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

On the Cover
Cliffalvion “Cliff” D. Bradley of Edmond is a 2015 graduate with a master’s in Public Administration. UCO had more than 1,600 participate in spring 2015 graduation ceremonies for bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Staff Photo by Lauren Hamilton

In Every Issue
40 Alumni Notes
42 In Memory
44 From Our Readers
45 Parting Shot

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Isabelle’s Garden
Student Shannon Taylor describes what it was like for a UCO film group to premiere their short film at the Sundance.

6 Graduate Program Hits Mark
UCO is helping meet the growing demand for athletic trainers whose skills are needed in a variety of settings.

8 Q&A with Mark Stansberry
While no stranger to UCO, new Oklahoma regent Mark Stansberry may surprise you.

11 Honoring Our Own
Meet the 2015 Distinguished Alumni, the Family of the Year and the newest Athletic Hall of Fame honorees.

19 Wrestler Beats Death
Chris Watson claimed a national title, not knowing that a blood clot was threatening his life.

20 UCO Hockey Champs
The perfect team, the perfect coach — they all came together for a national title just a few years after the program’s launch.

23 UCO Leader Defeats Leukemia
A few lucky breaks and a lot of determination later, Central’s Anne Holzberlein defies the odds.

25 Alumni — No More Dues!
Now, all Central students and graduates are automatically an Alumni Association member — as they should be.

26 Arts Without Limits
Central program shares the joys of artistic expression with community members with special needs.

28 Balancing the Books
Accounting professors Kathy and Bob Terrell seem to have found a number of secrets for a well-balanced life.

32 About Those Spooklights ...
UCO English professor Allen Rice may have been the most surprised when he and crew solved a long-standing mystery.

38 Central Luminaries
In celebrating UCO@125, a new honorary Central organization has started — the UCO Luminary Society.

Visit midfirst.com/uco for more details.

Member FDIC
Welcome to Fall 2015 at UCO!

The campus is alive with new and continuing students, activities and projects occurring across the colleges and in student affairs. The sustained heat of the dog days have gradually given way to cooler, breeze-laced mornings and an occasional afternoon shower. The energy here is palpable.

We are now celebrating UCO @ 125, part two. Throughout the coming months, the university will convene unique programs and welcome notable guests to enhance and expand our understanding and awareness of the issues of our time. You are invited to join us as we explore a broad range of relevant topics.

On Oct. 22, Central will host the UCO@125 Gala, an event celebrating the myriad talents of our students, faculty and staff. The gala’s centerpiece will be the naming of the first members of UCO’s Luminary Society. These are individuals who have left a lasting impression on the institution as it evolved from a normal school to a major regional and metropolitan university. The “Luminarians” will be perpetually honored in a special tribute to be located in the revived Old North. After the first year, 10 new inductees will be annually welcomed into the society at a special ceremony.

This year, we will host a special Homecoming 125 the week of November 2-7. On Nov. 6, we will unveil the 125 reflective park, intended to be a lasting remembrance of this historical moment in Central’s storied history. I am convinced that you will find it intriguing and will return to it more than once.

Just a few days before fall classes began, we were delighted to open our newest university facility, the Transformative Learning Quadrangle, known as the “Quad.” This living-learning complex hosts 440 students living in a modified residence hall intentionally designed to promote collaboration and connection. There are designated spaces in each of the Quads “neighborhoods” for student engagement in common projects, study areas, shared kitchen and recreation areas. The Quad also hosts classrooms and tutoring and writing labs to assist residents as they take their steps toward realizing their goals of graduation and becoming career and citizen ready.

Most of the Quad residents are freshmen who help form a solid core of student involvement in on-campus programming. Students, faculty and staff were directly involved in the early stages of planning so that we would include their recommendations in the new residence. The Quad is also the location of UCO’s largest safety area, able to shelter a thousand occupants if needed. I encourage you to visit the Quad and discover the innovative ways the facility helps students learn as they become valued members of the UCO community.

In our continuing campaign to serve the Oklahoma City metro, we at Central are connecting with Oklahoma City University (OCU) to explore ways we might cooperate and serve residents and the realization of the city’s dynamic vision. The initial area for active collaboration would link the OCU School of Law with UCO’s Master’s in Public Administration. More updates will follow.

There is much more to share. UCO is in a vibrant period of creativity and expanding recognition for many of its programs and accomplishments. Your avid support reinforces our ability and confidence to once again pursue worthy goals in fulfillment of our embraced mission to help students learn and communities thrive.

Please visit us. You are always welcome at Central.

My best wishes,

Don Betz
President

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President
A group of UCO students had their film “Isabelle’s Garden” in the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. The film later showed at the deadCenter Film Festival in June in Oklahoma City and will premiere in October at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The following is one student’s essay on the Sundance experience.

By Shannon Taylor
UCO Senior, Professional Media Major

When the sloping streets of Park City are lined with trendy cinephiles and the air is filled with smoke and calculated chatter, you know you’ve breached the brink of the annual Sundance Film Festival. There is an essence of creative community here, a glimmer of eccentric priority. From the Salt Lake City airport-landing tarmac to the luxurious lodges of inner circle Park City, even the snowflakes seem interlaced with the overwhelming desire to create and consume.

I enter into this cool chaos on Jan. 27, on the last week of the festival. Many films that surely will be picked up by Hollywood have premiered already, the celebrity aspect of the event lacking. I am among the rarity who most likely will not be talked about over coffee from Java Cow on Main Street — the student.

However, I will be talked about after Jan. 28.

The day our crew — a small group of Film and Video Club students from the University of Central Oklahoma — arrives into Utah, we are thrown into a spontaneous schedule. Which is to say, we essentially have no schedule.

The nondescript van we ride from our resort into the heart of the ski town holds passengers from Los Angeles and New York City, a few of them wondering what young people from Oklahoma know about film.

One of them is a feature columnist for Paper magazine. One of them did sound mixing on a foreign film premiering during the last weekend of the festival. Still, each one of them gives us that sense of community when they go wide-eyed at our announcement: that we have a short film premiering at the Sundance Institute Short Film Challenge. With genuine “congratulations,” they wave goodbye as we go to explore.

The city is overflowing with artsy types wearing black, wire-framed glasses, plaid shirts and snow boots. I do not pay attention so much to the bodies, but to the conversations. Different types of intelligence stem from film people, like the way someone describes the use of cinematography in daylights vs. a night capture. These are the things you hear as you roam the streets, stopping once to study a Banksy mural on the outside of a café.

I put these thoughts on hold the next day. When 4 p.m. rolls around, we are experts at navigating the metro buses and making our way through sloshy brown snow. We find ourselves standing in a sold-out line outside the Holiday Village Cinema, staring at the marquee where an “Isabelle’s Garden” poster hangs.

I realize then, as Isabelle appears on the big screen in an old theater that smells faintly of a concession stand, that Sundance is what fuels dreams.

There is a question-and-answer time after the screening. Our crew stands alongside an Oscar winner and several foreign filmmakers. The audience is looking at us, an adviser and his club of college students from Oklahoma, and they are already talking about us to each other with bright smiles.

I know outside there are bigger names and better films, but inside this theater I am as important as everyone standing beside me. I am known not just for being from Oklahoma or for being a student, but also for helping make a film that premiered at Sundance.

