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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In this edition of the TOWER, we invite you back into our classrooms for a discussion on Collision Points—those intersections where faith and culture collide. If you're anything like me, it is easy to see these as points of contention, rather than opportunities to engage the world with Truth.

In reading these reflections by OKWU professors, our alumni, and JMI Scholar in Residence, Abdu Murray, I have been challenged to bring an extra measure of grace and wisdom to my conversations at these points without compromising the Truth. These are the stories of OKWU community members already doing this—engaging collision points at every level; from the classroom, to the foster care system, to our nation's capital, and beyond.

Thanks for joining us.

Megan England, Editor Office of University Relations

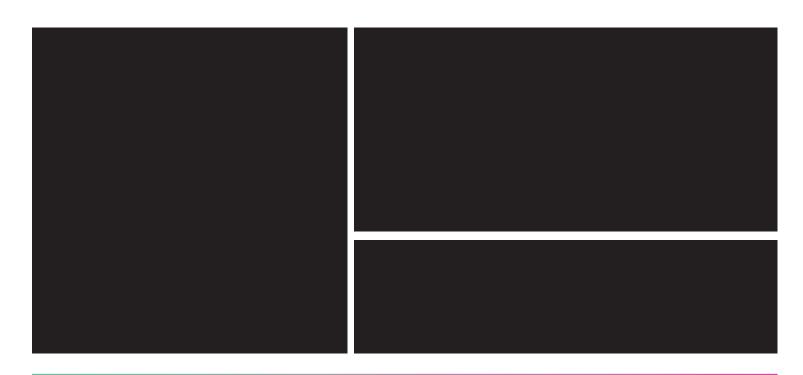
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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

t Oklahoma Wesleyan, it is our core purpose to equip students not only to be excellent in their respective fields, but to impact their disciplines of study with a grace-filled apologetic for the Primacy of Christ, The Priority of Scripture, the Pursuit of Truth and the Practice of Wisdom.

At OKWU, we call those intersections where the biblical Truth meets cultural chaos "collision points". We don't shy away from them. In fact, we go out of our way to address these points of tension in every course. Collision points are opportunities to focus on the connection between a course's content and the Biblical worldview. These moral and spiritual questions form the basis of classroom discussion, and are integrated into assignments and lectures regularly.

It's no secret that our culture is in need of courageous leaders of character, and with your support, OKWU is gaining national attention for our unapologetic commitment to educating students who are qualified to lead and impact culture with Truth and Wisdom.

As another new and record-breaking semester begins at OKWU, we wanted to say thank you for being those leaders. Thank you for your part in the OKWU family. And thank you for standing with us at those "collision points" where faith and culture collide and where the Truth of Christ and the Truth of Scripture is the answer. You are needed and appreciated now more than ever.

Blessings,

Everett Piper, Ph.D. President Oklahoma Wesleyan University

2017 President's **Award Recipient**

DR. TONY PERKINS

As part of this year's Homecoming & Family Weekend at OKWU, Dr. Piper will present the President's Award to OKWU partner and friend, Dr. Tony Perkins. Dr. Perkins is the fourth and longest-serving president of the Family Research Council (FRC), recognized as "an innovative pro-life and pro-family policy leader." An ordained minister, veteran, former police officer, and former legislator, Dr. Perkins also hosts a nationally syndicated radio show, and is a frequent guest speaker and news personality. FRC has supported OKWU and our efforts to ensure continued religious liberty for Christian colleges in Washington D.C. In addition, he has Dr. Piper fill in for him regularly as a guest host on the FRC Washington Watch radio program. Perkins will speak at this year's Homecoming and Family Weekend chapel on October 27th.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

ORANGE MOVEMENT ALUMNUS HONOR

arrell Allison is the 2017 Outstanding Service, Orange Movement Alumnus for Oklahoma Wesleyan University. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding service to the Church, community and the University. This year, OKWU extends the award to Allison in recognition of his dedication as an alumnus, and former OKWU Board member. The additional category of the Orange Movement recognizes Allison's service as Global Partners Kansas district director, and his mission work in Ecuador and around the world.

Allison chose to attend OKWU antecedent, Miltonvale Wesleyan College, because he wanted to attend a Christian college close to home. His decision paid off, he notes, in the life-long friendships made, and in his best memory: "meeting a girl, (Norva) who has become the love of my life" for 50 years and counting. During his time at college, multiple leaders and professors—including Professor Ted Stuffredge, Professor William Goldsmith, President Wesley Knapp, Ira Shanafelt, and a fellow student, Jim Garlow—also had great influence on Allison's life.

After graduation from Miltonvale in 1966, Allison became a partner in a farming business, and shortly after married Norva Johnson in 1967. The Allisons now have four children, Tamara, Darren, Sheryl, and Kimberly, and several grandchildren. Tamara, Sheryl, and Kimberly are all also graduates of the University.

Allison's connection to OKWU and the Wesleyan Church did not end after graduation. He served on the Board of Trustees for Oklahoma Wesleyan from 1994 until 2016. He is also currently a member of the Kansas District Board of Administration and is the Global Partners

Director for the Kansas District. In 2016, he became a member of the Water4Life Mozambique Board. Darrell's continuous drive and motivation goes back to his passion to serve God:

The passion of life for me is to serve God. That passion for Norva and I has been realized as we have been able to lead at least 60 mission teams to over 25 countries for more than 30 years.

