



**TOWER**

FALL 2015

**THERE  
ARE NO  
ORDINARY  
PEOPLE.**

 **OKLAHOMA  
WESLEYAN**  
UNIVERSITY





11



14

# CONTENTS



9



10



5

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS	4
DEFENDING THE FATHERLESS	10
SCIENCE AND SERVICE	11
PEGGY MILLS	12
NEW DEANS & DOCTORS	13
NEW FACE FOR EAGLE ATHLETICS	14
PRO-LIFE TRAINING	16
FALL CHAPEL SCHEDULE	18
NEWS AND EVENTS	20
HOMECOMING 2015	21
ALUMNI UPDATES	22
ADVICE TO MY COLLEGE SELF	23

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C.S. Lewis tells us in *The Weight of Glory*: “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, and civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.” He goes on in *Mere Christianity* to say, “All your life long you are slowly turning... either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature; either into [one who] is in harmony with God, ...or one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and its fellow creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.” John Wesley declared that because we are made in the *imago dei* – the image of God – that sanctification and holiness is the call on every human heart. William Wilberforce challenged all of England to recognize the dignity of all human beings, regardless of race. He forced the British Empire to admit that a man is man and not an animal.

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, and civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

– C.S. Lewis

## HUMAN BEINGS AND HUMAN FREEDOM

Contemporary culture is rife with the degradation of the human being. Planned Parenthood sells baby body parts for profit. Our Supreme Court dumbs down human identity to nothing but the sum total of our sexual inclinations. Women are portrayed on the cover of Sports Illustrated as objects of recreation and sport. Children are sold for sex, not just in the streets of Bangkok but also in the hotels of Baltimore. The world bemoans the “murder” of one lion in Zimbabwe while it yawns at the genocide of millions of babies in “family planning” clinics from Zealand to Zanesville. Our Congress and our President seem to consider the lives of our youngest girls and boys less important than the habitat of the Prairie Chicken or the balance sheet of banks “too big to fail.”

This edition of TOWER magazine is a celebration of the “ordinary” people of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. It is a celebration of the dignity and importance of every “ordinary” human being – of the *imago dei* – and the quest for freedom that only the human race shares; freedom that can be found only when we submit to Lordship of Jesus Christ; freedom that only comes when we admit He is God and we are not; freedom that is only had in believing we are created in His image and bound for glory; freedom of knowing our lives are His and His alone.

Blessings,  
**Everett Piper, President**  
Oklahoma Wesleyan University





# OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR DR. JIM DUNN

Dr. Jim Dunn is the 2015 Alumnus of the Year. This award recognizes an alumnus for outstanding accomplishments in his or her profession, as well as service to the church, community and Oklahoma Wesleyan University. Not only does Dr. Dunn exemplify all of these attributes, he is also recognized for his impact on the Church because of his key leadership in church multiplication and spiritual formation.

"Jim is the poster-child of what it means to be a loyal alumnus," said Dr. Piper, "He loves OKWU and has an unwavering commitment to its mission. When you stand next to Jim you know you're standing next to a man of courage and tenacity and a trusted partner in building the Kingdom."

Dr. Dunn graduated from OKWU (then Bartlesville Wesleyan College) with a degree in Christian Ministries. During his time at Oklahoma Wesleyan, Jim was influenced by a number of OKWU leaders, including Dr. Bob Black, Dr. Larry Hughes, Dr. Mark Weeter, Dr. David Eaton, Coach Don Maness, and professors Melba Crain, Mary Maness, Robert Rogers, and Dean Larry Mealy. Jim recalls building great relationships and countless times of learning and spiritual growth, but also many memories of just plain fun: "One of the most fun stories was when the BWC Basketball team beat John Brown University in the district playoffs to go to the national tournament for the [NCCAA] playoffs in Chattanooga, Tennessee. (JBU had beaten us by 67 points in the regular season)."

After graduation from BWC in 1988, Dr. Dunn earned his Master of Divinity at Asbury Theological Seminary and became Senior Pastor of Brown's Chapel Wesleyan Church in Greenfield, Indiana in 1991. That same year, he married Melinda Cartwright. Jim and Melinda had two children, Caleb and Courtney, both of whom currently attend Indiana Wesleyan University.

After earning his doctorate in the late 1990s, Dr. Dunn was elected by the General Conference of the Wesleyan Church to serve as General Director of the Spiritual Formation Department. He served in this position for the following eight years. In 2012, Dunn was elected to his current position as Executive Director of the Church

Multiplication and Discipleship Division of the Wesleyan Church. The following year, The Dunn family lost Melinda to a battle with cancer at the age of 44.

Today, in addition to his role at Wesleyan Headquarters, Dr. Dunn sits on a number of boards and committees of the Wesleyan Church. He regularly speaks at churches and conferences around the world and is also the author of many articles and publications.

**Since graduating from BWC, the University's mission has continued to have an impact on Jim's life and ministry, he emphasizes:**

**"OKWU has long held a strong, high view of Christ and His Word. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is essential to the core ethos of OKWU. This foundation prepared me for graduate education as well as local and denominational church service."**



# OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD TODD NETTLETON

The Outstanding Service Award recognizes an Oklahoma Wesleyan graduate for outstanding service to the church, community, and university. The 2015 recipient is Todd Nettleton.

This is only the second time the award has been given under the new special honor named for Orange Scott. This recognition was added in light of OKWU's Orange Movement ministry. This ministry, named after the abolitionist and Wesleyan founder Orange Scott, seeks to educate and raise awareness about today's slavery and persecution issues across the globe. With this recognition, we seek to highlight alums that are especially striving to serve the vulnerable, the oppressed...the "least of these".

A 1992 graduate of Bartlesville Wesleyan College (OKWU's predecessor), Todd is currently the Director of Media and Public Relations for The Voice of the Martyrs. At VOM, Todd works with the media to tell the stories of persecuted Christians around the world. During his 17 years with the organization, he has met with Christians who face persecution in more than 20 countries and been interviewed more than 2,250 times. He has also been on the writing team for four VOM books.

The son of missionary parents, Todd split his growing-up years between Southern California and Papua New Guinea. He ended up at an OKWU "Sneak Preview" event at the behest of his parents, graduates of OKWU predecessor, Central Pilgrim College. During that weekend, Todd was entered in the first-ever Gold Eagle Scholar Competition, and completed written and oral tests to win a full-tuition scholarship.

In the months following the competition, Todd remembers several times where the Lord affirmed the choice he made during that weekend. When he arrived on campus after seeing his family off to

the mission field, his decision to attend was confirmed again as he built relationships with the men of Epsilon. Todd recalls, "Those guys quickly became my family. We looked out for each other, we supported each other, [and] we competed with each other." The men of Epsilon, he notes, had a big influence on his life, and many of his best memories are with that group—like the time they fit six of them (and their dates) in one vehicle for date night.

Another favorite memory, of course, was proposing to his wife, Charlotte, in front of everyone at the Valentine's Banquet after they were named "Sweetheart Couple". Charlotte and Todd now have two sons, Kameron and Kedrick, who both attend Christian universities.