Shannon Taylor is a UCO senior Mass Communication student. Others who attended Sundance were UCO students Morgan Denny, Central’s Film and Video Club president; Cara Nolan; Youngsun Yun; Min-Kyung Song; and Ryan Salter, along with the group’s adviser and film director Jeffrey Palmer and Lauren Palmer, who was the producer. Isabelle Cox, who starred in the film, also attended with her parents.

The film is about Isabelle’s successful garden and its influence on her community.
To prepare students for a high-level demand, UCO's graduate Athletic Training Program was approved in 2007 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Since that time, UCO has had 37 certified athletic trainers graduate.

The program's beginnings trace to 1996 when then UCO athletic trainer and current Graduate Athletic Training Program Director Jeff McKibbin saw a need. Only one other athletic training program was offered in Oklahoma at that time. A few years later, undergraduate programs sprang up at East Central University and Southern Nazarene University. Those led McKibbin to focus on creating the state's first graduate level athletic training program, one of only a handful in the United States.

McKibbin's idea proved accurate. Today, the leading industry accreditation bodies are moving toward requiring a master's degree to meet the health care profession's expectations. An advanced level of training provides the credibility needed for athletic trainers who routinely find themselves working with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

In 2010, UCO's program celebrated its first two graduates — Ross McCallous of Ardmore and Jamie Hume of Enid. The program now routinely graduates 8-10 students a year with plans to grow.

UCO's Graduate Athletic Training Program is a close-knit community where students are like family — so much so that Sunderland and McKibbin are often called by their nicknames, "Sunde" and "The Kib." In fact, it was during the group's annual summer barbecue that Wergeles was introduced to Ross McCulloch, one of UCO's first Graduate Athletic Training Program graduates. He's now head athletic trainer at Langston University.

McCulloch talked with Wergeles about a job opportunity that he hoped would become available within his department in the near future. WERGELES was intrigued and again championed the job shadowing process, following McCulloch for a year.

She did not blink.

Graduating in 2014, Wergeles had a number of opportunities from suitors across the region. After careful deliberation, she chose McCulloch and the Langston program.

In her first year at Langston, she was primarily responsible for the care of all women student-athletes. She did not blink.

Her answer meant going back to the drawing board. She did a meaningful self-appraisal and concluded that medicine and sports were the two disciplines that interested her the most. With a 2012 degree from Central Missouri, she began looking for a school that would jump-start her career as a professional.

"UCO seemed like the perfect fit for me," Wergeles said. "When I met both Ed (Sunderland) and Jeff (McKibbin), it was very evident to me that they truly cared about their students and were determined to make us successful."

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"The profession is not your typical desk job," Wergeles said, noting that's one of the things she loves about it. "I learned the basic principles of athletic training from UCO and apply it daily within my framework here at Langston. The decisions I make daily are grounded in a well-constructed foundation that I learned at UCO.

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Mark A. Stansberry is a newly appointed member of UCO’s governing body, the Regional University System of Oklahoma. Having served on the RUSO board from 2001-2010, he was recently appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to fill the term of Richard Ogden, who resigned to become a special judge for Oklahoma County. Stansberry will serve to June 2019.

By Gypsy Hogan
Publications Editor, University Relations

Q: How would you describe your own journey to being a college-educated, business person?

A: My parents, George and Lucy Stansberry, did not attend college. They both wanted my sister, Mary Fern, and me to have the opportunity to attend. My dad was a maintenance engineer at the Elk City Community Hospital for more than 30 years and served as city inspector. My mom was curator of the Old Town Museum in Elk City for more than 30 years. They both grew up on Oklahoma farms. Both of them had a strong work ethic and encouraged me to have one, too. During college, I had up to two jobs at a time and attended on scholarships, graduating in three years. … It is my personal goal to contribute in providing every person the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of higher education. … Mentors were and still are important in my journey. I believe in the importance of mentoring and giving back.

continued on page 10
Q: What made you want to serve a second time on the RUSO board?
A: I enjoy the work and the challenges. … I have served on public and private boards. I continue to learn, and, hopefully, I can apply my experiences and knowledge for the further good of higher education.

One study shows that our system produces 38 percent of the bachelor degrees in the state, and 91 percent of those graduates stay in Oklahoma. That's impressive. Economic development and higher education go hand-in-hand. RUSO definitely makes an impact on our state.

Q: Do you see any big difference(s) when you last served?
A: One big difference is the source of funding for our system. In 1988, the state provided 75 percent of the funding for the system. When I became a RUSO regent in 2001, state funding was approximately 60 percent. Now it is closing in on 35 percent. … Looking to outside sources for funding, which includes businesses/corporations, will be a major part of the system's future. … It is an honor to serve with eight very dedicated regents. … Together, for us to make good decisions, we need to have the right and transparent information to review/study. … This past spring I attended a meeting of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Our system and state are not alone in the challenges facing higher education. Everyone that I visited with from other states faces similar challenges.

Q: What do you see as a strength for UCO?
A: Being a metropolitan university is a great strength of UCO which really sets it apart. I believe that it is going to be of great importance with recruitment as well as fundraising. We need to continue to support President Bets and the vision he has for UCO as one of the top metropolitan universities in the nation.

Q: What is one thing most people don’t know about you?
A: I am a singer/songwriter, guitarist/musician. Currently, I am serving a two-year term on the board of the Texas Chapter of the Grammy/Recording Academy, as the only Oklahoman. Since 2007, I have recorded five CDs of my songs and three songs have been on radio play charts nationally. During college days, I taught guitar lessons at Edmond Music Co. In high school, I was a member of the All State Stageband as a guitarist. Nancy and I have performed together since our marriage in 1977.

Athletic Training (continued from page 7)

The availability of quality resources and preceptors — experts in the field who teach and mentor students in clinical experiences — in our immediate area is an advantage that other schools do not have,” McKibbin said. “We have relationships with other local athletic trainers, physical therapists, chiropractors, orthopedic physicians, as well as potential experiences for our students in high schools, universities, hospitals, clinics and professional sports.”

UCO students also are exposed to well-known events such as the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, Endavor Games, Paralympic Sports, Special Olympics and the Redman Triathlon.

Another unique UCO component is the unwavering support from administrative leadership, willing to give students additional tools and ways to map their own success. UCO has financially supported students attending regional and national symposiums in places such as Baltimore, Indianapolis and New Orleans.

“This is a huge benefit both educationally and professionally,” McKibbin said. Students have the opportunity to explore the leading edge of the discipline. Making connections in the athletic training community can be a huge benefit for embarking on a career. Just simply walking around the sessions and attending presentations allows students to get acquainted with the most important recent discoveries in the field.”

Sunderland said the national conferences are a tremendous aid to both him and McKibbin, helping them identify potential projects, laboratories and teaching methods for future students.

Honoring Our Own

The UCO Alumni Association will hold its annual Alumni Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in the Grand Ballrooms of the Nigh University Center.

“This year’s group of outstanding alumni are that much more special given our university’s historic 125th year,” said Anne Holzerlein, UCO vice president for development. “We are so incredibly proud of each of them and look forward to celebrating their achievements with fellow alumni, friends and family.”

Receiving the university’s first Young Alumni Award is Scott Fischer (BS ’05), chief operating officer of Fischer Enterprises. The award recognizes a UCO graduate who has made significant contributions early in his or her career to their profession or community.

Receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award are Freddy Russian (BS ’98), Tim Tall Chief (BA ’71, MEd ’78) and Brig. Gen. Alicia Tate-Nadeau (BS ’87). The Distinguished Alumni Award is based on peer recommendations and notable accomplishments in one of three categories: professional, community service and university service. The award presentations started in 1952.

The association also will honor the Tuepker as the 2015 Central Family of the Year.

Read more about all of them in the following pages.

Luncheon tickets are $25 each and may be purchased by calling UCO Alumni Relations at 405-974-5056 and registering online at www.centralconnection.org/homecoming2015. Tickets must be reserved by Friday, Oct. 23.

For a complete listing of UCO alumni homecoming activities, please visit www.centralconnection.org/homecoming2015 or call 405-974-2421.
Scott Fischer (BS ’05)
Chief Operating Officer,
Fischer Enterprises

New this year, the Young Alumni Award will honor alumni who have made great strides early in their careers. Scott Fischer has done just that. From Dippin’ Dots to Crumbs Bake Shop, he is well on his way to being king of his own “snack and treat” retail empire.

Fischer serves as chief operating officer of Fischer Enterprises. He supervised the acquisition of the assets of Dippin’ Dots Inc., the iconic maker and franchisor of flash frozen tiny beads of ice cream, from bankruptcy in 2012. Now president and board member, he’s leading the business through its expansion into 12 countries. In July 2014, he acquired Doc Popcorn, the world’s largest franchised retailer of popcorn, and Crumbs Bake Shop, a specialty cupcake and baked confections retail chain where he now serves on the board.

In 2006, Fischer served as chief operating officer for Pointe-Vista Development, a master planned residential community development. Pointe-Vista was recognized as the fastest growing company in Oklahoma City in the 2010 Metro 50 Awards Banquet by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. As COO, Fischer led the negotiation and creation of the largest Tax Increment Finance district in Oklahoma history and was a key stakeholder in passage of the Modification to the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act. His expertise has been recognized at state, county and local levels.

The Fischer family is also a major shareholder in Chaparral Energy Inc. where he began his business career as a petroleum landman.

Fischer earned his bachelor’s degree from UCO. He holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Management from the University of Phoenix.

Fischer’s philanthropic activities include serving as chair of the legislative committee and on the governing board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma. He was awarded the 2015 Judge William R. Saxed Founder’s Award for his support of the organization. He was inducted into the class of 2014 Pink Tie Guys for Susan G. Komen of Central and Western Oklahoma, an organization he continues to support, along with the Oklahoma City Ballet.

“I think that transitioning from being an active member of Central’s student body to becoming involved with our local chambers of commerce, such as the Edmond Chamber of Commerce, helps graduates become intermingled within the fiber of our community’s economy,” he wrote.

Freddy Russian (BS ’98)
Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, American Family Legacy Group

From Venezuela to an Edmond exchange student, Freddy Russian’s life trajectory has launched him to success in financial services. He followed his own advice to dream big and work hard and now sits at the helm of a leading wealth management and global investment firm in Tampa, Florida.

Russian is the founder, chief executive officer and managing director of American Family Legacy Group (AFLG) and AFLG Investments Private Equity for global private equity and global market strategies.

In 2009, Russian founded AFLG and AFLG Investments, leading the AFLG Group to become a highly successful and trusted firm that is a powerful player globally.

He began his career in 1991 as a head currency trader managing more than $1 billion in currencies. He also served in various capacities on Wall Street as a financial analyst, a senior rating bond analyst with Dow Jones, and as an assistant vice president for a private client group with both Bank of America and Merrill Lynch.

Russian has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Finance from UCO, as well as many industry certifications. His awards include the Silver Spur Award from Merrill Lynch and LPL Financial’s Director’s Club Award.

Russian found UCO when he sought out a university that provided a strong structure, affordability and smaller classes.

“UCO provided me with the tools and knowledge to become a professional,” wrote Russian.

It was the dedication of the business faculty that he found most helpful during his time at Central, especially Randall Ice, Ph.D., and Don Fleming, Ph.D.

“There are no dreams that cannot be accomplished or achieved if you stay focused and motivated. All your dreams can come true. Hard work does pay off.”
Tim Tall Chief (BA ’71, MEd ’78) Director of Health Services, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Tim Tall Chief has worn many hats — from grade school student in Old North to serving as a mixed martial arts and professional boxing judge and inspector for the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission. However, his proudest adornment is the ceremonial blanket he wears as a member of the Grayhorse district of the Osage Nation, serving as a master of ceremonies for cultural events and powwows throughout the United States. Tall Chief currently serves as director of Health Services for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee. He also maintains a faculty appointment in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Oklahoma. In addition, he is chief executive officer of Outdoor Adventures Unlimited Inc., an adventure- and cultural-based program that trains corporations, tribes and nonprofits nationwide.

Tall Chief was previously the deputy commissioner for administration at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the state director of Native American education for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. He graduated from Central with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s in Counseling Psychology. While on campus, he was involved with the Native American Student Organization and the Rodeo Club. He says Central has been a constant in his life. “It was my home. My parents met in the old gym and married in the Y Chapel. In grade school, I attended the campus school in Old North. It has always been a part of me,” he wrote.

Tall Chief remains active, serving as chair of both the Oklahoma City area Inter-Tribal Health Board and the board for the Oklahoma City area Tribal Epidemiology Center; a member of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and Health Services Governing Board and Governors Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan; and vice chair of both the National Indian Health Board and the Osage LLC Investment Branch of the Osage Nation. He credits his time at UCO for helping shape the person he is today.

“UCO had a tremendous influence on my life. During my 13 years spent there, it established lifestyles and attitudes that I practice daily.”

Brig. Gen. Alicia Tate-Nadeau (BS ’87) Assistant Adjutant General/Director of the Joint Staff, Illinois National Guard

Brig. Gen. Alicia Tate-Nadeau didn’t set out to become a general. However, from her path from a small town to a chance encounter with a college dean who encouraged her to join the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), Tate-Nadeau has made history as the first woman to reach that rank in Illinois.

An Enid native, Tate-Nadeau graduated from UCO with a bachelor’s in Health. She received her commission as second lieutenant through the UCO ROTC program. She later earned master’s degrees in Health Administration and Strategic Studies from Governors State University and the U.S. Army War College. She also was certified in Homeland Security by the American Board for Certification in Homeland Security and received executive certification in counter-terrorism.

Being a leader transcends gender and everything else,” she said. “I never wanted to be the best female officer. I wanted to be the best officer.”

Tate-Nadeau currently serves as the assistant adjutant general/director of the Joint Staff for the Illinois National Guard and as team leader for the Federal Emergency Management Association’s (FEMA) Region V Incident Management Assistance Team, operating as a traditional National Guard while serving fulltime in her civilian position with FEMA.

Previously, she served as the National Guard bureau liaison officer to the Israeli Home Front Command in Ramla, Israel. She concurrently served as chief for the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Domestic Preparedness Division for the Army Reserve command in Fort McPherson, Georgia. She was a core member of the Secretary of Defense’s “Tiger Team” and the Concept Analysis Agency, while co-authoring Defense Reform Initiative 25. That work gave the Reserve Components the primary mission to train and respond to WMD incidents, emerge WMD response doctrine, and evaluate National Guard Civil Support Teams.

Tate-Nadeau’s honors include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Meritorious Service Medal and numerous federal, state and foreign recognitions.