"The passion of life for me is to serve God. That passion for Norva and I has been realized as we have been able to lead at least 60 mission teams to over 25 countries for more than 30 years, using the talents God has given us to teach, preach, and primarily to build churches and show His love. What a blessing it is to spread the gospel around the world!"

Darrell Allison continues to do missions work around the world, and connects his life mission to the values shared with the University: "The four P's, although not articulated

that way, were lived out and taught while I studied at Miltonvale. Strong Christian values and priority of scripture are still of high priority."

Interview by alumnus Caleb Anderson, Class of 2015



YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

he 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 University above and beyond the call. This year's recipient is 2002 graduate Mike Colaw, senior pastor at Trinity Church in Indianapolis.

Before Colaw came to OKWU he was looking at many different schools, but decided on Oklahoma Wesleyan for several reasons, he shared. First, OKWU had a strong reputation for graduating individuals prepared for ministry. Furthermore, Colaw admired the faculty, and was excited to learn from them. Relationships were also a big part of his decision, as he already had strong relationships with current and incoming students, and his father and grandfather both recommended the school. With this in mind, Colaw pursued a degree in Philosophy of Religion.

During his time at the University, Colaw was most influenced by Dr. Weeter and Dr. Fullingim—both professors "who greatly shaped the way I think about ministry" he notes. As a student at OKWU, Colaw also remembers a chapel service with Jim Garlow. The sermon talked about leadership and ministry. "As he talked about leadership and ministry, the weight and honor of pastoral ministry hit me. I found myself truly grateful to be joining a long line of leaders that help people find and understand the life changing ways of Jesus. Truth really does set people free." Empowered to begin ministry, Colaw says of his time at OKWU that "a good school should have students enthusiastic to take on the world! OKWU did it well with me." After OKWU, Mike obtained his Master's degree from Wesley Seminary, and in January of 2018, Mike will begin his doctoral program at the Robert Webber Institute of Worship Studies.

He began his career in youth and then young adult ministry, and today, Colaw is the senior pastor at Trinity Church in Indianapolis. Trinity is a multi-site local church that intentionally works to maximize the truths of Christ and empower people to live the ways of Jesus out in their daily lives. Mike lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Leslie (Hughes)—who also attended OKWU—and his four children; Noah (13), Nathan (11), Emma (8), and Cara (1).

A good school should have students enthusiastic to take on the world! OKWU did it well with me.

"I am passionately in love with Jesus and grateful for His redeeming work on the

cross. My life verse is Luke 1:17, "And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." My passion is to be a good steward of this call."

Interview by alumnus Caleb Anderson, Class of 2015





OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OKWU

or Mark and Kandi Molder, Oklahoma Wesleyan University is a family affair. From their time as students to their combined 20 years as OKWU Employees, the couple embodies the essence of this year's Outstanding Service to Oklahoma Wesleyan University award. This award recognizes OKWU staff members for exemplary service to the University and the community. The Molders more than measure up through their years of coaching and advising students, assisting families, initiating community service, and inviting students into their home.

The daughter of alumni, Kandi (Secondary Math Education, 1999) was looking for a college that honored biblical values, and when she was recruited to play basketball and volleyball at OKWU, she found her college home. Mark (Exercise Science, 2000 and MBA, 2010) was also an athlete playing basketball, and while he was drawn to the beautiful campus and the athletic opportunities, he quickly developed an even deeper appreciation for the OKWU community.

After graduating, Mark and Kandi moved forward in their careers, Kandi to teaching and Mark to sales. In 2003, they welcomed their twin boys, Cameron and Grant, and the next year, moved back to Bartlesville to open Molder Motors. Three years later, both Mark and Kandi made the decision to join the Oklahoma Wesleyan team again, this time as employees. Mark was hired as an assistant coach, and Kandi became a financial aid counselor. Today, Kandi is the Director of Financial Aid at OKWU and Mark is the Athletic Director and Women's Basketball Head Coach.

The Molders both credit OKWU with being the place where their faith truly became their own, and the place where they built strong relationships with mentors such as coaches and professors. Like many

OKWU love stories, Mark and Kandi share the same best memories from school: each other. Says Kandi, "I was in the gym shooting, trying to blow off some steam and he came in to talk to me and shoot...the rest is 21 years of history." Mark follows, saying "I still remember how

It's more than a blessing to see a young person accept Christ and then to also see them accomplish something special

