Central Earns Best Paper Honors from Higher Learning Commission

Several of Central’s leading experts who work with the university’s transformative learning process earned Best Paper honors from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools in Chicago. Their paper “Using a Transformative Learning Transcript to Assess High-Impact Practices” addressed the university’s development of the Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR). The STLR (pronounced “stellar”) process is designed to promote and recognize student participation in transformative learning experiences that also augment the development of workplace competency and life skills. The HLC is one of six independent and regional post-secondary accrediting bodies recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. This is the second time in the past three years that UCO was awarded Best Paper at the HLC Annual Conference.

Education Student Laura Borkenhagen Named 2014 Davinci Scholar

Early childhood education major Laura Borkenhagen was named a 2014 Davinci Institute of Oklahoma Scholar at the group’s award banquet in late March. She is one of five college students in the state recognized as this year’s Scholars. The Davinci Scholars program, established in 2003, recognizes outstanding pre-service teachers from Oklahoma colleges and universities who are exemplified by their creative teaching methods and potential to influence students.

UCO Chamber Orchestra Invited to Perform in Germany

The UCO Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Hong Zhu, D.M.A., has been invited to perform three concerts in Bavaria, Germany, May 16-18. As a part of the invitation, the orchestra will perform the world premiere of award-winning, German composer Heinrich Hartl’s concerto for guitar, orchestra and percussion. The guitar soloist to perform with the UCO Chamber Orchestra is world-renowned guitarist, Stefan Grasse.

UCO Alumna Named Edmond Teacher of the Year

UCO alumna Elanna Killacky was recently named Edmond School District Teacher of the Year. She graduated in 2002 from Central with a degree in Communication Education. In addition to her teaching and coaching achievements at Edmond Memorial High School, Killacky began teaching last summer public speaking for the UCO Department of Mass Communication.

Central Students Use Spring Break to Serve Across the U.S.

As part of the UCO Alternative Breaks program 36 students recently travelled across the United States to serve during spring break. One group led by Sarah Lechich, a graduate elementary education major, worked to clear 13 acres of brush with the Fire & Aviation program at the Grand Canyon in Arizona. A second group led by Olanrewaju (Waju) Suleiman, a journalism major, worked to renovate an historic landmark, the Wabash YMCA of Metro Chicago in inner city Chicago, Illinois. The third group led by Abbey Canaday, a marriage and family major, worked with the Nashville Rescue Mission, whose mission is aimed at fighting hunger and homelessness in Nashville, Tennessee.