Research, Service, Collaboration Recognized

The Oklahoma Campus Compact has given Central the first-ever Outstanding Community and Campus Collaboration Award. It recognizes the university’s joint effort with United Way of Greater OKC to help several area non-profits. Through a matching grant, the two entities pooled $10,000 that was used by students to do research and program development for five requesting agencies. For example, one group of students helped develop a brand identity package for the Metropolitan Better Living Center. Another group researched the feasibility and then helped implement an after-school gardening project with the YMCA. “Students gained so much real world experience with the added benefit of doing something worthwhile for their community,” Greg Wilson, Ph.D., executive director of Central’s Office of Research and Grants, said.

Campus Voter Registration Drive, No. 1 Effort

For the second consecutive year, Central won 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 (ADP) organized the effort that resulted in 627 students registering, or 4.9 percent of the full-time student body. That was almost half of the total 1,405 registered at the 13 state campuses competing. “Winning the contest two consecutive years speaks volumes to the passion and commitment to our transformative learning initiative focusing on civic engagement,” Patti Loughlin, Ph.D., professor of History and Geography and ADP coordinator, said.

UCO Campus Shares Holiday Spirit, 20th Year

For the 20th year, Central students, faculty and staff will throw a Christmas party — complete with gifts — for 200 elementary students from nine Edmond schools. The annual President’s Club Children’s Christmas Party is a big hit on campus not only for the children who participate, but also for the more than 500 Central sponsors who each are assigned a child, then work together to provide wish-list gifts and clothing in appropriate sizes. Each child also receives a hat, gloves and scarf from Central’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center. “It’s a joy to unite our students, faculty and staff with these children for a few hours, and for the kids to experience college for the first time on our campus,” Kay Robinson, director of Campus Activities, said.
UCO National Site for Screening French Films

Central is one of 44 institutions in the nation chosen to screen a series of French films as part of the Tournées Festival, a nationwide event displaying a diverse selection of modern French cinema. The festival coincides with Central’s Passport to France semester of activities. Films will be screened Nov. 1-29 and cover social satire, political drama, animation and crime investigations, all set in France. All film screenings are free with the program supported by the Franco-American Cultural Exchange with a grant from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture. For more information about the Tournées Festival, visit www.facecouncil.org/tournees. For more information about the films being shown at UCO and times, visit www.uco.edu/passport.

Central Standouts, ‘50 Making a Difference’

Two Central standouts were recently named to The Journal Record’s 2011 list of “50 Making a Difference,” the publication’s 31st annual tribute to women who are leaders in their communities, careers and organizations. UCO’s Anne Holzberlein, vice president of development and executive director of the UCO Foundation, and Beth Kerr, J.D., UCO legal counsel, both were named to the list and honored in The Journal Record’s annual special publication. The pair also were honored at a banquet held in the group’s honor. Holzberlein joined the UCO staff in 2004. Kerr has been with UCO since 2008.

Martin Family Supports UCO Nursing Program

The Martin Family Foundation of Oklahoma has given UCO’s Department of Nursing a $250,000 gift — $50,000 for nursing scholarships and $200,000 to help build a state-of-the-art training laboratory for nursing students. This is the foundation’s third gift to the university, with previous gifts totaling $135,000 for nursing scholarships. The Foundation has shown support of Central’s program because of its efforts to meet Oklahoma’s nursing shortage by providing student-focused, hands-on training that allows Central students to leave with baccalaureate degrees and skills needed to transition with ease from the classroom to the hospital. The university also has developed a program to help RNs and LPNs complete bachelor’s degrees.

Women’s Soccer, School Record, National Bid?

Central’s 20th-ranked women’s soccer team rolled to a school-record in late October with its 14th straight win, then broke that with its 15th victory Oct. 30. Now the waiting begins to see if the team will be named Nov. 7 when NCAA Division II national tournament bids are announced. Forty-eight teams make the national playoffs, with six selected for each of eight regions. The Bronchos were second in the most recent South Central Regional poll, so thoughts are they are a shoo-in for their eighth national tournament berth since 2000. Hopes are that UCO will not only play, but also host part of the regional play-offs. “I would like to think it’s a pretty sure thing we’re in at least, so we’ll be practicing and working on things that will help us in the national tournament,” Coach Mike Cook said.