Staff Changes

JCGS welcomed a number of new faces to our staff this year. Dr. Kirk Webster (CEPS), Assistant Dean. Kirk will be researching and writing a grant application and creating a Three-Minute Thesis Competition. Dr. Webster retains his co-appointment in Educational Leadership. Ms. Elise Marrs, Director of Graduate and Downtown Recruitment w/Student Affairs. Elise will be recruiting through Oklahoma City business for both graduation and Reach Higher credit programs. She offices in the Administration Building and at ACM. Ms. Lana Canale, Office Manager, move up for Admission Specialist to replace Ms. Marrs in the JCGS Office. Also new are Katherine Brown, Admissions Specialist (FT), Johnna Schooley, Administrative Assistant I (PT), CJ Matthews, Media Specialist (Student Position), and Xi Xi “Chloe” Zhang, Admissions Aide (Student Position). Ms. Brown’s employment at UCO is part of a family tradition. Her grandfather was Administrative Director and VP Alvin Alcorn, who managed Central’s successful physical expansion in the 1960s, creating the modern campus. Ms’s. Syretha Leverette (Graduation Verification), Elise Ellis (International Admissions), and Matt Snell (Technical Services) continue their roles in JCGS.

Cohorts and Retention.

The Educational Leadership Program of the College of Education and Professional Services has just announced three new cohort classes for Fall 2015: Two of them will meet in the Edmond and Mid-Del school districts, while a third charts new territory with a combined class of Oklahoma City teachers and teachers in Oklahoma City’s Teach America Program, set for the Carnegie Building in Downtown OKC. UCO partners in these ventures with district and federal program officials to develop tightly-bonded student cohorts of rising professionals. UCO shares teaching with the districts, providing the students with both theoretical and practical perspectives on administration. The program creates professional networks and strong pools of eligible leadership candidates. The retention/graduation rate for these cohorts is approximately 86%. Ed Leadership is not the only UCO program to use cohorts, and JCGS encourages other programs to consider their benefits as well.

Blended Degrees: 5-Year Bachelor’s + Master’s Degrees.

Cal Poly has a thorough program of blended degrees (BMS), defined as the linkage of bachelor’s and master’s in the same field in order to speed-up graduation with both degrees. Participation is option, but all degree program programs can participate. Advantages include: Academic: Linkage of BS capstone project & MS thesis, higher retention rate because double degrees insure jobs. Double counting of some courses helpful but not essential in the Cal Poly experience. http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/content/academicpolicies/policies-undergrad/blended4plus1

UCO has one Blended Degree: Engineering-Physics
Marketing Grants
JCGS supported the graduate student recruiting efforts through grants, awarded to the following.

- Dr. Lindsey Churchill, History      Marketing Video
- Dr. Tawni Holmes, Nutrition       Marketing Video
- Dr. Kelly Baker, Early Childhood  Open House
- Lanie Gabbard, Design             Posters
- Dr. Ed Cunliff, Adult Education   Brochures

JCGS Partnerships, Supporting Internationalization
This year, JCGS continued to support internationalism but supporting UCO programs and students with financial support. JCGS either co-sponsored or created the agreements which brought to campus the following scholars from our partner institutions.

- Dr. Irina Novikova, American and Women’s Studies, University of Latvia
- Dr. Marijz Krivokapic, English, University of Montenego
- Dr. Monika Kopytowska, Pragmatics, University of Lodz (Poland)
- Dr. Jose Francisco Fernandez, American Studies, University of Almeria (Spain)
- Dr. Claus Schreier, MBA director, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Switzerland
- Dr. Vanessa Burholt, Gerontology, Swansea University
- Dr. Alan Collins, Political and Cultural Studies, Swansea University
- Dr. Noel Thompson, History, Swansea University
- Dr. David Britton, Creative Writing, Swansea University
- (Dr. Connie Squires, Creative Writing, UCO, was Exchange Faculty at SU.)

JCGS also sponsored International Travel Grants for these UCO graduate students going abroad.

- Abby Michelle Byford, Early Childhood Education, England
- Amy Elizabeth Messerly, Early Childhood Education, England
- Carmen Nicole Woolever, Early Childhood Education, England

New Swansea Fields
In addition to programs in Arts & Humanities, Swansea applicants can now choose from fields in that university’s College of Human and Health Sciences. Please tell friends and colleagues that thesis fields are now open in:

- Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Mental Health
- Nursing
- Healthcare Studies
- Social Work and Social Care
- Social Policy
- Philosophy, Ethics and Law in Healthcare
- Health Sciences
- Health Humanities
- Public Health
- Health Policy
- Gerontology and Aging Studies
- Children and Young People
- Healthcare Management
- Health Economics
Current Swansea Students


Leeda Copley, Gerontology Full-time Student. (Entered October 2013) Full-time Student. BA, MA (Ohio State University) “Existence Quality and Stress Buffering: The Influence of Personal Relationships on Mental Health and Wellbeing Among Older Americans.” Leeda is an instructor in Sociology and Gerontology at UCO. Doug Reed, UCO Adviser.


Michele Campbell, Financial History (Entered April 2014) BA, MA (SEOSU). Full Time Student “A Business History of the Chickasaw Nation.” Michele is Assistant State Director for Communications, Research and Organizational Development of the Oklahoma Small Business Development Centers, Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Randal Ice, UCO Adviser.