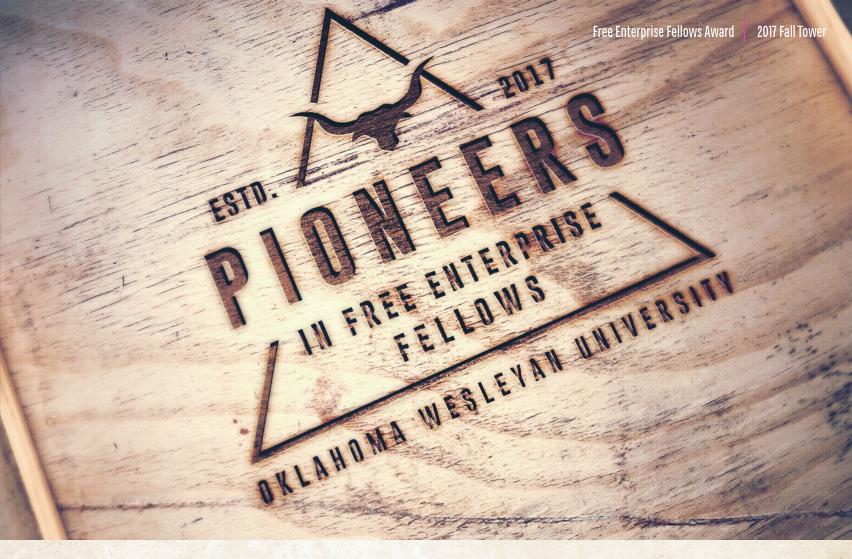
she looked the night I picked her up for Christmas banquet. I'm blessed to have attended OKWU where I could find a great young lady like Kandi who loves the Lord."

They also share similar best memories of being on the OKWU staff: "As a coach, my greatest memories all revolve around the ability be a part of some of [our students'] great experiences and memories," explains Mark. "It's more than

a blessing to see a young person accept Christ and then to also see them accomplish something special like the men's basketball team winning the national title in 2009, or our women's basketball team making the national tournament and win the conference tournament."

Kandi agrees, "We have watched students accept Christ, be baptized, lead devotions, and volunteer in the community...I have watched them with the pride of a mom as they walk out on the floor on Senior Night, across the stage at graduation, or up the aisle at their wedding."

Congratulations Mark and Kandi, both as faithful alums and for 10 years of dedicated service to OKWU!



this year's annual Foster Bonanza gala, Oklahoma Wesleyan is excited to honor two very special families—the first-ever Pioneers in Free Enterprise Fellows in the Keating Center Pioneers Hall of Fame. This designation will be given to celebrate key individuals who have been pioneers in the marketplace, the community, and in the Church.

The Pioneers are defined as individuals who are leaders that "open or prepare –a way, a business or organization—and then set the stage for occupation or development by others". In other words, pioneers go first. They are selfless, assertive, and forward thinking. They are bridge-builders, bringing others together and helping them flourish as well. This year's inaugural Fellows are Kevin and Dorea Potter, of Bartlesville, OK, and Richard and Alice Adee, of Sioux Falls, SD. Both of these couples exceed the standards for being pioneers in their fields and communities.

The Potters are long time members of the Bartlesville community and have been pioneers in the field of radio from the start. Kevin and Dorea married and owned and operated their first radio stations in Illinois before moving to Bartlesville where they now operate several stations and have started additional business ventures in cellular towers and more. They both have been involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) since college, have served on dozens of community boards and contributed greatly to the life of the community. Kevin currently serves on OKWU's Foundation Board

and Dorea is the force behind the Stonecroft Women's Ministry for Bartlesville and involved in many other organizations. The Potters are long-time members of Grace Community Church and dear friends of OKWU.

Richard Adee was introduced early to beekeeping by his father and four uncles. Teachers by trade, they stumbled onto beekeeping as a way to supplement teaching salaries during the depression years. He married his high school sweetheart, Alice Bergstrom, in 1959. Together they worked to grow the company, and today, Adee Honey Farms is the largest commercial beekeeping operation in the country. Richard and Alice are long time members of the Linwood Wesleyan Church and Alice served as an OKWU Board of Trustees member for 17 years. Upon her retiring from the Board, her daughter Marla joined as a Trustee in 2010. The newest dorm on the campus of OKWU will be named in their honor for their many years of service and generous giving to the University on the same day of the Bonanza.

"OKWU is incredibly blessed to have both the Potters and Adees as our partners in impacting culture with the Lordship of Jesus Christ," said Dr. Piper. "I'm personally humbled by their friendship, and grateful—beyond measure—for their loyalty."

Learn more about the Pioneers Fellows and the Foster Bonanza at OKWU.edu/bonanza



THE RIVER AND THE LAND:

ome time ago, I was on a car ferry crossing a river between Michigan and Ontario. At the very moment that the ferry began to move, I happened to glance down at my car's radio, so I didn't see us disembark. Because I stayed in my car, its weight kept me from feeling us leave the dock. Looking up and seeing the river's movement brought on the vertigo of not knowing whether I was moving. Looking at the boat wouldn't help because it may have been moving, too. The ever-flowing river provided no fixed point of reference. Only the unmoving land could clear up my confusion. When we find ourselves in such situations, we instinctively try to end the disorientation by looking for a sure foundation that doesn't depend on our feelings. In fact, we recognize in those moments that our feelings are the problem. But imagine if the land itself was moving, too? Awash in the river, I wouldn't have been able to find a bearing and my confusion would have persisted. But, unfortunately, we are obsessed with being in the moving river today. We want to define reality as we see fit, sometimes moment-by-moment. Our culture seems to have embraced confusion as a virtue and shunned certainty as a sin. And why? Because certainty based on objective facts stands in the way of today's highest ideal: unfettered individual autonomy.

