How can you measure the value of a gift to UCO? You see it in the smile of a student who received a scholarship needed to complete his or her degree. You see it in the confidence of a professor teaching his or her students with the latest technology and techniques. You see it in the proud gaze of alumni as they see the progress of new facilities and the improvement of familiar campus buildings. This inaugural report of the UCO Foundation illustrates the impact of a gift on a variety of levels. Together we are making a difference...one student, one friend, one gift at a time.

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Dear UCO Friends and Family,

What an exciting time to be a part of UCO! The energy of growth and change can be felt across campus. We are graduating more and more students, each equipped with the education and leadership skills needed to make an impact in our world. Our programs, faculty and staff are growing in regional and national recognition as they continue to raise the bar of excellence.

Our success is in no small part thanks to our growing base of supporters like you. The difference you are making in the lives of our students is significant and always appreciated. Because of your support, the UCO Foundation is experiencing its most dramatic growth since its inception in 1972.

That growth means more scholarships for our students, adding more value to the UCO educational experience. It also means more endowed faculty positions, helping us to attract the best and brightest instructors. It means we have the additional funds needed to improve and expand our facilities and technology, advancing the quality of a UCO education.

We’re proud to say our university leadership shows their commitment to funding UCO’s future as well. Every member of our Executive Committee is a Presidential Partner, meaning they have committed to giving at least $1,000 in a one-year period. We, along with so many of you, believe an investment in our students is an investment in our future.

We hope you will make time to visit our campus very soon. You will see first-hand the impact your support makes. For now, enjoy the following stories from just a few of our many valued supporters.

Every dollar given brings our students closer to fulfilling their aspirations. Every dollar truly makes a difference. Thank you for investing in the University of Central Oklahoma.

Best regards,

President Roger Webb
Dear Friends,

The past year was one of change, challenges and great accomplishments for the UCO Foundation. Since enlarging our staff and Board of Trustees, we now have a strong team of committed, enthusiastic and talented leaders who are guiding the University of Central Oklahoma Foundation to extraordinary success for the benefit of our remarkable students.

We recognize that education must anticipate the ever-changing needs of our society, and therefore funding is always necessary to provide innovative undergraduate and graduate programs, expand existing programs, increase the number of scholarships available, and provide general and consistent support to our growing student population. Our collaborative and interdependent relationship with the University of Central Oklahoma and its superb leadership is one of our most valued assets, and allows us to cooperatively manage all development activities and initiatives on campus. The UCO Foundation is more critical to the success of UCO and our graduates than ever before.

The following pages contain testimonials of just a few of our strongest and most treasured partnerships and relationships, and highlight our commitment to the wishes of our donors, the excellence of our university programs, and the long-term success of our students.

Whether your gifts energize the next generation of leaders, promote arts education and performance, excite our future educators, challenge our athletes, or simply fulfill the many dreams of our students and alumni, your commitment to the mission of the University of Central Oklahoma and the UCO Foundation truly makes a difference.

On behalf of the UCO Foundation and the University of Central Oklahoma, thank you for your leadership through your support of our fine university and our inspiring students.

Best wishes,

Anne T. Holzberlein
**Back:** Mark Lisle, Barry Rice, Ralph Armstrong, Ed Martin, Max Tuepker, Roger Cole, Lynne Alexander, Ben Odom, Roy Page

**Front:** Ann Cather, Alvin Alcorn, Kay Bickham

**Back:** Dennis Chaumont, Dave Bialis, Bryan Timberlake, Merrill Likes, Mike Hull, Larry Davenport, Mike Collison, Randy Ross

**Front:** Phil Fraim, Martha Burger, Ray Vaughn

**Back:** Dale Reeder, Ross Breshears, John Osborne, Edward Schaul, Charles Lamb, Tom Thompson, David Thompson, Ray Hibbard, Randel Dunn, Mark Patton, Andy Lester

**Front:** Debbie Howell, Peggy Kates, Pattye Moore, Virginia Peters, Ruth Boss

**Not Pictured:** Jennifer Allen, Ed Gray, Kathleen Henry, Randal Ice, Kevin Jacobs, Tom Price, Mary Ellen Tallerico, Mick Thompson
Our Board Members are called “trustees” for a reason. We trust each of them with the future of the university and our students. They bring to us diverse experience, invaluable knowledge and unwavering spirit. While each comes to us with varying experiences and perspectives, every member of our Board of Trustees has as their common bond the desire to see the University of Central Oklahoma continue to grow and enrich the lives of our students and the community. We thank them for their time, their service and for making a difference each and every day.

