

CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

November/2015

Issue: 10



Thank You

In the spirit of having an attitude of gratitude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, our faculty, for your continued support and flexibility. I took on the responsibility early this year of assigning courses for our online faculty, and you have made the job a pleasure. A considerable amount of attention goes into scheduling classes, and you have accepted courses as an honor and a privilege, even when offers to teach came with less than a week to prepare. It makes my heart glad each time an acceptance email comes in. You've come through when we needed you, and I am grateful for it.



We've experienced some significant changes this year, from policies to practice and curriculum to course length. You've taken all these in stride and worked diligently to enhance your skills, with dedication to the mission of the university and to the education of your students. You love your job, your calling, as a teacher, and it shows. It shows in your classroom. It shows in your enthusiasm. It shows in your students. Thank you for answering the call.

- Sarah Cochran, Faculty & Curriculum Support

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Commencement Events:

Please RSVP to Trish (pleggett@okwu.edu) with information as to which faculty processional you will participate in.



- Friday, December 11th @ 1:00 pm - School of Nursing Pinning & Commissioning Service, Chapel Fine Arts
- Saturday, December 12th @ 10:15 am - Rehearsal: Undergraduate (Traditional & AGS), Lyon Performance Hall
- Saturday, December 12th @ 11:00 am - Commencement: Undergraduate (Traditional & AGS), Chapel Fine Arts Center
- Saturday, December 12th @ 2:15 pm - Rehearsal: Graduate, Lyon Performance Hall
- Saturday, December 12th @ 3:00 pm - Commencement: Graduate, Chapel Fine Arts Center

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Dr. Bryan Easley, Dean of Online Education
- Patricia Leggett, Dean of AGS Daily Operations

From the Desk of Dr. Easley

State of the Program

It is still hard for me to imagine that Thanksgiving 2015 is here. This year has flown by so unbelievably fast for me. We have covered some rich, fertile ground these last many months. I thought it might be good to stop and look behind us briefly and see what all *you* have helped us accomplish! By the time the February rolls around, you all will have taught nearly 570 different course sections in 11 different programs. God is indeed blessing Oklahoma Wesleyan University with great students and a great faculty. Here are some other numbers and what they mean:



- **84%** - Our overall retention rate this last year: AGS student retention rates continue to exceed the national average. Since engagement by and with faculty is the number one driver for student retention, this is a testimony to your faithfulness. Well done!
- **211** - The number of AGS graduates we will have had from June through December of this year. When we add in those who will complete in the Spring, that number will, of course, be much higher.
- **857** - the record number of enrollments we had this past November 2015.
- **40** - number of continual months with record enrollment

December 12
- Commencement 2015

Please plan to participate in the Faculty Processional or watch live stream at this link.

Some Important Reminders

For evening instructors:

- If you need material for a course in the new year please let Karen Carlson (kcarlson@okwu.edu) know ASAP. Delivery may take longer in December. Plan ahead please.

- Please plan to have your own laptop by January 2016.

Spotlight: Andrea Thomas



Q.

What do you do here at OKWU?

- **57/43** - the percentage of online (57%) and on-ground (43%) AGS students. This roughly 60/40 split puts us right around the national average for similar universities with adult and residential programs.

[Read more here...](#)

totidem verbis

\TAW-ti-dem WER-bees; Eng. TOT-i-dem VUR-bis\


1. *Latin.* with just so many words; in these words

by Patricia Leggett, Dean of AGS Operations

Gratitude -- An Attitude to Have

Faith, family, friends, and faculty - these are at the top of my "Thankful for" list. Thank you for investing into the lives of our students and for walking out the mission in the classroom. You are making a difference!



During November, we focus on thanksgiving, a timely perspective, however, not only for this season, but also for the times in which we live. The following from II Timothy 3 describes men in the last days:

lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.... (NKJV).

I certainly do not want to be among such a group, and I would imagine that none of you would either. In fact, the verse goes on to say, "From such people turn away." In the middle of a long list of abhorrent qualities is the characteristic of unthankfulness.

In contrast, may thankfulness expressed through an attitude of gratitude characterize us at all times and in all situations. May it be our distinctive.