As if to prove this point, Oxford Dictionaries selected "post-truth" as its 2016 Word of the Year. According to Oxford, something is post-truth if it is "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief." Although the word dates back to at least 1992, it's usage has ballooned in 2016 by 2000%. It's hard to think of a word more suited than post-truth to describe the Spirit of the Age.

And yet, the practice of subordinating truth to feelings is ancient. During the most important trial of all time, Pilate stood before Jesus claiming to have the authority of the worlds' most powerful empire. Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate and claimed to be Truth incarnate. Jesus says that his authority and message aren't based on the vicissitudes of power or feelings, but on unchanging truth. "You say that I am a king," Jesus answers Pilate. "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Jesus hands Pilate the opportunity of the ages to ask the perfect follow up question. The form of Pilate's question is indeed perfect, but the motivation behind it is anything but. "What is truth?" Pilate asks, and then walks out before Jesus can answer. It makes for a dramatic exit, but a pitiful display. Pilate squanders the opportunity of a lifetime for a rhetorical punch line. So many in our post-truth culture do the same every day.

Interestingly, the contemporary post-truth mindset germinated in a lush garden long ago. God gave Adam and Eve freedom in Eden so that they could enjoy relationship with Him— the very reason they were created. They had but one restriction. They could not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Once they did so, they would become aware of evil, and that would lead to their desire to not just know good and evil, but to determine good and evil. It was their desire for unfettered autonomy that Satan preyed upon to tempt Adam and Eve. He told them that they would not die when they ate of the fruit, but would become like God. That's when the fruit suddenly became desirable. What God had said to them didn't matter anymore. Desires and feelings were elevated over objective truth. That is the seed of the post-truth mindset that has bloomed in our day.

Though the questions seem to multiply with every passing day, they all center on the same theme: What does it mean to be human? Does



being human mean having unfettered individual autonomy? No matter how subtly different our new questions are, they are basically repeating the same question. G. K. Chesterton presciently observed

The gospel offers to free us from the snare of a post truth. unfettered autonomy. True freedom comes when we are able to live our lives in the truest sense of what we are supposed to be.

this phenomenon in Orthodoxy: "Free thought has exhausted its own freedom. It is weary of its own success," he writes. "We have no more questions to ask. We have looked for questions in the darkest corners and on the wildest peaks. We have found all the questions that can be found. It is time we gave up looking for questions and began looking for answers."

The gospel offers to free us from the snare of a post-truth, unfettered autonomy. True freedom comes when we are able to live our lives in the truest sense of what we are supposed to be. We were created for relationship with the transcendent God, the one in whom reality finds its grounding and humanity finds its purpose. To foster that freedom, there must be boundaries. My children simply would not have the freedom to play outside without the boundaries that protect them from the busy street adjacent to our backyard. Jesus taught

that abiding in the boundaries necessitated by truth will make us free. "If you abide in my word," Jesus said, "you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-

32, ESV). The people's ignorance of their slavery is fascinating. "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" (v. 33). Jesus would not leave them so deluded. With his characteristic mix of frankness and compassion, Jesus exposes the human heart while offering the remedy. "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (vv. 34-36). He said that the truth will set us free and then a moment later said that it is the Son that sets us free indeed. He equated his very personhood with truth. Is that not a poetic response to a post-truth culture that elevates personal preference over truth? In Jesus, Truth is personal.

Jesus's words expose the fact of our sin. The fact of his crucifixion demonstrates his unbounded love for us. And the fact of his resurrection provides us with the joy of knowing our fulfillment can be real. There they are: joy and knowledge, feeling and fact. A post-truth culture that elevates feelings over facts gives us only half the picture. And in being half right, it's all wrong. It offers us the river only, not the land. Jesus is the river and the land, the fount of living water and the rock of our salvation. What is truth, we may ask? The answer is that truth is personal.

Abdu Murray is an author and the North American Director of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) as well as OKWU's Josh McDowell Institute Scholar. After a nine-year investigation into the historical, philosophical, and scientific underpinnings of the major world religions and views, Abdu—a former Muslim—discovered that the historic Christian faith can answer the questions of the mind and the longings of the heart.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

- Campus Updates
 - With another year underway, OKWU is proud to share just a few of the many exciting things happening on our campus. From the best-in-the-nation faculty, celebrating 30 years of adult higher education, to the new Adee Hall dorm and renovated gymnasium, it's been a great year!
- Pro-Life & Bioethics
 - Nationally recognized pro-life organizations are partnering with OKWU to offer certifications in pro-life training and ministry essentials. Additionally, through a generous donation by the Karpus Foundation, OKWU is now one of the first universities to own and operate a Save the Storks Mobile Ultrasound unit through the School of Nursing and local pro-life organizations.
- 3 Orange Movement
 - OKWU's student abolitionist ministry was able to fund the purchase of a rescue home for a group of girls in Southeast Asia. Additional partner funding has now helped to build them a permanent home!
- Family Research Council Partnership
- September of 2016 brought the first major event of OKWU's partnership with the Family Research Council—the Values Voter Summit (VVS). As student sponsors at VVS, more than 30 OKWU students and faculty traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the Summit. A similar trip is planned for Fall 2017.
- Alumni Updates
 - Here are just a few alumni updates for more head to OKWU.edu/TOWER or share your own at okwu.edu/alumni/update

Ben (2002) and Sarah Rotz welcomed baby girl Piper Jane in early 2017. The Rotz family resides in Bartlesville, OK.