Alvin Alcorn, UCO Vice President for Administration Emeritus
Lynne Alexander*, LCA Interiors
Jennifer Allen, Community Volunteer
Ralph Armstrong, Armstrong Developments
Dave Bialis, Cox Communications
Kay Bickham, Non Profit Association
Ruth Boss, RE/MAX Assoc. Realtors
Ross Breshers*, AT&T Oklahoma
Martha Burger*, Chesapeake Energy Corp.
Ann Cather*, Retired Educator
Dennis Chaumont, State Farm Insurance
Roger Cole, Reserve National Insurance
Mike Collison*, Oklahoma Publishing Company
Larry Davenport*, Digital Consulting
Randel T. Dunn*, Dunn & Stone CPA
Phil Fraim*, Oklahoma Attorney’s Mutual Insurance Company
Ed Gray, Healthcare Partners Investments
Kathleen Henry*, Zepper Entertainment
Ray Hibbard, Jr., Edmond Life and Leisure
Randal Ice, University of Central Oklahoma
Debbie Howell*, Howell-Stone Insurance, Inc.
Mike Hull, OG&E, retired
Kevin Jacobs, Crosswinds Development
Peggy Kates*, Midwest Wrecking
Charles Lamb*, Private Investor
Andy Lester, Lester, Loving and Davies, PC

Merrill Likes*, UpTime Ltd.
Mark Lisle, Citizens Bank of Edmond
Ed Martin*, Ackerman McQueen
Pattye Moore, Pattye Moore & Assoc. Consulting
Ben Odom*, Attorney
John Osborne, Union Bank
Roy Page, Third Degree Advertising
Mark Patton*, Eagle Land and Minerals
Virginia Peters*, UCO Professor Emeritus
Tom Price, Jr.*, Chesapeake Energy Corporation
Dale Reeder*, University of Central Oklahoma
Barry Rice*, Barry T. Rice, PC
Randi Ross*, Dept. of Central Services, Mayor of Choctaw
Edward J. Schaul*, Charter Oak Operating Company
Mary Ellen Tallerico, Community Volunteer
David Thompson*, The Oklahoman
Mick Thompson, Oklahoma State Banking Department
Tom J. Thompson*, D.A. Davidson & Company
Bryan Timberlake*, Timberlake Construction
Max Tuepkker*, Attorney
Ray L. Vaughn, Jr., Vaughn & Winton, LLP

*UCO Alumni
Some of the nearly 200 UCO alumni working at Chesapeake Energy gather at the corporation's new wellness facility.
Tom Price, Jr. believes investing in students is investing in the future. Serving as Senior Vice President of Corporate Development for Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Price advances CEO Aubrey McClendon’s mission to build a bigger Oklahoma by paving the way for a major investment in students by the second largest independent natural gas producer in the United States. Chesapeake has pledged $125,000 to the UCO Foundation for scholarships throughout the next five years.

“We support education because we hire a lot of people, and we’re interested in finding well-educated people who are interested in excelling,” Price said, a 1983 UCO graduate.

Throughout Price’s college experience, he faced challenges and obstacles while paying his way to earn his Business Administration degree. He said he has a “strong spot in my heart” for students that face some of his same challenges.

“They are the kind of people who know how to work hard and stick with a project,” he added.

Price is proof that working hard pays off, as evidenced by his top-level Chesapeake position and his role as a boardmember for organizations like Leadership Oklahoma and the UCO Foundation. He and other prominent state leaders help shape the state’s future by sharing their awareness of state issues and their commitment to quality service.

UCO is proud to be the second largest provider of graduates who join the Chesapeake team. Specifically, the University serves as a great source for hiring accounting and general business graduates.

Price believes the future of Chesapeake and the future of UCO’s students are tied together. Both Price and Chesapeake are committed to investing in the long-term success of our state’s future community and business leaders through UCO and other principal institutions.
Troy and Dollie Smith know a smart investment when they see it.

