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Retiring president Roger Webb, left, and his successor, Don Betz, in a 2010 photo — both have served as president of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, and now both have the title of president of the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

## UCO President Roger Webb Welcomes His Successor, Northeastern's Don Betz

The Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma on June 2 named Don Betz as the new president of the University of Central Oklahoma.

Betz, who has been president of Northeastern State University, will replace Roger Webb, who announced his retirement in January.

“He is the right person to lead the state’s largest metropolitan university, and we are excited to see where Central will go under his leadership,” said Regent Connie Reilly, board chair.

Webb, who planned to retire June 30, agreed to stay through July to allow for a smoother transition.

Webb hired Betz in 1999 to be UCO’s vice president of academic affairs, later giving him the additional title of provost.

While at UCO, Betz proved himself not only in academic and administration affairs, but also became known for his leadership development and diplomacy through international development, most notably associated with the United Nations and its affiliated non-government organizations.

“The work he did while at Central helped make this institution what it is today,” said Webb.

“Since then, he has gained valuable experience that will make him an even bigger asset to helping the university continue to grow and excel. I applaud the RUSO board for this wonderful decision.”

Betz left UCO in 2005 to become chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. In 2008 he became president of Northeastern, back to where he began his academic career and following in the footsteps of his mentor, Webb, who was president of Northeastern for 19 years before coming to UCO.

Betz has a bachelor’s in political science and philosophy from the University of San Francisco with a master’s and doctorate in international studies from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He completed Harvard University’s Institute for Educational Management. His interest in global issues and promoting cross-cultural understanding have led him to more than 80 countries. Earlier this year he received a Fulbright scholarship to participate in the 2011 Fulbright-Hays Seminar in Jordan and Oman. An international group of university presidents looked at the evolution of higher education in their respective countries.

Betz begins at UCO on Aug. 1.



# Roger Webb Retires July 31, Leaves Lasting Legacy of Accomplishments

Roger Webb will retire July 31 after 14 years as president of the University of Central Oklahoma.

The Board of Regents for the Regional University System of Oklahoma quickly launched a national search for a new president after President Webb's Jan. 19 announcement. On June 2, the Regents named Don Betz, current president of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

During President Webb's tenure, Cen-

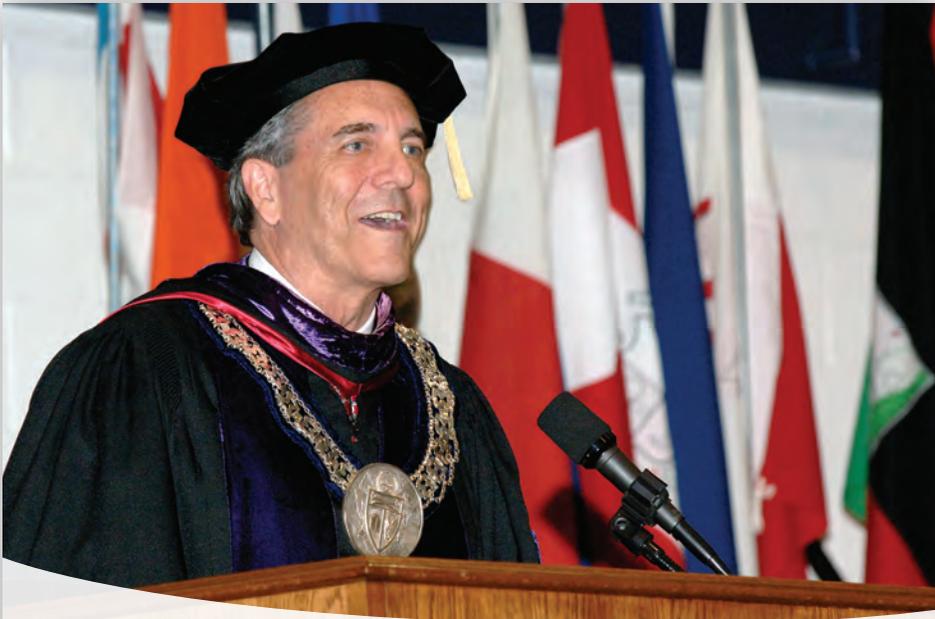
tral has experienced record enrollments and total revitalization of the campus and its culture, in addition to international attention with programs such as its unique Academy of Contemporary Music and its Forensic Science Institute.

