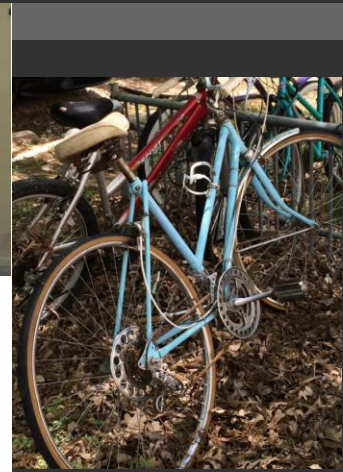


CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

July/2015

Issue: 7



Reporting Attendance

Congratulations! A vast majority of those of you who started class this Summer Term successfully logged attendance for each of your students. We greatly appreciate your efforts and assistance in this policy update.



As a reminder, faculty are required to post a first session/week attendance report for *all* students.

Immediately following the conclusion of the first session (Monday of second week for online courses), each instructor should log in to WebAccess and mark each student as either "**Present**" or "**Never Attended**" for the first session of class.

On-ground Instructors: Please note that now you need to mark attendance under the Overall Section Attendance block in Web Access and not under the Daily Attendance section as you have been used to doing.

All Instructors: please do not add anything to the Last Date Attended field. For the time being, we are not using this field.

Please review the [Attendance & Participation Policy here](#), especially the section about Faculty Responsibilities.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- [Dr. Bryan Easley](#), Dean of Online Education
- [Patricia Leggett](#), Dean of AGS Daily Operations

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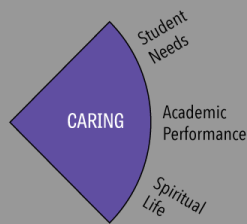
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From the Desk of Dr. Easley

In this issue of the Connect:ED newsletter, I return to reviewing the characteristics of the [4C Quality Faculty Model](#). **CARING** is the second of the 4 Cs. Core Characteristic #6 under it is Spiritual Life, which describes faculty who are concerned for and help nurture a student's spiritual growth in their walk with God. This characteristic deals with the faculty member's care for the spiritual life and growth of the student. The University's overarching mission is helping our students cultivate a biblical worldview and a vital relationship with God. The life of the intellect and the life of the heart should be inseparably linked. [Read more here...](#)



Some Important Reminders

Dates to Remember

October 3, 9am to 3pm - Staying Sharp, AGS Faculty Workshop
Lunch Provided
More information to come

December 12 - Commencement 2015
Please plan to participate in the Faculty Processional or watch live stream.

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

Being as Effective as a Fitness Band

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men (Colossians 3:23, NKJV).

This past week, *Faculty Focus* reprinted an article entitled "[What Fitness Bands Can Teach Us about Classroom Assessment](#)" (Buchanan, 2015). It is a simple article about a cool technology that changed the life of one of the author's colleagues. Several practical tips surface from this analogy, especially as each of us digs deeper into a personal grading philosophy, as we eliminate the possibility of grade inflation within AGS, and as evening instructors incorporate Blackboard (Bb) into their courses. Similar tips were emphasized in last month's Connect:ED in Dr. Easley's article; I am hoping through this lighter approach you will continue to evaluate how you grade and the feedback you provide. [Read more here...](#)



Spotlight: René Catli



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

A. I am the Tulsa Centre Office Manager.

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

A. What I like most is the people I work with.

Creating a Turnitin Assignment in Blackboard

by Sean Stedwell, Instructional Designer

Turnitin is an online tool to help evaluate student work for plagiarism. It is very effective, [after studying 5 years worth of student papers](#) (over 55 million), Turnitin found a nearly 40 percent decline in plagiarism. OKWU has the [full suite of Turnitin tools](#) available for you to use directly in your Blackboard class. Due to the way Blackboard and Turnitin work together the assignments cannot be set up by



OKWU ahead of time, but it is easy to create your own Turnitin assignments in your class. [Read more here...](#)

Interested in Using GoToMeeting in your Blackboard Course?



First, contact [Dr. Easley](#) or [Sean Stedwell](#) to request your GTM account be activated. Then complete the basic 1-time setup step in Blackboard to turn on the service for your courses. [Instructions for configuring Blackboard to use GTM are available here.](#) Don't worry: it's very easy!

How to Avoid Being a Helicopter Professor

by Berlin Fang

For years there has been talk about shifting a professor's role from the "sage on the stage" to the "guide on the side." But as some teachers leave the center stage, they may not move to the side as guides. Instead, they may find themselves hovering above students as helicopter parents hover over their children. While a complete lack of guidance is not a good idea, excessive guiding could turn constructivist scaffolds into new forms of crutches. Here are a few suggestions for providing students with the proper balance of challenge and support. [Read more here...](#)



What Fitness Bands Can Teach Us about Classroom Assessment

by Karen S. Buchanan, EdD

A colleague of mine recently engaged with a new technology tool that has changed her life. She purchased and became a vigilant user of the fitness band. This wristband tracks her movement and sleep. Although fitness bands are cool tech tools, their "magic" is rooted in the continuous feedback they provide on one's progress toward fitness goals determined by age, height/weight, and activity level. This amazing device has helped my colleague lose 40 pounds and increase her activity level fourfold in the last seven months. Watching her response and seeing her success have caused me to revisit what we know about the power of formative assessment as a learning tool.

[Read more here...](#)



Q. How did you end up here?

A. My sister, Karen Carlson, works at the Bartlesville AGS office and told me about this job opening.

Q. Where did you originally call home?

A. I am originally from Oklahoma City and grew up in Tulsa.

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

A. I went to Edison High School and then Northeastern State University. I have a degree in Early Childhood Education.

[Read more here...](#)

Some Important Reminders

Evening instructors

Blackboard for On-Ground Instructors

First offering: 8/17 to 9/13

- a 4-week workshop facilitated fully online to highlight features of Bb and to show you step-by-step how to use Bb for your courses. This mini-course will start late August and will count for professional development. Plan on a few hours each week on your schedule. Please email [Trish Leggett](#) if you would like to take it this first time. Priority will

Online Discussion Questions That Work

by John Orlando, PhD

Most online faculty know that discussion is one of the biggest advantages of online education. The increased think-time afforded by the asynchronous environment, coupled with the absence of public speaking fears, produces far deeper discussion than is usually found in face-to-face courses. But many faculty undermine this natural advantage by crafting poor discussion questions. The number one mistake is to confuse a discussion question with an essay topic. [Read more here...](#)



be given to adjuncts with upcoming courses.

BSBA

Will be converted to online delivery with two additional emphases: Marketing and Accounting

Course Length Standardization

Across the board, we are standardizing the length for AGS courses as follows:

Undergrad

- 5 weeks, 3 credits

- 7 weeks, 4 credits

Grad

- 8 weeks, 3 credits

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...](#)

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!