The couple’s modest investment in a small parcel of land in Shawnee with a log cabin and hot dog stand on it grew into the successful national fast food restaurant chain we know today as Sonic Drive-ins. It took trust, vision and a positive spirit to make it happen.

Applying those same ideals, their latest, not-so-modest investment promises to return the same level of success.

In January 2007, the Smiths donated $3 million worth of Sonic Corporation stock to the university, making their contribution the single largest unrestricted cash gift in UCO’s history.

Smith said he had been asked for support from other universities, but what he found at UCO really impressed him.

“The difference was just amazing to me. They have such enthusiasm. I got a letter from every trustee they have on their Foundation board, and I still get nice letters from UCO.”

Designating a gift of this size as unrestricted is rare, but Smith said he has confidence in the university and its President, Roger Webb.

“When I talked to Roger about his plans and when I consider what he’s done so far, I thought who would I be to tell him what to do? He’ll fit it in to his plans… and he’s got plans for the future, believe me.”

The gift comes at an ideal time for the university. At press time for this publication, President Webb and his executive team were putting the finishing touches on UCO’s new strategic plan. Webb said this gift will play a critical role in the university’s future.

“We admire Troy and Dollie’s leadership in supporting the university at this level, and appreciate the trust in us as stewards of their gift,” said Webb.

“We will take great care in selecting the best use of these funds.”
The Smiths, who have been married for more than 60 years and reside in Edmond, emphasize that their conservative lifestyle has allowed them to share their hard-earned success with others in the community.

“I’m noted as saying if you cut enough corners you can live on the corners and save the rest. So, that’s what I’ve tried to do,” explained Smith.

Living on the corners gave Smith the resources he needed to find success in the restaurant business. When he returned from service in WWII, he and Dollie basically had to start from scratch. Dollie had worked at an aircraft factory during the war to make ends meet, and he worked a milk route and a bread delivery route when he came home.

He scraped together enough to buy a small café on Main Street in Shawnee that specialized in chicken. It wasn’t a huge success, but he was able to invest in another property that had a log cabin on it, which he remodeled into a restaurant he called “an evening place” that served steak, chicken and shrimp. On that same property stood a small hot dog stand.

Smith wisely recognized that people were quickly becoming more and more dependent on their cars. So, he started a side venture out of that old hot dog stand, called the Top Hat Drive-in, adding a speaker system and canopy, so people could order hot dogs and hamburgers right from their cars.

“The restaurant was making a little more than five-percent net of the gross sales, and the drive-in, with a paid manager, was making better than 20-percent. It didn’t take me too long to decide to spend my time on the drive-in.”

Soon, others were looking to share in the growing success of the restaurant re-named the Sonic Drive-in. As he and Sonic co-founder Charlie Pappe began to expand their business through franchises, he realized it was important that each operator be part owner of their drive-in. He believes it made a huge difference in the success of each franchise.

“Someone asked me one time to explain why I thought it made a difference and I said if you can explain to me why a teenager will polish and shine his old jalopy and let his dad’s Cadillac go to pot, I’ll explain why being a part owner in these drive-ins makes a difference.”

Of the approximately 1200 drive-ins he helped open during his tenure, he said they never had to go out and sell one of the franchises. Each of them came to Sonic, looking to be a part of the corporation’s success.

“The franchisees are the ones really responsible for this being so successful. If you are willing to put forth the effort it takes to run one of these, they will do really well. It’s a seven day a week job at first, but it’s worth it,” added Smith.

As he did when he purchased that small café in Shawnee, Smith has his eye on the future, and he expects big things for UCO and its graduates.

“I’m really proud of UCO, and I’m looking forward to the good things that are going to happen there. I would encourage everybody in the whole Metro area to keep an eye on UCO. It will be an outstanding school for this entire community.”
The impact of Edith Kinney Gaylord’s generosity can be seen all over the United States, including right here on the University of Central Oklahoma campus.