Betty Nelle Freeborn (Miltonvale Wesleyan Academy, 1939, Miltonvale Wesleyan College, 1945) passed away June 17, 2016. Betty served as a Wesleyan missionary and nurse in Africa for 27 years, spending time in Sierra Leone, Rhodesia, and Zambia before retiring to Arizona.

INSTITUTES UPDATE

- Dunn Institute
 - Spring 2017 brought the annual Dunn Institute for Wesleyan pastors back to campus. The Dunn Institute was founded to maximize the effectiveness of church ministry by equipping pastors to face the administrative, management, and leadership challenges of the local church. This year's keynote speaker was Mr. Rick Cott, Chief Investment Officer for Blue Spruce Capital, who spoke on various leadership and organizational sustainability topics.
- 7 Liberty in Action
 - An initiative of OKWU's Keating Center, the 2017 Liberty in Action summit in Plano, TX, engaged dozens of evangelical pastors and lay leaders with in-depth discussion led by experts on the true, Biblical, definition of liberty, and the importance of preserving the traditions of individual and economic freedom that lead to human flourishing.
- Josh McDowell Institute
 - The 2017 JMI Collision Conference brought national speakers Sean McDowell, Jo Vitale, and Abdu Murray for a day of challenge to be bold in impacting and serving our world. With the rapidly changing moral and social landscape in society comes much uncertainty. There is, however, one sure thing—God does not change with culture. At JMI 2017, the emphasis was that as believers, we must be encouraged and equipped to act and think Biblically, boldly, and lovingly in a "whatever goes" world.























THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIANS ENGAGING THE POLITICAL PROCESS



hile living on the East Coast a few years ago, I frequently engaged in political discussions with a neighbor. She was raised in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, and she worked for the government in one of the most liberal states in the Union; I was raised in Oklahoma. Needless to say, we had drastically different perspectives about a lot of things.

She had never been around anyone who approached issues from a conservative, Evangelical point of view (at least not as consistently as I did), and after having enough conversations with her to prove that I had actually given some thought to why I held certain beliefs—opposed to simply parroting my side's talking points—she began to ask me some good questions. She started to trust me, and she genuinely wanted to know my opinion about certain issues.

While I was certainly not convincing her to change her party affiliation or vote "my way" at the ballot box, she began to questions certain assumptions she had always held. It wasn't that I was persuasive or even articulate; rather, I was simply offering a perspective that she had never encountered.

Then something bad happened.

After a few months of conversations, she shut down and stopped talking to me about political issues. To be sure, I was too aggressive in a couple of conversations, and I regret that I did not demonstrate a more winsome spirit at times. But the main reason she began to avoid those conversations was that her conversations with me had confused her. Suddenly, I was saying things that contradicted messages she was hearing from NPR and other mainstream news sources—and while she preferred to get her information from those sources, she also knew that I was neither insincere nor malicious.

Unfortunately, she disengaged from political discourse altogether. Not only did she avoid political conversations with me, she stopped listening to and watching the news. She did not know

how to make sense of the contradictory messages she was hearing. More importantly, though, she did not want to exert the mental energy it took to do so.

I sympathize with my former neighbor's feeling of being overwhelmed by all things political. I used to feel the same way. Sometimes, doing the work of sorting through the media's mixed (and often incoherent) messages can be overwhelming, especially for people who have not been taught the relationship between worldview and political action.

However, something being difficult is not always a legitimate excuse for avoiding it, and I am convinced that our nation's path toward moral bankruptcy can be traced in large part to the political apathy of the Christian community. It's no secret that millions of born-again Christians fail to vote in important elections. Many of them

avoid voting because they believe their vote is inconsequential, but others fail to vote because of what I call intellectual laziness.

To my knowledge, not one of our nation's founding fathers guaranteed that determining the best way to nuance a law or a policy would be easy—but a lot of them did call attention to the necessity of an informed and voting public.

I have thought a lot about the books of 1st and 2nd King and 1st and 2nd Chronicles this year, and my mind keeps returning to the story of King Josiah. After centuries of kings and citizens who refused to do what God said and destroy all of the idols in the land, Josiah went on an idol demolition derby throughout Judah—and blessing followed. Even though God had already determined to bring disaster upon Judah because of generations of idol worship, He promised Josiah that He would stay His hand while Josiah was alive. And let us not miss the fact that the citizenry who lived during Josiah's time also received the blessing of God's stayed hand.

For too many decades, a lot of Christian Americans have been like the complacent people of Israel and Judah centuries ago. We have not destroyed our nation's idols, many of which we have the privilege of destroying every November. We need to take advantage of that privilege.

And lest we think it too difficult to do the sometimes-difficult mental work that's necessary for casting an informed vote, we would do well to remember that not doing that work might demonstrate that we are ignoring one-fourth of the first and greatest command.