**The mission of OKWU continues to impact Todd:**  
**"College is when my faith became MY faith. Growing up in the home of a pastor/missionary, it was pretty easy to float along on faith issues. I didn't have to decide to go to church, because if the doors were open we were gonna be there. And while I love and treasure that heritage, each of us has to come to a point of recognizing the Primacy of Christ for ourselves. For me that happened at OKWU."**

Todd and Charlotte live in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. In his spare time, Todd enjoys reading, writing, music, travel and sports, including serving as commissioner of a fantasy football league made up mostly of OKWU alumni.



# OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR TREVOR SHAKIBA

The OKWU Young Alumnus of the Year Award is given to an individual who is under the age of 40 and serves the church, community, and Oklahoma Wesleyan above and beyond the call. This year's recipient, Trevor Shakiba, was nominated with enthusiasm by fellow alums, especially for his service to OKWU's students.

Trevor started his undergraduate career in Miami, Florida, but ended up in Oklahoma looking for a Christian college. After a visit to then-BWC, Trevor says, he "chose OKWU based on the visit and the friendly faculty and students. Looking back, there was clearly a divine plan."

As a student at OKWU, Trevor was already an entrepreneur as some of his favorite times revolved around starting "two of the most dynamic clubs ever in the history of OKWU: The Ping Pong BCS club along with the first ever Weight Room Club. I was commissioner and president of both. [There were] tons of laughs, and perhaps a few minor injuries."

Trevor graduated from OKWU in 2003 with a dual-degree in Business Administration and Mathematics. OKWU's Four Pillars affected Trevor not only during his time here, but especially in the years since his graduation:

**"Academically I was a good student, but spiritually I was immature (as many of my classmates would attest to). I knew the truth, but didn't pursue it with passion. I've matured since then and deeply believe in the 4Ps while trying to model Christ's life as a husband and a father."**

A native of Houston, Texas, Trevor and his wife, Christina, own multiple businesses. Their primary business venture is The Shakiba Group; a financial planning and investment firm through Ameriprise Financial. The Shakiba Group serves approximately 300 clients and manages \$250 million in assets. The Shakibas also recently became

a family of three, as they welcomed baby Tobias James Shakiba in February. Additionally, Trevor recently became a member of the Oklahoma Wesleyan's Board of Trustees.

Along with serving on the board, this past year, Trevor's organization formed a year-round co-op partnership with Oklahoma Wesleyan, offering opportunities for OKWU students to gain real-world work experience with The Shakiba Group. One of those students, Gabriel Flores, says he had a great experience working with Trevor, "he is a great person and will help you with anything...[The Shakiba Group] has a very friendly environment...they guide you, support you...and recognize hard work."



# OKWU'S 2015 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD DR. J. MIKE STICE HONORING A LIFE OF SERVICE



The Oklahoma Wesleyan University President's Award is selected each year by Dr. Piper. The honor is given to individuals who are considered special friends and supporters of OKWU. The 2015 recipient, J. Mike Stice, is that and more.

"Mike has become a dear friend of Oklahoma Wesleyan," Dr. Piper commented, "Without him we would not have the Keating Center. It is only by God's grace that we are blessed to have such strength in the leadership of the OKWU Foundation."

President Piper met Dr. Stice on a fishing trip in Alaska. Stice says he "became an immediate fan of [Dr. Piper's] beliefs and influence." In the months and years since then, Stice and the university built a relationship that eventually led to his position as Chairman of the Oklahoma Wesleyan University Foundation Board.

Dr. Stice has a long list of accomplishments as a highly successful businessman, as the retired CEO of Access Midstream (formerly Chesapeake Midstream Partners), and in various technical and managerial positions at ConocoPhillips. During his time at ConocoPhillips, Dr. Stice traveled the globe in executive roles such as President of ConocoPhillips Qatar, and Conoco Asia Pacific, Ltd. He also served as managing director of Conoco Australia.

His experience in the business world and in teaching leadership provides Dr. Stice with great advice for being an "excellent" leader today. "Build relationships founded on trust," he says, "focus your actions on benefiting others first. Also prioritize your time to work on the things that create an environment for success..."

It is clear that Dr. Stice puts this advice into action. Today, he serves on a number of boards and is the Dean of the College of Earth and Energy at the University of Oklahoma. He is active in the community, and is passionate about "enhancing education, beating cancer, and contributing to the well-being of children and families with special needs."

While Dr. Stice has a wealth of knowledge in many areas, some of the most valuable lessons from his career, he notes, relate to his faith:

**"Faith and career are not separate constructs. They are intertwined and only develop into their full potential if they openly work together to achieve God's will... Faith must be transparently shared with others creating an environment of inclusion that extends beyond our own beliefs."**

The most rewarding part of working with Oklahoma Wesleyan, Dr. Stice emphasizes, is the fellowship. "[OKWU has] great people who are unapologetic about their beliefs and live accordingly."



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Oklahoma Wesleyan's student body has been recognized for its diversity, athletic talent and academic achievements. Our students are from more than 15 states and nearly 30 different countries. Each student has a story that makes him or her a unique part of OKWU culture.

What unifies our culture, though, is a powerful sense of community—students loving and serving and achieving excellence together. Two students who represent this ideal are seniors Chloe Canfield and Aaron Terrill.

# OUTSTANDING OKWU STUDENTS

## CHLOE CANFIELD

Chloe is a Secondary English Education major from Tulsa, Oklahoma. As a high school student, she heard Dr. Piper speak at OKWU during Worldview Academy, a Christian apologetics camp for students. Dr. Piper's leadership and OKWU's mission stood out to Chloe, and were a deciding factor in her choice to attend.

Today, Chloe is an active member of OKWU's student body. During her sophomore year, she served on the Spiritual Life team, and has been part of the Chapel Worship team for five semesters. She also has been involved as a Student Mentor, helping incoming freshman make a successful transition into college. Chloe has organized student bible studies and the campus missions prayer group. In the community beyond OKWU, Chloe is a small group leader for KLIFE, a Christian discipleship ministry for youth and their families. Through her experience at OKWU, Chloe made a connection with a Christian camp, Camp War Eagle, where she served two summers during her college career.

Academically, Chloe is one of OKWU's brightest. Her professors note that she produces top-quality work, and she served as the Junior Marshall in the 2015 May Commencement. She was also recently inducted into the Oklahoma Kappa chapter of the Alpha Chi Honor Society as a result of her scholastic achievement.

Dr. Lisa Riggs, Assistant Professor of English and Literature, says "Not only is Chloe intellectually gifted, she also has a heart for the Lord and for others... [Her] willing heart and sweet disposition make her a blessing to all who know her."

Chloe's post-graduation plans reflect this attitude of service:

"I truly believe I have a God-given passion for unreached people groups—so I consider it my calling to bring the gospel to people who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to hear about Jesus... Missions is my ultimate goal."

Her time at OKWU has been life changing, Chloe says;

"The best thing is definitely the people I've met. Not only have I made my best friends here, but I've also made so many connections that will help me with the direction I want to go in life. Because of the people here, I've had opportunities I never would have had otherwise...I was able to serve as a missions intern to the Fotizo people, I've made so many connections with Global Partners (which I could very well end up going overseas with in the future), and I know I'll keep in contact with my professors for the rest of my life!"

