UCO Selected for EDUCAUSE Incubator

UCO has been selected as one of 10 postsecondary institutions in the U.S. to join the 2015 Next Generation Learning Challenges Breakthrough Models Incubator program. The program, led by EDUCAUSE and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will bring forward competency-based education (CBE) models like Central’s Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR) that reward students for skills acquired rather than time spent in a seat. UCO’s leadership team will work for several months under the guidance of CBE experts and present a grant proposal for STLR funding to the Gates Foundation in January 2016.

UCO@125 Continues with John Legend Keynote

UCO continued its UCO@125 Distinguished Speakers Series with a keynote from singer-songwriter and humanitarian John Legend on April 7 to a packed auditorium. The nine-time Grammy Award-winning artist was recently recognized alongside rapper Common at the 2015 Academy Awards with an Oscar for Best Original Song “Glory.” The single served as the theme song for the 2014 film “Selma,” which portrays the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches.

UCO, OKDHS Partner for Career Opportunities

UCO’s Department of Career Services and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) formalized their relationship by signing a memorandum of understanding during a ceremony on Central’s campus in March. Central works with a number of organizations and corporations that recruit students and alumni for internship and employment opportunities. The memorandum with OKDHS formalizes the relationship between the two and makes the department’s recruiting at Central a priority for the Office of Career Services. The university hopes to follow this model with other corporations and agencies going forward.
UCO Hosts Inaugural Black Male Summit

UCO’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) hosted its inaugural Black Male Summit in March, welcoming more than 250 high school students to campus from nine Edmond and Oklahoma City metropolitan area schools. The event empowered and encouraged young African-American men to pursue a college degree. Attendees had opportunities for personal and professional development, networking and workshops on the rigors of higher education. They were also offered a platform to discuss the social and cultural issues that African-American males face in society, including racism, self-identity and masculinity. Stevie Johnson, coordinator for ODI, spearheaded the event.

UCO Dominates ADDY Awards, Sets Records

UCO’s Department of Design once again dominated the student categories at the 2015 Oklahoma City ADDY Awards, with 40 graphic design students winning a total of 105 awards — 36 gold, 38 silver and 27 bronze — the most in the department's history. Central also again brought home the coveted “Braggy” award, given to the university with the most student winners. “This great achievement really speaks to the quality and cohesion of the design faculty, the quality and energy of our students and the overall excellence of UCO,” said Amy Johnson, M.F.A., chair of the department.

UCO Athletes Take Dual National Championships

Athletes at UCO recorded in March national championships in hockey and wrestling. The UCO hockey club won its first ACHA Division I National Championship after shutting out the Stony Brook University Seawolves 4-0 in Strongsville, Ohio, on March 10. UCO wrestler Chris Watson capped an undefeated season with a 7-2 victory over Lake Erie’s Matt Vandermeer to capture the 165-pound national title and earn Outstanding Wrestler honors on March 14 at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships in St. Louis.

Courtney James Recognized with National Award

The National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) recognized UCO Assistant Director of Campus Activities Courtney James with its Legacy Award during the association’s convention in Minneapolis in February. NACA is a recognized leader in higher education for providing its members with innovative practices and access to programs that support campus engagement. The Legacy Award provides a year of professional development opportunities to a campus leader who has the potential to serve the association at a significant level.