UCO-based Oklahoma A+ Schools® Plans For Future

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation recently awarded a $100,000 grant to Oklahoma A+ Schools® for completion of an organizational and strategic plan for the Oklahoma A+ Schools® network. The funds will be used to generate a five-year strategic plan that will identify the educational community’s needs that can be best met by Oklahoma A+ while also identifying the mechanisms required to meet those needs.

UCO Receives Largest Endowed Gift In School History

UCO received its largest endowed gift in school history from New Jersey residents Raphael (Ray) and Ann Beresford in honor of their late son, John Taylor Beresford. The $2 million endowed gift will be divided into three areas to benefit students and faculty in the College of Mathematics and Science. Once a portion of the funds are matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the gift will provide an impact of $2.5 million in endowed funds for the University.

UCO Ranked As One Of The ‘Great Colleges To Work For’

UCO ranked in the top five nationally in several categories in The Chronicle of Higher Education’s “2008 Great Colleges to Work For” survey. Top ranked categories included: professional/career development programs, teaching environment, connection to institution and pride, tenure clarity and process, respect and admiration (employees regularly recognized for contributions); policies, resources and efficiency (institution is well-run and prepares employees to be effective); career development, research and scholarship (adequate time for scholarly pursuits); and vacation or paid time off.

UCO Library Houses Rare African Art Collection

UCO Max Chambers Library celebrated this month the opening of its recent art exhibits and acquisitions including: the re-installation of the Murrah Collection, a new rare African Art Collection, and the George Calvert Collection. The African Collection features art from Sub-Saharan Africa and is considered to be the most comprehensive representation of art from that region in the United States, according to Dr. William Hommel, UCO art professor. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

UCO First In State To Offer Specialized Autism Training Program

UCO is now home to the state’s first-ever comprehensive training program for the treatment of autism, giving individuals the opportunity to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) specializing in autism. The program was developed in response to an initiative by the Oklahoma State Legislature to create a state training system to meet the needs of the growing number of autistic children. The specialized program, which began this fall, is housed in the College of Education and Professional Studies.

UCO Greeks Bring Home Top National Awards

Many of UCO’s sororities and fraternities received top honors this year at their national and international conventions. Among those recognized were the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, which was awarded the highest international award, the Annulet, for achievement in all areas of sorority life; the Sigma Kappa sorority, which won the Standard of Excellence Award at the one star level; the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, which received their highest national honor, the McCune Distinguished Chapter Award; the Acacia fraternity, which won several national awards including an Outstanding Chapter distinction; and the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, which received the Raymond L. Orians Chapter Excellence Award.