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## AARON TERRILL

Aaron Terrill is a Senior Financial Economics major with a minor in Accounting. Going into college, Aaron knew he wanted to play soccer. OKWU had the kind of soccer program he was looking for, and there was a family connection, too. His parents are both alumni and his sister Morgan, was also attending when he made his decision to join the OKWU family.

A native of Shawnee, Kansas, Aaron was active in his home church, and his involvement continued as a member of the OKWU community. Aaron's academic excellence was quickly recognized at the Chesapeake Energy School of Business. He became a participant in the Pareto Group facilitated by Dr. Wendel Weaver, which is only open to the top 20% of CESB students. Says Dr. Weaver, "Aaron is super charismatic—he is just a guy people want to be around. He has great character and is a hard worker."

A four-year varsity soccer player, Aaron has made time to be on the Spiritual Life team, was both a Resident Assistant (RA) and Student Mentor, and leads a small group at KLIFE. He has also participated in RESTORE (OKWU's student community volunteer group) and been a speaker at Altar, the Sunday-night student-led chapel.

Ben Rotz, Assistant Vice President of Student Development, says of Aaron, "When I think of students who understand and embody the 4Ps, I think of Aaron. He pursues Christ above all, he's passionate about God's truth in Scripture, and he seeks to practice what he preaches by leading and serving his fellow students."

Aaron isn't sure what life after college will be yet, but is looking at a few opportunities; which—Dr. Weaver noted for him—include two major corporations vying for his attention. Aaron is also passionate about being involved in missions and sharing the Gospel, saying "What I've loved most [at OKWU] is seeing God change a lot of lives since I've been here. Him allowing me to be a part of that has been a really cool experience."

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# DEFENDING THE FATHERLESS

## OKWU NURSING PROFESSOR HEADS TO AFRICA

When Nursing Professor Rebecca “Becky” Le talks about her dissertation, her passion is contagious. You can’t help but be drawn in by her laughter and her rather incredible journey as a missionary nurse and doctoral student. Her mission to care for and defend “the weak and the fatherless” as the Psalmist writes, has defined her career.

“It’s kind of a long story,” she says.

Her doctoral program began about three years ago, but the real story goes back to her first short-term mission trip to a primitive, mountain community in Mexico. “It touched my heart in a way that changed me forever,” Becky recalls. “I felt called to missions at that point and I thought at the time it was going to be long-term missions. But to make a long story short, I’ve continued with short term missions, including the adoption of my two children from different countries.”

Her travels have taken her all over the world, but with every place and situation, Professor Le says she wants to focus on the same thing. From patient to patient and student to student, Becky’s heart and soul is her mission to “be Christ’s hands and heart, in that moment, to that person.”

When she began her doctoral program, Professor Le knew that she wanted her dissertation to reflect her love for global nursing care, but wasn’t sure what that would look like. In July, her dream was recognized as she defended her research: “The Effects of Caretaker Training on the Emotional and Physical Needs of Institutionalized Orphans”.

And then her eyes light up and she explains that this is where her story gets crazy.

Professor Le’s research will take place in a Ugandan community she connected with via a missionary friend who lives there. They made a plan last spring to begin the research in September, when Becky would be able to travel to Uganda. As they were setting the dates for the trip, Becky was also preparing for her comprehensive candidacy exam for the doctoral program. Part of her preparation was research on the theorist she is basing her dissertation on—Jean Watson.

As she sorted through information on the theorist, Professor Le happened upon a call for abstracts to present at a University of South Africa conference. The conference—held during the dates of Becky’s already-planned Africa trip—is led by none other than Jean Watson. Becky applied and was accepted to present at the conference. “I couldn’t make this up if I tried”, she says, laughing.

Her presentation will focus on measuring five major developmental skills of the children, then training orphanage workers on simple things they can do to build those skills.

**“It’s an adventure and a journey...I’m using the profession of nursing and research to hopefully quantify that we can make a difference and use that as encouragement for more people to go out and break the cycle.”**

Professor Le’s story is one of God-ordained coincidences emphasizing a lesson, she says, “to always say ‘yes’ to the Lord, even if it means going to Africa.”

# SCIENCE AND SERVICE

Contributing authors: Audrey Barker and Megan England

In a culture where faith and science are often pitted against each other, OKWU’s Department of Science and Math is committed to helping students not just reconcile the two, but use science to deepen their understanding of the Creator and his creation. Dr. Douglass Quick and Dr. Brian Turner personify this philosophy. As the back-to-back recipients of the OKWU Distinguished Teaching award, Turner and Quick are beloved by students and peers alike. They share a driving passion to help students not only grow academically, but also in their faith.

“In every classroom, in everything I teach,” Dr. Quick says, “in every subject I approach with my students, you see God all over it. If you understand how God created the world we live in, then you understand who God is more clearly.”

Dr. Turner adds, “Science is a way for us understand God himself, and worship him through the majesty of what he has created. Science is a gift to mankind in order to experience the joy of finding things out about God by what he has made. In fact, God made Adam a scientist as his first career, cataloging the differences among the animals. This was paradise!”

Both professors are known on campus for the unique ways they show an attitude of service to their students:

Almost anyone at Oklahoma Wesleyan can tell you that Dr. Quick holds the door open for students as they leave OKWU’s chapel. It’s a polite gesture on its own, but his reasons go beyond that. What is less well known about his story is that as each student passes through the door on their way to class, Dr. Quick prays for them. And has, for more than 10 years. In fact, he began the practice at the school where he taught before OKWU—almost 19 years ago. Dr. Quick also makes it a priority to be an available mentor to students, asking the tough questions about their walks with Christ.

**“I want them to grow in their knowledge of Christ and their walk with God...” he emphasizes, “And I want them to accomplish what the Lord wants them to do.”**

Dr. Quick has observed in his years of teaching, that many times when a student is struggling with grades, helping them work through their walk with God is a sure way to help their academics come into line. “You have to have excellence to be with God...” he says. “A question I often ask is ‘how’s your quiet time?’ or ‘what are you studying in the scripture?’”

Dr. T, as students call him, is known for his trebuchet contests, cardboard boat races, CSI events, and a number of other fun science events. “My philosophy is this,” he says, “Math and science are everywhere. Therefore, do things that are fun and inspiring, and look for the math and science within it. Life should be an adventure, and so should education... I get to help students see God’s creativity, passion, rationality, consistency, and beauty. But overall, I believe that trying to be the servant of my students (whether in the classroom or not) is the best way to point them to Christ.”

Dr. T has taught his students this lesson as well, and recently took several Science and Math students on a mission trip to Native American Christian Academy (previously Sun Valley Indian School). Student Taylor Harvey said of the trip, “we were able to use the amazing things we’d been learning to hopefully ignite a similar passion [for science] in future generations. More importantly, we were showing them the love of our Creator and what He can do.”

In the context of impacting culture with the Lordship of Christ, Dr. Quick and Dr. Turner show that the intricacies of science are not at cross purposes with Christianity—but rather, are a confirmation of it. They live out their faith intellectually and in their daily interactions, and strive to help their students do the same.