However, Tate-Nadeau says her greatest accomplishment is her children.

“The men and women I’ve served have been amazing, but the two people who have taken the brunt every time duty calls are those two kids,” she said. “They’re my biggest supporters, and I could not have done it without them.”
FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The 2015 Family of the Year has had 25 family members attend, work and/or graduate from Central, making the Tuepkers a strong choice for this honor.

The Tuepker story begins with matriarch Helen Frances Lewis Boatright (BS ‘24, Distinguished Alumna ‘56) and Lloyd Cecil Boatright Sr., who met while teachers in Tonkawa, Oklahoma. Though they both attended Central, Lloyd Boatright was at Central just a year before Helen Lewis arrived. He completed only one year playing football before eventually obtaining his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma.

“My grandmother’s family were educated people, and she had three sisters who were teachers. She taught at a country school before attending college,” said Jan Tuepker (BS ’72), the eldest of the five Tuepker children. “We believe she chose Central because it was a teaching school. She worked in the registrar’s office to put herself through school.”

The Boatrights were from meager beginnings and determined to work toward a better future. They passed a passion for education to their four children, who in turn, passed it to their children.

“Education was important,” said Jan Tuepker. “We never even considered not going, and living in Edmond, there was a college right here.”

Four of the five Tuepker children graduated from Central. Jan Tuepker earned a bachelor’s degree in Home Economics Education in 1972. She also worked at the university from graduation until retiring in 2010. She remembers fondly her time spent in classes, especially those with professor Mary Alice Fisher.

“To this day, I still make every Christmas a recipe — creamed celery — from one of her classes,” she said.

Jacki Tuepker Cowan obtained her secretarial certification from Central in 1973. Brother Max Tuepker (BS ’75) played football at Central and graduated with a degree in Business Education. He then earned his law degree and has served as a UCO Foundation Board of Trustee since 1988. In 2009, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus.

The Tuepker siblings remain close, and all but one lives in the area. Jan Tuepker has used her love for solving puzzles and games to help document her family’s history. Each year she creates scrapbooks to tell the story for her family gatherings.

Central, she said, will forever remain a mainstay in the Tuepker story.

Tuepkers Given 2015 Family Honors

By Reagan Hamlin
Assistant Vice President
UCO Development

The Tuepker family includes, front row, parents Gilbert and Mildred “Ditty” Tuepker. Back row, from left, are siblings Jacki Cowan, Jinger Harris, Max Tuepker, Jan Tuepker and Jerri Caskey.

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Honoring Newest Hall of Fame Members

There’s a tradition as old as the games themselves — honoring those great athletes and their leaders who have set a standard for others to meet. Meet UCO’s 2015 honorees.

The newest members of the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame will be inducted during a banquet on Friday, Nov. 6, in the ballrooms of the Nigh University Center.

The 2015 honorees include the first team to be inducted — Central’s 1962 football squad that captured the NAIA national title, the first and one of only two nationals for the UCO gridiron. The team won the Camellia Bowl in Sacramento, California, to clinch their claim to fame.

Others being inducted are:

• Basketball star Eddie Robinson, the only player in Central history to compete in the National Basketball Association. Robinson played five years in the professionals, the last three with the Chicago Bulls;

• Softball standout Chasidy Horton (BSEd ’92), a four-year starter shortstop for the Bronchos from 1996-99. She finished at Central 1983-86, was a three-time All American who helped lead the Bronchos to three consecutive NAIA national championships;

• Record-breaking baseball skipper Wendell Simmons (BSEd ’74, MEd ’75), named to the coach/administrator category. Simmons won more games than any coach in school history with a 633-375-1 record in his 19 years at Central, 1992-2010; and,

• Chuck Stumbaugh, receiving the Friend of Athletics title. Stumbaugh joined Central in 1966, serving 44 years as an Administrative Officer and coach, receiving the Friend of Athletics title. Stumbaugh joined Central in 1966, serving 44 years as an Administrative Officer and coach, receiving the Friend of Athletics title.

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It was the perfect climax to an 18-year wrestling odyssey. Unbeaten season. National champion. NCAA Division II Wrestler of the Year.

But the storybook finish to Chris Watson’s long career on the mat could have ended in a dramatically different fashion than when his hand was raised in victory after his final match on March 14. Unknowingly, the Central Oklahoma graduate had competed in the national tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, with a massive blood clot in his right shoulder. The blood clot could have proven fatal had it become dislodged while wrestling, a very real possibility given the physical nature of the sport.

“I didn’t lose my life and was able to get a national title, so it ended up working out, but I’m more than fortunate that it did,” said the 24-year-old Watson, who earned two degrees (Finance and Marketing) at UCO. “As unfortunate as the circumstances were, a lot of things happened that allowed me to be alive today. By the grace of God, a lot of things went right for me when it could have gone so bad.”

Watson was kneed in the shoulder during practice two weeks before the national tournament, which led to the blood clot. He felt noticeably weaker leading up to the final weekend of his career, but attributed it to the normal wear-and-tear of a long season.

“I’d brush my teeth for 10 seconds and be worn out,” Watson said. “I’d be at practice and ask somebody to shake my arm trying to get feeling back in it. It was hard for me to hold on to stuff for a prolonged period or to grip anything for a long time.

“At nationals, it wasn’t painful, but it was like my muscles didn’t have any urgency to go. I didn’t feel like I had the same energy, the same attack I had all season.”

That was hard to tell from the results. Watson won his four matches by a combined 29-7 margin to capture the 165-pound national title, easily one of the most dominating seasons in UCO’s storied wrestling history.

Soon, however, the swelling in Watson’s arm increased. A trip to the UCO athletic training room led to a doctor’s visit and a pair of ultrasounds, the second of which finally revealed the life-threatening mass — all 8 inches of it.

“It wasn’t until the doctors told me the enormity of it that it finally registered. It was life changing. “You learn there are a lot of good people in the world, and that a lot of people care about you.”

A three-time All-American on the mat and four-time Academic All-American in the classroom, Watson finished his UCO college career with a 130-28 record.

The Andover, Kansas, native spent six years at UCO, missing two seasons to injury. He started June 1 as a market analyst for Koch Industries in Wichita, Kansas.

Though happy with his new life, Watson can’t help but reflect on what he experienced.

“The sad thing is, I never think about the wrestling and about what I was able to accomplish,” Chris said. “I think about the whole episode. When you’re in the season, it’s hard to look outside wrestling. You’ve got tunnel vision, and that’s probably why we didn’t catch it in the first place.

“The day they diagnosed the blood clot, I walked through the halls in the field house and ran into some coaches who were congratulating me on winning nationals and everything. Winning is fun, but I’m just glad to be alive.”

Jeff Gowens Chasidy Horton Jack O’Connor Eddie Robinson Wendell Simmons Chuck Stumbaugh

For tickets to the event, contact Stampede Club Director Al Jones (BEd ’66, MEd ’74) at ajones63@uco.edu or at 405-974-2152.

Champion Wrestler Beats Death

By Mike Kirk
Director of Media Relations, UCO Athletics

Chris Watson

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Champion Wrestler Beats Death
Hockey Team Champs

Snapped just after the team won its national championship, UCO hockey team members and leaders share their enthusiasm for a UCO program that just began in 2006.

