Central Alumni Association Announces 2009 Distinguished Former Student Honorees

The UCO Alumni Association recognized this month five 2009 Distinguished Former Student (DFS) honorees at the annual Central Homecoming DFS Reception. This year’s line-up of distinguished UCO graduates included Martha Burger, senior vice president of Human Corporate Resources at Chesapeake Energy Corp.; Danny Morgan, leader of the Oklahoma House Democratic Caucus; Tom Price Jr., senior vice president for Corporate Development at Chesapeake Energy Corp.; Randall Stephenson, AT&T chairman, chief executive officer and president; and Max Tuepker, principal of his own law firm in Oklahoma City, Max C. Tuepker, P.C.

UCO Hosts Creativity Symposium for State Educators

In September, Central hosted nearly 500 educators from throughout the state for Creative Oklahoma’s creativity symposium: “The New Renaissance: A Revolution in Creativity and Learning”. The symposium encouraged an intellectual exchange of ideas about the shifts occurring today as educators and leaders prepare young people for their roles in this 21st century global economy - what many are calling a “New Renaissance”. Presenters began the day reviewing the elements of the Italian Renaissance and how it relates to this “New Renaissance”, as well as looking at the creative mind of Leonardo da Vinci with Leonardo experts Bülent Atalay and Peter Donaldson. Dennis Cheek, an internationally renowned scientist and Kauffman Foundation fellow, and Jack Lew from the University of Central Florida also reviewed what is known about development of the creative mind and how the confluences of the arts, sciences, and technology are influencing that development.

Central's GreenRide Joins Forces with ‘GetAroundOK’ a Carpool/Rideshare Matching Program

Central’s Office of Commuter Student Services has entered into a partnership with the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, merging Central’s GreenRide with Oklahoma City’s GetAroundOK carpool/rideshare matching program. The new partnership will expand the potential number of carpool matches for Central faculty, staff and students. UCO joins several other central Oklahoma entities participating in the program including Devon Energy, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Dell, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center and the City of Edmond.

Central’s Haynie and Wilson Receive National Grant for Molecular Biology Research

Dr. Michelle Haynie, an assistant professor of Biology in the College of Mathematics and Science, and Dr. Greg Wilson, executive director of the UCO Office of Research and Grants have received a $130,006 grant from the National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program to purchase a DNA sequencer for research in molecular biology. The sequencer will provide advanced research opportunities and stimulate new ideas for collaboration among faculty and students.

OKC Thunder Donates Essential Lab Equipment to Central’s Athletic Training Program

Central’s Athletic Training Education graduate program in the College of Education and Professional Studies recently received a donation of two essential modalities for its athletic training lab from the Oklahoma City Thunder organization. Both modalities, the MegaPulse II Shortwave Diathermy and Precision Micro Current Electrical Muscle Simulator, will serve as valuable training additions to the current curriculum. Developed in 2005, the Master of Science in Athletic Training degree is the only of its kind in the state.

Central’s Caire Receives more than $200,000 for Additions to the Selman Living Laboratory

Dr. William Caire, a professor of Biology in the College of Mathematics and Science and director of the UCO Selman Living Laboratory (SLL), received a $239,538 grant from the National Science Foundation Field Station and Marine Laboratory program to build a multi-purpose education building at UCO’s SLL. The grant provides funds to construct a building that will function as a classroom and laboratory as well as a kitchen/dining facility. The SLL is a biological field station located near Freedom in northwestern Oklahoma and is the only of its kind in North America.