**Eagle:** What do you love most about Student Development?

**Peggy:** I love Student Development because it is everything outside of the classroom. It's all the fun parts of college. I love the interaction with students over the years, and I especially, being here this long, I love hearing back from students. It's very neat to hear about students who are missionaries all around the world or making a difference in some other way. It's been fun being a little part of that, even if it's as small as making them a student ID!

**Eagle:** What has been your most memorable experience on the job?

**Peggy:** There's a story, but it's complicated, and you just had to be there. I couldn't even begin to tell you. But whenever I think of the quote, "Nice shoes, Peggy Mills!" I just die laughing.

**Eagle:** What has been your most embarrassing moment while working with Kyle White (VP for Student Affairs and renowned germ-o-phobe)?

**Peggy:** The famous story is when I was holding a paper for him to sign, and I blew a piece of string off of his hand – because I didn't dare touch him. He was on the phone and I just wanted to get this string off without interrupting, so I just blew it off. He freaked out. He had to hang up the phone.

# THANK YOU PEGGY MILLS

*The following is adapted from an article by OKWU alum Ashleigh Johnson, written for the OKWU Eagle. View the full interview at [eagle.okwu.edu](http://eagle.okwu.edu)*

Peggy Mills has played a central role in OKWU's Student Development department since her arrival nearly 24 years ago. Moreover, she worked at the school before it merged here in Bartlesville – back in central Kansas at Miltonvale Wesleyan College. As the Administrative Assistant, Peggy has been involved in countless changes throughout the past two and a half decades, and has now worked for four different Vice Presidents of Student Development. She has a passion for dancing, costumes, thrift stores, and OKWU. She speaks of Oklahoma Wesleyan as, "the body of Christ and a tremendous support system for me," throughout some of the most difficult seasons of her life.

Peggy connected with the Wesleyan denomination through her husband, Dean, who attended a Wesleyan church when they began dating in high school. After they were married, the Mills moved to Miltonvale. Peggy worked at Miltonvale Wesleyan College, an OKWU antecedent, and Dean attended school. After Dean graduated from Miltonvale in 1966, the Mills moved to California for the next 25 years. While there, Dean was a youth pastor, later got his teaching credentials, and taught for more than 20 years. In 1990, they returned to the Midwest for health reasons and Peggy began working at then-Bartlesville Wesleyan College on the first day of RA training in the fall of 1991.

Throughout all the change she has witnessed at Oklahoma Wesleyan, Peggy says, there is one thing that remains consistent:

**"It's a place that students come and lives are changed. It may look different now, but [recently] when Alex Himaya came and gave an invitation in chapel for students to raise their hands and give their lives to the Lord, I was so blessed by that. Somebody might come and look at the campus and think it's changed and it's different, and that's true. But the Holy Spirit is still here and that's what makes it all worthwhile."**

As The Eagle wished Peggy a relaxing and purposeful retirement, we asked one more question: what advice would she like to give incoming freshmen? "Regardless of what you've done or what kind of student you've been or choices you've made, you can come here and have a fresh new start. People don't know your past. You have a chance to start over and all the support in the world if you choose to use it. Get out of your room, put your electronics away, socialize, ask for help if you need it – there are tutors and mentors and spiritual help if you need it. You can grow from wherever you are, or you can really just start over and go a completely different direction."

Oklahoma Wesleyan thanks Peggy for her faithful service to the Lord and to the Eagle family.

# NEW DEANS & DOCTORS

**Dr. Brian Epperson**  
Dean of the Chesapeake Energy School of Business  
Assistant Professor of Business



Dr. Brian Epperson has his purpose as a member of OKWU's faculty posted in his office as a constant reminder: "to prepare Christian men and women to compete and win in the business world". With an impressive list of professional accomplishments, he is uniquely suited to lead the Chesapeake Energy School of Business in doing just that.

Before taking on the role of Dean, Dr. Epperson held the title of Assistant Professor of Business at OKWU, in addition to directing the MBA and the Master of Science in Strategic Leadership programs. Additionally, he led the first-ever John Maxwell Leadership Academy for undergraduates at the university. He also has had great success in the business world.

While Dr. Epperson holds multiple degrees and has a powerful résumé, his mission to prepare Christian businesspersons goes deeper. He is incredibly genuine in caring for students and is passionate about helping them achieve their potential. "Our destiny, purpose, and intentionality can only be found in light of the One who created you with that intention," He says. "Get to know Him and you will discover what you were put on this earth to go do. Then, wring yourself out going after it and bringing glory to the One that gave you the ability to do it."

**Gentry Sutton**  
Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences  
Assistant Professor of English



Dr. Gentry Sutton was hired as faculty and to lead Oklahoma Wesleyan's School of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Sutton has both Bachelor' and Master degrees in English, along with a Doctorate of Educational Ministry.

He has spent his professional career in higher education, beginning at Thomas Edison State College and then serving in various leadership roles at Sterling College.

As a native Oklahoman, Dean Sutton has watched Oklahoma Wesleyan's success with interest, impressed by the commitment of OKWU to educating the whole person and promoting high academic standards in a biblical context. He is eager to play a strategic role in that mission:

"I want to see every OKWU student understand and accept that he or she has been specially called by the God of the Universe to cultivate discipline-specific knowledge and skills in order to impact the culture for God's glory. To marry academic interests with the realization that God has called us to those interests is humbling, liberating, and empowering all at the same time."

**Jessica Johnson**  
Dean of the School of Nursing  
Assistant Professor of Nursing



Professor Jessica Johnson has been at OKWU since 2013 as an Assistant Professor of Nursing. This year, she has taken on an additional role as Dean of Nursing, after serving as interim dean since the summer of 2014. Previously, Professor Johnson taught at Northwest Arkansas

Community College and worked as a registered nurse. Dean Johnson is currently pursuing her doctorate in Nursing Practice.

Professor Johnson is passionate about missions, and notes that her mission field as a professor is in her work: helping "prepare nurses to go out and be the hands and heart of Christ." She put her passion into overseas missions just this summer, leading a team of seven students and two nursing alumni to join the One Nation, One Day missions event in the Dominican Republic with nearly 2,000 other missionaries. In less than a week, their medical clinic in the poorest province of the Dominican served almost 900 patients, and 195 of those patients were led to Christ. The entire event reached 62.2 thousand people.

"Each day I am blessed to share my passion for nursing with my students" she says. "I am given the opportunity to serve, encourage, and enable my students to fulfill God's purpose for their life and calling."

Oklahoma Wesleyan is proud to have some of the best faculty in the nation. Their commitment to staying ahead of the curve, upholding our mission, and serving our students is unparalleled. In the past year, their dedication has been especially noted as we have congratulated three more professors for completing their doctoral work.

**Josh McNall, Ph.D.**  
University of Manchester, UK  
Assistant Professor, New Testament Studies  
OKWU School of Ministry and Christian Thought



When approached by Dr. Piper in 2009 about joining OKWU's faculty, Dr. McNall knew it was an opportunity to do two things he had always wanted: "[OKWU] was a mission fit for me and it gave me a chance to teach (which I love), and to do a PhD."

