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Be Central
Show your UCO pride.
Get yours today!

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...a magazine published by the University of Central Oklahoma for its alumni and friends.

On the Cover
“Building Bridges” is the theme of this issue of Old North, looking at the many ways Central connects students and graduates with the metropolitan area, the nation and the world. In front of downtown Oklahoma City’s SkyDance Bridge is May 2014 graduate Tookah Sapper, who has been accepted to the graduate program at the Manhattan School of Music.

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University of Central Oklahoma traditions are strong and we’re proud to be a part of the Broncho family as the exclusive provider of the UCO credit and check cards. Show your UCO pride. Get yours today! Visit midfirst.com/uco for more details.

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Spring has arrived in Edmond. The evidence is abundant. Forsythia and early blooming flowers are competing now for attention with the emerging redbud, dogwood and crabapple. The UCO campus offers glimpses every day of the anticipated splendor of the university grounds, thanks to Mother Nature’s consistency and the caring diligence of our facilities team.

The natural beauty of the campus is matched by the abundance of activities and events involving students, staff, faculty, alumni and community alike. From Spring Break in mid-March until the last student crosses the stage at our May 9-10 graduation ceremonies, there are multiple daily opportunities to savor the vitality of UCO.

This Old North edition focuses on building bridges — personal, professional, communal and global. It reminds us of the power and promise of connection and collaboration. UCO is alive with learning, exploring, reaching further than in the past as we embrace the tenets of the strategic plan, Vision 2020. Within these pages, we highlight a few of the pathfinders, those who, each in their unique and commendable way, bring us closer to the benefits of lifelong learning. Some have achieved national notoriety, while others are a defining difference in the individual lives they touch.

In the whirlwind of these past weeks, we have welcomed Gov. Mary Fallin and her family back to UCO and to the dedication of her Nigh University Center meeting room. Former first lady of UCO and the state, Donna Nigh, was lauded with the naming of a College of Education and Professional Studies department in her honor. We crowded around an iron beam on the banks of the Oklahoma River and signed our names and sentiments into history as the CHK|Central Boathouse construction officially commenced. Next year at this time, we will be dedicating this unique metro venue to rowing, art and music. All who care about UCO will be proud.

UCO, your university, is focused on living its mission of helping students learn in ways that will serve them well and, thereby, engender confidence in their competence. For example, we know the defining difference that activities in and out of the classroom, known as high impact practices, can produce in stimulating curiosity, and personal growth and development. We are intentionally creating enhanced opportunities to lead, solve problems together, become engaged in our communities, cultivate an appreciation of our diverse world and choose healthy lifestyles.

We are building bridges between learning and doing, between knowledge and its application where we live. As a metropolitan university, we are building bridges to those we serve.

We invite you to join us in this worthy work.
Lichens, Hearn explained, are the stuff of science fiction. They can grow densely, one type beside another in the smallest of spaces, making classification difficult, and they defy the rules of form and function that define other species.

A drop of water might change the color of a lichen from midnight black to brilliant orange. They’re everywhere, but hardly noticed. Covering 8 percent of Earth’s surface, lichens adapt and thrive in extreme climates, from the arctic tundra and Death Valley to the depths of the ocean, where marine lichens live on barnacles on the skin of blue whales. They’re sustenance for caribou. They’re used in dyes, perfumes, deodorants and cleaning products.

Despite lichens’ wide usage, abundance and adaptability, scientists have had limited success at cultivating them in lab settings. The stuff of science fiction, indeed.

Hearn’s drawing — “the big one” — features lichens morphing from one type to another. The drawing started in her studio, then moved to the Hardesty where Hearn — behaving like lichens and allowing visitors to join her — “I wanted to let participants influence what I was going to draw. So while I was drawing, if someone saw a lichen that they thought was really beautiful, they could ask that I draw that one next,” Hearn explained.

Public participation was required, however, before the art project even started. Hearn used blogs, social media, fliers and word of mouth to issue a worldwide call for lichens.

Slowly, crowd-sourced lichens arrived from all over the world. She collected approximately 200 specimens from 13 states and four countries. Each was on display at the Hardesty.

In July, after the close of her residency at the Hardesty, Hearn was awarded a Paseo Arts Association FEAST (Funding Emerging Art with Sustainable Tactics) grant. The $1,429 award allowed Hearn to purchase a high-powered, 36.3 megapixel Nikon D800E camera to photograph and produce prints, both large and small, of her specimens.

The camera, along with other techniques such as chemical testing and keying, allows Hearn and Strawn to examine the lichens on a micro and macro level, identifying and categorizing them. With it, their work toward a field guide of Oklahoma lichens can be realized.

As part of the science fiction exploration of her project, Hearn uses X-Acto knives to cut up multiple photographs of her lichens. Ultimately, these cut lichens “grow together in new colonies,” installed as three-dimensional sculptures on walls and ceilings. Hearn hopes that the larger-than-life prints of the lichens leave the viewer feeling overwhelmed by their complexities. With their intricacies magnified, the lichens seem almost extraterrestrial.

Immy Smith, Ph.D., a neuroscientist at England’s University of Reading, recently invited Hearn to participate in Smith’s collaborative project, “The Symbiosis Book.”

Hearn cut lichen forms to pages, similar to those Smith collected from artists on several continents. Smith’s intention was for the book to tell a story of the symbiosis among artists worldwide, while also showing the collaboration between science and art, and of the life and patterns of lichen. She hand-bound the pages into a large book, displayed at the United Kingdom’s National Science and Engineering Week, March 15-22.

Learn more about lichens and Hearn’s other projects at instituteofaquaticresearch.com or sarahhearn.blogspot.com.
A new effort is underway at Central to showcase UCO students and graduates and their faculty or staff mentors.

By Adrienne Nobles
Assistant Vice President, University Relations

Behind every Central graduate, you’ll likely find a faculty or staff mentor who was instrumental in helping that student earn his or her degree.

Many graduates speak enthusiastically — and specifically — about the personal relationships they developed with their professors, advisers and other staff members. That enthusiasm inspired the university’s newest promotional campaign, “Mentors Matter.”

UCO’s University Relations office solicited nominations from current students and alumni to find student-mentor pairs to feature in a series of ads. The first to be profiled were UCO Journalism alumna Heide Brandes (BA ’95) and her mentor, UCO Journalism professor Terry Clark, Ed.D.

Brandes recalled meeting Clark her first day of classes when she was lost in the Communications Building — the first of many memorable encounters.

“I distinctly remember one classroom lesson in which he put a lava rock on the table and made us describe it without using the word ‘rock.’ Through that creative exercise, I learned how to use imagery to describe a scene, and it’s a skill that editors still compliment me on. He always emphasized the term ‘show, don’t tell’ when it came to writing,” Clark said.

Clark said he was honored Brandes nominated him to be featured in the campaign. His own personal pride in many of his students like Heide who go on to do great things is a blessing for both the student and professor.

“It takes a while to consider myself a mentor. I’m just doing what I enjoy. Student success is very important to me, and I take personal pride in many of my students like Heide who go out on their own and are successful doing what they love,” Clark said.

“UCO is first and foremost a teaching university, and our smaller classes allow us to build special bonds with students that last through the years,” he added.

The two still meet often to “talk shop” over coffee, and Clark’s recommendation recently helped Brandes get a job as a stringer for a national news service.

