UCO Named a ‘Top Workplace’ in Oklahoma
The Oklahoman named UCO as one of the best large employers in the state in 2015, ranking the university in the top 15 of all companies with 350 or more employees. Central was the only university named to the list.

Athletics Receives $10 Million Gift
UCO alumnus and former student-athlete Chad Richison, founder and CEO of Oklahoma City-based Paycom Software Inc., pledged $10 million to UCO Athletics in November as part of its $15 million “Complete the Dream” campaign. It is the single-largest gift in university history. Funds are earmarked for athletics facility upgrades that will benefit Central’s student-athletes and include an academic center, new weight rooms, locker rooms and athletic training facilities.

Customized Education Offers New Programs
UCO Customized Education recently debuted three new career development certificates and three networking forums for 2016. The programs are based out of UCO Downtown and are designed for Oklahoma City metro professionals, business owners, managers and executives of all levels.

“This is an exciting development for downtown Oklahoma City — we’re offering training that hasn’t previously been available at this level or with this kind of convenience to Oklahoma City professionals,” said Karen Youngblood, executive director of UCO Customized Education.

Fall Graduating Class Sets Record
Central celebrated the achievements of a record-setting 1,246 graduates during the Fall 2015 Commencement Ceremonies in Central’s Hamilton Field House. The milestone class came at the close of UCO@125, the yearlong celebration of Central’s 125th year.
UCO Repeats as ‘Best for Vets,’ ‘Military Friendly School’

The Military Times ranked UCO No. 43 among all surveyed four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. on its 2016 “Best for Vets: Colleges” list. UCO was the only Oklahoma school recognized. Central was also named to Victory Media’s 2016 “Military Friendly Schools” list for the fourth consecutive year. The list identifies colleges, trade schools and universities in the U.S. that are most devoted to America’s military members, veterans and their families.

125th Anniversary Reflection Park Dedicated

The UCO®125 Reflection Park, a new campus space to look back on the university’s 125-year history, was completed in November. UCO President Don Betz dedicated the space and its centerpiece sculpture, “Ubi Motus Est,” with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held during Homecoming. The five-panel, 8-foot-by-20-foot piece was designed by Chris Domanski, M.F.A., assistant dean for UCO’s College of Fine Arts and Design, and features more than 2,000 photographs ranging from the university’s beginnings in 1890 to as recent as 2015. The name “Ubi Motus Est” comes from UCO’s Coat of Arms and translates to “Where Movement Is.”

UCO, Swansea Celebrate First Doctorate

UCO adjunct professor of English Rose Neal, Ph.D., defended her dissertation in fall 2015 and became the first student in UCO’s Jackson College of Graduate Studies to earn a doctorate through Swansea@UCO, a partnership with Wales’ Swansea University. The program offers doctoral studies in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Students earn the degree from Swansea, but work with advisers from both universities. Provost John Barthell, Ph.D., called Neal’s accomplishment a milestone not only for her, but also for Central as a whole.

Thunder Player Creates Turkish Scholarship

Oklahoma City Thunder center Enes Kanter recently donated $10,000 to UCO’s College of Liberal Arts for the creation of the Enes Kanter Turkish Scholarship. Kanter is a Turkish professional basketball player in his first full season with the Thunder. He created the scholarship to help UCO students enrolled in Turkish language classes.

Voter Registration Victory

Central was recognized in December as the winner of the large-school division of the 2015 Oklahoma Campus Compact Voter Registration Contest. The win marks UCO’s sixth consecutive victory for the UCO American Democracy Project, which organized the efforts that resulted in the registration of the greatest percentage of students among Oklahoma institutions with full-time enrollments between 7,001 and 30,000 students.

UCO president Don Betz will be honored by Leadership Oklahoma with its Distinguished Graduate Award at the organization’s annual Excellence in Leadership Gala set for Feb. 27 at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City. The Distinguished Graduate Award honors a Leadership Oklahoma graduate whose recent leadership activities have exemplified the highest standards of Leadership Oklahoma and whose activities achieved results or set an example of statewide significance.