Dr. McNall earned his Ph.D. at the University of Manchester. His doctoral thesis looked at the British theologian, Colin Gunton, and his treatment of Augustine's theological legacy. It was published under the title, "A Free Corrector: Colin Gunton and the Legacy of Augustine."

McNall is passionate about his work, and strives to "help students think deeply about the way of Jesus, and about what it means to follow him in the increasingly complex world in which we live."

**Jerome VanKuiken, Ph.D.**  
University of Manchester, UK  
Assistant Professor, Ministry and Christian Thought  
OKWU School of Ministry and Christian Thought



Dr. VanKuiken's vision in life and as a member of OKWU's faculty, he says, "is to pursue a deeper relationship with Christ and learn as much as I can of the wisdom and knowledge that he offers, then pass it along to others. That means motivating students to learn course material...and live it out. That also means keeping abreast of my field of expertise and contributing to scholarship. Lastly, that means being involved in a local church and practical ministry so that my teaching and scholarship stay grounded in real-world experience."

Dr. VanKuiken successfully defended his dissertation on "The Effect of the Fall on Christ's Human Nature" to earn his Ph.D.

**Wendel Weaver, DBA**  
Anderson University  
Assistant Dean of the School of Business  
Chesapeake Energy School of Business



When Dr. Wendel Weaver interviewed to become a faculty member of the Chesapeake Energy School of Business, he asked a question of his own—"is Oklahoma Wesleyan a *real* Christian college?" He soon discovered that it is, saying a deciding factor in accepting the position "first and foremost was that mission-fit."

His own mission as faculty is simple, yet profoundly effective: "to create the best possible environment for students to learn." This mission is included on his syllabi and lived out in every class. Dr. Weaver cares deeply about his students, and often one or two can be found in his office, seeking counsel.

After successfully defending his dissertation at Anderson University, Professor Weaver earned a doctoral degree in Marketing.





Oklahoma Wesleyan University Athletics is proud to announce the launch of their new Eagle logo series. Designed by Justin Johnson at More Branding, the Eagle reflects the classic colors and fierce spirit of OKWU Athletics. This new logo is a constant reminder of the meaning of OKWU's mascot, which comes from Isaiah 40:31: *"those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Mark Molder, Athletic Director, said of the launch, "This is a great change for our athletic department and the university as we move into the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. This new logo, and the options that come with it, will set us apart."

The coaching staff as a whole is excited about the logo and what it means for the University. Coach T.J. Dickinson summed up the coaches' views of the logo, saying, "the end result is a

consistent look for all of our programs that helps tie in the proud tradition of OKWU athletics with a new modern touch."

The logo will transition into all athletic programs throughout the coming months. The launch also included a website re-branding at the new [okwueagles.com](http://okwueagles.com).

# NEW FACE FOR EAGLE ATHLETICS

## MEN'S SOCCER

OKWU men's soccer returned to the NAIA National Tournament for the fourth straight year in 2015. They ranked in the top 25 for the entire season, finishing four consecutive years in the final NAIA poll. The season ended with 3 players being recognized at an NAIA All American level: Lucas Cordeiro received 1st team All-American for the second straight year, Ivan Ristic was named to the NAIA All-American 2nd team (now a two-time All-American), and Jack McGowan was named to the NAIA All-American Honorable Mention Team.

## TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

During last track season, Sarah Sharp set a women's school record in the 800 meter run. Erasmo Huerta also set a men's school record in the 800 meter run. Sharp was the conference champion in the 800 meter and the 1500 meter run. OKWU men's and women's teams each won the conference championship in the 4 x 400 meter relay. Nathan Tripp earned All-Conference honors in cross country and also qualified for the NAIA National Cross Country Championship.

## VOLLEYBALL

OKWU Women's volleyball completed their season with a 34-10 record. The Eagles made the MCAC Conference Championship but fell short vs. College of the Ozarks. Freshman of the Year was Emily Hollingsworth, Newcomer of the Year was Hilda Pereira, and Coach of the Year was Lady Eagles head coach, Tracie Anderberg. They also competed in the NCCAA National Tournament in Kissimmee, Florida. The team ended their season with five players on First Team All Conference and one player on Second Team All Conference.

## SOFTBALL

OKWU Softball finished their season with a program-best second in the MCAC and a 31-28 record. For only the second time in school history, the ladies earned a bid to the NCCAA National Championships in Botetourt, Virginia. It was a record-breaking year, as the team set single season records in hits (458), triples (11), and stolen bases (70). Pitcher Jenna Daniel also set a single season ERA record (2.49) in 208.1 innings pitched. Eight players were named to MCAC All-Conference teams, three were named to NCCAA All-Central Region team, and three were named NFCA All-Region second team. Five OKWU Softball players were also named MCAC Scholar Athletes.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

OKWU Men's basketball season was marked by CJ Ross as the MCAC Freshmen of the Year and Steven Cooks, who earned All Conference Honorable Mention.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Eagles Basketball ended the season with a 27-7 overall record and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament Sweet 16. They were also the recipients of the Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Award. The Lady Eagles had 1 NAIA All-American, 4 All-Conference selections, 3 Academic All-Americans and 10 Academic All-Conference Selections.

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF

OKWU Men's Golf had a successful season, finishing 2nd in the MCAC Conference Tournament. David Ryan was the 2014 NCCAA National Champion and Player of the Year, as well as Newcomer of the Year and 1st Team All-Conference. Ewan Diston was Freshman of the Year and made First Team All-Conference, along with Oliver Stephens. In women's golf, KayLee Hacker set a school record (71) in the Paris Fall Invitational.

## BASEBALL

OKWU Baseball ranked high in every poll, all season this past year earning a spot as high as #3. From March 27 to April 10, the Eagles held a 12 game winning streak. The team won their second consecutive MCAC Regular Season Championship and was selected as #1 Seed in the NAIA World Series Opening Round Bracket.



## FOLLOW THE EAGLES

[facebook.com/okwueagles](https://facebook.com/okwueagles) [twitter.com/okwueagles](https://twitter.com/okwueagles) [instagram.com/okwueagles](https://instagram.com/okwueagles) Periscope: @OKWUeagles





# MADE IN THE IMAGE: PRO-LIFE TRAINING



*“Jesus said he wants us to go out into all the nations and make disciples, teaching them to obey what I’ve commanded you. One of the things that Jesus taught us is that we’re not to be in the business of shedding innocent blood. He also tells us we are supposed to value our children. Part of the Great Commission of making disciples is to teach people not only how not to shed innocent blood, but to protect the innocent from the shedding of blood...”* – **Dr. Marc Newman, Speakers for Life**

Our culture is at a crossroads—are human beings created in God’s image, or are they just expressions of matter whose only worth is that which is attributed to them by others? The debate isn’t just a philosophical one; bioethical issues affect every level of society, from the practical to the political.

