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On the Cover
December graduate Joshua Ray, like many of his classmates on commencement day, shows his love and appreciation for those who helped make his success possible.

Staff Photo by Lauren Bieri, UCO Photographic Services

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December graduate Joshua Ray, like many of his classmates on commencement day, shows his love and appreciation for those who helped make his success possible.

Staff Photo by Lauren Bieri, UCO Photographic Services

...a magazine published by the University of Central Oklahoma for its alumni and friends.
Welcome to 2016 from UCO!
The winter weeks have been mild here in Edmond. They are matched by the upbeat tempo of university life. We often say there is no time at UCO more engaged than the fall, except for the spring.
As many of you in Oklahoma know, our state is confronting near-historic financial challenges, fueled in part by the dramatic drop in energy prices and in the corresponding state revenues.
All public higher education, UCO included, has been directly impacted. Beginning last July, we began the academic year with a 3.5 percent reduction in state support. Since, there have been four additional reductions due to state-declared revenue failures and a drop in oil/gas prices. We are planning for FY 17 (2016-17) fully expecting our state support will be further reduced. For us, these reductions amount to millions of dollars.
About 15 years ago, UCO received about 60 percent of its operating budget from the state. Today, that state support is less than 25 percent. This protracted withdrawal of state funding for higher education has corresponded to an increase in UCO’s enrollment that’s unequalled in the state. These realities have created fresh challenges for the personalized, quality learning experience for which we have been recognized.
Some institutions have decided to take actions that will limit their capacities to serve our citizens and the state. We are using innovative approaches to meet our responsibilities as the public regional university serving the Oklahoma City metro and Oklahoma.
In the midst of these downturns in state support, UCO has not dampened its entrepreneurial and collaborative spirit. There are significant projects underway which commenced prior to the state revenue shortfalls or are financially sustained by resources from select fees and/or highly appreciated philanthropic support.
Several of these initiatives will be highlighted in the coming months, but first among them is the renaissance of Old North. Shuttered about 15 years ago for safety reasons, this symbol of UCO and Oklahoma higher education will re-open in fall 2016 as a multipurpose epicenter of our university. It will offer faculty offices; intimate, high-impact classrooms; operational offices; and conference rooms. Described by our facilities leadership as “building a ship in a bottle,” restoration will prepare this original Oklahoma Territorial Normal School for many decades of meaningful service, thus extending the vision of the original founders and builders of our “cathedral of learning on the plains.”
Some major projects underway or approved include the backstage facility annex to historic Mitchell Hall and the Interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Research and Training Center. The Sports Performance Center at the north end of the football stadium is viable thanks in large part to the generous investments by alumnus Chad Richison and an anonymous former UCO football player. In the midst of the described reduction in state assistance, UCO is following its path of responsible fiscal management and innovative planning and creating for the future to serve as Oklahoma’s metropolitan university.
This Old North issue is a rich selection of information and articles depicting some of the vitality here that is rooted in focused scholarship; diligent, collaborative effort; and realistic optimism. We embrace John F. Kennedy’s declaration that we are idealists with no illusions. We believe that we are one of the positive partners engaged in creating Oklahoma’s future.
When the dust has settled, UCO will be on course, living its belief in the power of learning, leading and serving.
In any season, please know that you are always welcome here.

Don Betz
President
The Metropolitan Revolution: Serving the Metro, What It Means

By Gypp Hogan
Publications Editor
University Relations

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett's recent recognition of UCO spread like a welcomed warm front across a campus enameled with sunlight.

"At the highest ed level, I want to take a moment to mention our ever-growing relationship with UCO," Mayor Cornett said at his annual State of the City address on Jan. 13 before 1,600 people at the Cox Convention Center.

"President Betz and his staff are continuing their commitment to Oklahoma City. You probably know about ACM, the School of Rock that they offer downtown. You may be less aware of their new boathouse and jazz lab on the river and their new downtown MBA program. We are also working together with the Brookings Institution on improving our Innovation District. None of these are small endeavors."

And none happened overnight, he added. Starting in 2008, UCO developed an intentional goal of becoming the state's only metropolitan university — academia code name for wanting to look for ways to build relationships that would strengthen the university and its students, as well as those in the larger community.

That goal and the commitment to its success intensified in 2013 when the university celebrated its 125th anniversary. In commemorating its founding in 1890, a UCO@125 Distinguished Speaker Series was planned. First on campus was Bruce Katz, co-author of the The Metropolitan Revolution, vice president for the Brookings Institution and founding director of its Metropolitan Policy Program. His book, made available across campus for book study groups, looks at the innovative things cities across America have done to reinvent themselves as thriving communities.

Even earlier, in 2014, President Betz circulated The Metropolitan Revolution to his cabinet members, and through his leadership, UCO made a concerted effort to explore how to realize its concepts.

"The Metropolitan Revolution presented an 'ah-ha' moment to us as we focused on how we might serve the metro to develop its economy, communities and neighborhoods. The work of Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley provided that roadmap to us," said Mark Kinders, Ed.D., UCO vice president of Public Affairs.

In 2015, Kinders talked informally with Mayor Cornett and then met with the Brookings Institution to promote the idea of how the city's business sector plans to grow so that UCO and other city partners provide meaningful support and assistance. Katz further has accepted a role on President Betz's Council of Advisors and has shared insights from his research to help guide UCO's continuing efforts to expand its role in the metro.

Katz to the Oklahoma City Chamber, which inked an 18-month Innovation District development proposal. That proposal seeks to create for the first time a blueprint of how the city's business sector plans to grow so that UCO and other city partners provide meaningful support and assistance. Katz further has accepted a role on President Betz's Council of Advisors and has shared insights from his research to help guide UCO's continuing efforts to expand its role in the metro.

The rationale for UCO was simple as it seeks to assist city and state leaders to expand the state's economic base. In 2016, when UCO leaders say that Central is Oklahoma's metropolitan university, they're not talking about geography. A metropolitan university in academia means something more than location.

Central is a member of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, serving more than 50 metropolitan regions.

Members include both private and public institutions, but all have several things in common, as listed on the organization's website:

- A mission that includes teaching, research and public service;
- A responsiveness to respective community needs while striving for national excellence;
- An understanding that mutually beneficial partnerships are a tool for accomplishing strategic goals;
- A commitment to supporting an educated citizenry and workforce for their respective state and region;
- A goal of having a diverse student body that is reflective of the demographic characteristics of the region; and,
- The desire to serve as an intellectual and creative resource for the metropolitan region.
The university’s work to strengthen its mission as a metropolitan university has taken many forms, both on and off campus. University leaders work to connect the interests of UCO students with those of the community, creating opportunities for all.

- With classes starting in January 2015, UCO Downtown now serves the Oklahoma City metro through prepared graduates, innovative programs and partnerships that contribute to the area’s continued growth. Enrollment and interest in the new location has exceeded expectations. So, the variety of class offerings has been expanded to include the master’s in Business Administration program, as well as degrees in Professional Science and Business Analytics. In addition, UCO Downtown and the UCO Center for eLearning and Connected Environments work with area businesses to offer non-credit, continuing education or customized classes to meet specific needs.
- More at downtown.ucuco.edu.
- In spring 2015, UCO opened its new CHK/Central Boathouse on the Oklahoma River. The boathouse is not only home to the university’s Women’s Rowing team, but it also offers space for music performances, art exhibits and public gatherings.
- UCO in 2015 refocused its Small Business Development Center. Still located in “One Santa Fe Plaza, it’s now part of UCO’s Customized Education department, emphasizing customized education, business consulting and business incubators to strengthen economic opportunities.
- The university expanded its partnership with the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, helping families prepare for college opportunities as well as receive needed training for business development.
- UCO’s Latino Faculty and Staff Association has become a model for other colleges and universities looking for ways to better connect and serve the growing Hispanic community.
- UCO’s main campus in Edmond continues to be a U.S. Olympic and Paralympic training site.
- The university has been recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education as “A Great Place to Work For” for seven years and has been listed twice in the Top 10 Large School Honor Roll.
- An August agreement between UCO and Oklahoma City University has officials of both exploring partnerships between the two schools’ academic programs, such as Central’s master of Public Administration and OCU’s juris doctorate program.
- The Carnegie Foundation named UCO to an elite “Community Engagement” classification, and the university was named a Veteran Friendly institution by Military Times.
- Ranked No. 4 in the nation on the Forbes “My Top College” listing, UCO also has been named to the Top Tier of Public Regional Universities in the West by U.S. News & World Report and designated a U.S. EPA Green Power Conference Champion for energy efficiency.

