

In Memoriam



The Central Oklahoma athletic family lost a true icon when former coach and athletic director **John "Skip" Wagnon** passed away June 24. The 69-year-old Wagnon retired from UCO in 2003 after more than 30 years with the university, including 17 as athletic director. He continued to be a loyal supporter of all Broncho teams and had missed only two home football games in the past 40 years. Skip retired in June 2003 and was immediately voted into the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame for his many contributions and great dedication to UCO athletics. He was named to the Lone Star Conference Hall of Honor in 2004. Wagnon was preceded in death by his wife, Harriett. He had two children (Jenny and Stan) and six grandchildren, with a seventh on the way.



Whit Marks, Ph.D., died June 18 at the age of 88. Marks was a professor emeritus in the Department of Engineering and Physics. He established the Department of Physics at Central State College (now University of Central Oklahoma) in 1955 and taught at UCO from 1955-88. He is survived by wife Willa, daughter Martha Dixon, son Randy, daughter Marian Payne, son Jonathan, 12 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. He is mourned by many former students around the world who called him "Dad."

Muriel Herbrand, a former UCO faculty member, died on June 13, 2015 at her home in Salem, Missouri. Muriel taught at Central from 1957 until her retirement in 1986. She was a faculty member and, for six years, the chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education. She served on numerous committees at Central, sponsored the Physical Education Majors Club and was an assistant coach of the women's field hockey team.

Gratia Lee Bowen, a former UCO staff member, died on June 9, 2015. Gratia was born on Oct. 12, 1921. She moved to Edmond with her parents and graduated from Edmond High School in 1938, and from Central State College with a B.S. Degree in Education in 1945. Gratia met her husband, John Holden Bowen, in Denver, CO, and they were married Nov. 13, 1948, in Edmond, OK. Gratia and John retired from then-CSU in 1984.



Dr. Dale Michael "Mike" Hellwege, 74, devoted husband and father, passed away at his home in Edmond, on May 30, 2015. He made a career of one of his passions, teaching chemistry, spending almost 40 years as an organic chemistry professor at the University of Central Oklahoma, retiring in 2009. As a professor, he was known for his distinct techniques (most notably his multicolored arrows), a strong dedication to passing along his enthusiasm for chemistry, his antics dressing up as the chemical elements, and his chemistry magic shows. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jane Hellwege; his children, Darren Hellwege, Roger Hellwege, Mindy Hellwege; and five grandchildren.



Edmund Rotzinger, 92, husband of retired UCO faculty member Wadad "Poochie" Rotzinger, died May 5, 2015. He was the founding coach of Oklahoma City University's football program. He also coached football and track for a span of almost 30 years at Harding High School and John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City. Rotzinger was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame after his retirement. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, two granddaughters and three great grandchildren.



Corydon Eugene "Gene" Cochran died March 26. Gene left high school to join the Marines and serve in World War II. When he returned, he finished high school and eventually earned a doctorate from OSU. His career included being the first speech pathologist for the northwest quarter of Oklahoma and working as a professor at OSU, Wichita State University, and the University of Central Oklahoma. He and his wife, Alma, loved to travel and were the tour directors for the OK Retired Citizens Travel Club for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Alma; sons, Corydon V. Cochran and wife Cynthia and Clinton Cochran; daughter, Lorilyn Galvan and husband Michael; stepson, Jeffrey Yoe and wife Crisel; six grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.
