UCO President, Art Professor Receive Governor’s Arts Awards

UCO President Don Betz received the state’s highest honor for leadership and significant contributions to the arts with his selection as a recipient of the 2012 Governor’s Award, part of the Oklahoma Arts Council’s Governor’s Arts Awards. UCO Professor of Art Bob Palmer was also honored with the Community Service Award in recognition for his contributions to the arts in specific Oklahoma communities in the areas of leadership and volunteerism. Both received their awards from Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin at a ceremony Nov. 8 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Computer Science Faculty Member Receives $100,000 OCAST Grant

Central’s Jicheng Fu, Ph.D., assistant professor and Beresford Chair in the Department of Computer Science, recently received an Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) grant for $135,000 over a three-year period. The grant funds the use of software that helps young children in wheelchairs better negotiate their environment through the use of novel artificial intelligence techniques. Fu’s project was one of only 30 grants awarded among 154 applications.

Hydration Trailer ‘BroncH2O’ Takes Clean Water on the Road

Central introduced another innovation in sustainability this fall with the creation of “BroncH2O”, a traveling water station for refillable bottles, eliminating the need for plastic water bottles at university events. The UCO Plumbing Shop created the trailer’s one-off custom design, featuring four Elkay touchless bottle fillers with individual counters, and a triple filtration system that provides clean, cool drinking water. Chesapeake Energy Corporation joined Central in its sustainability efforts by donating a retired truck from its corporate fleet to pull the “BroncH2O” trailer. The truck runs on compressed natural gas.

UCO’s Courtney James Named NACA Outstanding New Professional

UCO’s Courtney James, assistant director in Campus Activities, recently won the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) Central Region Outstanding New Professional Award for her significant contributions to campus, NACA regional/national activities and her profession. James joined UCO in 2010 and oversees several campus groups including the Student Programming Board, Homecoming Activities Board, WinterGlow and Big Pink Volleyball.

Central’s Ted Honea Featured in the New Grove Dictionary of Music

Ted Honea, Ph.D., chair of Graduate Studies in the College of Fine Arts and Design, has been featured in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, a world-class achievement for his work designing and building a music conservation laboratory at the Sibley Music Library at Eastman School of Music in the 1980s. The laboratory remains the foremost facility of its kind in the United States. Since its initial publication in 1980, the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians has been widely acclaimed as an indispensable resource and classic reference for scholars.