Gaylord Foundation Awards Grant for Old North

The UCO Foundation recently received a $500,000 grant from the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation to help fund the restoration of Old North on Central’s campus. “We are incredibly appreciative of the Gaylord Foundation and their positive impact in our community,” said UCO President Don Betz. “To be able to count them as one of our generous partners of this restoration project is a true testament to the important place Old North holds in not only our history, but the hearts of all Oklahomans.”

‘Rings of Gold’ for UCO Endeavor Games

The UCO Endeavor Games received one of two Rings of Gold awards at the 2014 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly in Chicago. “Our partnership with the Endeavor Games and the U.S. Olympic Committee is such an important piece to our university and the Edmond community,” said Myron Pope, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs. “We’re honored to receive the Rings of Gold award and will continue to help all athletes achieve their goals.” The Endeavor Games celebrated its 15th year in June 2014. The event — which features 11 sports — welcomed more than 300 athletes from nearly 40 states and ranging in age from 2-72.

$5 Million ‘GEAR UP’ Grant Awarded to UCO

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded UCO a 7-year, $5 million grant under Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). The funds will serve 899 low-income students from high-poverty, low-performing urban middle and high schools in the Oklahoma City area. GEAR UP is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Federal funding will be matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, MidFirst Bank and UCO for a total budget of $11.4 million over seven years.
AACU Conference Comes to UCO

The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) has chosen UCO as host of its 25th annual Summer Institute on General Education and Assessment to be in June 2015. The summer institute provides campus teams with opportunities to refine and advance general education programs and their assessment. Teams explore intentional, well-defined and meaningfully assessed models of general education, processes of redesign, implementation of highly effective practices, and clarification and integration of learning outcomes and their assessment. AAC&U’s institute is designed for any campus, system or group of campuses engaged in redesigning general education for students. Admission is competitive and limited.

Software Engineering Degree Introduced

UCO students have a new option in preparing for a career in the rapidly growing software development industry with the Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering degree program, offered through the university’s College of Mathematics and Science. It is the first program of its kind offered by a public university in Oklahoma. Software engineering is the study and application of engineering to the design, development and maintenance of software. The program, introduced this fall, was created in response to recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that project employment of software developers to grow 22 percent from 2012-22, much faster than the average for all occupations.

UCO, Edmond Commit to Sustainability

UCO and the city of Edmond debuted a memorandum of understanding toward a more sustainable future during an October ceremony on Central’s campus. The memorandum makes official a commitment of the university and the city to further collaborate on programs that will produce a healthier, more livable and sustainable local community, including energy efficiency, healthy ecosystems, alternative fuels and public transportation, solid waste and recycling, parks and recreation facilities, water and wastewater resources, and education opportunities.

No. 1 for Campus Voter Registration

For the fifth consecutive year, UCO won the large-school division of the Oklahoma Campus Compact Voter Registration Contest. Central volunteers in September registered the greatest percentage of enrollment among Oklahoma institutions with full-time enrollments between 7,001 and 30,000. Central’s American Democracy Project organized the effort that resulted in 612 students registering, or 4.9 percent of the full-time student body. The contest resulted in 3,312 new voter registrations for in-state and out-of-state students. More than 27,000 students have been registered to vote since the contest’s inception in 2003.