UCO@125 Kicks Off Distinguished Speakers Series

UCO kicked off its 125th anniversary celebration in January with the UCO@125 Distinguished Speakers Series. Bruce Katz, vice president for the Brookings Institution and founding director of its Metropolitan Policy Program, spoke on the future of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Katz co-authored the 2013 book “The Metropolitan Revolution,” that argues that cities and metro areas are the drivers of national economies and the front lines for economic policy innovation. He notes that cities and metros are now taking the reins and investing in infrastructure, making advanced industry a priority, and upgrading the education and skills of workers. Katz’s presentation focused on how these ideas might apply to the Oklahoma City metro moving forward.

Transformative Learning Conference, March 26-27

Central will expand the conversation on transformative learning in higher education with an internationally renowned expert in the field through its annual Transformative Learning Conference on March 26-27 in Oklahoma City. Eric Mazur, Ph.D., is the Area Dean of Applied Physics and the Balkanski Professor of Physics and Applied Physics at Harvard University. He is internationally recognized for his work in actively engaging students in their learning and is a pioneer in “flipping” classrooms, or inverting the traditional teaching model. “With multiple international institutions represented along with colleges and universities from coast to coast, the conference, now in its eighth year, has become a nexus for idea-sharing about how to design, implement and assess the many aspects of transformative learning on college campuses and communities,” said Jeff King, Ed.D., executive director of Central’s Center for Excellence in Transformative Teaching and Learning. To register, visit www.uco.edu/TLConference.

CHK|Central Boathouse Grand Opening, April 18

Construction on the CHK|Central Boathouse at the Oklahoma River in downtown Oklahoma City is nearing completion. Central’s women’s rowing team is scheduled to move into the facility in March, with a Community Grand Opening Event set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 18. The campus and Oklahoma City metro communities are invited to the festivities, which will include an official grand opening ceremony and tours of the boathouse, a chance to meet Central’s rowing team, live music and art demonstrations, food trucks, and discounted adventure activities on the river.
Li Named President of Chinese Historian Society

UCO professor of history Xiaobing Li, Ph.D., was recently named president of Chinese Historians in the United States (CHUS), an affiliated society of the American Historical Association and the Association of Asian Studies. Li joined Central's faculty in 1993 and currently serves as the director of the Western Pacific Institute and the Confucius Classroom Project. He was chair of the Department of History and Geography from 2009-14. “As the 2015-17 CHUS president, I will continue the tradition of serving members, promoting historical scholarship and academic exchange and developing CHUS into a vibrant academic community,” Li said. He is the only member of CHUS from an Oklahoma institution.

UCO Top for International Students

Central has again been recognized as a top institution of higher learning for international students, ranking 13th for enrollment among all master's level institutions in the U.S., according to the Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange. Central moved up one spot in the 2013-14 rankings and is the only university in Oklahoma to be ranked in the top 40 of the Open Doors Report. Central's international students represent 84 countries and 9 percent of the university's student body. They cite the university's long history, small class sizes, quality faculty-student interaction and affordability as top reasons for selecting Central.

UCO a Certified Healthy Campus and Business

UCO maintained its status as a Certified Healthy Campus for the fourth consecutive year, while also ranking as a Certified Healthy Business for the first time. The dual certification recognizes the university’s efforts to promote health and wellness among its students, faculty and staff. A part of the “Shape Your Future” campaign driven by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Central was awarded the highest level of certification, garnering the excellence designation. The program recognizes college campuses and vocational technical schools that make a positive impact on the health of their employees and students.

UCO, OSUIT Partner for Degree Completion

Central and the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT) made official an articulation agreement during a ceremony in January on OSUIT’s campus in Okmulgee. The agreement ensures that courses taken at OSUIT will transfer to Central and allow a greater number of students to transition from OSUIT’s two-year academic programs and complete a bachelor's degree at Central. UCO President Don Betz said that the agreement is a demonstration of Central’s continued commitment to degree completion. “This articulation agreement makes the transition to Central a logical choice for OSUIT students interested in careers in the Oklahoma City metro and is in line with the goals of Complete College America — to put more Oklahomans on the path to a bachelor's degree,” said Betz.