UCO Athletics launched its Complete the Dream campaign in November with a record-setting gift from alumnus and former student athlete Chad Richison (BA ’93), founder and CEO of Oklahoma City-based Paycom Software Inc. Richison recently pledged $10 million to UCO Athletics as part of its $15 million Complete the Dream campaign. His gift is the single largest donation in university history and among the largest ever received by an NCAA Division II institution.

“It’s truly an honor to be able to give this type of gift,” said Richison at the press conference announcing the donation.

“I came here in 1989 as a student athlete, and while my athletic career was short lived, the relationships I made have lasted forever. I’m very hopeful the contribution I’ve made today has the intended affect.”

Just three months later, a former Central football player made an anonymous $1 million donation to the campaign, the third largest gift in UCO Athletics’ history.

The Complete the Dream campaign is the first comprehensive athletic facilities campaign for Central. Planned facilities include a north end zone complex, an indoor practice facility, a new softball stadium and major renovations to other sport facilities.

UCO President Don Betz said the campaign will provide the resources for UCO student athletes to be the best students and athletes they can be.

Funds from the Richison gift are earmarked for athletics facility upgrades to benefit all Central student athletes.

To have achieved 80 percent of our $15 million fundraising goal just months into the Complete The Dream campaign speaks to the importance UCO holds in the hearts of our alumni,” UCO Director for Athletics Joe Muller said.

“Chad Richison’s incredible lead gift, coupled with another record-breaking gift, is a game-changer for UCO athletics. Thanks to generous alumni, we will soon transform our dream into reality and provide resources for UCO athletic programs never seen before at this institution.”

To make a gift to the Complete the Dream campaign, visit centralconnection.org/completesthedream.

For information on UCO Athletics, visit bronchosports.com.
That makes the university’s new branding initiative a natural progression. With the theme Connect to Central, the university aims to actively engage its many audiences with authentic messages that capture the Central spirit.

“Connect to Central is as flexible as it is meaningful to what we do each day at the university. The connections students make here — and the opportunities they provide — are at the heart of the Central experience,” said Charlie Johnson, vice president for University Relations.

Connect to Central is the result of an 18-month market research and creative conceptualizing process. The university worked with TWG Plus, a higher education marketing firm, to conduct focus groups and phone and online surveys with students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and community members. That research helped uncover valuable perceptions of the university and, ultimately, the development of Connect to Central.

Each group surveyed spoke of the personal experience they found at Central. They praised the value of a Central degree — both in terms of investment and in preparedness. They liked the opportunities provided both on campus and throughout the Oklahoma City metro.

That research also led to the development of five key phrases — or attributes — you’ll hear used as a part of the Connect to Central initiative: a personal experience, a creative and innovative spirit, unmatched value, strong connections, and confident and ready. These attributes resonated with most of the respondents in our research, representing qualities about Central that are largely believed to be true.

Because the message and images are well researched and tested, the Connect to Central initiative allows the university to use its resources wisely when communicating with audiences.

“We are confident that as UCO grows and continues to emerge as Oklahoma’s metropolitan university, this is a positive step forward . . . a way for us to tell our story that connects to our students, faculty, staff and the community,” Johnson added.

This spring, you will see and hear the launch of the campaign throughout the OKC metro on billboards, print and online ads, traditional and digital radio and campus signage. But Johnson said the best promotion is a personal story of connection told by the one who experienced it.

“We hope Connect to Central inspires our students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends to become enthusiastic brand ambassadors who share how their Central experience has shaped their lives.”
Stepping Up To Challenges

Jeremy Campbell, who trains at Central, has made headlines for more than a decade as a world-class athlete. From record-setting Paralympic efforts to his most recent race to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, there seems to be nothing this fierce competitor can’t handle. However, his success often has been anything but easy.
Campbell’s unusual journey began Aug. 19, 1987, when he was born with a rare birth deficiency, fibular hemimelia. The condition forced his parents to make the decision to amputate his right leg from the knee down shortly after his first birthday. Nonetheless, he was steered toward sports, growing up with two older brothers and a father who’s a former bull rider. With one brother who would later play professional football and the other a tough bull rider, quitting was not a family option.

Campbell’s older brother, Caleb, who played for the Detroit Lions, said he remembers his brother’s incredible determination, recalling a time when they were youngsters at the city pool in Perryton, Texas. Brother Jeremy could swim, but not while wearing his prosthetic leg. “So he would just hop everywhere,” Caleb Campbell said. “I just remember thinking, ‘What is going through his mind? Humiliation?’ Whether it was or wasn’t, he always had resolve and did his best.”

Jeremy Campbell competed in high school football, baseball and basketball, even playing his senior year as a starting linebacker and wide receiver. Early challenges, however, included the young athlete walking away from his first track meet. Why? Someone asked what his disability was.

“In my head, I don’t have a disability,” Campbell later explained.

In 2003, at age 16, Jeremy was introduced to the Paralympics and the F44 pentathlon events for amputee athletes. Since, he has won three Paralympic gold medals and set two world records. His website, as Campbell later explained. “Like everything, however, there’s a price.

And Campbell’s honest enough to admit that there have been times when he wondered about the cost. While his friends seemed to be living the fun life at college, he said he wondered what he might be missing. Stepping up to challenges, avoiding temptations and committing to his chosen path have not always been easy, he said. “My brother is extremely goofy but he’s also extremely profound … introspective, maybe even to his detriment,” Caleb Campbell said.

Jeremy Campbell has written on his website, “Not bad. For now, the Paralympian lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, while wearing his prosthetic leg.

For now, the Paralympian lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, while wearing his prosthetic leg. “In my head, I don’t have a disability,” Campbell later explained. “I strongly believe that whether you were born with a birth deficiency or completely normal, you have a purpose and a story to tell, and I’m here to help in any way possible,” Jeremy Campbell has written on his website.

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For now, the Paralympian lives in Edmond on a semi-permanent basis, traveling when training for competitions. He has been a part of Central’s Paralympic Resident Athlete Program since 2005, often working out in the UCO Wellness Center when not on the road. He also has competed in and helped with the Endeavor Games, co-founded by Central’s Katrina Shuklee in 2000.

Campbell’s foreseeable goals include crossing from the Paralympic competitions to the able-bodied Olympics, continuing to move forward without becoming complacent and to enjoy the blessings he has, he said.

“As for life after the games, “I have inklings of God’s plans,” but nothing has been officially decided, he said.

Right: The start of the Endeavor Games in 2000 on the UCO campus led to UCO becoming a training site for both Paralympic and Olympic competitors.
Question everything. Think independently. Research to create new knowledge. These are the philosophies espoused by great thinkers from Plato and Emerson to Einstein and Neil Armstrong.

To put these philosophies into practice within the UCO School of Music, students need access to the great music literature of the past. Such extensive music collections can be found at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; Yale University Library in Connecticut; Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York — or the office of Central professor of Music History, Ted Honea, Ph.D.

