



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

UCO FAST FACTS

**118 Undergraduate
Majors**

**77 Graduate
Majors**

**14,000
Students**

**1,406 Full-Time
Faculty and Staff**

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

UCO Received Recognition for Social Mobility

CollegeNET ranked Central among the top higher education institutions in the nation for social mobility, according to its recent national ranking. UCO ranked No. 183 out of nearly 1,500 colleges and universities in the U.S. according to their contribution to economic mobility, placing Central in the top 12% in the nation. Rankings were determined based on the Social Mobility Index, which measures to what extent a higher education institution accepts students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and graduates them into well-paying jobs, according to factors such as cost of attendance, economic background of the student body, graduation rates and early-career salaries.



UCO Again Named Top Public Regional University

Central once again ranked as the top public regional university in the state, announced on the 2021 Best Colleges list from U.S. News and World Report. UCO ranked No. 32 in the “Top Public Schools: Regional Universities – West” category and No. 68 in the overall list of regional universities, both public and private, in the west. U.S. News and World Report releases its list of Best Colleges annually. Regional universities are divided into four categories: North, South, Midwest and West and are defined as universities that offer “a full range of undergraduate programs and some master’s programs but few doctoral programs.”



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

UCO Named Best in State for ‘Getting a Job’

Career website Zippia named Central as the top public institution in Oklahoma for job-seeking graduates as part of its “Best Public Colleges in Each State for Getting a Job in 2020” list. According to the ranking, Central has an 88% placement rate among recent graduates. Universities were ranked using the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard. The scorecard data was reviewed for the public college in each state with the highest listed job placement numbers 10 years after graduating with a bachelor’s degree.

UCO Ranked Nationally for Online General Studies

According to a national ranking by Online Schools Report, Central is a top institution for online Bachelor of General Studies, ranking No. 31 out of 35 schools. UCO was the only higher education institution in the state recognized on the list. Programs were ranked in areas based on student satisfaction, admission rate, online presence, popularity at school, department size and median debt by program. Data sources included the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard. The program is part of UCO Connected Campus.

Central Forensic Biology Recognized Nationally

Forensic Colleges ranked UCO as a top institution for forensic biology in its national rankings. Central ranked No. 6 out of 15 and was the only higher education institution in the state to be recognized on the list. Programs were ranked in areas based on the hands-on skills with laboratory classes, seminars and internships or field study offered through the program. Other factors that were considered included the facilities at a university, its partnerships and career placement opportunities.



UCO Joined International Houses Worldwide

UCO was accepted as the newest member of the International Houses Worldwide (IHW) organization, an association of 17 International Houses that are separate, independent, nonprofit institutions, spanning four continents. The UCO International House, commonly referred to as the I-House, is a bridge that facilitates global engagement and intercultural proficiencies by bringing together Central’s students, staff, faculty and community to create opportunities for transformative learning.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

UCO Received Six Department of Education Grants

UCO received more than \$7.7 million through six U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO Programs grants, more than any other higher education institution in the state. Additionally, Central was the only university in the nation to receive grants for all six iterations of the Student Support Services programs. The funds will be awarded over five years. Each grant provides funding to support unique segments of Central's student body from veterans to future teachers and those pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, who are low-income, first-generation and/or have disabilities. The individual programs offer services like one-on-one tutoring; peer, faculty and community mentoring; academic and career exploration workshops; financial literacy programming; cultural activities; persistence coaching; leadership development; graduate school visits; and, scholarship opportunities.



Central Nursing Program Nationally Ranked

UCO's Nursing program was named one of "The 80 Best Nursing Schools in the Southwest," according to Nursing Schools Almanac's published list. Central ranked No. 48 on the list, which examined institutions in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Each nursing school in the region was evaluated based on the institution's academic prestige and perceived value; the breadth and depth of the nursing programs offered; and, student success, particularly on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

Central Business Analytics Received SAS Designation

Central's Master of Science in business analytics (MSBA) program received an SAS Tier-3 Academic Specialization from the SAS Institute for integrating cutting-edge SAS technologies into its curriculum. SAS stands for "statistical analysis system." SAS software is used to analyze data in a host of industries – government, medical, banking and academics. The SAS Institute is the global leader in analytics, machine learning, data science and artificial intelligence. The Tier-3 designation is the most advanced analytics education level and provides the best benefits for students seeking careers in the growing field of data analytics. UCO is one of a few hundred institutions worldwide to be honored with the SAS designation.