The Clark-Brandes story is just one example of mentorship on a campus full of faculty and staff who put teaching first each day. University Relations is eager to gather more stories as it expands the “Mentors Matter” campaign. Contact the office with your story at univrel@uco.edu.
ast June, Central alumnus Jay Krottinger put on his black-tie attire, gelled his hair so the top wisped in an elegant comb back and attended the Tony Awards held in Rockefeller Center’s Radio City Music Hall. The musical he produced that past spring, Pippin, was up for four Tony Awards: Best Actress in a Musical, Best Director, Best Featured Actress and Best Revival of a Musical.

The show grabbed the Best Actress award as well as Best Revival of a Musical, putting a Tony Award directly in the hands of Krottinger, honoring his hard work to bring Pippin back to life.

“It was definitely a surreal moment, winning the Tony Award,” said Krottinger. “And a success that I accredit to UCO and the School of Music.”

A Broken Arrow native, Krottinger first graduated from Central with a bachelor’s degree in Musical Theatre in 2006. Just a few days after the ceremonial cap-and-gown walk, Krottinger moved to New York. He began working at regional theaters and touring internationally on cruise ships.

“Performing was something I had done my whole life, and while I was always interested in all the behind-the-scene aspects of a production, at that time I focused all my time, effort and money toward landing roles,” Krottinger recalled.

While successfully working as a New York performer, Krottinger ignored several directors who told him he had a natural knack for producing.

“What my goals were at the time was not my actual destiny,” he said. After a few years in the Big Apple, Krottinger began feeling drained of his passion. He moved back to Oklahoma, where he paused from his life in musical theater and began working in health care.

However, his deep-seated love for the arts couldn’t be stifled, and in 2010, Krottinger returned to UCO as a graduate student in the Musical Theatre division.

“At Central, it’s our philosophy in the Musical Theatre master’s program to really focus on and hone the strong points of individual students,” Greg White, Ph.D., director of UCO’s Musical Theatre division, said.

“It did not take long for White to recognize Krottinger’s strong points. “Jay has an incredible, innate sense of what a production needs and does. It truly is a natural gift,” White said.

With no degree at Central specifically designed for preparing up-and-coming producers, White gathered all the good
literature he could regarding producing music theater. Krottinger and White would read the literature together, then discuss the different theories and histories of producing.

“We formed an independent study in producing for Jay,” said White.

About a year into the independent study, each man hit an exciting benchmark in his career. White successfully premiered a musical he’d written and directed, *Flipside: The Patti Page Story*. Meanwhile, Krottinger co-founded Square 1 Theatrics with the mission “to offer compelling, powerful entertainment for a vast audience with thought-provoking works that inspire change, including works from and about their Oklahoma home.”

“I had become Greg’s graduate assistant by then and had helped alongside the progress of *Flipside*,” said Krottinger. After *Flipside* successfully toured Oklahoma and won 18 national awards at the Kennedy Center National Theater Festival, the production was accepted for a limited engagement at 59E59, a high-profile, Off-Broadway venue.

Thus, Krottinger and Square 1 Theatrics made their debut as associate producers working on *Flipside* in New York. It was through contacts he made co-producing *Flipside* that he was introduced to the revival of *Pippin*, the musical that would land him his Tony Award.

“Networking is essential to the success of any business — that’s something UCO taught me early on, as well as how to be resourceful,” Krottinger said.

His network and resources continue to grow. Since the Tonys, he produced last fall the Broadway production of *A Time to Kill*, a musical adaptation of John Grisham’s first novel.

Square 1 Theatrics is currently in the midst of negotiations with London’s West End for the production of *Memphis*, bolstering the producing company to international status.

Hard to believe that it all started at Central?

“I had the opportunity to go to OCU or Kansas for graduate school, but UCO originally became my pick because it was affordable,” Krottinger said, referring to Oklahoma City University. “However, I couldn’t be more excited and proud to be an alumnus of Central. It’s a mighty university.”

White reciprocates.

“With Jay’s ability for critical thinking, his natural skill and his education, he’s the perfect storm. This initial success — well, Jay is just getting started.”

Enjoying the premiere of the Broadway revival of *Pippin* are Central Musical Theatre alumnus Jeff Johnson and Square 1 co-founders Ryan Tanner and Jay Krottinger.


Lessons in Courage

By Gypsy Hogan

Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe is a short woman with a tall sense of purpose, backed by the courage to face seemingly insurmountable odds — including the barrel of a gun and threats of violence.

In northern Uganda, particularly in her hometown of Gulu, she’s known as the nun who defied the Lord’s Resistance Army, who welcomed back the young women who had been abducted by the army, forced to commit murderous atrocities and bear children by the men to whom they were given. At St. Monica's Girls Training Center, Sister Rosemary gave the women and their children safe places to live. She and her followers provided a school for the children, while finding and teaching the mothers ways to support themselves. Shunned by their communities, the women were given the support and tools needed to start new lives.

“I tell my students, the past will never be recovered, but there is a future. My hope starts now. We can walk today in hope,” Sister Rosemary said.

Her story is one of strength, incredible leadership, amazing love and grace. For such reasons, Sister Rosemary was welcomed back to campus in February for a second consecutive year, this time bringing with her the new film, “Sewing Hope,” which chronicles her story and work, first in Uganda and now in Sudan.

“She’s one of the greatest leaders of our generation,” Jarrett Jobe, Ph.D., executive director of Leadership Central, said during her recent visit. “Her story is an inspiration for all, not just our students.”

“Sewing Hope” is narrated by American actor Forest Whitaker, while the book *Sewing Hope* is co-written by Edmond lessons in Courage

President Don Betz welcomes Sister Rosemary to campus for her second visit. Across campus, people are saving pop tabs to send for her school projects.

By Gypsy Hogan

Publications Editor, University Relations

(continued on page 23)
Derek Brown creates invaluable opportunities for students, as well as music lovers throughout the region. All benefit from his business and promotional savvy, learned through his work with groups like The Flaming Lips.

When the Academy of Contemporary Music at UCO (ACM@UCO) opened its doors in 2009, two members of the internationally known rock group The Flaming Lips joined the staff. Out front has been Scott Booker, the band’s business manager who became the ACM@UCO’s chief executive officer. Equally important, however, has been band member Derek Brown, the group’s multi-instrumentalist and the academy’s Business Development Center manager.

Those who work with Brown describe him as being incredibly humble, never boasting about his successful music career. However, at age 32, he already has amassed experience in multiple layers of the industry. Since 2001 he has worked with Booker at Hellfire Enterprises Ltd., the company Booker founded in 1989 to manage The Flaming Lips. At Hellfire, Derek developed his skills in retail marketing, concert booking, programming, promotion, record distribution, label work and band management.

Since joining ACM@UCO, he has put all of that to work, diligently connecting the academy’s student body to the music industry, as well as finding performance venues for ACM@UCO students and their bands. The Business Development Center books an average 150 performances a year. For the one-day event, ACM@UCO Rocks Bricktown, he’ll line up more than 80 bands to play at

(continued on page 23)
Q: How would you describe your style of management?

A: When you look at Gen. Eisenhower during World War II, you see that he had generals like Patton and Marshall who had prestigious careers based on their military exploits. Then you had your Gen. Bradley, the guy who was more of a teacher than a soldier, notable for being the soldier’s general, a general with whom lower ranks could readily identify. I’m like Gen. Bradley, the guy who has been in the field, done the studies, produced the reports, experienced things first hand.