Right, Music History professor Ted Honea, Ph.D., with one of his older texts.
Having amassed a private collection of more than 800 volumes of primary and secondary sources — which stands at more than 60 linear feet — his collection of primary music literature is on par with, and even exceeds some, of the most prominent institutions in the nation.

"Ted Honea’s collection is thoughtfully conceived," said Donald Kreumel, Ph.D., professor emeritus of library science at the University of Illinois. "These titles form an ideal nucleus for a seminar collection, classroom use, research for performers and scholars.”

Honea’s love for collecting primary and secondary sources started during his 20-year tenure at the Sibley Music Library in New York, one of the foremost music libraries in the world. There, Honea created the conservation program and later became head of the rare books department, work that garnered him a biography entry in the Oxford Grove Music Dictionary. He held his position at Sibley until returning to Oklahoma in 1998.

"While I was working at Sibley and completing my doctorate, the more I read, the more books I wanted to buy, and the more I read, the more I read," Honea said. "My three areas of interest began intersecting the more I read and led me down new paths.”

Today, according to standard bibliographies in the field, Honea owns 60-100 percent of the major literary sources in the theoretical fields of general performance practice, pre-1600 Italian vocal performance, ornamentation and thorough-bass. He also owns 46-71 percent of the complete bibliographic sources in research method and practice, cycles of music education history and performance practice. His collection also has birthed research projects among his students.

"If you want to really formulate a problem that answers a question that has never been answered, you can’t just read what someone else said on the topic; you have to dive directly into the topic itself,” he said.

Honea’s primary sources have sparked student projects to rediscover forgotten music inspired by the abolitionist movement, argue various pedagogical systems within the tradition of music education and dispute misinformation in modern literature regarding the musical qualities and mechanical nature of historical instruments, among others.

"And the more these students conduct research, the more they want to read, and the more they read, the more they want to delve into research,” Honea said. "It’s an exciting cycle that has sparked such a passion in my students — and continues to keep my passion alive as well.”

Keeping this cycle alive indefinitely is the generosity of Honea, who has agreed to donate his prestigious book collection in its entirety to UCO.

"But I didn’t collect all these books just so they could sit on a shelf,” said Honea. "I collected them so they could be used.”

Honea currently utilizes his collection in undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in research method and practice, cycles of music education history and performance practice. His collection has also birthed research projects among his students.

"That way, students will have access to it forever.”

**Remarques curieuses sur l’art de bien chanter**

By Bénigne de Bacilly, Paris, 1668

*This is the first edition of the first English translation. There are 21 known copies with eight in U.S. libraries. This English edition is actually more rare than the Italian edition of 1723 and more often cited than the Italian original.*

**Traité Général d’Instrumentation**

By G. Kastner, Paris, 1837

*This is the first complete book on orchestration in the history of music and was a field essentially new to music in the early 19th century. It anticipates Berlioz’s famous book, which often depends upon it, by several years and, though shorter, often contains important but obscure information that Berlioz omits. There are eight copies of this first edition worldwide, with four in the United States.*

**Grand Album du Chasseur avec Texte Musique et Dessins**

By N. Tellier, Paris, 1848

*This book represents a “last gasp” of a dying culture. It is a complete guide to the hunt, but gives largest place to a method and repertoire for hunting horn. It also includes lithographs of the various animals, their distinctive tracks and the horn calls associated with each. The entire work is a cycle that answers a question that has never been answered, you can’t just read what someone else said on the topic; you have to dive directly into the topic itself.”

**Observations on the Florid Song**

By Pier Francesco Tosi, London, 1742

*This is considered the most important source on vocal performance practice of all time. This is the first edition of the first English translation. There are 21 known copies with eight in U.S. libraries. This English edition is actually more rare than the Italian edition of 1723 and more often cited than the Italian original.*

**Musiklehre nach Pestalozzis Grundsätzen pädagogisch begründet**

By Michael Traugott Pfeiffer and Hans Georg Nägeli, Zurich, 1810

*With the supplement Chorgesangschule (1821)*

*This book represents the first attempt to apply to music the educational philosophy of the extremely influential turn-of-the-century pedagogue Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Nine copies are held in U.S. libraries, only five of those by universities, including Harvard and Yale. Few of these libraries also own the later supplemental volume of choral music. Pestalozzi’s method was studied by Lowell Mason and utilized when he founded America’s first public school music program in Boston in 1837.*
Meet the New Team

B ringing a background in development and ministry, Dave Lewis has returned to UCO as the new director for the UCO Alumni Association.

Lewis was development manager for UCO Athletics from 2011-14 before leaving to serve full time in the ministry. His previous 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.

Lewis earned a bachelor’s degree from Southern Nazarene University and a master’s degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He also has served various community organizations, including spending time both as a staff member and volunteer with Young Life.

He’s a past board member with Family Promise of Shawnee, the Oklahoma Council of Churches and the University of Central Oklahoma Foundation.

Lewis will continue to lead the efforts for the UCO Alumni Association as it transitions to a non-dues based membership program, meaning all 80,000 alumni are now considered members of the association. The move will allow for an expanded outreach of communication and engagement, ensuring all alumni stay connected to the resources and benefits available to them. These include access to Career Services and a discounted Wellness Center membership.

Lewis’ priority for 2016 is reorganizing the benefit structure for alumni. “Making the move to a non-dues based membership program allowed us to re-evaluate our offerings to alumni and get valuable feedback on the programs and services they want to see,” Lewis said. “It has been exciting to get to know many of our alumni again, especially our lifetime members, who sometimes know this university better than anyone else. That is why one of my top priorities has always been to ensure they still see value in their lifetime investment.”

Lewis already has implemented several new events for the association, including “Alumni Mix and Mingles” across Edmond and the metro area.

He also is excited about expanding the alumni board to include volunteer committee to help with chapter establishment and large events like homecoming.

Lewis hopes to capitalize on this momentum and see local chapters come to life in Tulsa and Dallas.

Lewis also has refocused on the association’s Legacy Scholarship for incoming students. “Our Alumni Association President Jeff Carel challenged the board to make legacy scholarships a priority in 2016,” Lewis said. “The board responded by approving what amounts to a 400 percent increase in Legacy Scholarship spending. It is a great time to be a legacy at UCO.”

What was once a one-time scholarship is now a four-year scholarship for legacy recipients. The board also added four legacy scholarships for those studying for a master’s degree.

To stay up to date with alumni events and news, be sure to update your information at centralconnection.org/updateinfo.

Mission: The UCO Alumni Association fosters relationships among alumni and friends, while advocating for the benefit of the university, supporting students and creating “Bronchos for Life.”

Laura Wolf (BS ‘13) recently became the Alumni Association’s communications coordinator.

Wolf graduated from UCO in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in Brand Communications.

Her new role includes all communications and event management for alumni.

She may be reached at 405-974-3553 or lwolf2@uco.edu.

Megan Gatlin is now the Alumni Association’s member services coordinator. Gatlin graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Education.

She is managing member services and accounting for the Alumni Association.

She may be reached at 405-974-2771 or mgatlin1@uco.edu.
Often I see one student lean into another and whisper something, phones diminish, and forty sets of eyeballs focus on “The Box.” The ambient noise of students chatting and tapping on their red toolbox.

On the first day of the semester, I walk into class with a bright Outfitting Student Toolboxes

One Central professor shares her trick for getting her students to visualize new tools for learning — a process that just might apply to any number of life quests. Her essay first appeared in UCO’s Transformative Teacher-Scholar journal, produced by the university’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Transformative Learning. powerpoint!”

By Katrina Lacher, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of History

Outfitting Student Toolboxes

O n the first day of the semester, I walk into class with a bright red toolbox. The ambient noise of students chatting and tapping on their phones diminishes, and forty sets of eyeballs focus on “The Box.” Often I see one student lean into another and whisper something, all the while never taking their gaze off the toolbox. Some students look worried. (“Am I in the right class?”) Others look curious and intrigued. (“What’s in the box?”) Some look relieved. (“Maybe this means there won’t be a PowerPoint!”)