“She thought so much of UCO and of former UCO President George Nigh that she wanted to invest in both,” recalls Bob Ross, president and CEO of the Inasmuch Foundation and the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

Gaylord established both foundations in 1982 to allow her charitable donations to do the most good for the most people. Until that time, she was known as Oklahoma’s “quiet philanthropist,” and is believed to have donated millions of dollars anonymously during her lifetime.

As a result of her first investment at UCO, the Edith Gaylord Harper Chair in Journalism was established through a grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, becoming the second endowed chair in UCO’s history.

“The department (of Mass Communication, which includes Journalism) is producing great graduates and sending them out to papers and broadcasting outlets. The Foundation wants to help take the program to the next level,” said Ross.

The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation continued its investment in the Journalism program with a 2005 grant to provide funding for a 20 station digital photography computer lab to serve an increasing enrollment in photography.

The lab, which opened in February 2006, provides necessary technology and equipment to prepare students for employment in today’s media. The Journalism program currently has 70 photography majors in its 4-year photography degree program and more than 300 people taking photography courses a semester.

Gaylord’s other charitable corporation, the Inasmuch Foundation, has also made a large investment in UCO’s academic programs.

Ross became aware of a great need for funding in UCO’s College of Mathematics and Science after a conversation with his best friend’s dad, Dr. Lee Beasley.

Beasley, a UCO alumnus, serves as the honorary chair of the college’s “Investing in Excellence” campaign. The goal is to raise the $1.2 million needed to complete nine unfinished labs in UCO’s Laboratory Annex Building.

“He’s been instrumental in the effort to complete these labs. He’s doing a great job of rallying alumni and highlighting this need to the community,” Ross said of Beasley.

Part of Beasley’s “rallying” resulted in two awards from the Inasmuch Foundation for the project – a $300,000
grant in 2005 and a $400,000 matching gift in 2006. “We hope our gift will encourage others to give,” added Ross.

So far, the college has completed work on three of the labs – the histotechnique lab, the zoology/animal biology lab and the zoology/botany prep room.

Inasmuch also supports the Oklahoma A+ Schools program, which is housed at UCO. The program works with elementary and secondary schools statewide to integrate the arts into the entire curriculum.

The Inasmuch Foundation has provided more than $20,000 in grants to A+ Schools to fund their Arts Education Perception Survey along with funds for their various development programs for educators.

Ross said they enjoy supporting UCO because it provides an opportunity for a top-rated education to a variety of special groups in the Oklahoma City metro area.

“It’s convenient, affordable and caters to a working population like no one else.”
A Legacy of Leadership

The Allison Martin Pumphrey Leadership Scholarship

Allison Martin Pumphrey created a lasting legacy of leadership while she was a student at UCO. Now, the student leaders of today and tomorrow can draw inspiration from that legacy through the Allison Martin Pumphrey Leadership Scholarship.

Allison's husband, Brad, and the UCO President's Leadership Council (PLC) Emeritus Council established an endowment for the scholarship at the UCO Foundation in 2006.

“We created the scholarship to honor Allison at a place she truly loved, the University of Central Oklahoma. It’s also another way I can show our daughter, Madeline, just how special and respected her mommy was,” Brad Pumphrey said.

Allison Pumphrey’s life was unexpectedly cut short when she died in February 2005 of an undetected heart condition, just one day shy of her 27th birthday.

She filled her short life, though, setting an example in leadership. While she was a student at UCO, Allison was selected to be a member of the PLC, served as president of the Sigma Kappa sorority chapter at UCO, and was an All-American member of the UCO cheer and pom squads among many other awards and honors.

“Allie will forever be remembered as a loyal Broncho and special friend to me,” said Stacy McNeiland, the executive director of UCO’s Alumni Relations Office and a sorority sister of Pumphrey’s.

After graduating with honors in 2000, Allison continued her interest in leadership as the co-chair of the Youth Leadership Edmond Council, assisting in the development of the next generation of the community’s leaders.

She also helped shape the future of the Edmond community through her eight years of work at the Edmond Economic Development Authority. She left that job in 2004 to start her own business, Noteworthy, specializing in custom stationary. The new venture allowed her to spend more time with Madeline.

“I remember seeing the biggest transformation in her after Madeline's birth. She just glowed as she told me she was meant to do many things, but, most of all, she was meant to be a mother,” McNeiland said.