I’m analytical because I’ve built the reports, and I like doing applied research. I may question numbers, but I’m looking to understand. I need to know how you built your model, how you got those numbers.

Overall, I see myself as being here to help make others successful. If you have an idea, the sooner I can put it into the hands of a person who can take ownership and exploit. Then you had your Gen. Bradley, notable for being the soldier’s general, a general with whom lower ranks could readily identify. I’m like Gen. Bradley, the guy who was more of a teacher than a soldier, notable for being the soldier’s general, a general with whom lower ranks could readily identify. I’m like Gen. Bradley, the guy who has been in the field, done the studies, produced the reports, experienced things first hand.

Q: You’ve authored a book and did your dissertation on “Consideration for Dealing with Significant Organizational Change.” Anything in particular made you so interested in change?

A: I’ve always been fascinated by change, but what framed my dissertation was a personal experience. I’d been at a smaller institution, implementing a new computerized management information system. Year two, and we were still working on getting it in place. I went to an institution almost three times larger where they were launching a management information system, and they did it in six months. I had to ask myself, ‘How could that be?’ What made it happen so much faster — and in a larger environment where logic might have said it would take longer?’ That became the heart of my research.

Q: So what did you discover?

A: Here’s the short answer. I honed in on identifying critical criteria — what must be in place for change to be successful. There are generally eight accepted critical criteria. I proposed two other critical requirements. First, you need what I call a ‘change champion,’ someone who has an aspect of personal gain and wants to see the change take place. Then you need a ‘change curriculum,’ a learning environment that promotes change. Those two things need to complement the existing criteria.

Q: What would you consider a highlight of your life?

A: Well, one of the things that I got to check off my bucket list happened last year when I got to present a paper with my daughter at the ATMAE (Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering) conference in New Orleans. I’ve always wanted to present at a conference with one of my children, so it was great when we teamed up to present a paper titled “Workforce Engagement.” My daughter’s name is Jessica Goodman. She has a doctorate in physical therapy and is at Gateway Community College in Phoenix. For the presentation, she brought the work-life balance into the equation. … If you don’t find a work-life balance, stress will take over. We looked at companies like Google that have had all of this attention on how they’ve done away with walls, have sofas, living rooms for work spaces, places to take naps, food prepared on-site, let you bring your pet to work. Pretty soon, you don’t know when to go home. You’re at work all the time. Where’s the work-life balance? Not there. Stress builds.

Q: Any rules you live by?

A: I like to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. … And I know that I never accomplished anything on my own. I’ve had family, friends and peers who have helped me. I try to remember that it’s my opportunity to give back.
A group of Central’s finest — the 1962 national football champions — came together last fall for what some thought was going to be a low-key luncheon reunion. The surprise they received, however, brought several to tears.

The campus event came 51 years after they traveled together in December 1962 to Sacramento, Calif., for the Camellia Bowl. As young men, they got off the plane dressed in jackets and ties, with the determination to be Central’s first national football champions. And why not? Coach Al Blevens had led his players through an undefeated 10-0 season, soon to be 11-0 with their 28-13 victory over North Carolina’s Lenoir-Rhyne University.

After the game, Camellia Bowl officials gave each Central player a watch in recognition of their championship accomplishment. Team manager Al Jones (BAEd ’66, MEd ’74) remembers it being a Caravelle. Player Fred Staff (BSEd ’63) thinks it may have been a bottom-line Bulova. Both men agree that their watches didn’t work for long.

“Mine quit working within the first two weeks,” recalled Jones, who is now coordinator of membership services for the UCO Alumni Association. “But we got our watches, and the watches looked good, and we thought that was it.” The players went their separate ways, into a world that had just witnessed the Cuban Missile Crisis while on the verge of many other major social upheavals.

Football, however, would become an even more dominant sport, and championship rings would replace watches as the big tradition.

To date, Central claims two national football titles — the 1962 win and another in 1982.

In the fall of 2012, the two championship teams were invited back to campus for a joint reunion.

UCO supporter and Edmond businessman Brad Grow (BS ’78) came to campus long after the ’62 team, but he knew many of Central’s star players from that era.

Jerry Brown (BSEd ’63) was Grow’s high school position coach and the “person responsible for me earning a college football scholarship.”

Jack Scammahorn (BSEd ’63, MT ’70) was Grow’s junior high wrestling coach — “the guy responsible for making me tough and disciplined.”

Joe Straw (BSEd ’63, MT ’68) was Grow’s high school track coach. (continued on page 18)
should have something to commemorate what I would be, but for sure, not anywhere near as good of a citizen or person as I am today," Grow, a certified public accountant, is also chairman and principal of Waterloo Holdings, a restaurant franchising and management company with such eateries as Henry Hudson’s Pubs, Garfield’s and Boliva, received his ring a couple of weeks before the luncheon during a campus stopover. “I want you to know that I did not think you’d live forever — memories about how we felt about our coaches, ourselves and our teammates,” he said. “Then, 50 years later, you’re standing there, looking around, thinking about those who are gone — guys who were younger than me — and the others who are crippled up. … We were very humbled and deeply appreciative.”

NOTE: Player Fred Staff, who lives in Boliva, received his ring a couple of weeks before the luncheon during a campus stopover. “I want you to know that I did not cry, but I could hardly speak. It shocked me greatly,” he said in a later email.

As for ‘62 player Mickey Hoy, he notes that he still has his Camellia Bowl watch — and it works! “I’ve never worn it much. It basically has its place in my main room,” which is where his ring now proudly sits, ready for the right occasion.

For Grow, it was more about gratitude than generosity. “It was a very rewarding experience for me,” he said. “That’s for sure.”

Scammahorn later said that looking back, he wished the group had known ahead of time to designate a group spokes-
man, someone to say a public thanks during the event. “We were very touched, deeply touched, that people 50 years later would remember us,” Scammahorn said. “We felt like we should have said something as a group. It just caught all of us by surprise.”

For Scammahorn, the event has become even more special. “You’re getting this ring, and savoring all these memories from a time when you thought you’d live forever — memories about how we felt about our coaches, ourselves and our teammates,” he said. “Then, 50 years later, you’re standing there, looking around, thinking about those who are gone — guys who were younger than me — and the others who are crippled up. … We were very humbled and deeply appreciative.”

That’s how on a day last fall, in a low-key luncheon on campus, a group of 13 players from the 1962 championship team, found themselves surprised beyond belief. “There were a lot of guys with merry eyes that day,” Muller said, including a few people who weren’t even ‘62 players. “And all of it wouldn’t have been possible without the generosity of Brad Grow.”

For Grow, a wonderful event, it added, “I remember Brad looking at me and saying, ‘Don’t you think we should do something?’”

They quickly decided a ring was the thing — a big ring, a unique ring designed just for these players, one with each player’s name stamped into the side. But how to pay for it? No problem, Grow said, volunteering to cover the cost.

That’s when Grow started thinking. “I thought these guys that I idolized should have something to commemorate one of the hardest and most difficult things to achieve in athletics — a national championship.”

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For Grow, a wonderful event, it added, “I remember Brad looking at me and saying, ‘Don’t you think we should do something?’”

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History major, experienced architect, dedicated father and UCO's assistant vice president of Facilities are all titles that fit Mark Rodolf. More recently, he has added one more — museum hero.

"You do not have enough pen and paper to write down how we feel about Mark Rodolf," Jenna Mottola said before even asked a question. She's the former executive director of the Edmond Historical Society Museum, which opened its doors to the public in 1983. Mottola had the idea to make the museum more hands-on and kid-friendly, and Rodolf became the guy who built her dream.