And still others — there are always one or two — look hungry. (“Maybe she brought us snacks.”) I leave the toolbox at the front of the room as we start. It sits ominously on the desk as students introduce themselves. It continues to sit there as I preview some of the topics we will cover during the semester. Finally, there is dismay and a few audible sighs when I open the box to reveal that it is empty. No hammer? No monkey wrench? Not even any cookies? The toolbox is empty because this is “Day One.” I challenge my students to dedicate this course, as well as all of their university classes, to collecting and mastering tools. My goal as a teacher is to help them fill their intellectual toolbox with tools that will help them develop their full potential as scholars and citizens.

What kind of tools?

First, in a digital, dynamic world that seems to be full of quick and easy answers, students need to learn how to ask interesting and important questions. There are oodles of answers out there. Succeeding in the future requires asking better questions. I encourage students to move beyond the who and when queries and spend more time pondering the why and how. Why did World War I start? What were the short- and long-term causes of the Great War? Why is it called the “Great War” anyway? How did the war affect women, both at home and abroad? How did the war affect Africans-Americans? What is the legacy of this conflict?

As students learn how to ask these questions about our past, they often become more interested and intellectually engaged in their present. As they ask probing questions about previous eras, they are motivated to ask pressing questions about the world today.

Last semester, one of my students walked into class, head buried in a copy of The New York Times, and asked, “Can we talk about what’s going on in the Middle East? I have some questions about it.”

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Secondly, students often learn most effectively by doing. Thus, the second tool is about research. As students learn how to look for the answers to their vital questions, they establish a foundation for lifelong learning and curiosity.

We cultivate tools that help us determine the origin and significance of primary sources. We sharpen these tools as we critically evaluate secondary sources. Together, we construct and critique arguments about the past.

Though students are often overwhelmed with students coming from varied educational backgrounds and possessing a wide range of writing skills, all of my students start with writing effective topic and thesis sentences. Within the First month, students are writing introductory paragraphs. By the end of the semester, after several drafts, students turn in a research paper. It is with the cultivation of this third tool that students also employ and learn how to master the first two. As students craft outlines, build analytical frameworks and piece together narratives, they revisit and revise their research questions. Engaging writing as a process, we conduct writing workshops and peer review sessions.

As one freshman turned in her final paper, she revealed, “I almost dropped this class back in August. I saw on the syllabus that we had to write a big paper, and I never had to write more than a paragraph in high school. But I did it!”

As a teacher, I aim to help students learn to think, speak and write clearly, thoughtfully and analytically. I believe that the most efficient and effective way for me to help students learn is to help them gather and master useful tools.

By encouraging students to learn how to ask interesting questions, how to research potential answers, and how to put it into writing, I hope to instill a lifelong love of learning and a curiosity about our shared past.

On the final day of the semester, I bring the toolbox back to class. Some students snicker, as if they are now “in” on a special inside joke. Others roll their eyes, still skeptical about these “imaginary” tools.

I open the toolbox and take out their edited final papers and... a sleeve of cookies. There’s room enough in “The Box” for our intellectual tools and a mid-morning snack. With students coming from varied educational backgrounds and possessing a wide range of writing skills, all of my students start with writing effective topic and thesis sentences. Within the first month, students are writing introductory paragraphs. By the end of the semester, after several drafts, students turn in a research paper. It is with the cultivation of this third tool that students also employ and learn how to master the first two. As students craft outlines, build analytical frameworks and piece together narratives, they revisit and revise their research questions. Engaging writing as a process, we conduct writing workshops and peer review sessions.

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By encouraging students to learn how to ask interesting questions, how to research potential answers, and how to put it into writing, I hope to instill a lifelong love of learning and a curiosity about our shared past.

On the final day of the semester, I bring the toolbox back to class. Some students snicker, as if they are now “in” on a special inside joke. Others roll their eyes, still skeptical about these “imaginary” tools.

I open the toolbox and take out their edited final papers and... a sleeve of cookies. There’s room enough in “The Box” for our intellectual tools and a mid-morning snack.
The following is an adapted version of Provost John Barthell’s address to UCO’s 2016 spring forum on Jan. 26, when he shared personal reasons why he has come to honor the idea and power of ‘Place.’
Our Place

By John Barthell, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Today, as we emerge from the celebration of Central’s 125th year, I want to focus on one of our UCO pillars — Place, our Place, our Place.

To start, let’s ask, why do we care about Place? To what end? Why do we perk up when we meet someone from the same hometown or, important to our consideration here, the same educational institution?

Provost Barthell’s colleague John Hranitz, Ph.D., holds a historical photo of the Anzac beach area during World War I. In the background is the view visitors see today.

There is a deep sadness and yet an inexorable beauty to it — where the offsprings of former enemies pass by one another without malice and somehow, together, side by side, commemorate the end of a war and the sacrifices of their ancestors. It is a crack in time, where the walls between these nations fell instead of rose — at least in that Place.

We have such Places in our own country, including in Oklahoma City, as we all know. These are Places where we listen carefully for the past and the lessons they bring us.

Last October I read an essay by noted columnist Paul Greenberg entitled “A Sense of Place.” He wrote:

“It’s more than just a matter of locale. It includes all the memories that have accumulated there — like so many geological layers.

This Place, our Central, fortunately offers more joyful memories of so many whose hard work and dreams prepared a future for them, their families and their communities. Their time here is a part of this Place.

As we look at our campus today, Old North, our iconic building, the foundational layer of our institutional memory, is beginning its renaissance into the 21st Century. It is having its skeleton reassembled and refitted — a luxury I wish we all had.

This process has provided rare opportunities to look into the past. I had a chance, before the demolition and construction began, to see some of the original support beams and witness the pencil marks of those who created the foundation of our institution’s history, literally as well as figuratively.

They are among those who helped to define this Place.

I still try to imagine those architectural founders and wonder if one of those fragments of commentary or calculation might have been made by one of the countless faces you can see among the many images of that time in our university archives, including during the construction of Old North when these builders of Place took time to pose for the camera, whether perhaps after a window was just framed, or during a respite that, apparently, regularly included baseball games in and around the construction site.

Soon these written fragments from the past will be sealed away into the new walls of an old, but proud, building. However, they will remain there for us to remember: evidence for our “Sense of Place.”

Secure in this historical foundation, our institution continues to grow and change. As we explore the extension of ourselves into the nexus of the evolving Oklahoma City metropolitan area, we remain rooted in the place where we came from: a Place that began in Edmond in 1890 and that is embodied in the Cathedral on the Plains that our UCO president so eloquently speaks of.

What has made this Place so different from others is that we made this Place on our own volition and NOT by accident. Our university ancestors brought this Place forth from the red soils of central Oklahoma and raised a PUBLIC institution of higher education, intending to establish a stream of societal improvements for all generations to come — indeed, to provide an access to opportunity where few had existed before.

This is OUR Place.

In the months ahead, this will be our strength. While our generational promise will be challenged by the circumstances ahead, we will not recede from our public mission. We will stand up for those before us and for those to follow who also will pay forward to produce an educational system for which we can all be proud.

We WILL fulfill the PROMISE of this PLACE.

Note: Provost Barthell and student researchers have traveled to Turkey for the last 10 years with funding from the National Science Foundation for his ongoing research on bees. While a biologist, he also is known for his writing talents, which he credits to his parents, both English majors with his father teaching community college classes.
Death, Dying Class Reveals Changes

By Gary Steward Jr., Ph.D.
UCO Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

Editor's Note: Gary Steward has taught for the last 15 years an intersession class at UCO on death and dying. He regularly has about 50 students sign up for the two weeks of 4½-hour-long night classes between fall and spring semesters. Previously a professor of sociology and dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Steward's own interest in the topic was sparked by a course he took in the early 1990s, followed a few years later with the unexpected death of his father.