The first scholarship was awarded in spring 2007. Recipients will annually be selected by representatives from the UCO President's Office, the Alumni Relations Office and the PLC.

“Allison would have been overwhelmed by the response the scholarship has already received and we hope to increase that response each year,” added her husband, Brad.
When Gerald “Cowboy” Barnett first set foot on the UCO campus in the mid 1930s, no one could have anticipated the impact he would leave on his students and colleagues. “He made such an impression on people. They still love and adore him...people still say that he was their hero,” recalled Barnett’s daughter, B. Ann Cole.

Barnett graduated from Central in 1939 with a degree in Physical Education and athletic letters in eight different sports. He joined the college’s faculty that same year and coached its elementary and high school teams until he joined the Navy in 1942.

He returned in 1946 as an assistant professor of Physical Education and a coach for the basketball, football, baseball and tennis teams. “He chose to be a teacher and coach, and you have to assume he did that because he cared about young people and the impact he could have on their lives,” added Roger Cole, B. Ann’s husband and member of the UCO Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

The Coles have chosen to honor Barnett’s legacy by making a lasting impact on UCO’s campus. Their generous contribution to the Plunkett Park Beautification Campaign allowed them the privilege to select the name for the latest phase of the project.

The Gerald “Cowboy” Barnett Bell Plaza, located on the north border of Plunkett Park, just east of Evans Hall, will be the new home of the original bell that called students to class at the Territorial Normal School (UCO’s original name). Set for completion in fall 2007, the plaza will also feature attractive landscaping and gathering areas for students, faculty and visitors.

“It’s an opportunity to memorialize him and to be a part of something meaningful for UCO. I doubt there’s any other university I’ve been to in the state that has really put as much emphasis on their beautification as UCO has.

The atmosphere students will feel when they walk through campus…it really makes a difference,” said Roger Cole.

By all accounts, Barnett made his own difference while at UCO, with perhaps the strongest evidence of this coming when his life was tragically cut short at age 33 after a battle with liver cancer. His athletes kept a constant vigil at his hospital room until he passed away on October 18, 1950.

B. Ann Cole, only nine years old at the time, remembers the church being so full for her father’s funeral, they had to install speakers outside.

“It was raining that day, and hundreds of people stood outside and waited for a chance to pay their respects.”

Now, rain or shine, those who walk UCO’s campus will be able to honor a man who left their university a better place because of his leadership and devotion to students.
Investing in Our Next Generation

Bob Burke, Individual Donor

Oklahoma City author and attorney Bob Burke gives to the University of Central Oklahoma because he believes providing for our future generations will create more opportunities for Oklahoma’s future.

Burke said he realized UCO faces rising costs each year, making it more difficult to maintain and improve the quality of education for the thousands of students attending UCO.

“By giving, we can take pride and symbolic ownership of future outstanding graduates of UCO, who will become the leaders of education, commerce, and government in Oklahoma,” he said.

Through his love for Oklahoma history, he proves that giving is more than merely writing a check. In 2005, he gave some of his personal memorabilia for UCO enjoyment, including several autographed items from entertainment, sports and government personalities. These items are displayed in the Nigh University Center.

Burke shows his admiration for Oklahoma and its citizens through his writing. He is a three-time Pulitzer Prize nominee and the author/co-author of 64 books mostly about the state and Oklahomans. Among his most memorable works is Good Guys Wear White Hats: The Life of George Nigh. Nigh served as Oklahoma’s 22nd Governor and as the UCO president from 1992 to 1997.

Though he is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Burke has many special connections to the UCO campus and continues making lasting friendships with many of UCO’s most prominent leaders.

For example, Burke was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2003, which resides in the Mass Communications Building of the UCO campus.

Burke also created the Reba Neighbors Collins Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of his friend and mentor who passed away in November 2005. Dr. Collins was a UCO Professor Emeritus and during her tenure she served as the Vista student newspaper faculty director. After retirement, Collins served as a UCO Foundation Trustee.

Burke, like the friend he had in Dr. Collins, gives to education and dedicates his time working for its advancement. He also is an Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Trustee, which works to improve the quality of education.

Burke serves as a great example of a philanthropic spirit showing others the true meaning of giving.

