

# CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY  
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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Issue: 4



## New Events Feature on the AGS Faculty Website

We are pleased to highlight the new Events page on the Connect:ED website, which will provide a useful resource for event planning. So far, we have two virtual web conferences available with the Dean of Online Education for April 17th and May 8th from 4 to 5 p.m CT via Zoom. This opportunity to ask questions and share ideas is now open for registration at [faculty.okwu.edu/events-2](http://faculty.okwu.edu/events-2). You may choose to attend either Collaborate #1 or Collaborate #2, but space is limited to 12 attendees for each event. See you there!



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

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### Spring Commencement

We look forward to celebrating 125 graduates in our spring commencement. Fifteen of those are MBA/MEd students who will be hooded during the ceremony and receive their diplomas. Mark your calendars for these special events. Please let Trish know ([pleggett@okwu.edu](mailto:pleggett@okwu.edu)) if

## From the Desk of Dr. Easley

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Faculty Development Needs Survey. We had a great response and gathered some very meaningful data. Congratulations to John Davis and Ronald Scott, the winners of the \$50 Amazon gift cards drawing. Some interesting observations from the survey results. First, Competency (26%) and Caring (35%) were the 2 areas that faculty said meant the most to them. That matched the results on the question of which two areas faculty felt they were strongest in. Again, 32% of you said you were strongest in Competency and 38% said it was Caring. [Read more here...](#)



you plan to participate in any:

Friday, May 8 at 1 pm

School of Nursing Pinning and Commissioning Ceremony, Chapel Fine Arts

Saturday, May 9 at 3 pm

AGS Spring Commencement and Hooding, Chapel Fine Arts  
\*Meet in Lyon's Hall at 2:15 pm to participate in the faculty processional

## 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*

## March Madness Yield Spring Gladness in AGS

March madness - basketball, basketball, and more basketball - 64 college basketball teams filling the brackets, that whittle down to 32, then sweet 16, elite 8, final 4, and lastly the championship game! At the same time we enjoy March gladness in the beautiful color of tulips and daffodils, forsythias and crocuses and the return of warm weather. Spring is exciting and welcome!



We have our own version of March madness and gladness in AGS. March, one of our busiest months, carries a sense of "madness" with the launching of 7 cohorts online with 86 new students and 12 cohorts on-ground with 90 new students. [Read more here...](#)

## Spotlight: Michelle Turner



**Q.** What do you do here at OKWU?

**A.** As the evening receptionist, my primary duties include welcoming patrons, assisting instructors and students with their needs and requests, and general office responsibilities.

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

## Tweets, Chirps, & Good Ideas

by Bryan Easley

Twitter users: I am regularly putting some good stuff out on Twitter as a handy, fast way to share ideas and resources. You can follow me [@bryeasley](#). I am using #OKWUonline to flag related posts, so if you are using Twitter, just do a hashtag search for #OKWUonline and you'll have a good library of resources and ideas. Of course, you can also then *contribute* to that dialogue in the Twitterverse by posting a helpful link or a good idea. Just add the hashtag and it will join the stream!



## Blackboard Groups

by Sean Stedwell, Instructional Designer

Group work is an essential component of many online courses. Effectively managing groups takes a bit of work, but the group tools in Blackboard make it easy to manage groups and assignments. If you are teaching an online class that has been set up by OKWU, groups and their assignments will already be created, and all you need to do is add the members. Note that students cannot see group assignments until they are enrolled in a group, so it's important to get this done early. [Read more here...](#)



## The Online Learning Consortium



The Online Learning Consortium (OLC) is the leading professional organization devoted to advancing quality online learning by providing professional development, instruction, best practice publications and guidance to educators, online learning professionals and organizations around the world. OLC workshops enable colleagues worldwide to collaborate cost effectively with peers and experts via synchronous and asynchronous methods for effective and engaging learning. [Read more here...](#)

## What We Have and Haven't Learned

by Maryellen Weimer, PhD

I've been asked to give a talk that explores some of the top teaching-learning lessons learned in the past 15 years. It's a good reflection exercise that also brings up those lessons we haven't learned or aren't yet finished learning.



I'm figuring the best place to start is with **technology**.

During the past 15 years, technology has become a dominating force in every aspect of our lives and that includes education. As it descended upon higher education, we didn't start out asking the right question. [Read more here...](#)

## Coaching Strategies to Enhance Online Discussions

by Lolita Paff, PhD

I am not an athlete. I lack coordination and have some physical limitations. My husband, on the other hand, is an excellent skier. He isn't a teacher but he believed I could learn to ski, convinced me to try, and partnered with me in the learning process, like the best teachers do. Learning to ski taught me 10 coaching strategies bridging four areas: establishing a safe



**A.** One of the things that I enjoy most is the opportunity to work directly with the students. Watching students succeed in running their race as God develops untapped, latent potential into dreams, visions, and plans is exceptionally rewarding, and I am blessed to have the opportunity to witness the process firsthand.

**Q.** *How did you end up here?*

**A.** Originally, I came to Oklahoma to attend Rhema Bible Training College. After completing my studies, I served at Rhema Bible Church and Oral Roberts University for several years before coming to OKWU. It is an honor to bring my supply to the tremendous leadership and outstanding vision of OKWU. [Read more here...](#)

space to learn, sharing responsibility, providing feedback, and empowering the learner. I apply these strategies to facilitating online discussions, but they relate to a range of learning contexts. [Read more here...](#)