

CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

December/2015

Issue: 11



Merry Christmas!

This week we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father's gift to mankind and the only way back to a right relationship with our Creator. We also want to celebrate you, our faculty, for the gift of yourselves to our students. Your dedication and expertise provide so much more than subject knowledge, you point them to God, showing them that God's grace and peace can be felt and demonstrated in every walk of life.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3 NIV).

Merry Christmas from your OKWU family! May you have a blessed holiday season.

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

From the Desk of Dr. Easley

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Dwelling Among Us

As I write this brief reflection for the final 2015 issue of Connect:ED, I am sitting in my daughter's room at St. Francis Children's Hospital here in Tulsa. She was admitted yesterday with a severe eye infection requiring several days of antibiotics. For the fifth time in the last 18 months, I have again been deeply touched by the ministry of the nurses and doctors who serve in these hospitals. They treat my daughter like family. They are kind, patient, loving, and servant-hearted. They have brought her Christmas gifts, changed bedding, and hunted down a favorite pudding flavor. Above all, they have been great sources of encouragement and hope.

Some of those who serve in this hospital or those like it all across Oklahoma and even Kansas are OKWU graduates. I am yet again aware of the effects on society that *your* ministry as adjunct faculty and Christian educators makes every day. [Read more here...](#)



Spotlight: Zoe Chesed

Dates to Remember

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1

- AGS offices will be closed for the holidays.

Jan. 30

- Faculty Meeting
9 a.m. to noon at the
Tulsa Centre
10810 East 45th St.,
Ste. 100

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: Zoe Chesed



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



Shine as Children of Light

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined (Isaiah 9:2, RSV).

Many items and themes symbolize Christmas, but perhaps none as much as light - the glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds (Luke 2:9), a bright star led the wise men to Jesus (Matthew 28:10), John declared Jesus as "the Light of mankind, a light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5) and we who believe in Jesus have become children of light (Ephesians 5:8). [Read more here...](#)



Q.

December 2015 Commencement

We are happy to congratulate all our December 2015 graduates! A total of 212 AGS students have joined the ranks of OKWU alumni. Here's the breakdown:



- 25 Associates of Arts or Applied Science
- 138 Bachelors of Science, including 98 in Nursing
- 49 Masters of Business Administration or Education

Thank you for the role you, as faculty, have played in our students' accomplishments and for your continued support.

Life Hacks for Blackboard

by Sean Stedwell, Instructional Designer

Decoding your Blackboard Course List

If you've been teaching at OKWU for awhile, your Blackboard course list is likely filling up. This can lead to a confusing time clicking through courses looking for the current one, and sometimes even working in the wrong course! Here are some tips to help keep you on track and teaching the correct course. [Read more here...](#)



Collision Points and the Pastor Professor

by Terry Bell, OKWU Instructor

I love teaching philosophy. I teach it at another school in Tulsa which is secular in nature. I have long contended that it takes more faith to be an atheist than it does to believe in God.

At OKWU we have the privilege of working with tomorrow's leaders. In this way, we influence the future. Together with our students we are no longer living in a modern world. I'm not quite sure when it was but at some point in the last few decades, we began the exit of modernism and entered the new era of post-



What do you do here at OKWU?

A. I am an academic advisor and adjunct professor. I work on RN-BSN, OM, STEP, MTA programs. I teach Old Testament, New Testament, and sub for Romans and Bible Study Methods.

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

A. I enjoy the students, and helping them to achieve their goals. In addition, I enjoy the teaching aspect because I have an opportunity to make the students think, and to help them understand the Word of God.

Q. *How did you end up here?*

A. I moved out here with a friend from California, and began the Master of Divinity program in August of 2010. I graduated in May 2013, and began working at OKWU 7/1/2013

Q. *Where did you originally call home?*

A. California is where I originally called home. I lived in Los Angeles for 46 years,

modernism. So, if you're modern, you're out of date. I believe that we are living in a pivotal time in history. I believe that years from now historians will note that the change from modernism to postmodernism was as big as the change from the medieval period to the Renaissance. [Read more here...](#)

Universities Unraveling: Higher Education Needs a Higher Purpose

by John Stonestreet

The current turmoil on our nation's campuses is just a symptom of a deeper problem: Our universities have lost a vision for education.



Among the things that 2015 may be remembered for is as the year American universities turned into war zones: From anti-racism demonstrations where students harassed and physically removed student reporters, to profanity-laced protests over a memo about Halloween costumes, to demands for "trigger warnings" and blacklisting of even feminist speakers. On campuses everywhere, students are turning on each other, their teachers, and administrators. Even some liberal commentators are asking: What kind of monsters is American higher education creating? [Read more here...](#)

Working to Make a Difference

by Maryellen Weimer, PhD

When are you going to retire?" "Why are you still working?" These are questions I'm asked regularly. Worried that the question is motivated by signs of diminished mental acuity, I scour old and new writings looking for evidence. Should I stop working? I wonder...



I keep working because I love to teach, and my current students (college faculty) are the best of all students-curious, intrinsically motivated, and willing to make comments, ask questions, do the reading, take notes, and challenge ideas-they are Ivy League learners. Beyond my love of teaching and great students, I keep working because it's work that matters. Done well, it makes a difference in all the right directions; not done well, it makes a difference in very wrong directions. It's the kind of work where the stakes are high. [Read more here...](#)

and moved here to attend ORU.

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

A. Associate of Arts in Speech Communication - El Camino College
Bachelor of Arts - The Kings College and Seminary - Christian Ministry
Oral Roberts University - Master of Divinity
Jack C. Montgomery VA - Chaplaincy

[Read more here...](#)

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.

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.