UCO a ‘Great College to Work For’

UCO was the only Oklahoma higher education institution to be named one of the “2015 Great Colleges to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education, and one of only a handful of institutions in the nation given the “Honor Roll” distinction for being cited most often among recognition categories. This is the seventh time in the past eight years the university has made the list, with past recognition in 2008 and 2010-14.

Kleeman Receives Fulbright

J. Kole Kleeman, Ph.D., professor of mass communication in Central’s College of Liberal Arts, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach in the Master of Arts program in the Department of American Studies and Mass Media at the University of Lodz in Lodz, Poland, for the 2015-16 academic year. Kleeman will teach courses he developed as the director of UCO’s media studies minor, as well as specialty courses like Gender, Race, Class and the Media and Gays and Lesbians in Film and Media for the GEMMA program (Women and Gender Studies) associated with seven universities across the European Union.

Operation Degree Completion Honored

UCO’s Operation Degree Completion was recognized with Ruffalo Noel Levitz’s 2015 Lee Noel and Randi Levitz Retention Award during the National Conference on Student Recruitment, Marketing and Retention, July 8-10 in Boston. The award, now in its 26th year, recognizes innovative campus retention programs like Operation Degree Completion that encourage students to succeed and persist through graduation. UCO Director of Student Success Emily Griffin-Overocker, Ph.D., and Glenda Todd, academic advisor for the program, were on hand to receive the award.
Small Business Development Center Joins CeCE

UCO's Small Business Development Center, located at One Santa Fe Plaza in downtown Oklahoma City, is now part of Central’s Center for eLearning and Customized Education. The change allows resident UCO business development experts Susan Urbach and Carlos Amaya — who together have a combined 41 years of experience at the center — to greatly expand services available to Oklahoma City metropolitan area entrepreneurs.

Grant Creates Opportunities for Teachers

Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen, Ph.D., assistant dean for UCO’s College of Liberal Arts, was awarded a $191,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to lead “Monuments of Rome,” a Summer Institute for School Teachers, July 6 to Aug. 3 in Rome. UCO graduate student Phillip Harvey was among the 25 participants selected for the institute. University of Texas, El Paso professor Ronald Weber, Ph.D., is the institute’s co-leader. The pair met during an NEH faculty seminar in Rome and has worked toward the grant for the last decade.

UCO Committed to Hispanic Student Success

UCO recently became a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), an association of more than 400 colleges and universities committed to furthering the success of Hispanic students in higher education in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America and Spain. Central has seen a 39.5 percent increase in Hispanic enrollment over the last five years and is the second institution of higher education in Oklahoma to join the HACU.

Student Support Services Grants Total $5.5 Million

The U.S. Department of Education awarded five Federal TRiO Programs grants to UCO Student Support Services (UCO SSS) in July — more than any other postsecondary institution in Oklahoma. Under the leadership of Vice President for Student Affairs Myron Pope, Ed.D., UCO SSS Program Director Victoria Arnold, Ed.D., will oversee the grants that total more than $5.5 million over five years and support an increase in educational equity for 620 low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. Funded programs include several themed opportunities for students, including science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and health sciences, K-12 teacher prep, veteran support, disability support, and traditional student support services.