Society today desperately needs a generation of pro-life leaders who are informed, professional, and well-spoken. Leaders who are prepared to defend and protect the innocent in ways that are more than abstract. Oklahoma Wesleyan is proud to join in bringing up a new generation of life-affirming apologists, politicians, and pregnancy center executives. The latest step in this mission is the new Pro-Life Training and Applied Bioethics program at OKWU.

The program came to OKWU by way of a partnership with two nationally recognized pro-life organizations: CareNet and Life Training Institute. A little over a year ago, Scott Klusendorf, Dr. Marc Newman, and John Ensor—all highly respected pro-life voices—put together a curriculum for a Pro-Life Training and Applied Bioethics baccalaureate degree and a certification program. The program is intended to provide pro-life students or mid-career people with the tools to make a case for the pro-life view in the public forum.

**“Our ability as Christians to persuade people depends on whether we can engage them in a winsome and attractive manner...” Klusendorf emphasizes. “[Our students] learn not only the intellectual arguments that are in play...they also learn how to engage people in a personal and yet persuasive manner. We think that balance of great content with a winsome, attractive apologetic is the hope for reaching this culture.”**

They found the right home at Oklahoma Wesleyan and the inaugural session of two classes was held in July. Working with key OKWU faculty to fine-tune the curriculum, the introductory courses were offered in July. The first class was led by Klusendorf, President of Life Training Institute and author of “The Case for Life: Equipping Students to Engage the Culture” and “Stand for Life” (with John Ensor). Scott has taught pro-life apologetics at the graduate level, and been a lecturer and speaker at debates with opponents ranging from the ACLU to Planned Parenthood. He has also appeared on a number of nationally syndicated programs. Scott’s class, Ethics of Abortion, focused on content—the logic and reasoning of the pro-life argument. Said one student, “I’ve always been pro-life, and my reasons...were basically spiritual, and that’s great. However, I didn’t have the tools I needed to defend my viewpoint [to] others—the scientific reasons, the philosophical reasons...I just didn’t know how to respond. This course has equipped me to do that.”

There was a comfortable camaraderie in the classroom at that first class, despite the fact that many of the students had never met, and were from locations all across the country. From radio personalities to directors of pregnancy resource centers, they shared a common passion and determination to defend the rights of our society’s most vulnerable, and do it with excellence.

The same atmosphere carried into the second week of training, with Dr. Marc Newman, who led the Public Speaking class. Dr. Newman is the founder and president of Speaker for Life, a training firm dedicated to equipping pro-life advocates with public speaking skills. With a PhD in Communications and more than 25 years of experience in training speakers as a professor and consultant, Dr. Newman is uniquely suited to his role.

Upon completing the 2015 session, students earned a certificate in Pro-Life Ministry Essentials. The next session, planned for the summer of 2016, will complete the second certification, in Pro-Life Training. The Pro-Life Training certificate includes a Non-Profit Organization, Development, and Management class, as well as a Foundations of Life Training class.

The certificate courses are just the first part of OKWU’s Pro Life & Applied Bioethics program plan. The University and guest instructors are looking forward to the creation of an Applied Bioethics degree, which will prepare students for vocational work in pro-life apologetics, political consulting, or for an executive role in the growing pregnancy help center and medical clinic movement.

Dr. Newman summed up the future possibilities of this program like this:

**“Now we have the beginnings of a program, [we] have a student that can say, ‘I came from the Oklahoma Wesleyan University Applied Bioethics Program and I’ve got my certification or I’ve got my degree...I can make an outstanding case for the sanctity of human life at a church, at a school, at a civic group. I know how to raise money for this organization and help people who want to provide prayer support, financial support, or volunteer for the center... I can talk with pastors, but I can also talk with lay people ...from an adept theological perspective...I also know how to cite, develop, and manage a 501(c)3 corporation.’ That’s what our students will know how to do just after the first four classes.”**

In a culture that continues to devalue life, OKWU is unapologetic in our commitment to the truth. “The Wesleyan Church is explicitly and unequivocally pro-life,” said Dr. Everett Piper, OKWU President, “We humbly acknowledge that God defines life and that men do not.”

For more information about the program, visit [OKWU.edu/bioethics](http://OKWU.edu/bioethics).





“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Postmodern American culture has fallen in love with a dream of community where the language of tolerance, openness, and individual rights has trumped that of responsibility, morality, and covenant. The effect on community has created more of a nightmare than a dream for so many. Love as God has defined and purposed it to be has been subverted and sabotaged. Our task in chapel this year is to strip away the fallacies many of us have come to believe, and to recover the truth of what, and who, love really is. Some keywords to focus on will be salvation, forgiveness, reconciliation, unity, diversity, and love. We will work through scripture to help students reclaim what community was always intended to be.

# RECLAIMING COMMUNITY

## FEATURED FALL SPEAKERS



**CHAD MCCALLUM (SEPT. 2-4)**

Chad McCallum is a focused leader, effective communicator, and a disciple of Jesus Christ. As Director of Mobilization for Global Partners, he seeks to engage people in the midst of their journey and to discover how their journey fits into God’s global plan. Chad holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana Wesleyan University. He enjoys time with his wife, Julie, and their three sons, Chase, Miles, and Jackson. Chad also enjoys a cup of decaf coffee with friends (no cream or sugar) following University of Michigan athletics, catching a NASCAR race, and reading anything pertaining to leadership, global missions, and the local church.



**TODD STARNES (SEPT. 18)**

Todd Starnes is the host of FOX News & Commentary – heard daily on hundreds of radio stations. Throughout his journalism career, Todd has covered a number of high profile stories – taking him from Wall Street to the White House. He is a regular contributor to FOX & Friends and FoxNews.com. He writes a weekly column for Human Events and TownHall.com.



**DR. CHRISTOPHER YUAN (NOV. 12-13)**

Dr. Christopher Yuan is an Adjunct Professor at Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Yuan teaches at Moody Bible Institute while speaking across the globe, challenging Christians to think and respond in thoughtful and biblical ways to the complex, modern day issues related to sexuality.

# CHAPEL 2015 SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Wed. Chad McCallum – Global Partners, Indiana
- 4 Fri. Chad McCallum – Global Partners, Indiana
- 9 Wed. Ben Rotz – Associate VP of Student Development at OKWU
- 11 Fri. Ben Rotz – Associate VP of Student Development at OKWU
- 16 Wed. Dr. John Neihof – President of Wesley Biblical Seminary
- 18 Fri. Todd Starnes – Host of Fox News & Commentary
- 23 Wed. Dr. Josh McNall – Asst. Prof., OKWU School of Ministry & Christian Thought
- 25 Fri. Dr. Josh McNall – Asst. Prof., OKWU School of Ministry & Christian Thought
- 30 Wed. Rev. Will Kallhoff – Ransom Church, South Dakota

### OCTOBER

- 2 Fri. Aaron Bunker – Director of 1st & Second Year Experience at OKWU
- 7 Wed. Dr. Jim Dunn – Exec. Director of Church Multiplication & Discipleship
- 9 Fri. Homecoming Chapel
- 14 Wed. Rev. Jason McFrederick – Global Partners, Czech Republic
- 21 Wed. Ryan Skoog – Venture Expeditions
- 23 Fri. Cory Doiron – Church Plant Partnership/Fountain Springs Church
- 28 Wed. Sheresa Grate – OKWU Student Development Operations Manager
- 30 Fri. Sheresa Grate – OKWU Student Development Operations Manager

