages, and now leads the club with 15.6 points and 6.4 rebounds per contest. Senior forward, one of the two returning players for UCO, has been solid all year long, posting 12.9 points and 5.7 rebounds per game, on just over 49% shooting.

Alongside the two big men, redshirt freshman Seth Heckart has been the Bronchos' best guard. The Woodward native averages just over 10 points, three assists and two steals. Heckart also leads the team in three-point shooting, having knocked down 26 in only 12 games.

The Bronchos played host to in-state and conference rival Northeastern State last night, but the game was completed after press time.

UCO will remain at home through the weekend, when they host Northwest Missouri State on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.



UCO's senior forward June Carter works for position against an Oklahoma defender on Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012. Photo by Alike Dyer, The Vista

## Broncho Basketball versus Northeastern

UCO Basketball battled Northeastern State last night following press time. For a complete recap of the game go to [UCentralMedia.com/sports](http://UCentralMedia.com/sports)