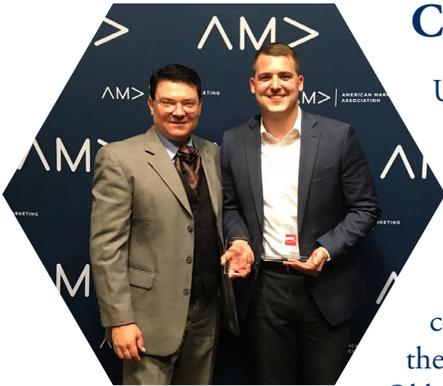
NATIONAL RECOGNITION

STEM Building Honored with Design Award

Central's Donald Betz STEM Research and Learning Center received national recognition as an honoree of Interior Design's 14th annual Best of Year Awards. Oklahoma City-based Rand Elliott Architects was honored for the design of the building as part of the "Higher Education" category. The design was one of 609 finalists in 137 design categories, selected from a list of 2,638 buildings overall.



STUDENT ACCOLADES



College of Business Students Won Big at AMA

UCO College of Business graduate Rob Greer placed third in the Speed-Selling Competition and fifth in the Perfect Pitch Competition at the annual American Marketing Association (AMA) International Collegiate Conference, a series of selling competitions and workshops held in March 2020 in New Orleans. This year marked the fifth year in a row that UCO students received a major win at the annual competition. The AMA Sales Competition consists of students competing one-on-one against other students by testing their ability to close a sale. Greer, a professional selling graduate from Bethany, Oklahoma, competed against more than 200 college students from universities across the U.S. and internationally. In addition to Greer's wins, Shania Slavick, a professional selling graduate from Moore, Oklahoma, received an honorable mention for the Perfect Pitch Competition.

Central Students Raised \$82,000 with Bronchothon

UCO students raised more than \$82,000 during the annual Bronchothon event. Students announced the grand total during a virtual Bronchothon event April 25, 2020, which benefitted the Children's Miracle Network. The Bronchothon event, part of the national university dance marathon program, serves as the grand finale for months of fundraising, and usually includes an eight-hour dance marathon to pay tribute to the countless hours that nurses spend on their feet and the continuous struggles sick children face in the hospital. However, for 2020, the dance routine was taught and performed virtually. The funds raised by UCO students stayed local, helping children at the Oklahoma Children's Hospital.



STUDENT ACCOLADES

PGA Management Students Placed in Jones Cup

Central's Professional Golfers' Association golf management program tied for second place in the Jones Cup in Port St. Lucie, Florida, at the Wanamaker Course, an internationally recognized golf course. The students played the 36-hole tournament against college students from the other 17 PGA golf management programs nationwide.

FACULTY AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Simmons Named New Provost

Charlotte Simmons, Ph.D., was named as the university's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Prior to assuming the position, Simmons served as the co-interim vice president for Academic Affairs. In 2015, she was appointed associate vice president for Academic Affairs, previously serving the university and the College of Mathematics and Science as tenured faculty, chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, associate dean and dean.

Lynch Named New Vice President

Central's President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar named Christopher Lynch as the university's vice president for Enrollment and Student Success. Lynch brings 29 years of successful enrollment management experience from four large public universities and colleges to the role. He has a deep knowledge of higher education and demonstrated success in leading enrollment management, admissions and recruitment (domestic and international), new student orientation, international student services, financial aid, scholarship services, career services, communication/call centers, student employment and university articulation.



Cobb Named New Dean

UCO faculty, staff and students at the College of Education and Professional Studies entered the spring 2020 semester with new leadership. Donna Cobb, Ed.D., former kinesiology and health studies professor and interim dean, was named the new dean for the college. Cobb has held various administrative roles in the college for nearly two decades as a department chairperson, assistant dean, associate dean and interim dean. In her role as associate dean, she served as the chief operations officer for the college, facilitated grant development and monitored the college budget among many other duties.