One of the most profound subjects at the close of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century is death. We have witnessed profound changes in attitudes, beliefs and practices related to funeral rituals. For example, students in my courses in the early 2000s embraced a traditional burial funeral. Over the past couple of years, most students have indicated a preference for cremation. In addition, several students are planning for a green burial, sometimes referred to as a natural burial, where the body is wrapped and placed in biodegradable material. This option was not even considered by students 15 years ago.

Another significant change is the trend toward the individualized funeral ritual.

For much of the 1900s, the funeral ritual was relatively similar within major cultural categories, such as religion, race/ethnicity and social class. Although there were regional differences, one could predict with precision the chronology of a local funeral. However, surveys and research reveal dramatic changes over the past 30 to 40 years. Consumers want a more personalized ritual, tailored to their preferences. Many families today want the ritual to reflect the life of the deceased.

Not long ago, a funeral home director shared with me such a service. The decedent was an avid Harley-Davidson rider. At the beginning of the ceremony, a Harley was pushed down the aisle and parked in front of the casket. That was accompanied by the informality of family photos, videos and, as part of the service's ending, the roar of a Harley blazing into the sunset. He concluded the story by saying, "You never know what people want or how they want to be remembered."

I believe this trend toward a more personalized ritual is driven by several factors. First, the reality of global and multicultural communities in most large urban centers has worked its way into the final ritual, the funeral. Diversity in life translates into diversity in death. Second, and more theoretical, is the idea that as our deaths have less communal impact and meaning, personalized rituals may be a reaction to the anonymity that most of us endure in modern social life.

Traditional funeral rituals were crafted during a time when social life was much different. Before and during colonial times, the loss of a member impacted the community in some measurable way. Not only did the ritual acknowledge the loss of a member, but it reminded the living that the community would survive the loss. Also, the ritual framed death within a sacred rather than a secular context. Today, our deaths — unless we are a super-celebrity or popular politician with global recognition — are hardly acknowledged by the larger community, if at all. While a grief-stricken time for family and friends, the larger community is not impacted. In a sense, the funeral is the decedent's last opportunity to mean something in a faceless, anonymous existence. Regardless of the cause, I suspect the current trend toward a more personalized or individualized ritual will increase.

I'm also struck by the similarities that remain. For much of the 20th century, "death discourse" was considered impolite in polite society. When forced to discuss the issue, many gravitated toward avoidance or denial. While there has been a great deal of progress over the past 40 years, especially within higher education, I am always surprised by the reticence of students to openly discuss death. Admittedly, after two intensive weeks of study, students feel more at ease with the topic.

Outside the classroom, a social change bubbling to the surface is the emergence of Death Cafes, promoted by British Web designer Jon Underwood. He founded death-cafe.com in 2011, proposing small gatherings of people who share tea and cake and discuss death.

His website in mid-February reported almost 2,800 of these informal gatherings held in 33 countries. A recent posting from Des Moines, Iowa, said the group had begun by talking about how David Bowie's death plans affected his loved ones and family and "who's the funeral for anyway." Participants have said their take-away is not so much about how we die, but how we live.

Well said.

Student Take-Aways Vary

John Fritch was working on his doctorate degree at Oklahoma State University when he took UCO’s intersession class on death and dying.

That’s when he met Gary Steward, Ph.D., class professor and Central’s associate vice president for Institutional Effectiveness.

"I got into the doctorate program with hopes of teaching in higher ed," Fritch said. "Gary Steward made it more real — observing him in class, how he taught — and he solidified what a great place and what a great career was possible here at UCO."

Today, Fritch is finishing his fourth year as chair of Central’s Funeral Service department, the oldest and one of only four in the U.S. offering a bachelor’s degree in Funeral Service. Since Fritch’s arrival, enrollment has doubled to more than 180.

As for Steward’s intersession class, Fritch recommends it for students of all majors. "Everyone is interested whether they admit it or not," he said.

Jackie Spomer took the class in December as she finished her first semester toward a master’s degree in Adult Education. "I lost my dad in 2010, so I was curious … I thought it might help me cope better," she said. And it did.

"Before, when people would ask me how he died, I’d just say stroke," she said. "Now, I can say he was an alcoholic who didn’t take care of himself and had a stroke. I feel OK to share my story."
1971 — University at Last
Central may have turned 125 last year, but 2016 marks the 45th anniversary of Central State College becoming Central State University. Legislative champion C.H. Spearman twice got the name-change bill passed through the legislature, only to have it vetoed both times by Republican Gov. Dewey Bartlett. Legislation finally was passed and then signed by Democratic Gov. David Hall on April 13, 1971. In 1991, the name would be changed again to the University of Central Oklahoma, the sixth name change in what started in 1890 as the Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma.

Popular Campus Photo Op
Last year, the City of Edmond located its newest piece of public art on the southern edge of the Central campus. It stands along 2nd Street, part of the legendary Route 66. Since its arrival, the massive 18-foot statue has become a subject for photographers, who can be seen regularly snapping shots of “Touch the Clouds.” The bronze piece is the work of the late internationally known sculptor Dave McGary. Part of McGary’s Warrior Series, it depicts the Miniconjou chief of the late 19th century, a cousin of the Sioux warrior, Crazy Horse. The statue was previously located outside the Houston Astrodome.

Reflection Park
Dedicated last fall, Reflection Park is northeast of the Education Building. With a reflection pool and benches, the park’s centerpiece is the sculpture “Ubi Motus Est.” The five-panel, 8-foot-by-20-foot piece features more than 2,000 photos representing the university’s beginnings in 1890 through 2015 when Central had its 125th celebration. “What I love about this piece is that it’s about all of us. It’s about everyone who has been here and everyone who will come after us,” President Betz said at the November dedication.

New Campus Clinic
The OU Physicians Health and Wellness Clinic at UCO opened Jan. 11 in the UCO Wellness Center, offering comprehensive primary care to students, faculty, staff and the community. Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday, clinic services include immunizations, annual wellness exams, sports physicals and the treatment of general illnesses and injuries. Primary provider is Robin Presley, a physician assistant previously at OU Physicians Canyon Park clinic. For appointments, call 405-974-3161.
Old North’s Renewal

Interior reconstruction continues on Central's iconic Old North, now slated for occupancy by the fall semester. Current work includes building a new steel support within the existing walls. Construction crews have blocked off and are using the sidewalk and parking lot area to the west as a staging area. Once that space is released, more work will begin to create a new west entrance onto campus. After years of fundraising and construction starts and stops, so many look forward to Old North’s return, better than ever! Visit blogs.uco.edu/central to see most recent photos of work underway.

Campus No Longer Divided

The City of Edmond has turned over to the university control of Ayers Street from University Drive east to Chowning Avenue. That means the north side of the campus — with student housing, athletic facilities and the Wellness Center — is no longer divided from its main part to the south. The street area “will now be reconceptualized,” President Betz said at spring forum. “We will take a tremendous, long-term view about what Ayers can be and should be.” Stay tuned for what that will mean.

KUCO’s Celebrating

Happy 50th birthday to Central’s KUCO, 90.1 FM, one of only 26 stations nationwide that air classical music around the clock. Formerly KCSC, the station started in 1966 as a student-operated station. Today, it’s one of Oklahoma’s five public radio stations, a member of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Public Radio International since the mid-1980s. KUCO also offers online streaming and repeater stations 91.9 KBCW in McAlester and 95.9 KCSC in Woodward. For more information, visit kucofm.com.

