



## Student Intern, Others Share Their Transformative Experiences at UCO

UCO's Office of University Relations has had the good fortune of having several great student interns, most recently one named Sarah Neese, a senior Strategic Communications major.

For this issue of *Old North* magazine, we wanted an article showing the various ways UCO students today are learning about the world and its diverse populations

through transformative learning experiences — especially ones that help students grow in ways they never dreamed possible.

Well, what better person to find those students than another student, right?

One catch.

In talking with Neese, we found that she is the perfect prototype for what we were searching. As

she described her experiences at UCO, this editor had an overwhelming desire to start college all over, to be able to do everything Neese has done.

Could she find four more like herself? No problem, she said. And she quickly did just that!

— Gypsy Hogan  
Publications Editor,  
University Relations

### Sarah Neese

**HOMETOWN:**

Edmond, Oklahoma

**FIELD OF STUDY:**

Senior majoring in Strategic Communications, minoring in Spanish

**ACTIVITIES:**

Student intern, University Relations; research assistant, College of Business; team member, UCO American Advertising Federation Competition Team

*“Though my years in college have been unique in their own way, there are students from every corner of the university who have experienced the enriched educational environment of UCO, just as I have. All of us have seen the true potential and capacity of transformative learning through our university.”*

As a student in my last semester at Central, I've become more than familiar with the term transformative learning. On one hand, the concept serves as a foundation for academic standards across the university. However, how does transformative learning translate into tangible student experiences?

During my time at UCO, I have pursued my passions through my academic program, expanded my skill set for my career field and participated in several leadership roles.

Previously, I have had the privilege of serving as copy editor and editor-in-chief of *The Vista*, Central's student newspaper, and in two internship positions, one with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

Currently, I am the intern for University Relations, a team member on Central's American Advertising Federation competition team and a research assistant to a marketing professor in the College of Business.

As a research assistant, I have traveled to a variety of national and international conferences in a handful of cities, presenting research on behalf of the university in Chicago; New Orleans; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and Cape Town, South Africa. These experiences beyond the classroom have made a lasting impact, allowing me to explore cities, meet new people and understand other cultures in a capacity that I would not have otherwise experienced.

Through my college career, I have learned that the power of earning a college degree is exponential, but gaining life experience and growing as an individual is invaluable. Though my years in college have been unique in their own way, there are students from every corner of the university who have experienced the enriched educational environment of UCO, just as I have. All of us have seen the true potential and capacity of transformative learning through our university.