I am thrilled to work at a university where professors help students see the connection between worldview and politics, because when the ramifications of worldview are communicated clearly and honestly, the intellectual work required at the voting booth becomes much less arduous.

something being difficult is not always a legitimate excuse for avoiding it. and I am convinced that our nation's path toward moral bankruptcy can be traced in large part to the political apathy of the Christian community.

POINTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

hen you think of the word collision, what images come to mind? A car wreck? A shipwreck? A collision in the hallway between two people? Two planets colliding? The funny thing about words is that when we think of them, we see images. We don't see the actual definition of the word. We see images. And for the word collision, chances are, we all saw some kind of wreckage.

When we use the word collision in the School of Education at OKWU, we are referencing the collision of two worldviews: the biblical worldview and the secular worldview. For the School of Education at OKWU, the biblical worldview is grounded in our 4 P's: The Primacy of Jesus Christ, The Priority of Scripture, The Pursuit of Truth, and the Practice of Wisdom. If we are not diligent about upholding the biblical worldview, we will be "captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8). We take the infusion of a biblical worldview seriously because we want our students to be grounded in Christ and not deceived by the hollow and deceptive philosophy of the world.

First and foremost, the biblical worldview defines and guides the very curriculum we teach in the School of Education. It is a falsehood that curriculum is a textbook or even a set of state or district standards. The curriculum in a teacher's classroom is defined by his/her worldview; curriculum is everything that happens in that classroom. For a teacher with a biblical worldview, this means everything that happens in that classroom is derived from Scripture. A biblical worldview defines the mission of the classroom, the purpose of the classroom, our approach to assessment, the role of the learner, the role of the teacher, how we understand learning as a process, how we develop our lesson plans, how we interact with parents, how we interact with fellow faculty, and how we interact with administration. When people argue that God is no longer in our public schools, we need to remind them that our God is not limited by manmade buildings. God is omnipresent; He is everywhere. If our students are teaching in public schools, private schools, or charter schools, we want them to understand how their worldview informs everything they do in their classrooms.

The second place where our biblical worldview collides with the secular worldview is in terms of truth. In many classrooms today, the secular worldview teaches students that anything they believe is truth. The biblical worldview teaches us that truth is found in in the person and example of Jesus Christ. Our example of great teaching is found in the truth presented about Jesus as a teacher. Our students take the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and analyze it as a lesson plan. What methods did Jesus use? How did He reach His students? Why did He use parables to teach abstract concepts to a crowd of

literal thinkers?
Truth comes
from only
Him, and how
we approach
truth in the
classroom is
modeled after
His teaching.
What better
teacher model
can we follow
than our
Savior?

The secular worldview will teach you that your individuality should be celebrated and that you should wave whatever banner you identify with loud and proud. The biblical worldview whispers our identity to us, 'Imago Dei'. Genesis 1:27 says, "God

you that your individuality should be celebrated and that you should wave whatever banner you identify with loud and proud. The biblical worldview whispers our identity to us. 'Imago Dei'

The secular

worldview

will teach

made man in His own image." You are made in God's own image. You. Yes, you. It doesn't matter what your hair looks like or your face looks like. You were made in God's own image. For the teachers who graduate from OKWU, this means that every single student who colors a picture or sits in a desk and takes notes was made in God's image. This biblical worldview indeed collides with the secular worldview because it quietly reminds us that no matter who stands in front of us and no

matter what they might be screaming about their identity, we know securely their identity is Imago Dei.

A third place where the biblical worldview collides with the secular worldview for the OKWU School of Education is the focus on the intentional inclusion of the marginalized students. Hallowell (2011) defines people who are marginalized as those who are on the outside of the main group. The secular worldview encourages people to find the way you are different and use that as a reason to stay on the outside. The biblical worldview is all-inclusive; Jesus Christ came to save everyone. As we train teachers, we discuss how people are marginalized and how Christ went out of His way to include those people. The list of marginalized people Jesus reach out to include is vast: Mary Magdalene, Zacchaeus, the woman at the well, the disciples themselves were marginalized by society for one reason or another. As teachers, we remind our candidates that reaching the marginalized student is a biblical mandate. When our teachers are in the classroom, we train them how to find the marginalized students and how to embrace them with the open arms of Christ. We teach them the importance of inclusion and help them learn to love all of their students as Christ loves them.

Remember that wreckage that came to your mind when you first thought about the word collision? The OKWU School of Education challenges their students and you to choose to see the face of Christ, not colliding with the world but standing there. Christ is not wreckage. He is wholeness and healing. The biblical worldview collides with the secular worldview because it is right. The biblical worldview is the worldview where the marginalized are included and your identity secure. It is our honor, duty, and our pleasure to teach education students the biblical worldview of education.

Hallowell, E. M. (2011). Shine: Using brain science to get the best from your people. Boston, MA: Harvard Business Review Press.

TAKING CARE:

OKWU Families Putting Pro-Life in Action

"Religion that is pure and stainless according to God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows who are suffering and to keep oneself unstained by the world (James 1:27, ISV)

n the United States alone, there are more than 400,000 children in the foster care system.

