Central Honors Retired Regent Howard

Central recently honored retired RUSO Regent Belva Howard, making her the first recipient of the university's new Order of the Clocktower. President Betz created the honor in his first year of presidency to honor exceptional individuals who have made lasting contributions to higher education and to Central. “Her contribution to education and this university go beyond what is average or what is expected. The decisions she made during the 27 years as a regent helped guide Central, and we are grateful for her dedication.” Howard, a 1979 Central graduate, served an unprecedented three terms, nine years each, as RUSO regent. The Order of the Clocktower is named for Old North, Oklahoma's first building dedicated to higher education, built on the Central campus in 1892-93, and still standing.

Serving Oklahoma at Another Level

Gov. Mary Fallin has named UCO's Vice President of Enrollment Management Myron Pope, Ph.D., to the Department of Human Services Commission. At UCO since 2004, he is active in the community, serving as immediate past chair of the Edmond Chamber of Commerce board of directors, a member of the Edmond Rotary Club, a board member at the Hope Center of Edmond and a member of the Leadership Edmond Steering Committee, while coaching and mentoring children at the Edmond YMCA. He has a bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate from the University of Alabama, where he was a member of the Crimson Tide's ’92 national championship football team.

Students Snap National ADDYs

Department of Design students recently won six national Student ADDY Awards, more than any design program in the nation and besting their record set last year. The American Advertising Federation announced the winners at its annual national conference in June in Austin. Central Design student winners are Kaly Davis of Tulsa; Victor Acosta, Mexico; Kael Little, Poteau; Amy Hubbard, Oklahoma City; Julia Radke, Edmond; and Brandon Land, Piedmont. Calling the awards great confidence builders, Department of Design Chair Ruki Ravikumar, M.F.A., said, “They now know their work can stand up to competition at the national level.”
Sports Standouts Score Big

Softball All-Americans Nathalie Timmermans and Kacie Edwards had a record-setting season with Timmermans topping the nation in total home runs (23) and runs scored per game (1.36). Timmermans, from the Netherlands and a player in the ’08 Olympics, is currently competing in her second year of World Championship games. She helped lead the Dutch National Team to a fourth place finish in the 2012 World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City. Edwards, from Yukon, led Division II in runs batted in per game (1.52). Meanwhile, Central’s baseball team led the Division II in slugging percentage (.561) and doubles per game (2.75) while coming in second in total home runs (64) and homers per game (1.33). Senior slugger Austin Rycroft, from Edmond, had top-10 finishes in six categories.

Call Him Dean of the Deans

Central’s James Machell, Ph.D., UCO’s dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, has been named chair of next year’s National Conference of Academic Deans. The 2013 event will be the 72nd annual gathering, making it among the longest running of its kind. Machell, who just returned from his fourth year of attendance, said the conference is smaller, less formal than many — a perk because it allows easy connections, conversations and brainstorming with peers from both public and private institutions. The event started in the ’40s with faculty from Oklahoma State University. The University of Central Arkansas has been the permanent “host” for the last 12 years.

New Master’s, Forensic Psychology

Beginning this fall, Central will offer a master’s degree in Forensic Psychology to help fill a very specific need in the law enforcement community. Robert Mather, Ph.D., program coordinator, said years of planning have gone into the new degree that will tap into a collaborative curriculum between Central’s world-class Forensic Science Institute and the Department of Psychology in the College of Education and Professional. Students will concentrate on scientific research in experimental psychology and its application to forensic issues. Trained professionals who understand the motivations of today’s criminal minds are in high demand, Mather said.

Big Wheels Keep On Rollin’

The Oklahoma Transit Association recently gave the City of Edmond recognition — the Outside the Bus Award for Best College Connection — for its partnership effort with UCO. Deemed as setting a standard for regional college support, Edmond’s Citylink bus service provides free rides through and around the UCO campus. In addition, another route takes students to popular shopping and living locations off campus. Another, the Expresslink route, moves students to and from the Edmond campus and Central’s Academy of Contemporary Music in Bricktown. Overall, ridership is up 75.9 percent, from 7,675 when the partnership began in 2007 to 31,874 for the 2010-2011 period.