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Wed. Rev. Chris Breiland – Director of Residential Life at OKWU
- 6 Fri. Rev. Chris Breiland – Director of Residential Life at OKWU
- 11 Wed. Rev. Chris Breiland – Director of Residential Life at OKWU
- 12 Thurs. Dr. Christopher Yuan – Moody Bible Institute
- 13 Fri. Dr. Christopher Yuan – Moody Bible Institute
- 18 Wed. Kyle White – VP for Student Development at OKWU
- 20 Fri. Kyle White – VP for Student Development at OKWU

### DECEMBER

- 2 Wed. Kyle White – VP for Student Development at OKWU
- 4 Fri. Kyle White – VP for Student Development at OKWU



# — 2015 - 2016 — NEWS & EVENTS AT A GLANCE

## September 15-17: Liberty Symposium

Guest speakers including Kelly Monroe Kullberg and Todd Starnes discuss religious liberty. OKWU will also celebrate Constitution Day at the historic Foster Ranch. More: [okwu.edu/liberty](http://okwu.edu/liberty)

## October 9-10: Homecoming and Family Weekend

Includes a variety of athletic activities, a concert, reunions, and more. Special chapel speakers include Alumni of the Year, Dr. Jim Dunn. More: [okwu.edu/homecoming](http://okwu.edu/homecoming)

## October 15-18: Fall Break

Classes resume Monday, October 19th.

## October 20-21: Dunn Institute

A conference for Wesleyan Pastors to maximize effectiveness in leadership, management, and administration.

## November: NSIC Institute

National Security Investment Consulting Institute training event. More: [NSIC.org](http://NSIC.org)

## November 12-13: Christopher Yuan

Special chapel speaker, Christopher Yuan, will speak at these JMI-sponsored chapels.

## November 25-29: Thanksgiving Break

Classes resume November 30th.

## December 3: Prelude to Christmas

OKWU annual community Christmas concert event, featuring the Bartlesville Symphony followed by fireworks and holiday treats at the pond. More: [okwu.edu/prelude](http://okwu.edu/prelude)

## December 12: December Commencement

Fall Semester ends December 10th.

## January 19, 2016: Spring Semester Begins

## February 5-6: JMI Conference

The annual Josh McDowell Institute Conference for the campus and community. "Who Does Your Thinking for You?" Cameron McAllister, Alycia Wood and Abdu Murray, all from RZIM will be speaking. More: [okwu.edu/jmiconference](http://okwu.edu/jmiconference)



## March 12-19: Spring Break

Classes resume March 21st.

## March 25-28: Easter Break

Classes resume March 29th.

## May 14: Commencement

Spring semester ends May 12th.

For the most up-to-date information, visit [okwu.edu/calendar](http://okwu.edu/calendar)

## Special Events: NSIC Update

On July 20-23, the NSIC Institute of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, led by Kevin Freeman, CFA along with national security experts and business leaders, met at Hillsdale College's Kirby Center in Washington, D.C. Over the course of four days participants were briefed on topics of national security from General James Conway (Ret.), Frank Gaffney, Chris Graham, Clare Lopez, Fred Fleitz and Governor Frank Keating. The group also heard from business and thought leaders, Patrick Byrne, CEO of Overstock.com, and Rod Martin. The topic of cyber-security was of particular importance to the group and the NSIC team delivered several sessions that outlined ways that both advisors and investors can have better cyber hygiene to reduce the chances of being hacked. Some of the highlights of the conference included a private tour of the Capitol with Congressman Louis Gohmert, a private event at the International Spy Museum, and dinner at and a private tour of Mount Vernon.



# HOMECOMING OCTOBER 9-10, 2015 & FAMILY WEEKEND

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 8:30am Registration Open- Chapel Lobby - Coffee and pastries prior to Chapel
- 10:10am Homecoming & Family Weekend Chapel
- 1:00pm Golf Scramble- Hosted by the OKWU Golf team at the Hillcrest Country Club
- 5:30pm Soaring Seniors Dinner - Drake Library
- 7:00pm Old Made New Homecoming Concert - Lyon Chapel & Fine Arts Center  
Featuring AJ+CPO and their album, "The Hymns Collaboration"
- 9:00pm Pond Party- Patio outside Doc Lacy's  
Enjoy Music, treats, and the Legends Lantern Lighting

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

### 10:00am President's Awards Brunch - Hillcrest Country Club

Join us for a wonderful brunch in honor of our Alumni Award recipients. Dr. Everett Piper, will host a time of celebrating our history and the blessings that have brought us to this time and provide an update on future plans for the University.

### Lunch & Volleyball

- 12:00pm WuCrew Lunch\*- Mueller Sports Center Lobby
- 12:30pm JV Volleyball Game- Mueller Sports Center Main Gym
- 2:00pm Varsity Volleyball Game- Mueller Sports Center Gym

\*Have lunch in our newly redesigned lobby and enjoy your favorite sporting event foods from our new concession stand.

## DINNER & SOCCER UNDER THE LIGHTS

- 5:30pm Woman's Soccer Game- OKWU Soccer Field
- 5:30pm Food Truck Dinner & Dessert at the Fields\*
- 7:30pm Men's Soccer Game- OKWU Soccer Field

\*Tulsa's famous Haulin' Buns and Lick Your Lips Donut trucks will be at OKWU Soccer Fields for your dining pleasure.

### 10:00pm Eagles HoopFest

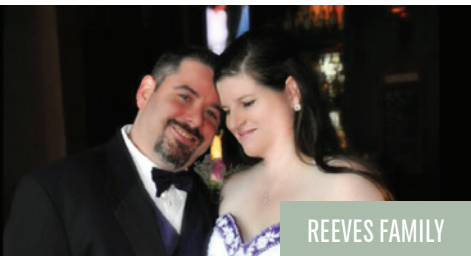
Head up to the gym for the kick off event for Eagles Women's & Men's Basketball season. Includes fan participation and giveaways, dunk contest and more!







FLOYD FAMILY



REEVES FAMILY



BENJAMIN HEMMINGER



ISRAEL FAMILY



BARRETT CLANCY JOHNSON



STORTS FAMILY



NORTH FAMILY



1980s

Rex (‘84) and Robin (Kirchner, ’81, ’09) Adee make their home in Arcadia, Oklahoma. In 2015, Rex retired as a Colonel in the Air Force after 27 years.

Dan (’81) and Shari Floyd live in Wellington, Kansas, where Dan works as a Hospice Chaplain. The Floyds have two sons, Andrew (25) and Zachary (22).

1990s

Daniel (’96) and Lisa (Baldwin) Bateman live in Wichita, Kansas, with two daughters, Allison (10) and Margaret (1). Daniel says, “[We] recently left Spaceport Sheboygan in Wisconsin to move back to Wichita, and be closer to family. [We are] trusting God and his wisdom after not listening for a couple of years. We arrived in Wichita and I was honored to be hired by the Kansas Aviation Museum as the Executive Director.”