What's more, over 9,000 of these children are in

There are more

than 400,000

children in the

U.S. foster care

9.000 of these

children are in

Oklahoma.

system. Over

Oklahoma. With numbers like these, the call of James 1:27 to take care of orphans can seem overwhelming. Where do we start?

A growing number of the OKWU family are starting with one child at a time. Foster families are there to help intervene and be role models to children and birth parents, and when it is safely possible, to hopefully reunite children with their birth parents. In other cases, foster families may have the option to adopt their foster children. There are many OKWU

There are many OKWU families with incredible stories of where they started in the foster care and adoption journey, and this year, TOWER took some time to learn from just a few:

Eric and Susan Mills

Eric and Susan Mills adopted one of their daughters from China when she was five. Today, they're deeply involved in the foster care and adoption community, writing a book on their adoption process, as well as, actively helping individuals and churches with foster care and adoption. In 2015, the family started an orphan advocacy organization, Faces with Names. The mission of the organization is to "serve as a catalyst ministry to engage and equip churches to create a culture of orphan care through foster care, adoption, and global orphan care." Shares Eric, "Our vision is in our name...'a name for every orphan face'. It is this simple goal that drives us to reach out to others to help them engage the 'least of these'. Learn more at faceswithnames.org

Ron and Carla Blain

In their time as foster and adoptive parents, Ron and Carla Blain have had **more than 60 children come through their home, and adopted four of them.** Their heart for foster care also goes beyond their own home, as they encourage other families to join the journey:

"So many we talk to say they'd like to try foster care but couldn't give [the children] up..." says Ron, "[but] the price we pay emotionally is worth the value of touching the lives of these kids. We as Christ followers are ALL COMMANDED to take care of the widows and orphans. The Word doesn't really give us the option of helping as long as it is emotionally comfortable for my family or me."

David and Iulie Cochran

Dr. David Cochran is an Associate Professor of Communication Arts at OKWU. David and his wife, Julie, were also foster parents, and have **recently adopted two children through the foster care system.** "We had a burden to foster for a decade before we actually began," recalls David. "We have been adopted into God's family, and that changed our lives, so adoption into an earthly family seemed an extension of God's love for us."

While each of these families have beautiful, rewarding, and sometimes painful stories that could fill volumes, TOWER chose to focus on their advice to others considering foster care:

TOWER: What do you wish you would have known at the beginning of your journey?

BLAINS: It was just a few years in when we decided our own policy would be to not accept any kids that were older than our own still at home. Whenever we sidestepped that policy, it just didn't work. Our first responsibility is to our own children. This is a family calling. We want our children to be the influencers and not the influenced.

COCHRANS: We were close friends with a family who had fostered and adopted for years, so we asked many, many, questions and received lots of insight. We knew not to expect it to be easy or even to be in control of how the process went. Of course, knowing it is one thing, and living through it is another. It is very important to have relationships with people who have gone through fostering and adoption.

MILLS: I did not realize the level of patience required and how emotionally draining the process [of international adoption] would be. It was the hardest experience and most rewarding experience of our lives. There are times where you just can't emotionally handle it, times of spiritual warfare. Some of the processes that you would think would be easy become hard. But God gives strength and provision each day.

TOWER: What do you want to tell families considering adoption or foster care?

BLAINS: The caseworkers are on your side. The laws and departmental policy often tie their hands. You will have to go to bat sometimes for the kids. Don't be afraid to do that. No one else will. Be "wise as serpents and gentle as doves".

COCHRANS: Expect to be stretched and asked to grow as you lean on Christ for the ability to do what you couldn't do in your own strength. Read Scripture daily, because it reminds you that God's children often experience difficult times even when they are doing what is consistent with God's love. Pray continually to see as God sees. Read the book, "The Connected Child: Bringing Hope and Healing to your Adoptive Family," by Karyn B. Purvis. It is a must read for anyone fostering or adopting.

MILLS: If you know for sure that you are called to do it, move forward even though it might not make sense. God will give you the strength and resources and energy to do it. Our adoption was one of the most fulfilling things I have done...it allowed me to understand God's love personally more than anything else in my life.

BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS

"Having a great big strange man walk up and ask who I am, and then with tears in his eyes, he said 'thank you for taking care of my babies and loving them when I couldn't'." – Ron Blain

"We were getting ready to adopt our son, and he asked me one day if I had a boy of my own, what would his name be? I said Christopher Ronald. He said, "My name is Wayne" and went off to play. A few minutes later, he crawled up in my lap and said: "You's [sic] guys can call me Christopher if you want to." That was it. He never went by Wayne again." – Ron Blain

"When we learned that our foster children would need to be adopted, we sat down with our four biological children and asked what they thought. We told them that we were called to foster and God would need to confirm a new call to adoption. Our two middle children cried at the thought of Noah and Anna leaving our family. Our oldest said he thought we were the parents God had chosen for them. The youngest asked if Noah and Anna would go live with Grandma and Grandpa—he couldn't imagine them being farther from our family than that..." –David Cochran

The Mills, Blains, and Cochrans are making a difference in the lives of children through foster care and adoption, but many more families are needed. However, even if you cannot be a foster parent, says Ron, that doesn't negate the command to "take care of". "Single parents and underprivileged parents need help "taking care of"...For many it would be so easy to provide school clothes, bikes, cars, college, a day trip, fishing, shopping, if you would do it for your grandkids, find a kid and "take care of" them.