By Whitt Carter
Coordinator of Communications and Marketing
UCO Wellness Center

In August 2011, hockey player Torey Caldwell made the journey from Oliver, British Columbia, in the southern part of Canada, to join a UCO hockey program that wasn’t the most well known.

“I remember our freshman year, we would be trying to promote our team and get people to come to our games, and nobody even knew we had a hockey team,” Caldwell said. “We were selling tickets and just hoping a few people would show up.”

In March — just four years later — Caldwell and four other seniors celebrated the program’s first ACHA Division I National Championship, leaving behind an impressive record.

The Bronchos finished off the best season in school history by winning four games in five days, capped off by a 4-0 victory over Stony Brook in the title game. Central finished 2014-15 at 33-5-1, winning four games in five days, capped off by a 4-0 victory over Stony Brook in the title game.

“Torey Caldwell was one of 16 Canadian players who helped the UCO hockey team on the road to its 2015 championship,” McAlister said. “A lot of that change had to do with Caldwell — or TC, as his coach calls him — and his classmates who first put on the bronze and blue.

“At first, we recruited guys who would play hard, battle for us and establish our program as respectable,” McAlister said. “And that helped, as we started to recruit guys that could really play. They already had the hard-working mindset in them.

“We started with six Canadians in 2006-07 and had 16 on this year’s team. We look for the guys who do the right thing on and off the ice. But it all changed with TC and his group.”

In the fourth year of the program, Central advanced to the final four, but had to rebuild in 2010-11 due to the loss of 12 seniors.

“Our program has really changed over the years,” said head coach Craig McAlister, who started Central hockey in 2006. “We had tough games coming up, and we had to continue to play well down the stretch.”

Our seniors did a tremendous job of leading the younger guys and keeping them grounded,” McAlister said. “When we finally got beat, we had no problem rebounding because everyone knew we had tough games coming up, and we had to continue to play well down the stretch.”

And they did. UCO entered the national tournament as the No. 2 seed, behind only top-rated Arizona State, who has become Central’s rival over the past few seasons.

“We looked at the schedule at nationals, and we really thought it set up well for us,” McAlister said. “We had played all of the teams in our way earlier in the year, and we knew that with our speed and the way we were playing defense, it would be tough for someone to beat us.”

Central rolled through the opening three rounds, beating Niagara 5-1, Iowa State 5-3 and Minot State 5-1 to advance to the title game.

There was only one problem — the team they expected to play wouldn’t be there. No. 5 seed Stony Brook upset Arizona State 2-1 in the semifinals, and many thought they’d beat UCO in the finals to end a storbylang season.

“People were calling them a team of destiny,” Caldwell said. “No one really gave us a chance, even though we’d been one of the top two teams all year long.”

As it turned out, the team of destiny had no answer for the Bronchos, either. UCO used its defense and speed to cruise to a 4-0 win.

“It was a complete team championship, without question,” said McAlister, who was named ACHA National Coach of the Year shortly after the season. “We had young guys step up, guys play to their ultimate potential all year long and a great group of senior leaders.”

As for going forward, don’t worry about UCO hockey. Plenty of people have taken notice.

“The support has grown tremendously, from watch parties to social media to a record-setting crowd against OU at home this year — it’s been amazing,” Caldwell said.

“It’s a testament to what winning and having the right guys in your program will do for you. We wanted to build this program the right way, and I think we did.”
In the beginning, UCO Hockey was just another club on campus. No one really talked about, and most people weren’t sure what to think of it.

Enter Craig McAlister.

The former coach at the University of Oklahoma arrived at Central in 2005-06 in the program’s fourth year and immediately changed the culture.

“The university didn’t really know what to do with us,” said McAlister. “We had to explain who we were and that we weren’t here for us — we were here for the university.”

Even then, McAlister wasn’t entirely confident the program would stick around.

“Sure, winning helps, but it takes buy-in from everyone on the team, but he’s never missed or been late,” McAlister said. “We really had to prove ourselves and show we belong.”

Nine years later, McAlister has established one of the top programs in the country with a national championship to show for it — and the title of the 2015 ACHA Division I National Coach of the Year.

“Sure, we educated them on who we were, but I thought they would just expect us to go away after a year or so,” McAlister said. “We really had to prove ourselves and show we belong.”

“Winning the Battle”

Anne Holzberlein likes a challenge. She plays tennis, hikes,zip lines and enjoys white water rafting with friends and family.

In her 11 years as UCO’s vice president for Development and president of the UCO Foundation, she has taken on new challenges with the same fervor. So when an easy stroll across campus suddenly became exhausting in spring 2013, she visited the university health center for a blood test.

“I’ve always been very active and have rarely even needed to take a pill for anything. I knew I wasn’t myself,” she said. Later that same evening, a physician called and advised her to go to the emergency room. There, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at the age of 68.

Physicians at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center began initial treatment, but her case was anything but typical. Molecular analysis of her blood showed her cancer to be the most aggressive form of leukemia. The next challenge: She would need a bone marrow transplant, but a full match could not be found among family members or on the national registry.

Her son, Jeffrey Holzbeierlein, M.D., a urologist with The University of Kansas Cancer Center, encouraged her to meet with physicians there to discuss advanced treatment options. (He uses the family’s traditional spelling.)

“She was at extremely high risk for relapse, with zero chance of her leukemia being cured by chemotherapy alone,” he said. “With no donor match, our options were pretty limited. We realized the outcome may not be good, but this was the place to explore the options.”

Joseph McGuirk, D.O., medical director of the cancer center’s blood and marrow transplant (BMT) program, said her timely referral was critical to her favorable outcome. Through McGuirk, the family learned about a clinical trial.

Looking for answers

The Phase III clinical trial, open to patients age 65 or older with hematologic (blood) cancers, was a perfect fit. Other than her leukemia, Anne Holzbeierlein was in good health, making her an ideal candidate.

“She was in pretty good shape to go through this type of treatment and recovery,” her son said. Participants in the clinical trial are randomly selected to receive one of two types of transplant: one using umbilical cord blood from an unrelated donor or the other using haploidentical bone marrow (a genetic half match) from a relative.

Anne Holzbeierlein was selected to receive the bone marrow transplant with her son being a half match, and his blood type, health and other variables also compatible.

The power of research

In July, she celebrated an important milestone — two years in remission. Ninety percent of patients who relapse do so within the first six to 12 months. Complications beyond two years are rare. It is a milestone she credits to the power of research.

Thanks to freelance writer Susan McCabe and The University of Kansas Cancer Center for Old North’s permission to reprint a condensed version of this article, originally written for the center.
UCO Launches ’BRONZE VOYAGE’

UCO alumni and friends on July 8 will begin the inaugural trip for the Alumni Association’s new travel program, “Bronze Voyage,” encouraging lifelong learning through hands-on experiences while connecting with those who share a passion for UCO.

Organized by Pilgrim Tours, trip prices start at $3,179 per person, including airfare. Guests will fly from Oklahoma City to Vancouver, Canada, for boarding the ship.

Enjoy 10 days visiting the Tongass National Forest and the famous “Gateway of the Klondike,” the Hubbard Glacier, the longest river of ice in North America and one of the most active glaciers of its kind in Alaska; as well as stops in Skagway and Girdwood, with its Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

For more information, visit centralconnection.org/bronzevoyage. To suggest future destinations, email alumni@uco.edu.

Alumni Association, No More Dues!

