UCO Luminary Society Inaugural Class Named

UCO announced the inaugural class of the UCO Luminary Society in October, an association formed as part of the university’s UCO@125 anniversary celebration to recognize those whose service and contributions have brought distinction to and positively influenced the life of the university. The inaugural class of 125 members date from UCO’s founding as the Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma in 1890 to present day faculty, alumni and friends of the university. Each was honored with a medal during a reception prior to the UCO@125 Gala Oct. 22 on Central’s campus. A complete list of Luminaries can be viewed by visiting www.uco.edu/125/luminaries.

Ribbon-Cutting, Open House for UCO Downtown

The opening of UCO Downtown was celebrated this fall with an open house and ribbon-cutting at the learning facility located at 131 Dean A. McGee Ave. in Oklahoma City. UCO Downtown is the site of a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses from each of the university's six colleges. More than 260 students are enrolled in 27 courses for fall 2015.

Distinguished Speaker Series Continues

The UCO@125 Distinguished Speaker Series continued in September with Barbara Bush and Jenna Bush Hager, daughters of former President George W. Bush. The sisters spoke before a packed Mitchell Hall Theatre about their humanitarian work in the U.S. and abroad, growing up as grandchildren and children of U.S. presidents, and offered their advice for success in college and careers to students. The UCO@125 series will conclude Nov. 10 with three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman.
TEDxUCO Sells Out in Inaugural Year

Central hosted its inaugural TEDxUCO, an independently organized TED-like event of short talks and performances by UCO students, faculty, staff and members of the community, in September. Themed “Out on a Limb,” the daylong TEDxUCO brought more than 500 attendees from campus and the community together in a sold out Constitution Hall for 12 talks and seven performances on topics including social change, education and community action.

New American Citizens Naturalized at UCO

The UCO American Democracy Project hosted a naturalization ceremony on Sept. 18 as part of Central’s Constitution Week activities, welcoming 84 individuals from 26 countries including China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia and Iran as new citizens of the United States. Chief Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma and U.S. District Court Magistrate Judges Bernard Jones and Suzanne Mitchell presided over the ceremony.

School of Music Orchestrates Music Education

Music returned to K-12 students in Cashion Public Schools this fall thanks to “The Middle C Project,” an initiative led by students and faculty in UCO’s School of Music and funded by STLR, UCO’s Student Transformative Learning Record. Cashion’s music program ended in 2009 following funding cuts. Last spring, an agreement was reached to hire 13 undergraduate UCO music majors to teach after-school instrumental classes and three graduate music students to teach music education curriculum during the school day. In addition to music classes, UCO students and faculty developed an alma mater for Cashion High School and presented it as a surprise at the school’s first home football game of 2015.

UCO a Top Public Regional University

UCO has retained its place among the top colleges and universities in the nation, once again ranking as the top public regional university in the state and for the first time as the top public regional university for veterans on the 2016 Best Colleges list from U.S. News & World Report. Central ranked No. 32 in the list of Tier One institutions in the “Top Public Schools: Regional Universities - West” category, No. 52 in the “Best Colleges for Veterans: Regional Universities - West” category and No. 81 in the overall list of regional universities in the west.