2000s

Erica (Wiszneaukas, ’04) and Robert Reeves were married at the Skirvon Hilton in downtown OKC on May 29, 2015. They live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dana (Lupton, ’04) and Shawn Hemminger (’07) reside in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, with their two children, Benjamin (5) and Joelle (18). Benjamin has Down syndrome, and Dana recently published a book called “Reflections from Holland: A New Mother’s Journey with Down Syndrome” available on Amazon.com. She says, “There have been so many testimonies that have come out of [Benjamin’s] life. He is our little miracle!” The Hemmingers also serve in a voluntary role on the pastoral team of the church they helped plant, The International House of Prayer—Bartlesville.

Nick (’06) and Gretchen (’06) Miller live in Chester, California, with their two children, Corinn (4) and Owen (1).

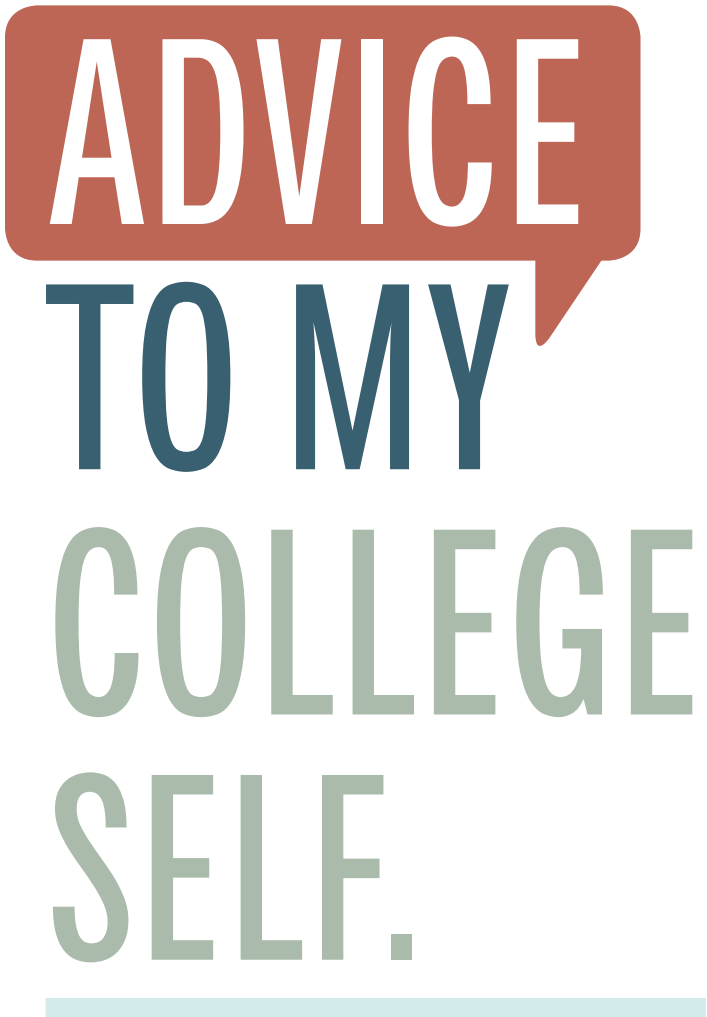
Kenton “Kent” (’07) and Dana (Ebert, ’07) Israel make their home in Yukon, Oklahoma, with their children, Ryan Blake (2) and Beckham Clark (8 months).

Hannah (Hopkins) and Bradley (’09) Johnson live in Katy, Texas, and are proud to announce the birth of Barrett Clancy Johnson on December 11, 2014.

2010s

Charissa (Cogan, ’11) and Joshua North call Tappan, New York, home. Brian (AGS ’13) and Beth Storts reside in Coweta, Oklahoma. The Storts have five children: Dylan (15), Joseph (16), Brianna (17), Alyson (18), and Katie (22).

Update your OKWU family at: [okwu.edu/alumni](http://okwu.edu/alumni)



As the 2015-16 year began, we asked our alumni to share with our current students: “What would you like to say to your college self?” Here are some of our favorite responses:

Rich Hunt (’80)

Have at least one fun class a year. Stay on campus for the weekend. Who knows what will happen or who you will meet? Expect to be bored at times. These times are when your creativity comes into play. Get to know as many students, professors and staff as you can. They are and will be amazing.

Maloree Hamel (’11)

If I have learned anything about this whole adventure called life that I wish I could give my college self, it is the fact that God must receive all the praise in all circumstances. On this Earth, we are called to glorify Him through our words, actions, and thoughts.

We are human.

We are selfish people.

It is the last thing within us to give glory to someone else, yet that is the very thing that we must humble ourselves to. “God’s purpose in this was that we should praise God and give glory to him for doing these mighty things for us, who were the first to trust in Christ.” Galatians 1:12 (TLB)

Donna Hemphill (AGS, ’11)

You do not have to make a perfect grade. Do not be disappointed when you make a 95 or 98. Enjoy the journey. My group was the first cohort that graduated with a M.Ed. I learned much more than content in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership. Mostly, I learned that I can just let things go sometimes. Professors are here to help, not hurt. There is no reason to be nervous. I made friendships that will last a lifetime.

Leanne Salas (’11)

Enjoy everything. The good times, the bad times, the happy and sad. Everything you experience while in college will impact you if not forever, then at least for a while. Learn to appreciate the late night studying, the early morning workouts. Appreciate the trials you are put through because there will always be some good to come from every upset, disappointment or heartbreak. And always appreciate and cherish the joys you experience. The friendships and memories are so precious once you leave and those stay with you forever.

Professor Amanda (Hensley) Dickinson (’08)

Take time to enjoy it instead of wishing it away. (We are all guilty of thinking/saying, “Wish it was the summer,” “wish it was Christmas break,” or “wish I was finished with school.”) I would say enjoy those last minute cram sessions for Dr. Weeter’s exams. Enjoy the stress of an all-nighter trying to finish the book and paper for Dr. Wimberly you forgot about until the night before. Enjoy pooling your money together with friends to order pizza and laughing about how broke you all are. It goes away far too soon and you will fondly remember those days and wish you could go back and relive all over again.

\*Note to my students-do not procrastinate. :)

Kelli (Hill) Bryant (’98, ’11)

Enjoy the college experience. Make new friends, work hard and find help when you need it. The faculty is very caring and wants you to succeed.

Josh Telfer (’13)

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” - C. S. Lewis

Shame feeds self-consciousness and selfishness..So, react to failure with guilt not shame. Guilt maintains a disgust for error, wrong, and failure but meekly, tenaciously, and steadfastly seeks change. Don’t hold grudges against others or yourself. Don’t be offended when others don’t choose you. “You are free to choose. You are not free not to choose... You are free to choose but you are not free to choose the consequences of that choice.” - Adrian Rogers

Engage the people and life around you. Ask more questions, and take more risks. Actively listen to others. Be courageous.

J.D. Hatter (’08)

I wish I had heard this quote from B.C. Forbes: “Think not of yourself as the architect of your career but as the sculptor. Expect to have to do a lot of hard hammering and chiseling and scraping and polishing.”



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