US Department of Education Awards $7.7 Million Grant

What if a college graduate could actually show a potential employer that, in addition to the skills learned in their major, they can work with a team, problem solve and interact in an increasingly global marketplace? UCO students will soon be able to show competency in these and other highly sought “soft skills” thanks, in part, to a 5-year, $7.7 million United States Department of Education Strengthening Institutions Program Grant. The grant will fund Central’s Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR), the first effort of its kind to track, assess and provide information to help college students develop and use skills critical to their workplace, citizenship and personal success. The university launched a pilot program of STLR this fall to 450 students. Central will introduce the program to all freshmen in fall 2015, with all undergraduate classes anticipated to be participating by fall 2018.

Meet Homecoming’s Distinguished Alumni and Family of the Year

The UCO Alumni Association recently announced the three recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Central Family of the Year. This year’s distinguished UCO alumni include: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Tom Daniels; John Gladden, president and chief executive officer at Delta Dental Oklahoma; and Sharon McCollam, executive vice president, chief administrative and financial officer for Best Buy. The Ben and Peggy Kates family were selected as the 2014 Central Family of the Year.

Buss Awarded Best Lead Actor in Film Festival Project

UCO assistant professor of theatre arts Kato Buss, Ph.D., was recently awarded Best Lead Actor for his role in “The Call Back” at the 48 Hour Film Project Award Ceremony in Oklahoma City. The 48 Hour Film Project is an international film competition and festival that takes place in 120 cities worldwide, with competitions held in Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. The competition challenges its more than 325,000 participants to write, shoot and edit a four-to-seven-minute film in just 48 hours.

The UCO Foundation Receives $500,000 Grant for Old North

The UCO Foundation recently received a $500,000 grant from the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation to help fund the restoration of Old North on UCO’s campus. Due to structural complications that multiplied over time, Old North closed in 2000 resulting in the loss of several classrooms and the relocation of nearly 40 faculty and staff offices. UCO’s “Always Central” campaign seeks to raise $40 million in private support for projects that include $6 million designated for the interior renovation of Old North, the first building of higher education in the state. The university has just $1 million remaining on the project.

UCO Endeavor Games Wins Rings of Gold Award

UCO Endeavor Games received one of two Rings of Gold awards at the 2014 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly Sept. 25-26 in Chicago. The UCO Endeavor Games is the nation’s largest multi-sport, multi-disability event. The Rings of Gold award is handed out each year to an individual and a program that helps children achieve their Olympic or Paralympic dreams and reach their highest athletic and personal potential.
Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you the wonderful things happening at the University of Central Oklahoma through UCOvations, the UCO Foundation’s Sept. – May monthly publication.

As a valued Presidential Partner, we hope you enjoy reading about the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. Please remember you can request to receive UCOvations electronically each month by emailing foundation@uco.edu. You also can access the archives of this publication by visiting www.ucogiving.org.

Thank you for joining us as we create a culture of leading, learning, and serving. Together, we truly are making a difference.

Again, we cannot thank you enough for your sincere generosity and positive leadership. We are excited to share with you the wonderful things happening at the University of Central Oklahoma through UCOvations, the UCO Foundation’s Sept. – May monthly publication.

Sincerely,

Don Betz
President