

CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

May/2015

Issue: 5



Rank and Promotion Guidelines

We would like to encourage you to check out the [AGS Faculty website](#) to review rank and promotion information and to apply. You will apply for promotion using the rank badge application link. Click on the Rank & Promotion menu item and then select 'Apply' from the drop down menu. As this is a very new approach for us, we will continue to clarify our criteria for both evening and online instructors. Please note the following:



- This one time, you may apply under old or revised guidelines
- Applications are due no later than midnight, June 6, 2015 (after faculty meeting)
- Find rank information and criteria under "Information" in the Rank & Promotion menu.

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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Dates to Remember

Spring Commencement

From the Desk of Dr. Easley

In *The Prince*, Machiavelli famously wrote that a great prince must "certainly be a great asker of questions" (ch. 23).

This is certainly true of great teachers and engaged learners. In the vast majority of our AGS online courses, discussion forums are a significant part of the course grade. In the face-to-face courses, while class discussion may not be as heavily weighted, it is nonetheless an important part of the learning environment. While there are different ways to adapt these kinds of discussions to each teaching mode, good dialogue is essential in any learning context. However, asking good questions is both an art and a science that takes some work to master at a high level. [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



What You Do Matters

We hosted our semi-annual grad fair last Thursday in Tulsa Centre's recently remodeled room 101. Always a happy time to hand out caps and gowns and visit with students. This time though we had angels rejoicing with us!

As Keith and Zoe, two of our advisors, visited with one of our business graduates about her journey at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, the student, LC, shared that as quickly as she learned business principles in class, she applied the understanding in her position at Hilti. In her words, it was a continual cycle of concept learned, concept applied ... concept learned, concept applied. [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 Twittersverse by posting a helpful link or a good idea. Just add the hashtag and it will join the stream!



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. If you cannot attend, you may watch the ceremony Saturday afternoon via live stream [at this link](#).

Friday, May 8 at 1 p.m.

School of Nursing Pinning and Commissioning Ceremony, Chapel Fine Arts

Saturday, May 9 at 3 p.m.

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

Faculty Meeting

Saturday, June 6 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Tulsa Centre
10810 East 45th Street
Tulsa, OK 74146

Spotlight: Patti Ghere



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

Methodological Competency

by Bryan Easley, Dean of Online Learning

We are continuing to briefly explore each of the 12 Characteristics of the 4C Quality Faculty model. Last issue, we looked at Competency in Technology. This issue, we will conclude the Competency dimension with a quick review of Methodology. This characteristic deals with the wider array of theories, models, and practices related to teaching and learning. Methodology primarily deals with connecting the right methods of instruction to the context, content, and types of learners. A Quality Faculty understands there are a variety of ways of learning and are skilled at understanding the student as learner, identifying which ways of learning best fit the situation or subject, and connecting students to the learning process. In short, this characteristic emphasizes learning and what the faculty member can do to facilitate it happening. [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...](#)

College Professors in the Academy & Abbey

by Bryan Easley, PhD

Is it possible for a culture to fill its mind while simultaneously emptying its soul? I believe that is the looming challenge facing higher education. Digital culture has put a world of knowledge at our fingertips... literally. But the most fundamental concern of education remains fixed and unchanged. How do we use the knowledge in the right way? In a world of on-demand knowledge, the college professor matters now more than ever before. But the role of the college professor is also changing. [Read more here...](#)



Why Can't Students Just Pay Attention?

by Chris Hakala, PhD

A. I am the online student support representative. I assist new students with getting acclimated to the online environment. I also assist students with a variety of issues they encounter with online courses.

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

A. Working with great staff, faculty and students.

Q. *How did you end up here?*

A. I worked at ORU for 5 years, and Dr. Paulita Brooker was my boss. She moved to OKWU and eventually brought me over.

Q. *Where did you originally call home?*

A. I was born in Tulsa, but moved to Claremore when I was in 2nd grade. Eventually moved back to Tulsa in the late 1980's. I now live south of Bixby in an area called Hectorville. [Read more here...](#)

Some Important Reminders

Adjunct Pay

There will be an increase of \$5/session in adjunct pay effective for courses starting after July 1, 2015. We wish it were more, but are thankful to have this small bump. For more

We have all had the experience of having students sitting in our classes, looking directly at us, and knowing, just knowing, that they are not paying the least bit of attention to what we are talking about or what the topic of the day is. In fact, if we don't see this in our classes (and I believe we all do...it's just that some of us don't wish to admit it), all an instructor has to do is review assignments, quizzes, or exams to find evidence that students don't understand key concepts that were highlighted as "really important" or "critical" to understanding the material. There is a healthy amount of research on attention in the cognitive psychology literature. Topics include focused attention, divided attention, executive control of attention, attention span, etc. All of the topics are directly relevant to the undergraduate student. How do we help our students develop the skills necessary to focus their attention on our classes? [Read more here...](#)



Promoting Academic Integrity: Are We Doing Enough?

by Maryellen Weimer, PhD

Cheating continues to be a pervasive problem in college courses. Institutions have policies designed to prevent it and faculty employ a range of strategies that aim to catch those who do. And still the problem persists. A study at a university in Australia, where it is the students' responsibility to read and follow the academic integrity policy, found that only 50% of the students said they read the policy. Nonetheless, 80% rated their understanding of plagiarism 7 or above on an 11-point scale. However, when asked to identify a set of behaviors associated with academic dishonesty, their answers indicated confusion and misunderstanding of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of collusion that occur in courses and on campus. Could it be that in our efforts to prevent cheating we have failed to also promote academic integrity? [Read more here...](#)



information on pay related to class size, [click here.](#)

Grades and Absences

- Post absences in Web Access immediately after a session. If a student does not attend Week 1 and has not contacted you with an explanation, post the absence and let our offices know.

- Grades are to be posted 7 days after the end of a course.

Remember to hit both Save AND Submit Final.