FACULTY AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

UCO Named Interim Leadership



UCO named three new interim deans during the 2020 calendar year. Jeremy Oller, J.D., Ph.D., was named as the interim dean for the College of Business. In addition to his role as an economics professor, Oller served as chairperson for the college's Department of Economics since 2012.



Central named Gloria Caddell, Ph.D., associate dean and professor of biology, as the College of Mathematics and Science's interim dean. Caddell's distinguished 30-year career at UCO has included nine consecutive years of administrative service, including both as a chairperson and as an associate dean.

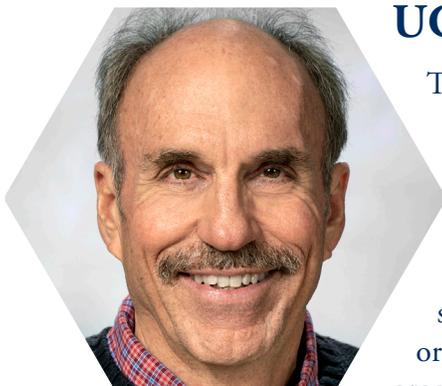


Charleen Weidell, M.F.A., associate dean, was named as the interim dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design. Weidell, a nationally renowned jewelry artist and metalsmith, brings 13 consecutive years of administrative service to the interim position, including chairperson, assistant dean and associate dean.

Professor Honored with Speech-Language Award

Linda Sealey, Ph.D., associate professor in Central's Donna Nigh Department of Advanced Professional and Special Services, was presented the 2020 Honors of the Association Award by the Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Awarded annually, the award is presented to an individual that demonstrates noteworthy professional service and exceptional accomplishment in the field of communication disorders. Sealey joined Central in fall 2012 and, in 2014, became the program coordinator of the undergraduate and graduate speech-language pathology programs. She is a certified and licensed speech-language pathologist with over 20 years of clinical experience in providing speech-language therapy in outpatient rehabilitation, public school, hospital, skilled nursing facilities and home health settings.

UCO Professor Received 2020 Medal for Excellence



The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence named UCO biology professor David Bass, Ph.D., as one of the winners of its 2020 Oklahoma Medal for Excellence Award. The award honors five outstanding educators in Oklahoma's public schools. Bass is a leading expert in aquatic invertebrates and teaches courses ranging from beginning biology and ecology to invertebrate zoology and aquatic entomology. Bass instructs students to "get out of their human skin" and imagine they are the organisms being studied, in order to gain a greater understanding of organisms and their environment. He also coaches Central's competitive sailing team.



FACULTY AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

UCO PGA Director Honored for Excellence

The PGA's South Central Section awarded Lindsey Cook, director of Central's PGA golf management program, the PGA Horton Smith Award for both the South Central Section, as well as the Western Oklahoma Chapter. Cook is the first female recipient of both awards. The awards bestow special recognition to a PGA golf professional who displays a strong desire for lifelong education and continuous professional education contributions. Cook has taught in Central's PGA golf management program since October 2013, teaching courses such as advanced teaching and player development, turfgrass management and golf operations. She also is a Class A member of the PGA.

Central Professor Partnered with CMA

Lani Garner, Ph.D., assistant professor in Central's School of Music, helped facilitate Unified Voices for Music Education (UVME), a series of music lessons and tools for music teachers to use in virtual classrooms. UVME is a national initiative hosted by the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation. Garner was a facilitator for the elementary music sessions of UVME. UVME is a collective effort of music educators from across the United States in response to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The tools and lessons created by UVME can be accessed and tailored by teachers to fit the needs of their students.

A COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19



Central Community Donated Medical Supplies

Members of the UCO campus community stepped up to fill the need for medical supplies in local hospitals caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as both the UCO Forensic Science Institute (FSI) and UCO Emergency Management donated to INTEGRIS Health Edmond Hospital. FSI provided the hospital with masks, gloves, disposable lab coats and Tyvek suits, which are worn over clothing as a protective measure. Emergency Management also donated multiple gallons of hand sanitizer and nearly 450 masks, as well as additional Tyvek suits.

