

CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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Issue: 2



Announcing the AGS Faculty Website

We are pleased to officially introduce you, our AGS faculty, to the **Connect:ED** website. Still in its infancy, this site will continue to grow into a valuable resource tool. So far, we have created several reference pages found on the left-hand menu, Life Hacks for Blackboard, Totidem Verbis, Spotlight, and Perspective, to keep you connected with our staff, students, and other faculty members and to keep you up-to-date on the latest technology tips and uplifting messages. We would like to highlight the [4C Quality Faculty Model](#) and [Faculty Rank & Promotion](#) pages at the top of the screen, which will answer any questions about the 12 characteristics of a quality faculty member, earning faculty badges, and advancing to Senior or Master Adjunct Faculty level. We encourage you to visit our website at <https://blog.okwu.edu/online> and stay connected.

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

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Mark your Calendar

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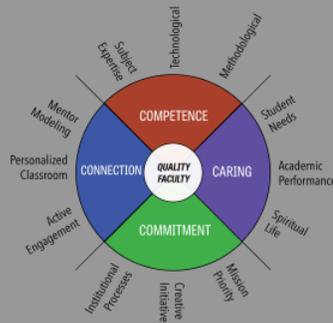
May 8, 1:00 p.m. - RN-BSN Pinning

May 9, 3:00 p.m. -
Commencement
Ceremony & Graduate
Hooping

Spotlight:
Karen Carlson

From the Desk of Dr. Easley

Last issue, I introduced the general outline of a new framework for training, developing, and evaluating faculty. At our AGS Faculty meeting held recently on January 31, we presented this to the faculty in attendance and had some very rich discussion. We presented the visual model shown here and briefly explained each area. Along with a host of other great features and information, we've added a whole section here on the **Connect:ED** faculty site just for the 4CQ model. As we go, we'll continue to add important and useful resources to this section. [Read more here...](#)



For this issue's Spotlight, we developed a question and answer forum and asked one of our longest serving AGS staff members to share her thoughts.

Q.

What do you do here at OKWU?

A.

My job is working with faculty to make sure they have the material they need to teach their courses. This includes syllabi and the most up-to-date edition of any text. When new editions are published, then it is time to nag some poor unsuspecting dean to schedule a curriculum update. I also send reminders out to faculty about a month before their classes to double check that they have what they need. Every Monday I compile and send out a weekly schedule of on ground classes to Security and Buildings and Grounds and send a schedule of all on ground classes at all sites to other staff members. I make sure someone checks classrooms here on campus every evening that we have classes and get laptops set up, if necessary. I put faculty into Power Campus as they are assigned. I am available for any other project for which Trish might need assistance.

Q.

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



You Are the Face of OKWU

In each issue of Connect:ED, I will share "with just so many words" from my desk and my bookshelf, from my experience and my heart. Often, I will include questions throughout my words to give you the opportunity to respond or apply "with just so many words" also.

The emails and phone calls I have received so far this year have reminded me of the vital role each of you plays to walk out our mission. You - AGS adjuncts - are the face of the university not only in our evening classrooms where you may physically reach out to touch a student as you encourage or pray but also online where your hands move to type an encouraging word as your mouth utters the prayer. [Read more here...](#)



Recap of AGS Faculty Meeting

On January 31, 2015, more than 40 staff and faculty members gathered together around cups of coffee and sweet treats to share new thoughts and ideas for the future of adjunct teaching. Dr. Piper started off by reiterating the importance and value of our adjunct faculty members and highlighting a few details of our upcoming programs. Dr Herron, Provost, shared



the highlights of some recent initiatives and John Means, Executive Vice President, shared some enrollment totals and accomplishments. Dr. Easley introduced the 4C Quality Faculty Model, briefly discussing how it will be used in ongoing faculty development and evaluation. Attendees spent about 30 minutes in roundtable conversation on each component of the Model. Finally, Dr. Easley presented the revised and expanded Adjunct Faculty Rank & Promotion program. The meeting was closed with prayer, light conversation, maybe one more mini muffin for the road.

Blackboard Grade Center Quick Tips

by Sean Stedwell, Instructional Designer

The Blackboard Grade Center can be complicated, but it is very important to ensure that all of the grades it contains are accurate. Here are some solutions to a few common issues that will keep your students' grades correct and organized.

[Read more here...](#)



The Eighth Floor:

A Technology and Learning Center for Educators

Located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, The Eighth Floor provides professional development courses for instructors seeking to improve their skills in integrating technology in the classroom. Workshops and training from The Eighth Floor will be recognized toward OKWU faculty promotion and professional development requirements. For course offerings, check out their website at eighthfloor.org/schedule.html. Contact [Trish Leggett](#) for enrollment information.



Unlocking the Mystery of Critical Thinking by

Linda B. Nilson, PhD

Critical thinking. We all endorse it. We all want our students to do it. And we claim to teach it. But do we? Do we even understand and agree what it means to think critically? According to Paul and Elder's (2013a) survey findings, most faculty don't know what critical thinking is or how to teach it. Unless faculty *explicitly* and *intentionally* design their courses to build their students' critical thinking skills and receive training in how to teach them, their students do not improve their skills (Abrami et al., 2008). [Read more here...](#)



What do you like most about working at OKWU?

A.

Most definitely the people. I really love seeing adults realize a dream of getting an education.

Q.

How did you end up here?

A.

After many years of volunteer work, I decided when my youngest son was old enough to drive, that I wanted to go back to work. I graduated from the adult ed program in 1994 and found that I really missed the campus. When the job here came open, I was thrilled, and came to work in 1996. [My sister] Rene' was working in the education division on campus at that time so it was nice to work at the same place then and now.

Q.

Where did you originally call home?

[Read more here...](#)

5 Essential Multimedia Skills Every Educator Must Master

by Dian Schaffhauser

Educators literally have a "world of knowledge and resources" at their fingertips, as one director of curriculum and instructional technology declared in response to *THE Journal's* national survey. "What better way to learn about the situation in Syria than tweeting #Syria and receiving a tweet from someone there?" But guiding your students in learning new concepts, gaining insights and building their skills requires you to be comfortable with the technologies that can make all of that happen. [Read more here...](#)

