UCO Surprises ‘Extreme Makeover: Home Edition’ Family
After a new home and a week full of surprises from ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” team, the Skaggs family, who live near Slaughterville, Okla., got one more surprise from Central. UCO Vice President of Enrollment Management Myron Pope presented the family with tuition waivers worth $20,000 for each of their two children, 2-year-old Jhett and 5-year-old Merit. The Skaggs family were selected to receive a new home through the television show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” because the condition of their old home was not healthy for Jhett, who had to have a heart transplant when he was 10-months-old.

Central Receives $600,000 Grant to Fund Scholarships for ‘STEM’
Central received a five-year, $600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) program. Supported by Central’s College of Mathematics and Science’s Center for Undergraduate Research and Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (CURE STEM), the grant will fund scholarships for STEP@UCO participants. Central’s STEP@UCO program aims to create a seamless transition into university life for high school and community college students who enter Central as science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) majors as well as the support of undergraduate research and education, offering Summer Bridge and Fall Bridge programs for students. With the new funds, STEP@UCO’s Summer Bridge alumni with financial need will be selected to receive a scholarship for up to four years, enabling them to maintain full-time enrollment and focus their attention on coursework and professional development, rather than external employment.

UCO named as ‘Place to Watch’ by Sports Events Magazine
UCO, an official Olympic and Paralympic training site, was given a Readers Choice award from Sports Events Magazine as a “Place to Watch” in 2010. According to the article, Readers Choice awards were given to selected sites that earned the industry’s vote for providing exemplary service, hospitality and physical amenities sport event planners today expect from a host city or venue. The accolade, published in the January issue, came as Central was nominated for the award for hosting two events for athletes with physical disabilities including the Endeavor Games for Athletes with Physical Disabilities and the 2010 Sitting Volleyball Worlds.

Central Celebrates Chinese New Year with Special Performance
In February, performers from Beijing Normal University Art Troupe performed traditional dance, martial arts, and music with Chinese instruments at a sold-out UCO Chinese New Year celebration held on campus. The event was hosted by the UCO College of Liberal Arts through its partnership with the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing and the Confucius Institute at the University of Oklahoma to promote awareness of international students on campus and give all students the opportunity to experience Chinese culture.

Compass Learning Community Earns Regional Award
UCO’s Compass Learning Community (CLC) was recently named one of three Southwestern Region winners of the College Board's first ever CollegeKeys Compact 2010 Innovation Awards program for initiating innovative, effective best practices to help students get ready, get in and get through college. The awards program was established to recognize institutions and agencies leading the charge for college access and success, and to highlight promising practices from across the country. Recipients were recognized in Feb. during the 2010 College Board Southwestern Regional Forum held in Austin, Texas, and received a $5,000 award to expand or sustain its program. Central’s CLC first began with 26 students three years ago, but has expanded to 40 for the 2009-2010 group.