Because of his background in history and architecture, UCO leadership selected Rodolf in 2008 to serve on the museum's board as part of the university's initiative to reach out to the community. Mottola, who had become executive director in January 2008, began voicing her plan for a hands-on concept. The first step, she thought, was to create an interactive replica of early-day Edmond, a museum area for children.

Money was the first obstacle Mottola encountered, due to the fact that the museum is a private, nonprofit organization. After many fundraising efforts, the museum still lacked some of the financial support it needed, including a large amount for labor. Rodolf quickly asked, "Why don't you let me build it?"

He started in May 2008. Five months and 400 volunteer hours later, he finished the new, interactive children's center that Mottola envisioned. The learning-play area includes a general store with an actual rough cedar roof, a train station with a smaller-scaled train inside, and a sheriff's office with a jail cell made up of rubbery bars for kids to slip in and out. The exhibit also includes a Citizens Bank of Edmond with laminated money, a prairie house with dress-up clothes and an activity area with blocks, books and art supplies. The museum also added small displays to the walls that include educational facts about the structures and Edmond history.

"I've remodeled all of my life, worked in the trades through college, but this project was by far the most I've ever done," Rodolf said. He built the exhibit as if a real house, with extra-reinforced wood corners because he knew it would take a beating. After six years, the only thing museum volunteers have needed to do is apply a little touch-up paint. The exhibit also includes detailed murals of town life, painted by UCO art professor Bob Palmer, Ed.D., and his students.

UCO’s Mark Rodolf, above, spent more than 400 volunteer hours completing the children’s area at the Edmond Historical Society Museum. He built it to last, with the proof being that six years later, after thousands of children have visited, the structures are still solid while the concept continues to be a popular feature for museum visitors. On a recent visit to the museum, Rodolf by chance met visitor Autumn Biggs, 4, daughter of John and Kristen (BS '07) Snethen, and the granddaughter of Sherri Biggs (BSEd '80, MED '91). Rodolf is UCO's assistant vice president of Facilities and an architect.
Did You Know?

• The city of Edmond started as a coal and watering stop on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Line. On March 28, 1887, the stop was finally given the name Edmond, named for Santa Fe freight agent Edmond Burdick.
• The first year settlers arrived in the area was called “The Year of the Turnips” because the land had not been cleared or plowed, so most settlers planted and ate turnips.
• Homemade dolls were sometimes stuffed with hair that was brushed from girls with long tresses.
• The first telephone system in Edmond began in 1902.
• The Edmond Fire Department was all or partly volunteers until 1971.
• In 1920, a phone call to Oklahoma City cost 13 cents.
• In 1925, a phone call to Oklahoma City cost 13 cents.
• In 1925, a dozen lemons cost 22 cents.

The Edmond Historical Society Museum is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 1-4 p.m. on Saturdays. It's located at 431 S. Boulevard. Admission is free.

The museum also has a permanent collection of more than 30,000 artifacts that represent the history of Edmond. They are arranged in chronological order from 1888 to the present.

Following are some random facts found on the walls of the Edmond Museum's children's area.

Derek Brown

(continued from page 13)

the annual springtime event.

“At the beginning, we did a lot of outreach to get the word out about the school and students and all that we could offer the community,” Derek said. “But, once people began to see the level of talent and education the school cultivates, word got out and it just grew from there.”

Now, five years later, ACM@UCO is an entertainment component of the Oklahoma State Fair, just to name a few larger events where students performed.

The academy’s current and former students, faculty and staff book, perform, produce and manage shows throughout the area on a weekly basis, including fundraisers, local events and sporting attractions such as the Oklahoma City Thunder and Barons games.

Every Wednesday, the metro area’s latest issue of the Oklahoma Gazette is splashed with information about upcoming concerts and shows that connect in some way to the ACM@UCO.

“Derek has more experience in this industry than anyone I’ve ever met at his age,” Booker said. “Derek also has the rare perspective to look at both sides of an event — as a promoter as well as a performer who has played to hundreds of thousands of people, if not millions. He can take all of those experiences and apply them to the needs of our students and our program.”

Brown shrugs off the compliments.

“My goal here is to continue to grow the relationships between the music industry and our students, to help them achieve their goals, get them going on their careers in music,” he said.

“I want people in the music industry to believe in our students just as much as we do. By connecting them with opportunities to showcase their abilities, we’re generating that belief, and it’s paying off.”

Sister Rosemary

(continued from page 11)

Sister Rosemary said. “I have my children small things with commitment and love,” Mottola said. "I can change the world.”

“Tire Ten Most Wanted” list, indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Sister Rosemary, who has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, now works to restore Uganda. She has opened a school similar to St. Monica’s in Atiak, Uganda, about 55 miles north of Gulu, with hopes to open more schools in Uganda and southern Sudan. She works to make sure the school and her students self-sustaining. Students sew uniforms for local schools and cater area events to help support the schools and themselves, all the while learning skills that will help them establish their own businesses and become independent. They also create purses from pop tabs and yarn. These purses are sold internationally, with the help of the organization Sisters United, that Rachelle Whitten helped establish.

“The world can change if we only do small things with commitment and love,” Sister Rosemary said. “I have my students repeat with me: I can change the world.”

For more on Sister Rosemary and her work, visit SewingforHope.com, ProsforAfrica.com and SistersUnited.com.

Her book, Sewing for Hope, is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Mark Rodolf

(continued from page 20)

Rodolf worked at the museum almost every evening after work, on weekends, and even took some time off to make sure the exhibit was finished in time for its grand opening. He missed soccer games and time with his kids, finding himself consumed by the project.

“My heart is in that place.”

For Rodolf, it was “all about the details,” Mottola said, not just because of his perfectionist personality, but because he really cared. Just building the structures was not enough for him. The kids needed laminated money for playing in the bank and laminated tickets for the train station. The bank needed real brick pavers on the exterior, not just a painted-to-look-like-brick façade.

The final result — children enjoy the area, learning about history whether they realize it or not. Since the area’s grand opening, attendance has tripled, Mottola said.

Rodolf received the Broncos United in Service Award from UCO in May 2010. Earlier, in 2008, he was given the Edmond Historical Preservation Award for his dedication to community service and historical education.

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Central graduate student Kelly Minor had a career at the Federal Aviation Administration, but left it to pursue her dream of helping children with autism. That dream came true sooner than she imagined.

“If the kids can’t learn the way we teach, then we’ll teach the way they learn.”

For Central graduate student Kelly Minor, these are more than just words. They’re a guiding principle that has made her appreciate even more her time in a UCO program helping children with autism.

They are also the motto of Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy Hospital. Good Shepherd and UCO have forged a unique partnership that allows Central graduate students like Minor to gain valuable experience. The students work at Good Shepherd, applying what they are learning at UCO. Minor is working on a master’s degree in Special Education, as well as pre-certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, designated as a BCBA.

Minor began at Good Shepherd in May 2013 as a lead interventionist. Two months later, she moved into Good Shepherd’s “T2” room, working with a group of four children, ages 6 to 9.

“I love it,” Minor said. “The ultimate goal is to get the kids to a private or public school. Since I started working here, kids who were non-verbal are now talking, which is awesome.”

Being a newer graduate student in the field and taking over a small group of children with difficult behavior can be challenging, UCO Assistant Professor of Psychology Scott Singleton, Ph.D., said.