The UCO Alumni Association has discontinued its annual dues program and now is accepting all 80,000 alumni as members of the Alumni Association at the annual level.

“The decision to move to a non-dues membership model was not taken lightly,” said Anne Holzberlein, vice president for Development. “Through working with the Alumni Board and carefully analyzing our current alumni base, we felt this was the best option for the association moving forward.”

Before the change, the Alumni Association was communicating with less than 5,000 paid members of the nearly 80,000 possible alumni base.

“We felt this was counterintuitive to the sense of Central family we work to establish here,” said Holzberlein. “We are now able to open communication to all graduates and help instill a sense of loyalty to their alma mater. This translates to more mentorship opportunities for our students, more attendance at alumni events and support for our athletic teams, and a sense of pride that these individuals can take into their everyday lives – which only increases the value of a UCO degree.”

Members at the lifetime level will continue to experience benefits unique to their financial commitment. The association is currently reviewing these benefits and lifetime members are encouraged to provide feedback for items they would like to see considered by emailing alumni@uco.edu.

In the meantime, alumni are encouraged to update their information to ensure they have access to benefits as they are added by visiting www.centralconnection.org/updateinfo.

For more information on the change along with helpful FAQs, visit www.centralconnection.org/membershipfaqs.
Special needs adults are experiencing the joys of artistic expression through a UCO collaborative community outreach program that has students, faculty and staff happy to be involved.

By Angela Morris
Staff Writer
College of Fine Arts and Design

Fifty audience members filled the back half of the ballroom last spring at Wings: A Special Needs Community, a foundation dedicated to enhancing the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. Family members, friends, UCO faculty, staff and students all came to watch the community members — primarily diagnosed with autism and Down syndrome — present their personal art, showcase their individual designs, and perform dance and music routines as well as theater exercises.

Community members proudly stood in front of the audience and introduced paintings they had created — vibrant in colors, decorated in gems — and performed synchronized routines stylized by each individual personality, whether that included throwing in an air guitar, stomping with a little extra enthusiasm or releasing creative energy through a roar or a heartfelt fist pump. Audience members clapped and cheered for the performers and their artwork. Community members encouraged one another and displayed camaraderie developed during the last several weeks of painting together and rehearsing for their dance, music and theater performance.

This final showcase, and the several weeks of art education leading up to the main event, were a result of Arts Without Limits, a project organized and implemented by the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education (OCAE), an auxiliary of the UCO College of Fine Arts and Design.

“Wings enrolls 29 special needs adult students and provides them with classes that foster life skills and self-improvement,” said Ines Burnham, director of OCAE and originator of Arts Without Limits. “However, prior to Arts Without Limits, there were no classes available on a consistent basis that exposed Wings community members to the fine arts and design.”

According to Burnham, most, if not all, members of the Wings community were never granted the opportunity to partake in arts programs growing up in the public school system. “At no fault of wonderful public school teachers, students with special needs are most likely segregated into classrooms of four or five other special needs students with no option to participate in school choir or band or dance teams or other arts communities,” Burnham said.

Burnham and OCAE decided it was time to fill that void, starting a year ago with a grant written to the Oklahoma Arts Council to fund Arts Without Limits. “Thanks to generous funding from the council, Burnham was able to provide the Wings community with 28 weeks of continual arts education, offering weekly, hour-long sessions that rotated within the disciplines of OCAE’s umbrella college: art, dance, design, music and theater arts.

Classes were implemented by UCO faculty and arts education students who hosted workshops teaching basic knowledge in painting, rhythm, movement, music, choreography, design and acting. “UCO faculty and students were able to be involved in civic engagement,” said Burnham.

“Central students gained experience in professional development, utilizing the educational skills they’ve learned in the UCO classroom while demonstrating leadership, organization and giving back to an underserved community through these arts classes.” According to Burnham, those who gained the most from the program, however, were members of the Wings community.

“Arts education fosters an amazing, beneficial learning opportunity to special needs communities,” said Burnham.

Burnham pointed out some of the educational offerings and personal development the arts provides to its pupils. “Basic music knowledge incorporates math skills for understanding tempo and rhythms. Entry-level movements in dance utilize fine and gross motor skills. Plus, all five disciplines serve as an avenue of expression, emphasize the importance of teamwork and provide an environment that helps with overall communication skills for these special needs members.”

At the final showcase last spring — as participants giggled through the theater exercises, smiled behind paintings they had created, and sung and danced to Katy Perry — friends and family of the performers gleamed through the hour-long event.

“During these last months that Shay has been involved in these art classes at Wings, she’s been dancing around the house,” said Merradyth McAllister about her daughter, who has Down syndrome. “It’s built up her self-esteem, her confidence. She’s become motivated to be more expressive. We’ve seen the joy it brings her, the opportunity it’s provided her.”

“We love working with the community at Wings and look forward to continue offering Arts Without Limits,” Burnham concluded.

(Left) OCAE Project Assistant Allyson Kubat and Wings member Holly Welte
(Top right) Shay McAllister
(Bottom right) Wings member Preston Olson with OCAE Director Ines Burnham
Katherene "Kathy" Terrell, Ed.D., and husband, Robert "Bob" Terrell, Ed.D., are legends at Central — and not just in the College of Business where Accounting graduates sing their praises. Their life story very much includes Central and their students.

Few have passed through the halls of UCO’s College of Business without knowing about the husband-wife team of Katherene and Robert Terrell, affectionately referred to as Kathy and Bob by their Accounting students. “Listening to our alumni and local business leaders, it is pretty clear that no two UCO faculty members have ever had as much of an impact on the Oklahoma accounting profession and on the College of Business as Kathy and Bob have,” said Mickey Hepner, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business. “The impact they have made on this college, this university and this city will reverberate for decades to come.”

Their story is as good as they are. The couple first met in high school, their first date 50 years ago this year. After graduation, Bob began attending the University of Oklahoma in 1965 and Kathy, as Bob puts it, “stalked him” the following year. They both began their collegiate careers in very different fields of study — pharmacy and medicine — but both graduated as accountants.

Bob and Kathy married in 1968, her second year of college and his third. “Life as a married college student was good, really good! Only thing that changed was we lived in the same place,” said Bob. When asked what makes them such a great couple, they both humorously responded that it’s because they can stand one another — and the fact that she has not killed him yet.

They both graduated from OU in 1969 with bachelor’s degrees in accounting. Bob received his MBA from OU in 1971, and the next year the couple started Terrell and Terrell CPAs, a successful practice for 20 years. During graduate school, Bob developed a second love — teaching. In 1972, he began his teaching career — or as Kathy calls it, “time to put food on the table” — as an adjunct instructor at Rose State College.

After several months of working at Rose State, Kathy asked Bob if he was ever going to bring home a paycheck. Reflecting back, Bob explained, “I enjoyed what I was doing so much, I didn’t think of it as work. I never thought to go and pick it up!”

During the fall of 1974, Bob began teaching at then Central State as a full-time instructor, mastering the art of continued on page 30
The impact they have made on this college, this university, and this city will reverberate for decades to come.

— Mickey Hepner, Ph.D., Dean, College of Business

award, he humbly said that he shared the award with his students because they provided him with the motivation to do his very best for them every day.

Earlier, Kathy received the 2004 Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA) Outstanding Accounting Educator of the Year Award.