“There is no greater investment than in the next generation of students, who receive their quality higher education training at UCO,” he said.
A Chance Encounter, 
A Chance to Make History

Inez Miller Speech-Language Pathology Endowed Chair

Funding for the University of Central Oklahoma’s first Endowed Chair came from a rather surprising place through a fateful meeting on a cruise ship.

Long time San Francisco resident Inez Miller met retired UCO political science professors Dr. John George and his wife, Treva, while on a Caribbean cruise. Through extended conversations with the couple, Miller showed great interest in the University’s Speech-Language Pathology Program. As a woman in her late 90s, she began losing her hearing and knew there were others of all ages with similar problems.

Miller donated $250,000 in 1997 to create the Inez Miller Speech-Language Pathology Endowed Chair. UCO received a matching fund of $250,000 from the State Regents for Higher Education, bringing the endowment to a full $500,000. She also donated a nearby 20-acre plot of land for the university’s use.

Though a West Coast dweller, Miller is no stranger to Oklahoma. She taught elementary school in Stillwater before meeting her husband, Raymond, and moving to California in 1938, where he owned a financial services company. Raymond left the land to her, and at the time of the donation in 1996, it was valued at $300,000.

“Talk about a blessing out of the sky. It was totally serendipitous,” said Dr. Scott McLaughlin, professor in the UCO Special Services department, in describing Miller’s contributions.

Dr. Kent Hawkins, the current holder of the Endowed Chair, emphasized there is an “extreme need” for Speech-Language Pathologists and that many area schools have difficulty finding qualified pathologists.

Dr. Hawkins joined the UCO faculty in 2004 and works closely with two graduate assistants, extensively researching communication disorders. The Miller Endowment supports Hawkins’ research as well as UCO’s annual Inez Miller Speech-Language Pathology Conference, allowing Oklahoma pathologists an affordable opportunity to gain continuing education hours that are required to maintain state licensure and federal certification as pathologists.

Speech-Language pathologists teach children who cannot speak correctly or have language development problems to express themselves and communicate to others.

“I know we are making a difference in the lives of our students and in the state of Oklahoma,” said Dr. Hawkins.

The Inez Miller Endowed Chair fund will forever be a University mainstay, and a daily honor of her memory and generous support.
The Dance Never Ends

Hannah McCarty Performing Arts Scholarship

Hannah McCarty impressed many with her spirit and determination during her short life, including the UCO dance instructors who got to know her during the on-campus summer workshops.

“Hannah was one of our most dedicated students,” said Jamie Jacobson, assistant professor of Dance in UCO’s College of Arts, Media & Design.

“I knew she had some kind of illness, but she never disclosed to me what it was. She would sometimes say ‘I might not be able to do this, or be here for that’, but she never dropped out. She had tremendous energy and focus.”

Hannah passed away in July 2003, just one month shy of her 17th birthday. Her last dance performance was on UCO’s Mitchell Hall Theatre’s stage during the showcase following UCO’s Summer Dance Workshop just a month before her passing.

That special connection led her parents, Jack and Pam McCarty, to establish the Hannah McCarty Performing Arts Scholarship for Dance and Theatre through an endowed fund at the UCO Foundation.

“It was just something that we could do,” said Pam. “The Lord worked that out.”

Ensuring the scholarship will continue to benefit students for years to come, the McCarty’s have also included a gift to Hannah’s endowment in their planned giving.

And to make sure their daughter’s memory continues to dance, the McCarty’s want each recipient of the scholarship to receive Hannah’s biography.

“It would be like meeting her,” Pam said. “Hannah loved people, she loved Jesus…she knew her beliefs and stood on them until her final days. Years down the road they’ll know what was important to her.”

Hannah’s friends in the College of Arts, Media & Design didn’t want her spirit to be forgotten, either.

In October 2006, the college dedicated “Kinetic Air,” a bronze statue created by Edmond sculptor Rich Muno, in memory of Hannah. It stands in front of UCO’s Mitchell Hall Theater, the place where Hannah performed that last dance at the summer workshop.