Singleton supports and spends time working with UCO students at the Good Shepherd school. He recognizes Minor’s leadership in the classroom and the difference that she has made with her “T2” students.

“You can see and often hear the excitement in our graduate students when their client has a breakthrough and does something never done before.”

Singleton said. “Of course, the client feeds on that excitement, and there is this great, mutually rewarding moment.”

Clinic workers use a trial-and-error method, drawing from their knowledge of methods to find the right learning pattern for each child.

“There are so many different ways to learn things — like math, addition and subtraction,” Minor said. “If they don’t learn it one way, then we’ll try it another way until they get it.”

(continued on page 26)
Minor
(continued from page 25)

Helping children see their own progress is part of the job.

“Just to see them happy and excited — they might not like math, but they’re excited because they’re beating their previous scores and doing well. They’re not frustrated anymore,” Minor said.

As a student herself, Minor has had her own share of challenges. In addition to being in graduate school, Minor is a stepmother to two busy teenagers and the wife of a retired Air Force serviceman. She continually balances her work and family, while giving undivided attention to her students at Good Shepherd. Helping her succeed, she said, has been good mentorship and relationships with her professors and colleagues.

UCO alumna Brandi Bramlett (BS ’08, MEd ’10) is director of Good Shepherd and one of whom Minor has grown to appreciate. Bramlett said she has continually pushed Minor, while also assuring her that she could do the job. For Minor, Bramlett’s greatest help has been helping her see that she was making a difference in the lives of her students.

Just as children learn differently, children also achieve different levels of success in different classes. A victory for one may not be the same for another. Minor celebrates them all, but takes special pride in having seen children move from a first-grade to a fifth-grade level reading level. For others, she has had the joy of seeing them move from not being able to sit through a sports game or a concert to now doing so with ease.

As Minor nears the completion of her graduate program this spring, she looks forward to passing on the growth and encouragement she received at Good Shepherd. She feels good about having made the decision to make a major career change later in life.

“I grew a lot this year. It’s nice to have someone believing in you and pushing you to do it,” she said.

These UCO clinics offer services to the campus and the community.

Speech and Hearing Clinic
Central’s Speech and Hearing Clinic offers diagnostic and remedial services to community and central middle and elementary school students for a reasonable fee basis. With the supervision of a professor, Central students working on a Master of Education in Reading conduct diagnostic evaluations and provide instruction to clients in the Reading Clinic to fulfill degree requirements.

Contact: Jelle Greifner, Ph.D., clinic coordinator
Phone: 405-974-2758 • Education Building, Room 307

Psychology Clinic
Central’s Psychology Clinic is a safe, caring and compassionate place where individuals, couples, families, and children are able to work through some of life’s most demanding problems. The Psychology Clinic’s mission is two-fold: a place for those in need to seek psychological services at an affordable price, and, to serve as a training facility for tomorrow’s clinicians. Clients are provided excellent psychological services for a minimal fee. Training clinicians are supervised by licensed psychologists specializing in various aspects of psychology, allowing clients to benefit from years of clinical experience.

Contact: Jelle Greifner, Ph.D., clinic coordinator
Phone: 405-974-2758 • Education Building, Room 307

Learning and Behavior Clinic

The Department of Psychology sponsors the UCO Learning and Behavior Clinic as part of Central’s graduate psychology training program. The clinic provides a wide range of psychological and educational assessments for children, youth and adults experiencing academic, social and/or behavioral difficulties. Following the assessment, the parent or referring school is provided a verbal and written report with recommendations. The clinic provides these services at a reasonable fee and all clinicians are under the direct supervision of Clinic Director Mary Sweet-Darter, Ph.D., and Clinic Coordinator Jeremy Medders, a nationally certified school psychologist. Open year-round, Mondays through Saturdays, the clinic follows the UCO calendar for holidays.

Contact: Jeremy Medders, NCS, clinic coordinator
Phone: 405-285-6671 • 301 S. Boulevard, Suite 117, Edmond, OK 73034

Reading Clinic
The UCO Reading Clinic offers diagnostic and remedial services to elementary and middle school students on a reasonable fee basis. With the supervision of a professor, Central students working on a Master of Education in Reading conduct diagnostic evaluations and provide instruction to clients in the Reading Clinic to fulfill degree requirements.

Contact: Julie Collins, Ph.D., clinic director; Sylvia Hurst, Ph.D., faculty
Phone: 405-974-5711 • Chambers Library, Room 175

Professor Shares Clinical Success Stories

While success stories abound at Central’s many clinics, special thanks goes to professor Mary Sweet-Darter, Ph.D., for sharing just a few such experiences in the UCO Learning and Behavior Clinic. The clinic offers evaluation services on a sliding-scale fee basis, as well as provides free diagnostic services for the nonprofit Positive Tomorrows, which provides schooling for homeless families.

By Mary Sweet-Darter, Ph.D.
Director, Learning and Behavior Clinic

When asked about success stories, several come quickly to my mind.

One is about a man who was in college. He always felt he had a reading disorder, but he was never diagnosed and just struggled along. He graduated college and was accepted into law school at Oklahoma City University, where the assistant dean recognized that he was a bright man, but clearly could not keep up with the reading requirements and did poorly on exams. She sent him to our clinic, and we conducted a full psycho-educational evaluation and confirmed he was an adult with a neurologically-based reading disability.

With the legal documentation of his disability, he was able to get his law books in an audio format and extend the time on exams. He graduated law school and applied to take the bar exam in Arizona. Arizona refused to let him take the bar exam with extended time, and he failed the test. The law firm wishing to hire him took his case to the Arizona Supreme Court, which accepted our evaluation and told the Arizona Bar Association the man had a legal right to extended time on the exam. He took it again under extended time conditions and passed. He is now a successful attorney in Arizona.

Another that comes to mind involved the son of a UCO faculty member. This third grader was being bullied at his school because his social skills were awkward, and his teachers branded him as an emotionally disturbed child. His mother brought him to the clinic, and our evaluation provided evidence that he was a child with high functioning autism. With year-by-year advocacy, he is now in middle school and doing well. He has created his own computer game and is currently converting it to a 3-D format using a headset he found on the Internet.

Another success happened just this last year when a 52-year-old man was arrested on drug charges, and the court suggested the man secure a psychological evaluation. He couldn’t afford one, and his sister found us. The evaluation provided evidence that this man was an individual with high functioning autism. For years, his psychiatrist had been treating him for anxiety. The drug the psychiatrist prescribed was very addictive, and when the man was approached by a drug dealer on the streets of Oklahoma City, he was an easy target to try other drugs that made him feel better, and he became addicted to methamphetamine. The judge told the man’s mother that the psychological evaluation we provided was the most thorough one he had ever read.

The judge arranged to put the man in drug treatment rather than prison.

“Our students are working in schools and homes around the state, giving them training and practical experience, while providing a needed service to the public. These partnerships create a critical connection between UCO and the community.”

— Scott Singleton, Ph.D.
UCO assistant professor of Psychology

“I am blessed everyday by a child with autism. To hear children say their first words, to watch them make their first friend or learn to read — I’m not sure I can put into words the warmth it brings to my heart. This job most certainly keeps me humble.”

— Brandi Bramlett (BS ’08, MEd ’10), director of Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy Hospital

Mary Sweet-Darter
Old North Funds Still Needed

The university’s $40 million Always Central campaign has just one more fundraising project left to complete — the renovation of Old North, Central’s oldest campus building.