[Read more here...](#)

The Power of Curiosity

by Terry Bell, OKWU Instructor

I've always been curious - about everything. Every child is. Curiosity is innate. When I was in the sixth grade in Ogden, Utah, I was raking leaves in our backyard and putting them in a cinder-block incinerator my dad had built. Back then it was permissible to burn trash in the city. I could not see any fire but I could see a considerable production of smoke. Remembering the proverb that "where there is smoke there is fire," I went into the house and donned my favorite pair of Flash Gordon goggles. Climbing up on an old bench, I was face-to-face with the torrent of



A. I am the evening receptionist at the Tulsa Campus

Q. *What do you like most about working at OKWU?*

A. Co-workers take their jobs seriously but are so fun to work with.

Q. *How did you end up here?*

A. Great question! In brief, after looking for a job literally all summer long, I decided that for the last time I would look on indeed.com and cease from job hunting for a while. I happened to get an opportunity to interview and surprisingly landed a job among some awesome people.

Q. *Where did you originally call home?*

A. I'm from the very beautiful, tiny island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the West Indies.

Q. *Where did you go to school and what did you study there?*

smoke pouring out of the chimney top. With goggles on, I bravely stuck my head into the chimney searching for flame. [Read more here...](#)

Blackboard Inline Grading

by Sean Stedwell, Instructional Designer

Did you know that with Blackboard you can grade papers directly within your web browser, without needing to download them to your computer? Inline grading in Blackboard lets you do this, speeding up your grading workflow. With inline grading you can do more than view papers, you can also annotate, draw, highlight, and leave comments, all from your web browser. Students can then view their graded papers and all annotations in their web browsers as well. [Read more here...](#)



A. Undergrad - Eastern Nazarene College; and now in my final semester of seminary at Oral Roberts University.

[Read more here...](#)

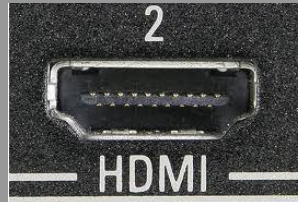
What You Need for Classroom Technology

by Brenda Smith, OKWU IT Department

HDMI

Most new laptops come with HDMI ports. This is the preferred method to connect to our media gateways because it allows for the clearest picture and, in most cases, can transmit audio as well.

Most Macs require an adapter to use HDMI. Some more recent models have direct HDMI ports. If you want to use HDMI and your computer does not have an HDMI port, then you must provide your own adapter. If needed, an adapter or adapter cable such as the one below can often be purchased for under ten dollars. [Read more here...](#)



Why Demand Originality from Students in Online Discussion Forums?

by Ronald C. Jones

Why demand originality? In relating to a traditional classroom discussion, do students respond to the professor's question by opening up the textbook or searching for the answer on the Internet and then reading off the answer? Some might try, but by asking questions the professor is looking to see if the students grasp the discussed concept, not if they know how and where to find the answer. Online students have the advantage of reflection time, along with having the textbook and Internet search engine open when responding to discussion questions. With a few simple clicks, virtually any question can



be answered by searching the Internet. Once again, why demand originality? Classroom learning takes place when students are required to think; that's a few steps beyond clicking copy and paste. [Read more here...](#)

Posting Attendance Reminder

Per our new attendance policy for AGS courses, you need to log into Web Access and post attendance/participation reports for your entire roster after the first session, as follows:



- For online, by **Monday evening of Week 2.**
- For evening, **immediately after Session 1.**

1. Go to your class in Web Access and click on the Attendance menu link in the left sidebar.
2. Click on View Overall Section Attendance.
3. For *each student on your roster*, indicate whether they were Present during the first session or Never Attended.
4. Click Save and you're all done!

Remember that for online courses, **Present** means that they completed the **Course Verification Survey** in the Weekly Lessons folder. For evening courses, **Present** means they either were actually **in class** that first night or they communicated with you in some other way **indicating their intent to participate** in the class.

Host Live Meetings with Students in Blackboard Courses



If you are ready to start using GoToMeeting to hold live sessions in your online course (or anytime, for that matter), please contact [Dr. Easley](#) or [Sean Stedwell](#) to request your GTM account be activated. It takes just a moment and we will be happy to provide any additional assistance you need to get started.