Research Projects Related to UCO Graduate Education. This year saw the development of three research projects, directly related to graduate education at UCO.

A. Richard M. Bernard, “A History of the Joe C. Jackson College of Graduate Studies, 1990-2015.” Chapter length manuscript for the UCO Library in Celebration of UCO’s 125th Anniversary Year. Publication details, TBA.


Three Minute Thesis

JCGS, under the leadership of Kirk Webster, is considering joining OSU, OU, and the University of Tulsa in conducting a “Three-Minute Thesis” competitions. Brought the America from Australia’s University of Queensland, this transformative competition’s purpose is teach the thesis writer to explain his/her research using laymen’s terms, one slide, and no notes to a group of judges from outside of academia within a strict 3 minute time limit. Aside from possible prize winnings, the real value is the training in interview and speaking skills. JCGS is testing the concept with faculty and administration hopes to announce in August our first competition, set for Spring 2016.

Graduate Enrollments.

Last fall, UCO had 1,842 graduate students. JCGS has continue to grow graduate enrollments, though the rapid growth of the recession years has slowed in recent years as the Oklahoma economy has improved and more jobs have become available. Fall 2014 enrollment rose just barely (0.5 percent) over the previous autumn, still leaving overall grow, 2007-14, at 30 percent. Over the same period, the number of applicants rose much faster (56 percent) but a lower acceptance rate resulted in 30 percent increase in the number of students. Our rate of acceptance is down by 9 percent since 2007, meaning that we now have both more students and on average, better students. Early tallies for Spring 2015 showed something remarkable. Spring enrollments has always been low than fall ones, but this year, spring and fall were equal. Final figures may change both fall and spring totals but only a small amount. Thus, these two terms – roughly equal in numbers – mark our two highest ever for the regular students.

Among the colleges, the College of Education and Professional Services enrolls by far the most graduate students, some 1,091 in all. In addition to having the largest enrollment, CEPS has also had the second highest growth rate (142 students), trailing only the College of Liberal Arts (220). Only the College of Business lost students, down five since 2007, following a national trend for business schools. In percentage terms, CLA (139 percent) and the much small College of Fine Arts and Design (119 percent) far outstripped the other colleges.

Demographically speaking, there were some surprising trends. Women still dominate, accounting for 71.6 percent of UCO’s graduate students, but they are down slightly from 2007. Part-time students outnumber full-time ones about two-to-one, but that difference is less than the 70 percent-30 percent split of seven years ago. Less surprising is the upsurge in all minority group, whose members as a whole increased by 11.8 percent. Among these, African Americans increased by 3.0 percent. Much of the growth in US domestic minorities may be due to student self-reclassifications, and more and more students report “mixed race” or simply to do answer the race question. International students were up 4.8 percent, and during the recent recovery period, their increase has helped the university overcome the slight slowdown in domestic students. Still, the seven-year drop in whites of 12 percentage points suggests that in about ten years from now, UCO will no longer have a majority population among its graduate students, as the percentage of whites will drop below 50 percent.
Policy Changes
During 2014-15, the Graduate Council approved the following changes in policies.

A. Reorganization of Conditional Admission Categories
   Abolishes previous conditional, provisional, TOEFL and transcript admission categories
   and replaces them with four new categories of Conditional Admission based on:
   1. Low GPA;
   2. Missing Prerequisites
   3. Unmet English Language Proficiency
   4. Missing Transcript

B. Clarification of Accreditation Standards for Institutions Sending Transfer Credit to UCO
   Requires that all US transfer credit come from regionally-accredited institutions

C. Changes in Criteria for Full and Associate Graduate Faculty Membership
   Bases Full and Associate Graduate Faculty Membership on terminal degrees rather than
   tenure, but still requires that only tenured and tenure-track faculty serve on the Graduate
   Council

D. Requirement for Graduate Admission for Credit in Credit / Non-Credit Courses
   Requires for-credit students to have obtained graduate admissions.

E. Procedural Clarification Focusing Chair and Faculty Input on Curricular Changes to their
   own College’s Deliberations, but also allowing Colleges to Include Minority Reports with
   their Curriculum Change Requests
   Removes JCGS as the arbitrator between disagreeing parties within colleges while still allowing
   a minority on any curricular issue to have its views represented in the JCGS deliberations.

F. Adoption of Guidelines for Thesis Formats
   Creates such guidelines

G. Adoption of Best Practices for Thesis Advisers
   Creates such guidelines

H. Adoption of Guidelines for Thesis Writers
   Creates such guidelines

I. New Criteria for the E.C. Hall Award
   Creates such criteria based on difference in GPA between winner’s GPA & Average GPA
   of all students in the same major, with provisions for tie breaking, and establishes out
   standing graduate student awards for each college and the Forensic Science Institute,
   with one of this group chosen for the E. C. Hall Award.

J. New Procedures for Filling Vacancies on the Graduate Council
   Allows dean to appoint someone to fill vacancy until next regular election

K. Requirement of a Minimum of 9 Hours for Graduate Certificates
   Sets minimum hours for credit-bearing certificates