Interior renovations have started with the $3.2 million raised to date. However, the iconic building’s interior work cannot be completed until the final $2.8 million is donated.

Old North was Central for many years, the tall tower and big building making its lone statement on a sprawling prairie. Through the years, the building has faced many financial shortfalls, even near-destruction. In 1972, it was named a National Historical Site.

Old North was one of two capital projects targeted for the $40 million campaign. The CHK|Central Boathouse on the Oklahoma River was the other, with each requiring $6 million. The campaign raised other funds for scholarships, teaching, programs and the future.

Boathouse Construction Begins

Construction of the CHK|Central Boathouse has begun with plans for its completion by March 2015.

Featured as a venue where “art meets the river,” the CHK|Central Boathouse highlights include:

• The Martha Burger Art Gallery, which will serve as a unique asset to the waterfront by allowing students and local talent the opportunity to exhibit their work in a modern, first-class setting;

• The MidFirst Bank Live Performance Venues, both indoor and outdoor, which will be a first on boathouse row, offering quality entertainment to patrons and visitors; and,

• The Gragg Boat Bay, which will house equipment for the UCO Women’s Rowing Team.

As part of the revitalization of downtown Oklahoma City, the development of the Boathouse District on the Oklahoma River began with the opening of the Chesapeake Boathouse in January 2006. The area since has become a prominent feature for Oklahoma recreation, creating a unique culture of competitive rowing and Olympic training.

With the combined draw of Sandridge’s Youth Pavilion and the Chesapeake Finish Line Tower, the CHK|Central Boathouse will be prominently featured in the center of boathouse row.

For more information on the Always Central campaign — or how you can help complete Old North — visit alwayscentral.org.
UCO celebrated in late March the beginning of construction for its CHK|Central Boathouse on the Oklahoma River. Those attending signed a beam for the facility that will house Central’s Women’s Rowing team.

1. Beam-signers Mike Knopp; Teresa Rose; Ray Hibbard; President Don Betz and wife, Susanne; Garland Wilkinson; Regent Richard Ogden; Daniel Adams; former UCO President Roger Webb; C. Hubert Gragg; Tom Berkeley; Mike Mays; Stan Lingo; Rand Elliott
2. Donor C. Hubert Gragg and President Don Betz
3. UCO Women’s Rowing team members
4. Mike Mays, David Stapleton, Tom Berkeley
5. Oars signed by Central rowers and given to donors

UCO’s Nigh University Center now has a room named in honor of Gov. Mary Fallin. The governor and family members joined others in late March for a dedication. The university center has other rooms named in honor of Oklahoma Govs. and U.S. Sens. Robert S. Kerr and Henry Bellmon, and Congressman Carl Albert. The center itself is named for Gov. George Nigh, Central president, from 1992-97.

1. From left, Christina Fallin, President Don Betz, Gov. Mary Fallin and husband Wade Christensen, Chancellor Glen Johnson, former UCO President Roger Webb
2. UCO Vice President for Public Affairs Mark Kinders, State Rep. Randy Grau of Edmond
3. Richard Ogden, Regent and Chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma
DONNA NIGH HONORED WITH DEPARTMENT NAME

The Donna Nigh Department of Advanced Professional and Special Services was dedicated in late March with a reception honoring Oklahoma’s former first lady Donna Nigh. The naming event also recognized the work she has done for those with special needs. ‘I felt like those people needed a spokesperson, and I wanted to be that spokesperson,’ she told those attending.

1. First Lady Donna Nigh
2. President Don Betz; Pat Cous, Ed.D., program chair; Donna Nigh; James Machell, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies
3. Gov. George and Donna Nigh

PAGEANT QUEENS

Meet just a couple of the many pageant queens who are selected each year.

1. Miss UCO 2014, Olivia Cavazos from Bethany, an accomplished Irish step dancer whose platform is ‘Education through Music.’
2. Miss Black UCO 2013, Jeanee Canada, left, gives a hug of support to the new Miss Black UCO 2014, Boikgapo Boleseleng, a junior Forensic Science and Criminal Justice major from Botswana.

VETERANS DAY

Each year, faculty, staff and students gather at UCO to honor Veterans Day. Included are members of the university’s ROTC program.
These are just a few of UCO’s campus visitors, people who have taken the time to share their experience and knowledge with students, faculty and staff.

1. Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb
2. Former Oklahoma Congressman Dan Boren
3. Richard Ogden, chair of the Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma
4. Pete Winemiller, senior vice president of guest relations for the Oklahoma City Thunder

1. Oklahoma Sen. Clark Jolley, center, receiving an award from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for his support of higher education in the state, being presented by Chancellor Glen Johnson, left, and UCO President Don Betz.
2. Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas with student
4. Actor Hal Holbrook performing his iconic role as Mark Twain for Central’s Broadway Tonight series.
5. Holbrook visits with Central students.
The theme for UCO’s Homecoming was “There’s No Place Like Central,” a fun take-off on a beloved character who couldn’t wait to go home, to be surrounded by the comfort and love of family and friends.

A week of events involved students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community. There was the traditional Homecoming Parade, followed by tailgating and football. Then there was the most-popular Cheer and Dance competition, along with the Edmond Downtown Carnival, a Unity Fest, a Legacy Tent/Community Party, a 5k run and the Crafternoon, S’mores Bar and Mason Jar Drink Bar.

Plan now to attend Homecoming 2014

Oct. 25-Nov.1
1. Family of the Year honor was given to the Dougherty clan, descendants of Russell Dougherty, the first Edmond high school graduate killed in World War II.

2. Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are, from left, Dalen McVay, Glenn Lewis, Ray Hardin, James T. Stuart, Allen Wright.

3. New inductees into the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame are, from left, Sheldon Waeger, Wes White, Courtney Pennington, Ed Nowlin, Mark Cunningham, Ricky Belk, Chris Wellert.

Homecoming Reunions

1. Alumni John Simmons of Tulsa and Martha Hudak of Chicago attended a reunion of former students of deceased Central Journalism Chair Ray Tassin, Ph.D.

2. Lauren Hammack, Oklahoma City; Gean Atkinson, Edmond; and Central Journalism professor Terry Clark, Ed.D., chat at the Tassin gathering.

3. Charles Roach and Buzz Forsythe visit during the Golden Bronchos breakfast, honoring Central’s graduating Class of 1963.

Each year, the UCO Presidents Club and the community gather gifts for children in the Edmond community identified as needing something extra. Then, a party is held in their honor, where they are paired with volunteers who shower them with attention and show them a good time.

1. Director of Musical Theatre Greg White, Ph.D., gives a child a bird's-eye view of the event.
2. Students and children enjoy face painting.
3. Susanne Betz joins her husband, President Don Betz, attend the annual children’s event.
4. Buddy Broncho is popular for photos.

(Above and Right) Campus events run the gamut, but one of the more vibrant was this year’s “Moore Color Run” that raised money and books for the Moore libraries hit by the 2013 tornadoes.

(Below and Right) Students enjoy a campus concert performance by Karmin, the American pop duo of Amy Heidemann and Nick Noonan.
Dan Ramsey (BS ‘67) has been president/chief executive officer of the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma for more than 15 years. He worked as an independent agent for 22 years and served four years in the state Legislature.