He came to UCO in 1997, when many described Central as a small-town college for locals and commuters, totaling about 14,000 students. He promised to reinvent the university and make it a first-rate "college of choice."

Today's list of accomplishments leaves little doubt that he achieved his goals.

In 2008, the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education and the Regional University System of Oklahoma recognized Central as Oklahoma's first Metropolitan University with student leaders coming from every county in the state as well as from throughout the nation and world. Fall 2010 enrollment exceeded 17,000. All benefited in some way from President Webb's efforts to create a vibrant campus life; a community with core values of Character, Civility and Community; a transformative learning experience; an out-reach to the surrounding community; and first-rate academic programs.

A new College of Fine Arts and Design, the UCO Jazz Lab, Oklahoma Research Day, new campus housing, a maximum 10-year accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, a first-ever ten-year Strategic Plan, a new Wellness Center, the innovative Teacher Preparation Warranty, the title of Oklahoma's Leadership University — all and more have happened with his leadership.



Central President Roger Webb is Oklahoma's longest-serving university president with 19 years as president of Northeastern, followed by the last 14 years as president of UCO.

## Faculty/Student Study Targets State Funding Formula

UCO now receives only 39.1 percent of its budget from state appropriations, compared to 59.7 just eight years ago.

The end result is that students at UCO are each getting a smaller percentage of state funding than students at other Oklahoma universities and colleges. It also means the university has fewer funds to serve more students, according to a survey released earlier this year by the UCO Faculty Senate and the UCO Student Association.

The study explains that the decline in Central's state funding is caused by a state formula used to determine how funds appropriated by the legislature are then divided among each

state university and college. The formula was developed 30 years ago to protect those institutions with declining enrollment. In UCO's case, the formula now works against the university's booming enrollment. During that 30-year period, UCO has had the most dramatic growth of any college or university in the state.

In the last eight years, Central's enrollment has grown from a record 15,246 to a new record set in Fall 2010 of 17,101.

For the complete Faculty Senate report, visit the Faculty Senate website at [www.uco.edu](http://www.uco.edu).



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## New Dean Well Known for Community Involvement

Mickey Hepner, Ph.D., is the new dean of Central's College of Business Administration.

He brings to the position a number of previous accomplishments, including being named the 2007 "Oklahoma Professor of the Year" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

He has been director of the UCO Policy Institute and has authored several reports for national organizations such as the Urban Institute, the Heritage Foundation and the CATO Institute. He serves on the executive committee of the board of directors for The Oklahoma Academy,



*Mickey Hepner, Ph.D., is Central's new dean of the College of Business Administration. A prolific writer, he has directed the UCO Policy Institute and produced a weekly column and blog.*

a nonpartisan Oklahoma policy organization. And he writes a weekly column on public policy issues and maintains a policy blog.

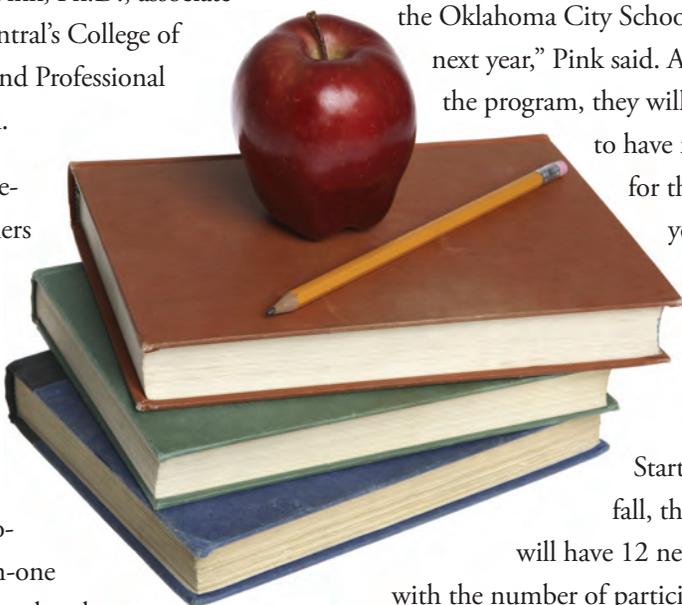
Hepner has a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree, all from the University of Oklahoma.