To this day, Bob does not allow his M.S. to control his outlook. He shows up each day with a smile on his face. He says he would never have gone back to school to get his doctorate if it had not been for his M.S. diagnosis.

Both Bob and Kathy have worked countless hours to build the Accounting department at UCO, and also in the surrounding community. It is no surprise to me that when I go out into the business community at large in Oklahoma and see the wonderful accounting professionals that are leading the way in their places of work and communities, so many of them come from not only UCO, but from Dr. Kathy’s classrooms, said Summer.

Both Kathy and Bob plan to retire with in the next few years, even though neither is emotionally ready to do so. They both hope that their long hours and hard work will leave a lasting impression. Both agreed that the students are their legacy. “We want everyone to recognize the capabilities and abilities of these students and work hard for them and with them,” Bob said.

Their students return the credit. “Since graduating in 2007, we have made sure to keep in touch,” said former student Whitney Chaney. “Their constant love, support and encouragement are truly immeasurable. With their motivational push, I finally took the plunge this year and began my CPA journey. As soon as I passed my first section, I could not wait to share it with both of them. I attribute so much of my success to having Dr. Kathy and Dr. Bob in my life. They are not only amazing teachers, but also incredible mentors and friends.”

The Terrells sold their practice in 1991 so they could focus more on teaching and Bob’s health. Bob has taught full time in the Accounting department at UCO since 1985. Kathy has taught full time since 1990 and has been chair of the department for the past 12 years. When Bob received the 2008 Oklahoma Professor of the Year

Endowed Terrell Chair, Fundraising Underway

The UCO College of Business wants to honor the legacy of Robert Terrell, Ed.D., by creating the Dr. Robert Terrell Endowed Chair in Accounting. Endowed professorships represent a long-term commitment, providing support for new research and pioneer projects that offer great potential for producing breakthroughs and innovations in higher education as well as the industry. Professorships also allow the College of Business to recruit and retain premier business educators, and they establish educational strength, bringing prestige to both the college and university.

I don’t think you could find any two professors who have impacted so many students so much. Their students will remember them for many years.

— Karen Price, Administrative Assistant, UCO Accounting Department

The Terrells are wonderful people — they are the cornerstone of UCO’s accounting program. I was fortunate to have classes taught by both Dr. Bob and Dr. Kathy. Besides being incredibly knowledgeable educators, I knew that they genuinely cared about me and my success in college and beyond. I owe them a great deal of gratitude for helping me achieve my educational and professional goals.

— Haley Dumas, Accountant II, University of Central Oklahoma
“I AIN’T AFRAID OF NO SPOOKLIGHT!”

THE BOOMERS SOLVE THEMSELVES A MYSTERY

by Allen Rice, Ph.D.
Professor of English, UCO

Maybe, dear reader, you’ve heard of, even wondered yourself, about the mystery known as the Spooklights in far northeastern Oklahoma. Our UCO professor and friends decided to solve the puzzle. The following is his humorous account of the team’s brave exploits.

A team of guys searching for mystery and adventure. A ragtag band of thrill-seekers who have gone on three expeditions to find Bigfoot, three treasure hunts to find Jesse James’ lost gold, two endeavors to find space aliens in Texas and one trek to sail the slate gray waters of Loch Ness in search of Nessie. Ghostbusters, you may surmise? No, local boys: The Boomers.

Their leader is a bloated, Z movie Sean Connery stand in who tries to quip like Groucho Marx, a UCO English professor named Allen Rice. That’s me. I pick the adventure, call up my team, and surprisingly, most of them show up, most of the time. We call ourselves the Boomers for no other reasons than we are all Okies and the name sounds cool.

The Boomers this expedition are me; my son-in-law, Michael “Fergie” Ferguson, an OKC...
We Solved It?

How had we solved the mystery when everyone else had failed? If we had done our research, we would have realized that of the dozens of theorists, seven previous individuals or groups had speculated that the source of the Spooklight might be headlights. But four of these researchers had stopped at mere speculation without trying to prove their theory. The remaining three (Charles W. Graham in 1946, Bob Loflin in 1955 and Robert Gannon in 1965) claimed to have proven the headlight theory by doing exactly what we did, filming their car headlights flashing to prove their point, and maddeningly, they never even pinpointed exactly where their car had been located when their headlights were flashing! In each case, these three researchers referred vaguely to Route 66. This is a problem because Route 66 used to go west from current Highway 69 eastward to current E-50, and then it turned due south, mostly staying on current E-50, running east to west, becoming Highway 69 east of Quapaw. We know that flashing car headlights cannot be seen on parts of E-50 on the west side of the forest, nor can they be seen by cars traveling northward or southward on Highway 137. If any of these three researchers had simply specified a location and filmed their flashing headlight experiment, the mystery would have been solved long ago.

The Boomers, in our ignorance, clumsily re-invented the wheel already long designed by these.
previous researchers, but at least we put a push-pin designating the exact location of our flashing headlights: just a few yards east of the intersection of E-50 and Highway 137. And we proved our theory by putting it all on film for the entire YouTube community to see.

The Boomers’ resolution to the Spooklight Mystery answers a number of questions. Why is the Spooklight white, yellow or red in color? Because that is the color of halogen lights, headlights and taillights. Why is the Spooklight seen as one light or through binoculars as sometimes two or four lights? Because at a distance of 5-9 miles away, the human eye sees two or four headlights as one light, and through binoculars, you can make out two or four distinct headlights.

On a particular night, why can you sometimes see the Spooklight and sometimes you can’t? Because car headlights from the Highway 69/E-50 ramp line up perfectly at exactly the same height as the top of three hills on Spooklight Road. You can see the Spooklight from the top of these hills, but you can never see the phenomenon from the bottom of a hill because the hill or forest in front of you blocks the distant headlights. So if you park at the bottom of a hill, you have “bad luck” that particular night, but if you park at the top of a hill, you have “good luck,” like the Boomers did that humid September night.

When you pursue the Spooklight, why does it always disappear? Because driving your car forward causes you to dip down into a valley, so the hill or forest in front of you blocks your view of the distant beam of light.

**Wait Just a Minute!**

What about before there were modern lights? Wasn’t the Spooklight viewed by people as far back as the 1800s? Well, we don’t know for sure. The first reporter interviewed people about the Spooklight in 1936; many claimed that they had seen the lights up to fifty years before, or perhaps they knew someone who had seen them decades earlier. But this is really venturing into the area of folklore and oral tradition. Maybe no one actually saw the glowing orb before the era of modern lights, and they were adding to the growing myth in their own way. Or maybe they really did see the Spooklight way back then. Perhaps the unique topography of those hills lining up perfectly created the same optical illusion in the 19th Century as it does today, maybe a kerosene lantern, a campfire or a bonfire could be seen from the Devil’s Promenade area just like a car headlight can be seen today.

Our final question: why do some people seem to experience the Spooklight moving left or right or up and down? The Boomers speculate that since Spooklight Road is miles away from light pollution, and its nights are particularly black, any light source might be confused with the Spooklight. Imagine you are pursuing the Spooklight, and it disappears. Suddenly, a light flashes from left to right in front of you. The Spooklight? No, it is merely a firefly or some other mundane phenomenon like the ones the Boomers experienced. The glowing orb disappears and then rises into the sky. The Spooklight? No, an airplane light. It would be easy to mentally connect the two different sources and types of lights in the intensity and eeriness of the moment.