‘Always Central’ Success Celebrated

The UCO Foundation celebrated a milestone in its fundraising in November with “Night with the Presidents,” an evening featuring former UCO President and Gov. George Nigh, former UCO President W. Roger Webb, and current UCO President Don Betz. The event commemorated both the successful completion of the $40 million “Always Central” campaign and the university’s 125th anniversary. Also honored were campaign co-chairs and UCO alumni Lee and Sherry Beasley and Martha Burger with inductions into the Order of the Clocktower, the university’s highest award, for their successful leadership of the initiative.

Campbell Repeats World Championship

Three-time Paralympic gold medalist and UCO resident athlete Jeremy Campbell added to his impressive resume in the fall as he defended his title and captured his second F44 men’s discus throw world championship at the 2015 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics World Championships held in Doha, Qatar. In addition to defending his title, Campbell set a new IPC world championship record of 61.21 meters in the F44 discus throw. He is currently training for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Faculty, Staff Rack Up Awards

Several members of UCO’s faculty and staff were honored for excellence in their fields in the fall. Recognitions include Julia Bay, academic advisor and immigration coordinator for Global Affairs — the Association of International Educators Region III Rising Star Young Leader Award; Adrienne Nobles, APR, assistant vice president for University Relations — the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) Natalea Watkins 2015 Higher Education Communicator of the Year Award; Ruki Ravikumar, M.F.A., associate dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design — the American Institute of Graphic Arts 2015 Oklahoma Fellow; Kaye Sears, Ed.D., professor of human environmental science — the 2015 Certified Family Life Educator Special Recognition Award; Youngtae Shin, Ph.D., professor of political science — the 2015 Oklahoma Political Science Scholar of the Year; and Lindsay Thomas, communications and marketing coordinator for University Relations — the OCPRA 2015 Randy Talley Rising Star Award.

Betz Honored by Leadership Oklahoma

UCO president Don Betz will be honored by Leadership Oklahoma with its Distinguished Graduate Award at the organization’s annual Excellence in Leadership Gala set for Feb. 27 at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City. The Distinguished Graduate Award honors a Leadership Oklahoma graduate whose recent leadership activities have exemplified the highest standards of Leadership Oklahoma and whose activities achieved results or set an example of statewide significance.

‘Always Central’ Success Celebrated

The UCO Foundation celebrated a milestone in its fundraising in November with “Night with the Presidents,” an evening featuring former UCO President and Gov. George Nigh, former UCO President W. Roger Webb, and current UCO President Don Betz. The event commemorated both the successful completion of the $40 million “Always Central” campaign and the university’s 125th anniversary. Also honored were campaign co-chairs and UCO alumni Lee and Sherry Beasley and Martha Burger with inductions into the Order of the Clocktower, the university’s highest award, for their successful leadership of the initiative.

Campbell Repeats World Championship

Three-time Paralympic gold medalist and UCO resident athlete Jeremy Campbell added to his impressive resume in the fall as he defended his title and captured his second F44 men’s discus throw world championship at the 2015 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics World Championships held in Doha, Qatar. In addition to defending his title, Campbell set a new IPC world championship record of 61.21 meters in the F44 discus throw. He is currently training for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Faculty, Staff Rack Up Awards

Several members of UCO’s faculty and staff were honored for excellence in their fields in the fall. Recognitions include Julia Bay, academic advisor and immigration coordinator for Global Affairs — the Association of International Educators Region III Rising Star Young Leader Award; Adrienne Nobles, APR, assistant vice president for University Relations — the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) Natalea Watkins 2015 Higher Education Communicator of the Year Award; Ruki Ravikumar, M.F.A., associate dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design — the American Institute of Graphic Arts 2015 Oklahoma Fellow; Kaye Sears, Ed.D., professor of human environmental science — the 2015 Certified Family Life Educator Special Recognition Award; Youngtae Shin, Ph.D., professor of political science — the 2015 Oklahoma Political Science Scholar of the Year; and Lindsay Thomas, communications and marketing coordinator for University Relations — the OCPRA 2015 Randy Talley Rising Star Award.