## Urban Teacher Preparation Academy Looking to Expand Successful Effort

Central's Urban Teacher Preparation Academy just completed its first year with plans to expand the program, including an effort to interest other universities in involving their Education majors.

"We want to bolster the number of Academy cadets involved in the program," Bill Pink, Ph.D., associate dean for Central's College of Education and Professional Studies, said.

Aimed at preparing teachers to succeed in high-need, inner-city classrooms, the program provides one-on-one mentorship and makes help just an iPod touch away. To launch the program, Central formed a unique partnership with the Oklahoma City Public Schools system, which agreed to



hire the students as teaching assistants.

Of the original nine Central students, one started working full-time before the year completed. Another was the top graduate in the college's spring commencement.

"We had an outstanding group, and I fully expect all of them to be working in the Oklahoma City School District next year," Pink said. As part of the program, they will continue

to have mentors for the next two years, then become mentors themselves.

Starting this fall, the program will have 12 new seniors with the number of participating Oklahoma City schools expanding from three to eight.

"The results have been great for both the schools and our students," Pink said.

"We just need to find more students who want to teach in urban schools."

### 2,000 Graduate In Spring Event

More than 2,000 students received degrees during Central's Spring Commencement, which spanned four ceremonies held May 6-7.

Graduates included the first class of students from the Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM@UCO), which were about 90 students who received Associates of Applied Science degrees from what's known as UCO's "School of Rock."

The university also awarded its first master's degree in Forensic Science to a student whose thesis involved work with a new human DNA identification system being tested at Central's Forensic Science Institute (FSI).



# Central Students May Now Earn Doctorate at Swansea in Wales, U.K.

Students at the University of Central Oklahoma now are able to earn a doctorate degree from Swansea University in Wales, U.K., in a ground-breaking collaborative program.

The degree offering is the latest in a long-standing relationship between the two universities. Several Central undergraduate students have studied abroad at Swansea through opportunities such as the Brad Henry International Scholar program.

The new Ph.D. is the “first college-wide collaborative doctoral research program we have developed with a U.S. partner,” Jon Roper, professor of American Studies and academic head of Internationalization at Swansea, said.

The three-year program will cost approximately \$13,000 a year and will include two trips to Swansea — one at the start of the program to meet with a faculty supervisor and one at the end to defend the student’s thesis. A Central faculty member will supervise the research in the interim, making it



*Richard Davies is vice-chancellor of Swansea University, located on Wales’s beautiful Gower Peninsula, a plus for Central students who will travel there twice in their doctoral efforts.*

easier for working students to participate in the international program.

Students seeking a doctorate may request admission as early as this fall semester. They will choose a field of study represented in both the UCO College of Liberal Arts and the Swansea College of Arts and Humanities. Sample research areas include English Language and Literature, Film and

Media Studies, History, Humanities, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Public Administration, Sociology and more.

Like other United Kingdom and European doctoral programs, the Swansea Ph.D. is research intensive, requiring an 80,000-100,000 word dissertation with a topic that’s an original contribution to scholarship. Based on the research proposal, Central’s Jackson College of Graduate Studies will recommend students for admission to the Swansea program.

Future plans include extending the doctoral offering to all programs available at both Central and Swansea.

Founded in 1920, Swansea University is a world-class, research-led university offering around 500 undergraduate courses and 150 post-graduate courses to more than 13,800 students.

## Business Officers Recognize UCO

Central recently claimed its third Grand Finalist award since 2007 from the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers (SACUBO) organization, making UCO the only three-time recipient.

The 2011 award was for Central’s “Storm Shelter Management Practices” submission, detailing improvements in preparing and communicating campus storm shelter locations.

The 2007 award was for sustainability or “green” practices. In 2008, the university was recognized for its cost-saving “Lean University” program, which eliminates waste and repetition in university processes.



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