**The Real Irony**

It is a grave injustice that of all the well-prepared, well-equipped and intellectually brilliant researchers who have tried to solve the mystery of the Spooklight that the poorly prepared, pathetically equipped and somewhat dull Boomers should be the ones to solve it. But solve it we did, and we have the video footage to prove it. You can see our little documentary (crafted by our own Christopher Shaneyfelt) on how we solved the mystery. We don’t take ourselves too seriously in the movie, but we think somewhere if he has seen it, Scooby Doo would be proud.

To view the Boomers’ video, go to YouTube and search under the heading “Spooklight Mystery Solved.”

Allen Rice, Ph.D., is a professor of English who has taught for 24 years at UCO, where more than one student says he’s amusing as well as informative.
As Central celebrates its 125th anniversary, the university introduces the Luminary Society, an organization to recognize those who have brought distinction or positively influenced the life of UCO through their service and/or contributions.

Nominations have been taken throughout the year for the inaugural group of 125 honorees. The final list of honorees — including those pictured here — will be announced and honored at a special induction ceremony on Oct. 22.

Invitations have been sent to family members of each of the 125. Remaining tickets, while limited, will be open to the public on a first-come basis. RSVPs are being taken at centralconnection.org/UCO125Gala.

The celebration will continue with the UCO@125 Gala, starting at 6 p.m. Oct. 22 with cocktails on the terrace of the Nigh University Center, followed by a dinner and entertainment in the ballrooms.
Endowed Scholarship was established in 2013 and coaching for 34 years. The Virginia Peters was a standout Central athlete who joined the way to keep age in perspective. Peters (BS ‘57) birthday with the country’s 284th — a gr...
1950s

Charles Compton Jr. (BAEd '50, DA '78) died June 3, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952-54. He taught math and physics in Andrews, Texas, for 10 years, and he was a traveling science teacher with the National Science Foundation for one year. For 37 years, he worked for several major publishing companies in textbook sales, as a division manager and as a vice president. Alice Rose Clark (BSEd '57) died Jan. 14, 2015. She taught for Edmond Public Schools' Russell Doughtery Elementary for 22 years and Will Rogers Elementary for three years. After retirement, she worked in the jewelry department at Home Outfitters. She taught in the jewelry department at Home Outfitters. She taught at the Oklahoma Board of Education from 1952-53. An educator, he began working for Tinker Air Force Base, retiring in 1993 at the executive level in their financial management organization. After retirement, he helped open a branch office of Kari Technologies in Midland, Texas, serving 10 years. Charles Witty, (BA '58, MEd '61) died March 9, 2015, of cancer. Active in his community, he was a teacher and coach. He spent most of his career at Stroud High School. He is survived by his wife of 57 1/2 years, Sylvia Johnson Witty (BS '61).

1960s

Leigh Myrtle Ellis (BSEd '62) died May 13, 2015. While at Central, she served as a staff writer and editor of the student newspaper, The Vista. An Edmond resident for more than 55 years, she was a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, the Edmond Iris and Garden Society, the Oklahoma Iris Society and the American Iris Society. Dennis Ray Mask Sr. (BS '64) died May 17, 2015, after fighting Parkinson’s disease for 16 years. He practiced medicine in the field of nephrology in the 1960s and was the administrator of teacher education in Arlington, Texas. He was a diplomat of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Award, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Joint Service Commendation Medal. Elizabeth Anne “Sissy” Williams, M.D., (BS '77) died June 7, 2015. She received her nursing degree from Central and worked in the neonatal intensive care unit at Integris Baptist Hospital. She received her medical degree in 1988 and upon completion of her residency, joined Northwest Anesthesiology, retiring in 2007. Lois Ann Jeffries (MEd '79) died May 15, 2015. She taught math at Taf and Hefner junior high schools in Oklahoma City, retiring in 1996.

1980s

Donald Kevin Funnell, J.D. (BBA '80) died April 28, 2015. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma and was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar in 1984. He was a partner in the law firm of Lytle Soule & Curlee. Gary Don Curtis (BA '82) died March 29, 2015. He served in the Marine Corps. He worked for the Oklahoma City Fire Department for 29 years and achieved the rank of fire marshal. He retired in 1995. Billy Ray Bateman Jr. (BA '86) died March 27, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army for five years. He retired his journalism degree from Central.

1990s

Kimberly Michelle Wolfe Kerr (BS '97) died June 6, 2015. She spent most of her time raising a family and volunteering.

2000s

Stephanie Joan Eggeling (BA '08) died April 29, 2015. She received her degree in Journalism from Central. She was an assistant professor of medicine and served on the board of the Oklahoma County Medical Society. She was a licensed clinical psychologist. In 1999, he co-founded Community Pathways Unlimited, a private mental health practice. He was a member of the Oklahoma Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association and the Oklahoma Society of Psychoanalytic Studies. Charles Berton “Bert” Wheeler (BS '58) died Jan. 26, 2015. He worked more than 34 years at Tinker Air Force Base, retiring in 1993 at the executive level in their financial management organization. After retirement, he helped open a branch office of Kari Technologies in Midland, Texas, serving 10 years. Charles Witty, (BA '58, MEd '61) died March 9, 2015, of cancer. Active in his community, he was a teacher and coach. He spent most of his career at Stroud High School. He is survived by his wife of 57 1/2 years, Sylvia Johnson Witty (BS '61).
From Our Readers...

Nothing is better than getting feedback — the good and the bad — because it let’s us know that readers care. So, please, kind reader, send us your thoughts, by mail or email. Thanks!

Gypsy Hogan (BA ’74)
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This magazine is ALWAYS of the highest quality, both content and looks. Thanks for the extra copies and the electronic version. I passed that on to Eric Berger of the Houston Chronicle.

— From alumnus Milt Heflin (BS ’66), retired NASA engineer and flight director, and a loyal reader and sometime Old North contributor from Houston, Texas

Editor’s Note: We must regret a misspelled word in our recent article on Richard Thatcher, Central’s first principal, but we incorrectly used the word’s homonym, principle. Readers let us know! We now shall never forget the old adage: A principal is a pal.

Good Morning! I noticed the misspelling of “Principle” in the article in my Old North magazine, and I don’t believe it was spelled that way in 1891.

— From Mike Muns (BBA ’67), a financial consultant in San Antonio

I was aghast when I turned the pages of your spring magazine, Old North, to see the Richard Thatcher article on Page 18. … What an egregious — and embarrassing — error for an educational publication!

— From Anita G. Barrett, Ph.D., (BSEd ’54) of Fort Worth, Texas

Speaking of great letters...

Larry Reed of Norman, grandson of Central legend Dale Hamilton, recently found the above letter in a box of family papers.

Typed on Central State Teachers College letterhead and dated Oct. 31, 1928, the letter was written by another Central legend, C. W. Wantland. (Think Hamilton Field House, Wantland Hall and Wantland Stadium!)

The letter made Reed think about how times have changed. He recalled that his grandfather was a big guy for his time — 6-foot-4 and weighing 220 pounds. In high school, his nickname was “Big Ham.” Players in Hamilton’s time also played both offense and defense, with Wantland’s letter giving Hamilton advice on both. Even getting a typed letter from an athletics director to a player might be hard to come by in today’s world — maybe an email?

For Reed, finding the letter from one Central great to another was rich. Copies have been sent to happy family members — including the UCO family!