UCO Named Top Producer of Fulbrights

Central has been named one of the country’s top producers of Fulbright Scholarship recipients for 2011. The university was one of 29 receiving the distinction in the category of master’s institutions. Of those, Towson University had four Fulbrights, with six others having three and the rest having two each. Central’s Wei Chen, Ph.D., and David Hartmann, Ph.D., each received Fulbrights in 2011, allowing them to work abroad for the 2011-12 academic year. Chen, a 2008 U.S. Professor of the Year, is currently teaching biomedical engineering at Yang Ming University in Taiwan. Hartmann is teaching business decision science at the College of Business Administration in Saudia Arabia. The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsors the Fulbright programs.

Forensic Professor Receives Fulbright Grant

Mark McCoy, Ed.D., has received a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant to travel in March to Australia and teach digital forensics and cybercrime at both the University of Canberra and the University of South Australia. McCoy, in addition to teaching at UCO, serves as liaison for the on-campus AT&T Digital Evidence and Cyber Security Lab, the only digital forensics lab in the nation located at an institution of higher learning. The Australian universities are piloting a collaborative relationship between their forensic programs and the Australian Federal Police. During his 18-day trip abroad, McCoy also will lead faculty development workshops, deliver seminars to students and develop curriculum. He is one of 104 U.S. faculty to receive a similar grant for the 2011-12 academic year.

Chinese Concert Gives Campus Global Flair

The Nanjing University Traditional Instruments Orchestra of China recently performed on campus in a celebration of the Chinese New Year. Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the UCO Chinese Student Association, the event was a way to share an important Chinese holiday with the entire campus. Xiaobing Li, Ph.D., professor and chair of Central’s History and Geography department, said, “It’s important for all of us to think globally and experience other cultures.” Founded in 1996, the Nanjing orchestra is composed of undergraduate and graduate students who promote Chinese national culture and the classic art using string, wind and percussion instruments.
New Director to Advance Teaching Skills

Jeff King, Ed.D., has been named executive director of Central’s newly restructured Center for Excellence in Transformative Teaching and Learning. Formerly known as the Faculty Enhancement Center, the center offers professional and academic development resources to faculty, including workshops, one-on-one training, classroom observations and other programming to promote excellence in teaching. King previously was director of Texas Christian University’s Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence. He’s also a former jazz professor and musician. With a strong background in collegiate faculty development and enhancement, his work has appeared in national journals, including Assessment Update, Liberal Education and the Journal of Visualized Experiments. King’s skills — including a command of the latest methods in teaching and learning — will help Central move to a new level in teaching excellence.

Dancing Competition Raises $40,000

UCO’s Athletic Department recently raised $40,000 with its first “Dancing with the Bronchos and Auction,” a fun take on popular dance-themed television shows. The dinner, silent auction and dance competition was Feb. 10 in Hamilton Field House. Student-athletes were paired with faculty and staff partners, creating 21 competing couples dancing the salsa. UCO Alumni Association Director Al Jones and Central sophomore Madison Berryman took first place. The event also honored Tracey Vick, D.D.S., of Edmond, who died in July. He was a mechanical engineer for Boeing when he decided to get a degree in dentistry, returning to UCO for his undergraduate requirements. His daughter, Angel, is a junior kinesiology major who is active on Central track and cross-country teams.

Small Business Development Center Expands

The UCO Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is opening its first satellite offices to meet a growing demand for its services. An office in Edmond opened Feb. 21 with a Norman location opening Feb. 28. “We foresee a large increase in the number of clients we can serve annually, adding approximately 100 new clients at each location each year,” Susan Urbach, center director, said. The Edmond center’s being housed in the Edmond Chamber of Commerce offices, while the Norman location will be in the Norman Economic Development Coalition office. Since starting in 1984, Central’s SBDC has served more than 10,000 businesses. A member of the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center Network, the SBDC will continue to have its main office in downtown Oklahoma City.

Central Faculty, Staff Encouraged to ‘Be Fit’

To promote a healthier workplace, all full-time, part-time and adjunct faculty and staff have received free memberships to the UCO Wellness Center through June 30. To kick things up a notch, all received a “Be Broncho Fit!” card in January so they could track their time in the gym. Once they log 30 visits, they are eligible for incentive prizes. Leon Franklin, left, of Central Receiving, was the first UCO employee to turn in his completed “Be Broncho Fit!” card. He received a UCO water bottle, a $15 restaurant gift card and a $15 gift certificate for Wellness Center programs.