Mitchell Hall, Expansion Underway

Work has begun to nearly double the size of Mitchell Hall Theatre, Central’s historic performance venue. The 17,000-square-foot build out, designed by Elliott +Associates Architects, will include two new rehearsal spaces, dressing rooms, classrooms, a green room, a full costume shop and make-up lab, an open gallery, indoor and outdoor student study lounges, faculty offices, and a storm shelter for more than 700 people. Fundraising and a bond issue are covering the project costs, with a fall 2017 completion date. Meanwhile, performances continue in the original part of the 1926 venue. For information about how to support Mitchell Hall, visit buildmitchellhall.com.
Knowledge and light share an enduring connection, for knowledge creates a spark that spreads from one mind to another, illuminating the path to a better life for both the individual and the community. As such, it is fitting that the University of Central Oklahoma celebrated its 125th anniversary with the start of a new society that honors individuals whose service and contributions have lit the way for generations to come.

Each year we will add to this distinguished society, honoring those who light the way for generations to come.

Dwight Adams (BS ’77, DAA ’03), Ph.D., former director of the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia, is director of Central’s W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute. In 2003, he was named the recipient of the Presidential Rank Award as Distinguished Executive, the highest award given in the federal government.

John Adams was a member of the Territorial Normal School’s first graduating class in 1897.

Philip Adamson (BS ’86), M.D., M.S., FACCS, is a cardiologist and heart failure specialist. He serves as the medical director and vice president of medical affairs for St. Jude Medical.

Alvin Alcorn managed Central's successful physical expansion in the 1960s. As the school's first controller, he worked to increase the campus from 200 acres and added more than 40 new buildings. He retired as vice president for Administration after 23 years of service to the university.

Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby has served as governor of the Chickasaw Nation since 1987. From 1979-87, he served two terms as lieutenant governor in the administration of Gov. Overton James. He has provided support and leadership throughout the course of the Old North renovation project.

Bill Burchardt (BBA ’77, DA ’08) was a creative writing instructor at Central, the 1972 president of the Alumni Association and served as editor of Oklahoma Today for 19 years.

Jeremy Campbell is a three-time Paralympic gold medalist and winner of the ESPY Best Male Athlete with a Disability award. He trains at Central.

Ruby Canton, a Central librarian from 1958-28, was the first to teach library science in Oklahoma. Ruby "opened the stacks," allowing Central's students to browse the bookshelves rather than requesting books from a catalog.

Wendy Cantor is the in-termin dean of the College of Mathematics and Science and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Education and Research. The

Sherry Beasley (BSEd ’86, MS ’89) is president of Oklahoma City’s Interior Images Inc. She is a member of the UCO Foundation Board of Trustees and served as a co-chair for the Always Central campaign. In 2012, she and her husband, Lee, donated $100,000 to establish endowed scholarships in UCO’s College of Mathematics and Science and the College of Education and Professional Studies.

William Lee Beasley (BS ’69, DAA ’04), DDS, has been a generous supporter of UCO’s College of Mathematics and Science, a co-chair of the Always Central campaign and a trustee for the UCO Foundation.

Jim Beaver (BA ’75) is a writer, actor and Central alum- nus known for his acting roles on HBO’s “Deadwood” and The CW’s “Supernatural.”

Ida Belt was a member of the Territorial Normal School’s first graduating class in 1897.

Bill Burdette (BBA ’75, DA ’03) was an award-winning anchor for CNN Radio and Headline News. His wife, Angela Stipel-Case, created the Stanley W. Case Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Mass Communications in his memory.

W. Max Chambers was the 15th president of Central. He served the university from 1949-60. The library is named in his honor.

Weil R. Chen is the in-termin dean of the College of Mathematics and Science and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Education and Research. The

Murray Butler, one of the first African-American under-graduate students at Central, enrolled in 1955.

Frank Buttram, an oilman, attended classes at Central State Normal School. He donated funds that helped build Central’s Y-Chapel of Song.

John H. Cage was the first director of Central’s Depart-ment of Funeral Service Edu-cation, joining the university in 1964.

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EDWARD E. DALE
was created in her memory.

Ray “DuKE” CleMons, a state and national champion heavyweight wrestler with All-American honors, was a member of the 1936 U.S. Olympic Team.

EDWARD E. DALE
Ph.D., a 1909 Central graduate; received a master’s and doc-
torate from Harvard. He was professor of history at the Uni-
versity of Oklahoma, 1922-52.

JOHN DAVIS,
a professor of physics and chemistry known as the “Wizard of Centert,” also taught the first photog-
raphy classes at Central. He left behind a collection of photographs documenting Central’s early history.

GRACE ETHEL DERRICK
served as head of the Department of Biology for more than 30 years.

JAN DOUGLAS
served as a computer programmer at Central for 30 years. The Jan
Douglas Endowed Scholar-
ship for Computer Science was created in her memory.

Karen J. Dowd
served UCO for more than 27 years, working as the women’s head
track coach, field hockey
coach, senior women’s athletic
director, assistant dean in the
College of Education and vice president of Academic Affairs. She was the first Oklah-
oman to serve as president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

GerTRude DunLa
was one of the first African-American graduate students at Central. She enrolled in 1954 to pursue a master’s degree in Teaching.

Ida Freeman
began her teaching career in 1989 in a one-room schoolhouse. She was a faculty member at Cen-
tral for 17 years. He designed the UCO logo in 1975 and led the procession during the inauguration of President Betz.

AmNA SCrOGGS COYner
was a faculty member in the College of Business for more than 25 years.

Reba Collins
(Ed.S ’57), editor of The Vista, a professor of journalism and later served as director of Central’s Department of Public Relations. While director, she lobbied Oklahoma’s legislature to have the name Central State College changed to Central State University.

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tral for 17 years. He designed the UCO logo in 1975 and led the procession during the inauguration of President Betz.
Addie Lee Jordan was one of the first African-American graduate students at Central. She enrolled in 1954 to pursue a master's degree in Teaching.

Benjamin Kates (BSEd ’78) is the co-founder of Oklahoma City-based Midwest Wrecking Co. He and his wife Peggy were named as Cen- tral’s 2014 Family of the Year.

John Kessler served as president of Central’s Alumni Association from 1982-83 and as Edmond’s mayor from 1951-55. He established the John Kessler Spirit Award for the university.

Minnie Morton Kirby was the first Territorial Normal School student to become a teacher at a schoolhouse.

Kathryn Kunc (BA ’42, MEd ’71, DAA ’86), Ph.D., was Central’s first African- American professor. He joined the Central faculty in 1982 in the English department. He became dean of the Graduate College in 1985.

Bill Lillard was the 17th president of Central (1975- 92). During his tenure, the university celebrated its centennial, changed its name from Central State University to the University of Central Oklahoma and expanded the campus with several new classroom buildings and degree programs. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 1994.

Judith Love (MS ’83) is the co-founder of Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores and chair of the Love Family Fund.

Sandra Mackey (BA ’58) was an award-winning jour- nalist and author on Middle Eastern culture and politics. Her 2002 book, The Reckoning — Iraq and the Legacy of Saddam Hussein, became required reading for many military officers.

Luther Whitfield Marks III established Central’s Depart- ment of Physics in 1955.

Laresa Cox McBurney, one of the original staff members of The Vista, gave the campus newspaper its name. She became an award- winning author and poet.

Jon McClain (BS ’79) is the deputy chief medical examiner at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas. She has served as a registered death investigator and maintains a record of scholarship with more than a dozen publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Aubrey McClellan was the CEO of American Energy Partners. His support helped to create the CHK(Central)Boathouse and develop the Boathouse District on the Oklahoma River.

Sharon McCollom (BS ’85, DAA ’14) is the chief administrative officer and chief financial officer for Best Buy Co.

Donna Nigh has been first lady of both Central (1992-97) and the state of Oklahoma (1997-87), while devoting her life’s work to advocating for those with special needs. The Donna Nigh Foundation of Advanced Professional and Special Services is named in her honor.

