UCO’s Chris Watson Named Wrestler of the Year

A storybook season resulted in another huge honor for Chris Watson with his selection as the 2014-15 NCAA Division II Wrestler of the Year. Watson put together a dominating 42-0 season with a school-record 30 bonus-point wins en route to capturing the national championship and earning the Wrestler of the Year award as determined by the Division II Wrestling Coaches’ Association. Watson is the eighth recipient of the NCAA Division II Wrestler of the Year award that was voted on by the Division II head coaches.

UCO Named EPA Green Power Challenge Champion

For the fifth consecutive year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named UCO as the Individual Conference Champion of the College and University Green Power Challenge for using more green power than any other school in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). Thirty-nine collegiate conferences and 90 schools competed in the EPA’s Green Power Challenge in 2014-15. Central was ranked No. 20 — up three spots from No. 23 in 2013-14 — for green power usage among all participating schools, a clear indication of the university’s continued commitment to sustainability efforts. Central uses 26 million kilowatt-hours of wind power annually, making it one of the largest purchasers of green power by a college or university in the nation and the only institution of higher learning in Oklahoma participating in the EPA challenge using 100 percent green power.

UCO Graduate, 82, Becomes Oldest in University History

Bob Grant, 82, became the oldest graduate in UCO’s 125-year history on May 8 when he received his master’s of gerontology from the university’s Jackson College of Graduate Studies. Grant earned his bachelor’s of science in general studies from Central in 2011, more than 60 years after beginning his degree. He first attended classes on Central’s campus in 1944 as a sixth grader in Old North. Grant now hopes to find a part-time job and teach a course on aging, while also inspiring others to graduate and return for higher degrees.

UCO Honors Students for Top Academic Achievement

UCO named five students as Class Marshals of their respective colleges, recognizing them for their academic excellence during Central’s spring 2015 commencement ceremonies at the university’s Hamilton Field House. Students earn the title of Class Marshal for achieving the highest academic records within their colleges during their time at Central. Joyclin Jaksons, a criminal justice and forensic science major, represented the College of Liberal Arts with a 4.0 GPA. Alain Kameni, a biology major, represented the College of Mathematics and Science with a 4.0 GPA. Hannah Kostelecky, a kinesiology - exercise/fitness management major, represented the College of Education and Professional Studies with a 4.0 GPA. Shelby Rogers, a dance education major, represented the College of Fine Arts and Design with a 4.0 GPA. Elizabeth Townley, an accounting major, represented the College of Business with a 4.0 GPA.

UCO Joins Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

UCO recently became a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), an association of more than 400 colleges and universities committed to furthering the success of Hispanic students in higher education in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America and Spain. UCO is the second institution of higher education in Oklahoma to join HACU, representing the state as an associate member institution. Associate member schools have a minimum of 1,000 Hispanic students enrolled at the undergraduate or graduate level or have a total Hispanic student enrollment constituting at least 10 percent of the student body. Central has a growing population of Hispanic students, with a 39.5 percent increase in Hispanic enrollment during the past five years.

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

I am continuously amazed at the sheer talent and dedication of so many of our faculty, staff and students. Thank you for letting us share their accomplishments with you each month through the UCO Foundation’s monthly publication of UCOvations.

We hope you have been able to take part thus far in the special events for the UCO@125 celebration year. From John Legend to a record-breaking Presidential Partners luncheon, we are excited to see what the remainder of this celebration year brings.

Please mark your calendars for several events coming up: Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Bush on Sept. 15, the End of Year Gala on Oct. 22, Homecoming Week Nov. 1-7 and Thomas Friedman on Nov. 10. More information will be released closer to the events.

Also, please be sure we have your preferred email address on file to ensure you don't miss out on event information. You can update your email at centralconnection.org/updateinfo.

Again, thank you for joining me as we create a culture of leading, learning and serving.

Sincerely,

Don Betz
President