Resident Paralympians Bring Home Medals

UCO’s resident Paralympic athletes found gold and silver at the 2012 London Paralympic Games in London last week. Discus thrower Jeremy Campbell won a gold medal, breaking the Paralympic record with a 60.05-meter throw. He holds the world record with a throw of 63.46 meters, set in June at the UCO Endeavor Games. The U.S. Women’s Sitting Volleyball Team earned a silver medal after a loss to China in the gold medal finals. Currently, UCO hosts 16 Paralympic resident athletes who compete in sitting volleyball, archery, or track and field.

Sen. Inhofe, First ‘Guardian Angel’

Sen. Jim Inhofe has received UCO’s first Guardian Angel award in recognition of his work in support of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Paralympic Military and Veterans Program. UCO is an official Olympic and Paralympic training site, hosting competitive events, such as The Warrior Games and the UCO Endeavor Games, as well as training opportunities. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the USOC. Through his work on the Armed Services Committee, Sen. Inhofe has worked to ensure funding for the military sport programs.

UCO Jazz Lab Voted ‘Best’

The UCO Jazz Lab recently was recognized once again by readers of The Oklahoman as the “Best Place for Live Jazz & Blues” while readers of the Oklahoma Gazette named it the “Best Live Music Club.” Since opening in March 2002, the Jazz Lab has proven to be a favorite community entertainment venue. As designed, it also serves as an educational facility for Central students as well as a state-of-the-art recording studio. Benefiting students and the community, Jazz Lab entertainment ranges from award-winning students to popular local performers to world-renowned headliners.
Always Central Campaign Launching

UCO officially will launch its Always Central campaign, the university's largest comprehensive drive, with a goal of $40 million. The campaign’s faculty and staff effort previewed earlier this month with a goal of reaching 60 percent campus participation. Last year's effort saw faculty and staff increase annual giving from 22 percent to 38 percent with 172 first-time donors. Campus giving in 2011-12 provided more than $170,000 for scholarships, facilities, programs, teaching and the future.

Campus Design Work, National Recognition

UCO Designer Elspeth Brown and the university's architectural and engineering team recently gained national recognition with their work on the Center for Transformative Learning featured in the 2012 Educational Interiors Showcase. The 32,000-square-foot structure was completed in January 2011 providing flexible and interactive areas for classrooms and faculty office space. The building also includes a recital hall that seats 150 and a large outdoor classroom on the east side of the building. It has been recognized, also, for being built to meet LEED certification.

UCO, Great Place to Work!

For the fourth time in five years, The Chronicle of Higher Education has named UCO one of the “2012 Great Colleges to Work For.” Additionally, the university was one of only 42 to be named as a 2012 Honor Roll institution, so honored because they each rated highly in more than four categories. An incredible 47 percent of the UCO campus answered the Chronicle's random online survey request. Central took honors in Collaborative Governance, Professional/Career Development Programs, Teaching Environment, Work/Life Balance, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship and Tenure Clarity/Process.

Sports Programs Move into MIAA

UCO is in its first year as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA). As a result, two of Central’s football games will be among the 11 featured on the MIAA Television Network this season. The first game, an away game against defending Division II national champion Pittsburg State, aired Sept. 8. A home game against Washburn will be aired Sept. 22 with kickoff at 2:30 p.m. in Wantland Stadium. That game also will include recognition of Central's 1962 and 1982 national championship team members who are staging a reunion that weekend.