UCO and OKC Named Official Olympic and Paralympic Training Sites
The United States Olympic committee recently designated Central as an official Olympic training site for volleyball and archery in addition to all Paralympic sports while the Oklahoma River south of downtown Oklahoma City will become an official training site for rowing, canoe and kayak. UCO has been a Paralympic Training site since 2005, hosting the Men’s and Women’s Sitting Volleyball team. With the new designation, the university will also be able to host resident Olympic Athletes and Olympic programs, competitions and events.

New Center for Outdoor Adventure Recreation Opens
Central officially opened in August the Center for Outdoor Adventure Recreation (OAR). The 4,800 square-foot facility features a “living classroom” for water analysis and plant classification, boat storage, offices, and equipment for kayaking, canoeing, rowing, outdoor archery, mountain biking, camping and backpacking for recreational use by anyone interested in the facility. Additionally, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol will use it for free boat safety classes for the public, and the City of Edmond and Oklahoma Wildlife Commission will offer safety and education programs for the community. The OAR is located just five miles east of the main campus on Route 66 (2nd St.) in Edmond Park, north of Lake Arcadia.

Central’s Mertens Inducted into Business Strategy Game Hall of Fame
Dr. Dan Mertens, a new professor of Management in the College of Business Administration, was recently inducted into The Business Strategy Game (BSG) Hall of Fame as a Master Professor. He was unanimously selected out of more than 4,000 registered BSG instructors, for having in August one or more Grand Champion teams in the Best-Strategy Invitational competition. The BSG is an online exercise where class members are divided into teams and assigned the task of running an athletic footwear company in head-to-head competition against companies managed by other class members.

Central’s Compass Learning Community Recognized Nationally
UCO’s Compass Learning Community program received national recognition from the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. The Compass program was selected for its successful efforts to improve new student retention rates through the creation of a supportive living learning community. Now in its third year, 60 percent of Compass program participants are still enrolled at UCO, compared to less than 30 percent of peers with similar demographics.

UCO Receives $2 Million Grant to Fund 'Double Bridge' for Math and Science Majors
UCO’s College of Mathematics and Science was awarded a nearly $2 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund its new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Double Bridge program for five years, which provides a “bridge” for incoming freshman and transfer students majoring in STEM fields at UCO. The $1,998,750 grant will allow UCO to offer both a Summer Bridge and a Fall Bridge program, offering valuable research experiences and support for future science and technology leaders. Summer Bridge is designed to give high school seniors a chance to get a head start on their college experience, and students who attend must have been accepted to attend UCO, and plan to major in a STEM discipline.

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