Who's Who award recognizes, honors student

by Hilary Dixon
Assistant Campus Life Editor

UCA announced its Who's Who Among American Students in American Universities and Colleges for the 2011-2012 school year on Friday.

Coordinator of Student Organizations and University Events Melissa Thompson said that this year's recognition ceremony will be held on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

Thompson said that the Who's Who award is a national honor program that recognizes students who have achieved academic excellence and leadership roles on campus.

She said that the selection process involves submitting a nomination form, which includes a letter of recommendation from a faculty member or advisor.

The selection committee reviews the nominations and selects the top students from each college or division.

More information about the Who's Who program can be found at the UCA website or by contacting the Office of Student Affairs.

Student exposes himself at Wal-Mart

by Marisa Hicks
News Editor

On Feb. 6, freshman Alejandro Torres-Coba, 19, exposed himself to a 13-year-old girl under what appeared to be a bathroom stall in the Wal-Mart on Skyline Drive.

Torres-Coba was arrested and charged with indecent exposure.

An investigation by the Conway Police Department revealed that Torres-Coba had been at the store with his mother and father.

The mother said that her husband had asked her to accompany her son to the store to purchase a pair of shoes.

The father said that he was waiting in the car while his wife and son entered the store.

The girl said that she noticed a man exposed himself to her from behind a stall in the women's bathroom.

The girl said that she was too afraid to report the incident to store management.

The police officer responding to the call said that the man had left the store before he arrived.

The officer said that he was searching for Torres-Coba in the parking lot when he saw him walking away from the store.

The officer said that Torres-Coba was arrested and taken into custody.

The officer said that Torres-Coba had previously been arrested for indecent exposure at a local convenience store.

The officer said that Torres-Coba was released on bond pending his next court appearance.

The mother said that she was shocked to learn that her son had been arrested for indecent exposure.

The father said that he was angry that his son had landed in trouble again.

The police have released the names of the two students

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Chinese culture showcased at spring festival

BY CARINA ALVAREZ
Assistant News Editor

The Chinese Spring Festival Gala showcased Chinese culture and traditions in its 10-th performance Feb. 7 at Reynolds Performance Hall.

The festival, which was sponsored by the UCA Confucius Institute and the Hanban Confucius Headquarters in Beijing, featured the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) Students Art Troupe.

The UIBE Students Art Troupe includes 17 students from Beijing, majoring in fields such as economics and finance.

The opening scene, called “Good Day,” included a solo song and featured a colorful, dancing dragon that danced its way through the audience.

The second scene gave the audience a look into Sichuan Opera through a common stunt known as “face-changing.” “Face-changing” is where the performer, who is clad in traditional Chinese clothing, changes his mask in seconds to reveal different masks.

One of the more captivating scenes showed four dancers representing the Dai minority group in a dance known as “When The Peacock Comes.” The four performers wore a two-piece outfit that tied from blue to white and was accented with silver rhinestones.

They completed the outfit with a peacock feather in their hair.

Three of the four scenes were traditional to Chinese culture.

One performance was a rap-pop song, and at the beginning, the main performer said, “This is my time. It’s my stage.”

Two girls with silky cocktail dresses joined the rap singer in a crowd-pleasing trio.

The most bizarre scene was the Peking Opera, which combined music and dance with a spectacular costume.

The performance was set apart because of the dancer’s facial expressions.

Her face seemed emotionless and almost surreal as she tripped extremely fast across the stage, which created a gliding effect.

Her shrill voice combined with a somber cloth that twirled with each movement of her hands kept the audience alert.

Three members of the audience participated and tried to twist the cloth as well.

Romeo Kama, an international student from Nigeria, said the experience was intense.

“I was really nervous but I did it and I really enjoyed it. The Chinese culture is really a great culture,” he said.

Other scenes included an upbeat dance by the Xijiang minority group, a bamboo-fingered music violin player with 17 years of experience and a dancer who performed Alan Jackson’s “Little Bitty.”

Sophomore Patrick Bell, who is learning Chinese, said his professor invited him to attend the Chinese Spring Festival.

“You get professionals out there and it’s amazing,” he said of the performance.

The most anticipated act was the “Dazzling Roller,” which featured an acrobatic balancing on a pair of rollers topped on top of a platform.

A total of three skaters supported the act on a balance beam suspended on tracks, which left the audience gasping and clapping.

Chinese exchange student Yingqiong Sun said the peacock dance was her favorite.

“The dancers are very beautiful,” she said.

She said the Spring Festival is also known as the Lantern Festival because many lanterns are hung in the streets and homes.

“The lanterns contain an easy question that you can answer. If you answer it correctly, the owner will give you gifts,” she said.

Martial arts performer Pei Wang, senior accounting major, said the troupe practices three to four times a week.

He said the troupe will have seven performances in six days.

“Only two of us have been here (in America) before,” he said. “To me, it’s a whole new feeling. There are very friendly people and clean air.”

According to the Chinese calendar, 2012 is the year of the dragon, which is also known as the year of the monkey.

Gu-an Zhang, director of the UCA Confucius Institute, said the New Year celebrations last two weeks, with the last day being the lantern festival.