UCO Receives $2.5 Million from MidFirst Bank
Construction on the CHK|Central Boathouse on the Oklahoma River will move forward thanks to a $2.5 million gift from MidFirst Bank to the University of Central Oklahoma Foundation. The gift, $2 million of which will go directly to the boathouse, completes the university’s fundraising initiative for the project. The CHK|Central Boathouse will serve as home to the Central Women’s Rowing team, and also will include a live music venue, outdoor performance area and an art gallery, establishing it as a unique presence “where art meets the river” in the growing Boathouse District on the Oklahoma River. In recognition of their support, the live music venues, including indoor and outdoor performance areas, will be named for MidFirst Bank.

UCO Student Flutist Advances to Regional Division Competition
UCO senior music major and flutist Delara Hashemi recently won the state level Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) competition in the Young Artist Woodwind category, advancing her to the division finals on Jan. 13 in Arkadelphia, Ark. The Edmond Santa Fe High School graduate is now 12 years into studying the flute and performs in the UCO Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, various chamber ensembles and opera/musical theatre productions. She performed in the National Flute Association Collegiate Flute Choir at national conventions in 2009 and 2011 and was a winner of the University Concerto Competition in April 2011.

UCO Forensic Science Director Receives Award from OSBI
The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) awarded Dwight Adams, Ph.D., director of the University of Central Oklahoma W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute, the Director’s Award for Law Enforcement at the annual OSBI Awards Banquet at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum on Dec. 4. This award is given every year to one law enforcement agency or individual per region and is reserved for those in law enforcement who, through individual talents and efforts, demonstrate outstanding service and a cooperative spirit in working with the OSBI.

UCO Receives Grant to Expand Degree Completion Program
The University of Central Oklahoma hopes to increase the number of Oklahomans with college degrees with help from a recently awarded grant of $251,596 from TG, a public, nonprofit corporation based in Round Rock, Texas. The funds will support expansion of the university’s Operation Degree Completion program. The program will now assist in the completion of associate’s degrees through partnerships with community colleges, by funding part-time advisers at partnering community colleges, including Rose State College, Oklahoma City Community College, and Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City. The advisers will review students who transfer to Central before obtaining their associate’s degrees to determine whether their Central courses can transfer back to fulfill graduation requirements for a degree from the community college. This “reverse transfer” process has already resulted in more than 150 degrees this year.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (405) 974-2770.