In April, Tom Emerick (BBA ‘74, MBA ‘75) was a keynote speaker at the Employer Summit on Cracking Health Care Costs at the 11th Annual World Health Care Congress in National Harbor, Md. Emerick is co-author of Cracking Health Costs, published last year and recently included in Forbes magazine’s list of “The Best Disruptive Writings of 2013 — Health Care Edition.” Emerick was named a UCO Distinguished Alumni in 2000.

James Kitch (BSEd ‘74), owner of Oklahoma Tag of Yukon, has been reappointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to the Redlands Community College Board of Trustees for a seven-year term. He served as mayor of Yukon in the 1980s.

Ginger Cohen (BS ‘80) is the oncology program director for Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth. She previously served as the chief nurse executive at St. Luke’s Rehabilitation Institute in Spokane, Wash. Pacific Life Insurance has promoted John Greg Reber (BBA ‘83) to vice president of its Regional Life offices. Reber, a resident of Leawood, Kan., joined Pacific Life in 1997 as sales director in the company’s life insurance division. He has since served as a field vice president, a national sales manager of the Regional Life Office and a divisional vice president for the Midwest divisional sales organization.

British Flying Cross Honors UCO Marine Pilot

Marine Corps Capt. Brian Jordan (BA ‘06) in February received the British Distinguished Flying Cross, making him only the second Marine aviator to earn the medal since World War II. Jordan received the honor for heroic actions he and his helicopter flight crew took in June 2012 that saved the life of an injured British soldier in combat in the Helmand province area of Afghanistan.

Jordan and his UH-1Y Venom helicopter aircrew arrived at Camp Bastion in late May 2012 to provide support to the British Grenadier Guards. Less than a month later, on June 21, having depleted most of their fuel and ordinance to suppress an enemy attack on the British forces, the crew was preparing to return to Bastion when they saw an explosion.

“Man down, man down. Request immediate medevac,” Jordan recalled hearing over the radio from the joint tactical air controller. One of the British guardsmen had stepped on an improvised explosive device. He had lost a limb and was going into shock.

Jordan and crew estimated it would take more than 30 minutes for another aircraft to come and pick up the wounded British guardsman. With agreement from his crew and support from his section leader, Jordan landed his helicopter between enemy fighters and the British troops, picking up the badly wounded soldier.

“The situation made it feel like we were on the ground for an eternity, even though we couldn’t have been on the ground for more than 10 seconds,” Jordan recalled. “We pulled full torque and got the soldier back to Bastion for medical attention.”

The soldier survived.

“I feel like we were just doing our duty … to support the ground forces in any way possible,” he said.

Jordan now is preparing to serve as a pilot instructor at Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. He will teach newly commissioned pilots to fly the UH-1Y Venom.

More than 3,000 students will graduate from Central this year. Lives are transformed, changed forever. Families will be stronger, communities better served. Celebrate!
French Honor Oren Peters, World War II Efforts

Oren Peters

(BSEd ’50) was one of three World War II veterans awarded France's highest honor for service toward liberating France. The medals were given during a November ceremony at the Oklahoma Capitol. Peters received the French medal of Chevalier (Knight) of the French National Order of the Legion of Honor on Oren Peters during a ceremony at the Oklahoma state Capitol.

Ty Peck (BS ’01) joined Gulfport Energy Corp. as managing director of midstream operations. He previously served as director of commercial services for Access Midstream Partners. Angie Percival (BS ’01) joined Edmond-based Small Architects in business development. She has 12 years of experience in the architecture and interior design industry, and is certified by the National Council for Interior Design Qualifications. Timothy Dwyer (BS ’02) is chief investigator for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. He recently returned to campus for a talk, “Overview of Medicolegal Death Investigation in Oklahoma,” as a part of the College of Mathematics and Science Spring 2014 Seminar Series. Jason Gilliam (BBA ’02) has been promoted to general manager of cleaning operations at Parkway Cleaners. He has been at Parkway Cleaners for 15 years. Nick McDaniel (BBA ’02) and Brian Downs (BA ’05) co-own Counterclock Custom T-shirts. The duo recently moved their business to Edmond. Their business includes custom design, screen printing and embroidery. Liz Rogers (BAEd ’06) was honored at the Oklahoma Council for Social Studies state conference with the “Rising Star” Teacher of the Year Award for 2013, given to the most outstanding social studies educator in Oklahoma who has less than five years experience. She teaches social studies at Edmond North High School. Kenneth Chapman Jr. (BA ’07) joined Oklahoma Baptist University as the assistant dean of students for campus life. A licensed and ordained minister, he is currently pursuing a doctorate of philosophy from the University of Oklahoma. Jerod Smith (BBA ’07) is co-owner of Wildon Jack, a barber and retail shop. An artist, he also founded The Society, a community art space, in 2011. Brent Case (BBA ’08) has been promoted to bank president of The Bank N.A. in McAlester. He is currently enrolled in the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University and is a member of Oklahoma Bankers Association Emerging Leaders and The Risk Management Association. Sayer Brenner (BS ’08) has been promoted to senior vice president/business development officer at The Bank N.A. in McAlester. He previously was vice president/loan officer and serves as president of the McAlester Young Professionals. Joseph Griffith (BS ’08, MBA ’13) was one of 12 selected by the U.S. Department of State and the World Council of Credit Unions to participate in the International Credit Union Leadership Program. The event was in January in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where he worked with senior management at Sicredi, a Brazilian financial cooperative. Mickeal Hammond (BBA ’09) has been promoted by Arvest Bank to branch manager. He has been with Arvest Bank for more than five years.

Van Osdol Shares World War II Memories

UCO Professor Emeritus Bill Van Osdol, Ph.D., was on campus in November, presenting photos of World War II sites and profiles of veterans he has known, including Louie Zamperini of the 2011 best-seller Unbroken. The campus event was for Veterans Day.

Van Osdol is a licensed psychologist and pilot who taught at Central for 29 years and was chair of the Special Education department.

A World War II veteran himself, he has written four books about the war and has collected World War II photos, airplanes, jeeps, memorabilia and friendships. Many World War II soldiers may have never talked to their family or friends about their war experiences, but when given the right situation, they become very expressive, he said.

Van Osdol himself has traveled to Normandy five times, as well as numerous other World War II sites, as intrigued by the places as by the stories that he hears from other veterans who make the journey.

For more information about Van Osdol, visit Vanosdolww2author.com.

UCO Alumnus Given CPA ‘Trailblazer’ Awards

Three Central graduates were recently named ‘CPA Trailblazers’ by the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Receiving the honor were Rodney England (BBA, BS ’08), a tax manager with Peters & Chandler PC, Oklahoma City; Buck Francis (BS ’11), an assurance senior with HoganTaylor LLP, Oklahoma City; and Brian Knight (BS ’08), a tax manager with Eide Bailly LLP, Norman.

The organization’s Trailblazers program was established in 2010 to recognize the innovation, professional dedication and community commitment of its members under age 40 with five or fewer years of CPA experience. The three are among 20 being honored at the organization’s 96th annual meeting June 13 in Norman.

Beth Bueing (BBA ’91, MSF ’06) writes Alumni Notes and In Memory. She is executive office assistant in UCO’s Office of University Relations. If you have information to be included in this section, please send to the UCO Alumni Association, 100 North University Drive, Box 125, Edmond, OK 73034.

2000s

Sujino Seam, a consul general of France, places the French medal of Chevalier (Knight) of the French National Order of the Legion of Honor on Oren Peters during a ceremony at the Oklahoma state Capitol.