Josephine Plunkett was an alumna and an award- winning mathematics teacher. Along with her sister, Emma, she donated $1 million to the university. Plunkett Park is named in both her and her sister’s honor.

Ronald Paddock was the founder and former director of Central’s Office of Interna- tional Student Services.

Cliff Otto served as head of the Department of Science for 15 years. Otto was an act- ing president (1950) of Central for two months after President Malcolm A. Beeoon stepped down.

Suzanne Silvester donated the Melton Legacy Collection to UCO’s College of Fine Arts and Design.

John Wendell Simmons was a sports announcer for Central and chairman of the school’s 50th anniversary celebration.

COLEMAN SMITH, professor of Music at Central for 26 years, organized the Men’s Glee Club, the Old North Belles Sextet and the Central Tonesmiths, a song and dance troupe. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses including vocal music methods, choral arranging and conduct- ing, and choir.

Troy Smith is the founder of Sonic Corp. He gave Central its largest unrestricted gift in history.

C.H. Spearman Jr. was a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for six years and introduced the bills to transform Central State College into Central State University.

Marilyn Harris Springer, an award-winning and best-selling author, was a Central artist-in-residence. She is a member of both the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Writer’s Hall of Fame.

Randall Stephenson (BS ’84, DAA ’89) is chairman and chief execu- tive officer of AT&T Inc. since 2002.
JOHN "SKIP" WAGNON

Became an assistant athletic trainer in the late 1960s before becoming head athletic trainer in 1971. He became executive director of the Alumni Association in 1979, then in 1986 named athletic director and men’s golf coach. Wagnon served 18 years as golf coach, leading the Bronchos to eight national tournaments.

ROBERT WAGNON

Wagner served 18 years as golf coach. Wagnon served 18 years as golf coach, leading the Bronchos to eight national tournaments.

W. ROGER WEBB

The 19th head football coach at Central, Webb led the Bronchos to five conference championships in 1923, 1924 and 1929.

ELIZABETH WIEBE


EDGAR WAX

Relocated to Oklahoma City to work for the Office of the Attorney General. Wax served as chair of the Department of Criminal Justice.

CHRIS WATSON

Recipient of the 2015 NCAA Division II 165-pound national championship in wrestling. He is a three-time All-American.

ALUMNI NOTES

1950s

Gene Dougherty (BA ’58, DAA ’70) received the Governor’s Award from the Oklahoma Arts Council in December during the 40th Annual Governor’s Arts Awards. He was one of 12 individuals honored at the ceremony by Gov. Mary Fallin.

1960s

Gean B. Atkinson (BA ’67, MEd ’77, DAA ’93) has been elected vice president for the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center. Currently serving as president of Atkinson Advertising Associates, Atkinson is a former member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and is a commissioner for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

1970s

Saundra Nafteh (BA ’72, DAA ’95) now serves as executive counsel at FKG Consulting, a public affairs firm in Oklahoma City. She is the former mayor of Edmond. Glenna Mears (BSEd ’79) received an Honor Award at the 85th Annual Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention in 2015. She received her bachelor’s degree in Physical Education/Health from Central. David Koch (BS ’79, MBA ’10), former assistant vice president for Administration at Central, recently became the chief financial officer for St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. After leaving UCO, Koch served as executive vice president for business and finance at Northeastern State University for five years before accepting his new position.

1980s

Greg Lower (BA ’80) joined The Chanute Tribune in Chanute, Kansas, in November 2015, after 11 years with the Independence Daily Reporter, also in Kansas. He graduated with a bachelor’s in Journalism from Central. Richard Alltizer, Ph.D., (BS ’80) has joined Arledge & Associates as tax director. After graduating with his bachelor’s in accounting, Central, he received his master’s and doctorate from the University of Oklahoma and has authored numerous articles in industry publications. David L. Kinney (BS ’80, MBA ’81) was named general counsel for the Oklahoma State Recreation Department.

Oklahoma Rep. Cyndi Munson

Cyndi Munson (BA ’08) became the first Asian-American female state representative in Oklahoma history on Nov. 4, 2014. As a Democrat in a red state, Munson received nationwide attention for winning her legislative seat, an uphill battle that included losing the first time she ran. In response to that loss, Munson left her job as a leading organizer for the Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma and founded a political action committee dedicated to funding female candidates. Five months after that first loss, Munson had the opportunity to run again after the death of incumbent state Rep. David Dank. This time, she won.

During her time at Central, Munson was active in UCO’s American Democracy Project and assisted in voter registration efforts on campus. She also is a member of Sigma Kappa sorority. Since graduating, she has been a guest speaker at several campus events and served on the board of the UCO Alumni Association.

While serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, she continues to work with the Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma as a strategy and compliance manager.
Price Scholarship

Price Lang Consulting, an Edmond-based public relations firm created by two Central graduates, has created a scholarship in honor of the company’s fifth anniversary.

The company’s founders, Charlie Price (BA ‘95) and Emily Lang (BA ‘01), launched the strategic communications and public relations firm in 2011. They offer internal and external communications services.

The Price Lang Scholarship for Communications Excellence, in partnership with the UCO Foundation, will award one $500 scholarship each semester to a junior or senior level student in the Mass Communication department for the next five years.

Author, Consultant Oraynab Jwayyed

Oraynab Jwayyed (BS ’07, MBA ’09) consultant and founder of Business Interludes LLC, was studying for her MBA at Central when she found inspiration for her best-selling book, Starting Over: A Practical Guide for Women After a Money Crisis. She is currently a law enforcement professional and agent in charge of the Drug Diversion section of the Oklahoma Board of Narcotics.

Dana Chambers (BSED ’99) received an Honor Award at the 88th Annual Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention in October 2015. She received her bachelor’s degree in Physical Education/Health from Central.

2000s

Ann Dee McClane (BA ’84) has been named director of marketing and client relations at Spicer Rudstrom, a law firm in Nashville, Tennessee. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Relations from Central.

Joyce Ryel (BS ’04, MEd ’06) was elected president of the Association of Energy Service Companies (AESC) for 2015-16. A member of AESC since 2003, she has served on the Oilfield Trucking Committee, was the Oklahoma Chapter chairperson and has been a member of the AESC board of directors since 2007. Amanda Kashwer, Ph.D. (MEd ’06) has been named as faculty at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. She received her master’s in Education with emphasis in Kinesiology from Central.

2010s

Daryn Buholt (BBA ’13) was hired at Schifferdecker Municipal Course as a golf pro in Joplin, Missouri. He earned his Class A card from Central, one of 19 PGA-accredited schools in the country.

Kevin Moore (MBA ’14) joined 2E Inc. as a venture adviser and manager of the Seed-Step Angels, previously working as a bank examiner in Kansas City, Missouri.

Tookah Sapper (BM ’14) will join the Edmond Community Chorale in April as a soloist in Joseph Haydn’s “Theresienmesse” and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Vesperae Solennes de Confessore.” A current member of the resident ensemble with American Opera Projects and a graduate student at Manhattan School of Music, Sapper recently participated in “Sonice Blossom,” an interactive performance by Lee Mingwei at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

One of artist Jason Pawley’s more elaborate murals can be found at the Bricktown underpass in Oklahoma City at E.K. Gaylord Boulevard and Reno Avenue in Oklahoma City. That mural is Pawley’s largest public art project to date and was finished after three weeks of 10-16 hour workdays, interrupted only by curious passersby who stopped to ask questions.
Sasha Ferguson

Sasha Ferguson (MS ‘12) recently became head athletic trainer at the College of the Bahamas, soon to be the University of the Bahamas. She is responsible for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries for all the college’s student athletes with men and women’s teams for basketball, soccer, volleyball, and field and track.