Central Waived ACT, SAT Requirements for 2021

UCO waived the ACT/SAT requirements for first-year undergraduate applicants who met specific requirements, in response to testing limitations created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The waiver of scores applied to both U.S. residents and international students. To be considered for admissions without a test score, also called test-optional admission, incoming first-time freshmen indicated on their application that they were unable to take the ACT or SAT due to COVID-19. Students then applied with only a high school transcript, but they must have had an unweighted 2.7 high school GPA to meet admissions requirements.



A COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

UCO Ranked for Education During COVID-19

The nonprofit Educate to Career ranked Central as a top institution in the nation for providing quality education during the COVID-19 pandemic. UCO ranked No. 3 out of 20 higher education institutions in Oklahoma. Higher education institutions were ranked by their ability to offer a quality education under any conceivable scenario: in-classroom, online and a blend of each format. Being among the top in the ranking, UCO was designated as a Tier One institution. Colleges that rank in Tier One meet the following criteria: a physical campus for in-classroom instruction; robust software and systems to support distance learning programs; faculty experience in teaching online; and, reasonable tuitions and fees on a relative basis.



Central Student Honored for COVID-19 Coverage



Central senior Amanda Siew, a professional media major from Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, received national recognition for her coverage on the COVID-19 pandemic. Five major organizations – The Society of Professional Journalists, the Associated Collegiate Press, the Society for News Design, College Broadcasters, Inc. and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education – joined forces to recognize college journalists, like Siew, for their outstanding coverage of the pandemic. Siew was honored alongside students from Yale University and Northwestern University. Siew was recognized for the documentation of her experience traveling home to Malaysia amid the pandemic. She documented her experience flying internationally, as well as her mandatory 14-day quarantine period once she landed in Malaysia.

UCO Created Emergency Relief Fund

At the end of March, the UCO Foundation kicked off fundraising efforts to support the UCO COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund to help students experiencing unexpected hardships during the global pandemic. The fund raised more than \$85,000, thanks to more than 250 donors and matching donations from the UCO Foundation, the UCO Student Association and the UCO President's Office. The fund offered emergency financial assistance, totaling \$75,975, to 267 current UCO students. There were more than 650 students who submitted applications.

Central Launched COVID-19 Dashboard

UCO launched its COVID-19 Dashboard, available on the UCO Coronavirus website, which presents COVID-19 case data on the UCO campus. The displayed data numbers reflect self-reported cases of COVID-19 among students, faculty and staff and is updated regularly. The dashboard also displays cases reported daily cases and total reported cases to date for Oklahoma County.



A LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE



UCO Opened Esports Gaming Arena

Central continued its expansion into collegiate esports with the opening of its CO-OP Esports and Gaming Arena. The CO-OP allows UCO to host local, regional and national competitions and gives the university's esports teams a home. The 5,703-square-foot space houses more than 48 high-end PC gaming stations, two virtual reality booths, five Nintendo Switch consoles and a growing library of popular board and tabletop games. Esports, or electronic sports, is a form of competition using video games and connecting people from around the world through gaming – and it's growing rapidly on college campuses. Central launched collegiate esports in 2018 with a competitive esports club comprised of more than 350 members and credit courses in esports. The university hosts several junior varsity teams in various game titles and three varsity-level teams.

Central Expanded Academic Offerings

New for the fall 2020 semester, UCO added two graduate programs and six undergraduate minors, now allowing students to choose from 118 undergraduate majors, 95 minors and 44 graduate programs during their time at Central. The UCO College of Education and Professional Studies introduced a new Master of Public Health in community engagement, which is designed for working professionals who are interested in expanding career options in public health policy and public health program management. Additionally, Central's W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute added a Master of Science in digital forensics – a research-oriented degree program that will include insights on forensic science, leadership and management, expert testimony and current professional issues within the field. UCO's new minor offerings include child life, energy economics, strategy, operations and supply chain management, songwriting and post-production audio.



UNIVERSITY OF
Central Oklahoma

100 North University Drive, Edmond, OK, 73034 | (405) 974-2000

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