UCO Celebrates CHKlCentral Boathouse Grand Opening
UCO officially established itself as the place “where art meets the river” on the Oklahoma River with the grand opening of the CHKlCentral Boathouse. The community celebration event on Saturday April 18 showcased the facility’s distinct features, including a live music venue and an art gallery. Nearly 700 people attended the free day of activities to include an official dedication ceremony and tours of the boathouse, opportunities to meet the UCO women’s rowing team and head coach Andy Derrick, live music from ACM@UCO students as well as UCO faculty and students.

UCO Senior Receives National Award for Public Service
UCO senior Christopher Dowling was recently named a recipient of Campus Compact’s 2015 Newman Civic Fellow Award, which recognizes student leaders from around the country who are invested in finding solutions for community challenges. Dowling, an accounting major from Alva, Oklahoma, is dedicated to educating the Central community about food insecurity and poverty. The Newman Civic Fellow awards are presented by Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents — representing some six million students — who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility.

UCO Debate Team Honored at National Tournament
UCO’s debate team traveled to Wichita, Kansas, in March to compete in the Cross Examination Debate Association’s (CEDA) National Championship Tournament and brought home a third place finish in CEDA’s competition for the National Public Debate Award. UCO head debate coach Matthew Moore, Ph.D., called the award a great honor for Central. It is given to debate programs for the advancement of the values of debate in the public sphere through the sponsoring of multiple on-campus and open-to-the-community public debates.

UCO Hockey’s McAlister Named ACHA Coach of the Year
Fresh off the first national championship in team history, the UCO hockey program continues to rack up the accolades. The American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) recently named Craig McAlister the 2015 Division I Coach of the Year after leading the Bronchos to a 33-5-1 record this season. McAlister became the Bronchos’ head coach in 2006 and has compiled a record of 193-131-21 in nine years at the helm. McAlister also won the award in 2009, guiding Central to a 24-13-2 record and the school’s first appearance in the ACHA Division I National Championships.

Cheer Squads Take Second, Third Place Finishes at Nationals
UCO’s cheer squad traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida for the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) College Nationals, taking second place in Division II Advanced All-Girl Cheer and third place in Division II Intermediate All-Girl Cheer. The squad now looks forward to the STUNT National Championships scheduled for May 1-3 at Oklahoma City University. STUNT, a competitive team sport derived from cheerleading, removes the crowd-leading element and focuses on the technical and athletic components. UCO’s cheer squad is both a game squad and a competition team. The team has won nine NCA national championships.