“Hannah should be remembered for her love of the arts and her love of Jesus,” said her dad, Jack. “If we can do that, then we’re happy.”
Real Dreams, Real Support
The Aldridge Charitable and Educational Foundation

“I’ve got this dream but I don’t know how to go about it,” said UCO biology professor Dr. William Caire to Robert Aldridge, the Chairman and Treasurer of the Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Dr. Caire’s dream became a reality when the foundation invested in it, creating the Selman Living Lab, a 334-acre outdoor learning site providing education in ecology, biology and astronomy to K-12, college and community students near Freedom, Oklahoma.

“We feel like we were godfathers to him because we were there from the start,” said Aldridge.

The Aldridge Foundation provided a grant for the lab’s first telescope. The lab continued to grow with help from the foundation and UCO, along with cooperation from the State Regents for Higher Education, the Wildlife and Tourism departments, Northwestern University, and the land donor Mrs. Betty Selman.

Today, the foundation’s annual gift to the UCO Foundation of $8,400 and mini grants to other colleges or organizations within the University are some of the many ways the Aldridge Foundation continues to make a difference in people’s lives.

Aldridge’s relationship with the UCO Foundation started in 1996 when the funds were given to create the Homer Coker Scholarship, honoring Dr. Coker, a retired UCO professor who was a mentor to Aldridge’s sons, Tom and Rusty, when they were students at the university.

The recipients of each scholarship mean a lot to Aldridge personally. He calls them his “scholars” and his “adopted children.”

For example, he tells of a UCO art student suffering from stage four ovarian cancer who was so dedicated to her studies, she never missed a single class. With the help from the Aldridge Foundation’s $500 mini grant, the UCO art faculty presented her with a courage award for her commitment.

Started in 1995 to honor Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge, the family saw the foundation as a way to leave behind opportunities for future generations to build their own success. Their intent is illustrated in their mission statement: “We believe that our community can be made the best it can be by helping individuals reach their highest potential.”

Aldridge feels grant recipients, like UCO, fulfill the Foundation’s mission.

“We look for those that will boldly carry our name into tomorrow. It is our great privilege to buy into their aspirations, ambitions, and dreams.”
Evidence of Support

The Harrod Family Partnership

You might call it “CSI: Edmond.”

On a nine acre patch of land near Sorghum Mill Road and Interstate 35, you’ll find UCO Forensic Science students investigating reconstructed crime scenes and honing the skills they will need to solve crimes in the real world.

While what they may find on that land during each investigation may vary, they will always find evidence of the Harrod Family Partnership’s generosity.

The Harrod Family Partnership donated the land, appraised at $235,000, in 2005 for both the UCO Forensic Science Department and the Biology Department to use.

The Harrod Family Partnership is comprised of James Harrod and his three children, John Harrod and Laynie Harrod, and Sara Jane Hawkins.

James Harrod has quite a record of public service. He served as Edmond’s mayor, two terms as a district attorney and as a municipal judge.

He and his family look for ways to create a large impact and positive influence on the community, through the giving of their time and donations. The Harrod Family Partnership saw their land donation as another chance to create greater opportunities for tomorrow’s leaders.

“In my opinion, UCO is the community. People don’t always appreciate what the university means to Edmond,” Harrod said.

“I’ve been involved in Edmond for a long time and I’ve seen what UCO has done for the community, and I am proud of that. The professors and staff there are the backbone of Edmond.”

Harrod looks forward to seeing the Forensic Science program grow at UCO, knowing his family’s generous gift will be part of its success.

Overlooking a part of the Harrods’ land near Interstate 35
A Difference Made

Sheena Miraglio, General Business Senior
UCO Foundation Scholarship Recipient

UCO student Sheena Miraglio faced typical challenges of a college freshman, but they were nothing compared to the challenges she would face going into her sophomore year.

During the summer after Sheena’s freshman year, her mother was diagnosed with lupus and her father with cancer, forcing her to work even harder to achieve her academic goals.

Knowing that her family’s medical expenses were about to dramatically increase, she actively sought scholarships to cover her tuition and other college expenses. Originally, her parents planned to pay for her education, but she thought earning scholarships would ease her parents’ financial stress.

“It helps take a big load off them,” Miraglio said. “My parents never asked me to do this, to pay for my college, but I feel good about having found ways to fund my education. I know that my parents would have really had to make some sacrifices.”