Last summer, Ferguson served as the athletic trainer for the Bahamas Women’s Basketball and Football teams as well as assistant, she worked with the men’s basketball and football teams as well as assistant, she worked with the men’s basketball and football teams. In 2012, she became board certified through the UCO Alumni Association’s “Central Family of the Year” award. Sue Tall (BSEd ’55) died Oct. 6, 2015. She was an avid traveler, needlepoint lover and reader. After graduating from Central, she was a teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma, before tutoring underprivileged students in Chicago.

Harlia Wayne Merryman (BA ’56, MT ’60) died Oct. 8, 2015, in Tidwalk, Oklahoma. He was a high school principal and basketball coach for 34 years, and was inducted in the Oklahoma Basketball Hall of Fame and the National Basketball Hall of Fame. He retired in 1990. Jerry Wisdom (BSEd ’57) died Aug. 21, 2015. After serving in the Navy, he worked for a pharmaceutical company.

IN MEMORY

1950s

Aussa Reeder (BS ’54) died Nov. 4, 2015. A longtime resident of Chandler, Oklahoma, she worked in the public school system for several years, teaching business education and later working as a guidance counselor.

She was honored as Lincoln County Teacher of the Year, president of Lincoln County Teachers and a recipient of the UCO Alumni Association’s “Central Family of the Year” award. Sue Tall (BSEd ’55) died Oct. 6, 2015. She was an avid traveler, needlepoint lover and reader. After graduating from Central, she was a teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma, before tutoring underprivileged students in Chicago.

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1960s

Naomi J. Horn

Capshaw (BSEd ’60) died Oct. 7, 2015. She was a longtime educator and retired in 1999 from Dunbar High School in Fort Worth.

Jeffrey Littlefield (BS ’60) died Oct. 15, 2015, of cancer. After graduating with a degree in Accounting from Central, he worked as a civilian auditor for the Air Force, had a private accounting business and eventually retired from Traffic and Lighting in 2010.

Jerry Lee Geyer

(BSEd ’67) died Oct. 16, 2015. He received his bachelor’s degree from Central in 1967 and was a resident of Brimmond, Oklahoma, at the time of his death.

1970

Mary “Jerry” Ripper (BA ’70) died Sept. 24, 2015. She worked in the Army as a cadet nurse during World War II before marrying her husband in June 1947. She worked as a school nurse in Oklahoma City while raising six children, graduating from Central in 1970 with a degree in English Literature.

Willard C. Pitts (MEd ’70) died Oct. 17, 2015. A longtime educator, he was one of the first African American professors at Central, helping create the first certified journalism education degree-granting program in Oklahoma. Pitts supported many professional and civic organizations throughout his life, including the Oklahoma Association of Journalists Directors, Oklahoma City Council of Teachers of English and Oklahoma School Public Relations Association.

Ronnie Lee Eisenhour (BS ’72) died Nov. 9, 2015. He served as mayor of Blanchard, Oklahoma, for eight years, a volunteer firefighter for 30 years, and was owner and director of Eisenhour Funeral Home. Robert Bohuslavicky (BS ’72) died Jan. 3, 2016. A member of the U.S. Army for two years, he obtained his bachelor’s in Accounting before starting his career at Tinker Air Force Base, retiring as the deputy of finance at Fort Sill Army Base. Redden Ray “Pete” Riley (BSEd ’72) died Dec. 31, 2015, of cancer. After serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War, he attended Central and received his degree in Safety Education.

Robert Rosas Castorena (MBA ’75) died Sept. 23, 2015. He retired as a major from the U.S. Air Force, later working as a federal employee at Kelly Air Force Base before becoming vice president at TEAM Integrated Engineering Inc. He was active in his church and volunteered in his community.


1980s

Tony Williams (BA ’80) died Oct. 23, 2015. Receiving his bachelor’s in Journalism from Central, he was elected outstanding journalism graduate by the Society of Professional Journalists, Delta Chi. An editor-in-chief for The Vista, Central’s student newspaper, Williams later served as a reporter, radio personality and speechwriter.

Marinmariy Sellars (MEd ’86) died Aug. 13, 2015. After graduating from Central with a master’s in Vocational Education, she taught business classes in various school districts before becoming an administrative assistant in the Department of Human Services.

Scot Miles (BBA ’87) died July 8, 2015. He enjoyed golfing, spending time with friends and family in Edmond and his dog, Maddi.

Mark Hestand (BA ’80) died July 5, 2016. He was a longtime resident of Oklahoma, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and opened a property management company in Elk City. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Pat. Kenneth Aaron Simmons (MEd ’87) died Jan. 11, 2016. He was a certified public accountant and worked as an auditor for the IRS before retiring as a director of Allegiance Credit Union.

IN MEMORY
Guests attending the UCO@125 Gala ended the evening with fireworks viewed from the upper north terrace of the Nigh University Center. The event was the finale of the university’s year-long celebration of its founding in 1890.

James Edward Glaze (MEd ’91) died Sept. 3, 2015, of cancer. He coached basketball, football and baseball, and taught civics, Oklahoma history and physical education classes in Chickasha, Oklahoma. He then served as director of federal programs and assistant superintendent. He was named superintendent of Chickasha Public Schools in 2005, retiring after the 2013-14 school year. He was active in his church and the Chickasha community.

Jana Sue Black (BS ’02) died Oct. 30, 2015. A longtime resident of Yukon, Oklahoma, she worked with the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association for many years.

Joselene Cabrera Chandler (BBA ’92, MEd ’00) died Oct. 9, 2015. Born in the Philippines, she graduated from Central in 1992, returning to graduate with her master’s in 2000. She was a school counselor and active in the McLoud community.

Jennifer McLaughlin (BA ’00) died Jan. 16, 2016. She served as the director of professional development at the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, was a member of the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, and was a trainer and mentor at the Oklahoma Victim Assistance Academy. She received the Gene McBride Community Service Award and a Governor’s commendation for her work with sexual assault victims.

Nancy Jane Hellwege died Dec. 16, 2015. A teacher and director at the Childhood Development Center in Edmond, Hellwege was a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction from 1991-98.


Kathryn Kerr Kunc
Kathryn Kerr Kunc (BA ’42, DAA ’91) died Feb. 14, 2016. She was proud of being a part of Central from the time she began kindergarten classes in 1928 in Old North through being named an inaugural member of the UCO Luminary Society in 2015. After finishing college at Central in 1942, she returned to campus 10 years later to teach. Later, Kunc would serve as Art Department chair for 15 years, before retiring with 34 years as a professor of Art. After retirement, she continued to teach and be active on campus. She was honored as Central’s Teacher of the Year in 1967, named Outstanding Faculty Woman in 1974 and 1980, and served as president of the alumni association from 1982-83. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2002, and she was named a UCO Distinguished Alumni in 1991. Her family requested memorials in her honor be made to the UCO Foundation and earmarked for the Old North Restoration Project.

Nikita Prabhakar Nakal
Nikita Prabhakar Nakal was pursuing her Master of Business Administration at UCO when she died after being hit by a car at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) homecoming parade on Oct. 24, 2015, in Stillwater. She was one of four victims. Nakal earned her Bachelor of Commerce degree from Mumbai University in Mumbai, India, and was pursuing a degree to be a financial analyst. Professors remember Nakal as a student who loved to smile. Donna Carlon, Ph.D., one of Nakal’s professors in UCO’s College of Business, said Nakal had a smile that would “light up your day.” Nakal’s passion for learning went beyond the classroom — Carlon added that Nakal wanted to immerse herself in the culture of Oklahoma and the U.S. and learn as much as she could about her new home. Two memorial services were held for Nakal in October on Central’s campus. An additional service was hosted by OSU’s Indian Student Association in Stillwater. Following Nakal’s death, the UCO College of Business established a scholarship in her honor through the UCO Foundation. It is reserved for students pursuing an MBA at UCO and will be open for application in fall 2016, with preference given to international students. For more information or to donate to the fund, visit centralconnection.org/NakalFund.