Rynda Imparts ‘If Only I’d Known’ Experience

Donna Rynda (BA ’74) made it back to campus recently for her presentation, “If Only I’d Known That You Were ‘Somebody!’” Rynda, with more than 30 years experience as a training and development specialist, is owner of Make It Matter, providing speaking engagements for companies and organizations nationwide.

Her presentation was based on her personal “bad service” experience, where the employee apologized for not knowing she was dealing with “somebody.” Rynda said her point is that every customer is “somebody” entitled to the best service a company has to offer. Before opening her own company, Rynda held a variety of management positions with companies in retail sales, computer technology, grocery distribution, education, hospitality and food service. Based in Oklahoma City, Rynda said she works to make her presentations “informative, interactive and — most importantly — worth your time!”

2010s

Daley Mendel (BBA ’13) has joined Citizens Bank of Edmond as a commercial relationship specialist. She previously was a member services officer at a credit union.

Nicole Gifford (BBA ’13) has joined Infant Crisis Services as its new outreach coordinator.

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Duncan’s Latest Work Looks at Child Slavery


He previously published 14 illustrated books for children and retirees, but his latest work is different, inspired by a desire to end child slavery in its many forms.

Duncan taught cartooning and advertising design for 17 years at Central, where he was named a teacher of the year and received the Mentorious Service Award. His cartoon strips, illustrations and articles have appeared in African, American and European magazines and newspapers.

Since his retirement, Duncan has been involved with educational programs in Ukraine, England, Chile, South Korea and China.

Escape to Macaya may be purchased through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or by visiting hallduncan.com.

**In Memory**

1940s

Marcella Freda (Evitts) Geyer (BS ‘41) died Dec. 2, 2013. She worked as an administrative assistant to the editor of Central’s newspaper, *The Vista*, and as a bookkeeper for an apartment real estate firm.

1950s

Robert “Bob” Wiertzen Condon (BSED ’50) died Dec. 10, 2013. A WWII Army Air Corps veteran, he was an educator and coach. He retired in 1982 after serving 25 years as an elementary principal with the Oklahoma City Public School District. Doyle Hayes Gregg (BBA ’51) died Nov. 17, 2013. A WWII Navy veteran, he was an air traffic controller at Will Rogers and Wiley Post towers, and later taught air traffic control at the FAA Aeronautical Center. Frances Lorene Meek (BSED ’56) died Oct. 18, 2013. An educator, she served as a physical education teacher for 17 years and as assistant principal for 15 years at Santa Paula High School in California. Frederick “Fred” Milton Thompson (BSED ’58) died Jan. 25, 2014. A U.S. Navy veteran, he worked for the Morton Salt Co. and later served as a pipeline safety inspector at the Oklahoma State Corporation Commission.

1960s


1970s

Geneva Johnston Hudson (BAED ’70, MAED ’71) died Nov. 9, 2013. She taught in the Edmond Public School District for 16 years, retiring in 1987. She was named the Oklahoma Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 1985 and authored OKLA-HOMA: The World Around Us, a fourth grade textbook. Judith “Judy” A. Browning (BSED ’75, MEd ’77) died Jan. 13, 2014. She was an educator and was one of the first U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to serve in the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. Richard “Rick” Edward Fairbanks (MBA ’78) died Nov. 27, 2013. He retired to San Francisco after a long career in the hospitality industry. Ida Jo McMurran (MEd ’79) died Dec. 12, 2013. She taught school in the Oklahoma City area and recently retired as the organist at Village Baptist Church in Oklahoma City after 34 years of service.

1980s

Carolyn M. Jacob (MEd ’81, MEd ’91) died Oct. 31, 2013. She taught special education and later was a counselor at Putnam City West High School, retiring in 1995. James “Jim” Keathley Akinson (BS ’82) died Jan. 25, 2014. A certified public accountant, he worked in the oil and gas field, most recently as manager of internal audit at Atlas Pipeline. Mike Darnold (BS ’84) died Nov. 30, 2013. He worked in database administration, including at the Oklahoma Publishing Co. and at Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co. Marvin Kenneth Ozburn (BS ’82) died Jan. 6, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force, retiring as senior master sergeant in 1980. He retired from civil service at Tinker Air Force Base in 1998 as a cost analyst supervisor. Dana Pitts Orebrough (BA ’88) died Jan. 2, 2014. Her professional career included involvement in the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation’s lipid research program.

1990s


2000s

Jean Ravencroft McMinimy (BS ’00) died Jan. 11, 2014. One of the first women admitted to theRolla Schools of Mines and Metallurgy, she worked on the Mercury and Gemini space programs, and later for McDonnell-Douglas Advanced Design Program. She and her husband co-owned a structural engineering firm for more than 25 years. Jeffrey Lynn Hertel (BS ’02) died Nov. 4, 2013. He was a senior staff accountant at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center.

Faculty/Staff

Crittenden Matriarch Remembered

Mae Lavon Yancey Crittenden, 88, (BA ’50) died Nov. 2, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Lavose “Critt” Crittenden, who she met when they were students at Central. Following a “campus romance,” they married, graduated in 1950 and later settled in Fort Worth where he was an electrical engineer for Lockheed. He died in July 2000. Before attending Central, she worked at Douglas Aircraft Co. during World War II. She earned a degree in Business at Central. In 2003, she donated funds to refurbish the auditorium in Howell Hall, now named in honor of the Crittenden family. The family said that memorials may be given to the UCO Foundation for maintenance of the Crittenden Auditorium. The auditorium is used for teaching larger classes and for community gatherings.

Coach Winters, Basketball Legend

Mark Winters, 85, the longest-tenured men’s basketball coach in Central history, died Jan. 31, 2014. Winters led the Bronchos for 16 years (1962–78), finishing with a 239–185 record that included four 20-win seasons, ranking second in career wins at UCO. He guided the Bronchos to three Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference championships and one national tournament appearance, with the 1963–64 team going 24-4 en route to reaching the NAIA Elite Eight. That 24-win season stood as the best in school history until the 1990–91 team finished 25-5.

Winters coached 23 All-Conference and eight All-American players while at UCO. He was inducted into the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004.

A graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Winters went 162-24 in five years as a high school coach and 131-59 in seven years as head coach at Eastern Oklahoma College before taking over at UCO. He finished with a 532-268 record in 31 years of coaching.

In retirement, he became active in Senior Olympics basketball, softball, and track and field (shot put, discus and javelin). In 1996, his softball team competed and won the U.S. Slow-Pitch Softball Association Masters World Championship.

Memorials be made to the UCO Foundation, Mark Winters Basketball Family Endowment.

Honor Trenary, Football Great

Fred Lee Trenary (BSE ’63), a Central football great who later achieved success in both coaching and sales, died Nov. 1, 2013, in Lawrence, Kan., just four days before his 75th birthday. Survivors include his wife, JoAnn Johnson Trenary.

Before getting his degree at Central, Trenary attended and played football at both the University of Kansas and Oklahoma State University. In 1961, while playing at Central, he was named the best player in Newkirk High School history. After college, he taught history and coached football and golf at Edmond High School, now Edmond Memorial, for 11 years. His football team took 65 victories with 9–1–1 seasons in both 1968 and 1970. He later took a sales job with Fram Corp.

In retirement, he became active in Senior Olympics basketball, softball, and track and field (shot put, discus and javelin). In 1996, his softball team competed and won the U.S. Slow-Pitch Softball Association Masters World Championship.

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Education is all a matter of building bridges.
— Ralph Ellison