Miraglio maintains a 3.6 GPA while working a part-time job, showing consistent leadership through her roles as the president of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, the 2005–2006 president of the Student Ambassadors Club, historian of the Mortar Board honor society, a member in three other honor societies, and as a member of the President’s Leadership Council.

She has received scholarships from the President’s Leadership Council, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Oklahoma City Chapter and Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, which cover her tuition. She also received $2,000 for the Southwestern Bell Professional Women’s Scholarship and $1,000 for the Chesapeake Energy Corporation Scholarship, which help pay for her books and other academic expenses.

“I stay very busy, but being busy helps me earn scholarships,” said Miraglio. “I know it’s difficult for everyone to get scholarships today, but I feel fortunate and consider them a pay off for my hard work and effort.”

Clearly, Miraglio is an exceptional student making a difference on campus as well as off campus. Now a senior, Miraglio plans to graduate in May 2007 with a General Business degree from UCO.

She also spends her summers helping her parents take care of their home while they are away receiving medical treatments. Her GPA is proof of her study habits, and her activity list is proof she wants to make lasting impacts on other people’s lives. Gifts from the UCO Foundation’s most generous donors have helped make Sheena’s education possible so she can achieve her educational goals and be an outstanding role model for others.
At the University of Central Oklahoma, you’ll hear about our core values of “character, civility and community” - or the “Three C’s.” Here at the UCO Foundation, we add one more “C” to our own core values: “Care” – care for our students, care for the university’s mission and goals and care for your generous gifts.

We believe every gift we receive, no matter what the dollar amount, is the result of a sincere desire to make a difference and an expression of trust in the University. The UCO Foundation staff honors that trust by ensuring your gift is used exactly as you specify and that each of our supporters is recognized and thanked in an appropriate way.

The Foundation was established as an independent nonprofit organization in 1972 to provide scholarship assistance to deserving students and support for faculty, campus activities and vital programs at the University of Central Oklahoma. The Foundation has its own separate Board of Trustees and qualifies as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Since 1994, the Foundation has also been an active fundraiser and steward for the University, in addition to being an administrator of donated funds. Since that time, the Foundation has nearly doubled its assets, starting with more than over $6 million in donations, pledges and estate gifts in 1994 to nearly $11 million today.

The University of Central Oklahoma is an integral part of central Oklahoma’s growth. Located in the heart of the city, UCO is Edmond’s largest employer, fostering a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with our local community and its citizens. Enrollment increases every year, attracting traditional students along with working adults and international students.

Your support sends our students out into the world, prepared to contribute to Oklahoma’s bright future. They will make a difference because you made a difference.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

Whether it’s one dollar or $1,000, every gift makes a difference in the lives of our students at UCO. Plus, when you give to the university through the UCO Foundation, your gift makes an impact in the area or program you choose.

The Foundation offers several ways you can contribute. Each year, we ask our friends to support our Annual Fund, with gifts directed to the program of their choice or to the general scholarship fund. The Foundation is also home to many endowments for scholarships or faculty positions. You can contribute to an existing endowment or start a new one in honor or memory of a loved one.

The Foundation also accepts gifts of Securities, Land or Matching Gifts from corporations and other foundations.

Corporations and businesses are valuable partners, as well. They recognize that by investing in the education of our students today, they are also investing tomorrow’s workforce.

An increasing number of donors choose to leave a legacy of support at UCO through Planned Giving. We will work with you in developing the proper documentation needed to designate the UCO Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate.

We also seek donors, individual or corporate, who can support UCO with an unrestricted donation. These funds are reserved to support unexpected opportunities for our students and faculty.

Plus, those who invest $1,000 or more over a one year period become a Presidential Partner, earning special benefits, recognition and invitations to exclusive events.

Most importantly, you can give to the university through the UCO Foundation with confidence, knowing your donation is in the hands of a fiscally responsible non-profit organization. With each of our donors, we craft a customized, legally-binding agreement detailing the intended use of the funds. An annual audit and other account reports are available to further ensure proper distribution and use of contributions.

The UCO Foundation staff is available to speak with you about the best way for you to support our students. Contact the office at (405) 974-2770 and make a difference today!