Fall Enrollment Sets Records

UCO welcomed 2,432 first-time freshmen in August — the largest freshman class in the university's history and a 15.6 percent increase over fall 2014. Within the student body, Central also saw a 14.1 percent increase in Hispanic students, a 6.5 percent increase in Asian students and a 9.5 percent increase in students claiming two or more races.

Student Support Services Unmatched in U.S.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded six Federal TRiO Programs grants to UCO Student Support Services in July and August, making UCO the only institution of higher education in the U.S. to receive funding for each of the six distinctive Federal Student Support Services programs in the current award period. The grants total more than $6.6 million over five years and support an increase in educational equity for 760 low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities.

Dave Lewis Named Alumni Director

Dave Lewis has been named the alumni director for Central’s Office of Development. Lewis previously worked for two years as development manager for UCO Athletics before leaving to serve in full-time ministry. His experience includes more than 20 years at various churches including Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Virginia, United Presbyterian Church of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and most recently Christ Community Church of Edmond.
Grand Opening of ‘The Quad’ Celebrated

UCO celebrated the opening of the university’s new residence hall, the Transformative Learning Quadrangle, or “The Quad,” in August. Central broke ground on the 440-bed, 120,000-square-foot, four-story living-learning center in 2014. Its design encourages student interaction and community building, two elements key to student success and retention. Amenities include an academic wing, 22 study rooms, 12 social lounges, a community kitchen, a movie screening room, an exercise room and a “Creative Suite” for artistic projects.

UCO, OCU Explore Partnership

UCO President Don Betz and Oklahoma City University President Robert Henry signed an agreement in August to explore a partnership between UCO’s Master of Public Administration program and the OCU School of Law juris doctor program. Possibilities of the partnership include educational cooperation, credit transfers and dual degree offerings between the universities’ programs, as well as faculty exchanges and other collaborative efforts.

College Readiness Workshops Offered

UCO’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions recently began offering monthly college readiness workshops at the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The free workshops are designed to prepare high school students and their families for college and cover topics like ACT preparation, scholarship applications and the DREAM Act. Central has seen a 36.8 percent increase in Hispanic student enrollment over the last five years.

Central Vets Awarded Grant

Student Veterans of America (SVA) and The Home Depot Foundation recently awarded a $9,077 grant to Central Veterans, the UCO chapter of SVA, to upgrade veteran spaces on UCO’s campus. Funds will be used to add furnishings to the areas in the Office of Veteran Student Support and Max Chambers Library reserved for veterans and their dependents to study, relax and socialize.

UCO Student Crowned Miss Black Oklahoma

UCO senior and current Miss Black UCO Lukeesha Thompson was crowned Miss Black Oklahoma in August. Thompson went on to compete at Miss Black America in Philadelphia on Aug. 22 where she took first in the talent portion of the competition.