DR. J. MICHAEL FULLINGIM

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

2016-2017



How do you sum up Dr. J. Michael Fullingim, or, "Dr. Mike", on one page? It's impossible—so we took a picture instead. A Miltonvale Wesleyan College alumnus, missionary to Papua New Guinea, missionary training professional, and full-time OKWU professor of Religion, Intercultural Studies, and Linguistics since 1989, Dr. Mike's life is as busy as his office. With two Masters degrees and a PhD, Dr. Mike is clearly a gifted academic, but he is also a beloved friend, mentor, and teacher to countless OKWU students and the more than 200 missionaries he has helped train through Global Partners. What keeps him coming back to the office? An excitement for learning—"If you get excited about it, you can get students turned on to life-long learning, and it's delightful to see someone's passion for learning a subject turned on."







ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



MEN'S SOCCER

- First ever No. 1 ranking in school history
- Nine NAIA Scholar-Athletes
- Five NAIA All-Americans
- · Caio Ruiz selected for the MLS Draft



WOMEN'S SOCCER

- Four NAIA Scholar-Athletes
- Six players named to KCAC All-Conference team
- Kaja Cremin and Taylor Gros named to the 2016 All-OSN Women's Soccer Team



VOLLEYBALL

- Four NAIA Scholar-Athletes.
- Four players named to the KCAC All-Conference team



BASEBALL

WOMEN'S GOLF • 2017 KCAC Champions

MEN'S GOLF

• 2017 KCAC Champions

- Ranked No. 1 in 'Perfect Game' NAIA Top 25 poll
- Ranked No. 3 in NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Poll
- 2017 KCAC Regular Season Champions

· Qualified for National Championships

• Qualified for National Championships

• NAIA Regional World Series Champions



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Earned the 2017 KCAC Team of Character Award
- Eight NAIA Scholar-Athletes
- Four named to the KCAC All-Conference team
- Jenna Daniel named KCAC Pitcher of the Year.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Two NAIA Scholar-Athletes
- Two players named to the KCAC All-Conference team

Keep up with **OKWU** news, athletics, and more on the new OKWU Mobile **APP** available for Android and iOS.



There are a myriad of kingdoms and kings that compete for our devotion. The kingdom of financial prosperity where the almighty dollar is king, the kingdom of party politics where power is king, and perhaps above all, the kingdom of self where our own appetites and egos are king.

But the Scriptures—fulfilled in the person of Jesus—provide a stark contrast to the kingdom narratives of our day and age. The overarching trajectory of the Scriptures is the inauguration of the Kingdom of God by its true king, Jesus. As we look through the gospels, we become acutely aware that the economy and politics in God's kingdom don't always reconcile with those of today: The poor are blessed; the rich are in danger. True life is found not in what we gain, but in what we give away. Forgiveness is embraced; revenge is denounced.

In Christ, every person is granted citizenship in this upside-down kingdom where Jesus is King. This school year, our intent is to explore how belonging to this one, true kingdom redeems and realigns our identities, values, purpose, and pursuits.

THE KINGDOM

Foster Bonanza | October 12th | okwu.edu/bonanza
Fall Commencement | December 9th | okwu.edu/graduation
2018 JMI Collision Conference | February 3rd, 2018 | okwu.edu/JMI
May Commencement | May 12th, 2018 | okwu.edu/graduation

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

2017

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you..."

Ephesians 1:18



LAURA PERRY | SEPT. 15 | 10:10am

"I am living proof that God's love is greater than the devil's lies," Laura says, of her journey to faith after living a transgender lifestyle for nearly a decade of her adult life. She now shares her story to encourage others.



MATT LEROY | NOV. 8 & 10 | 10:10am

Matt Leroy is the lead pastor at Love Chapel Hill church in NC. He will be leading our annual Cox Holiness Series

View the full schedule at okwu.edu/calendar

Coming Home

As part of the Oklahoma Wesleyan family, we are thrilled to invite you to journey back to your OKWU "home" for the 2017 Homecoming & Family Weekend.

Join us October 27-28, 2017.

RSVP at www.okwu.edu/homecoming for more information and to connect with your reunion year!

\$ indicates ticketed events and can be purchased online here. All others are free of charge.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:30am Registration Open- Chapel Lobby - Coffee and pastries prior to Chapel

10:10am Homecoming & Family Weekend Chapel

Featuring President's Award Recipient Tony Perkins of Family Research Council and special recognition of other honorees, Michael Colaw, Darrell Allison, and Kandi & Mark Molder

12:30pm Golf Scramble \$ - Adams Golf Course (includes lunch and special guest performer)

5:30pm #Flashback Friday Dinner \$ - La Quinta Mansion

Join us for an "old time" pot luck dinner (provided) and flashbacks to an earlier time in the history of OKWU. #soaringseniors

Evening Events in the Mueller Sports Center

6:00pm Women's Basketball Game \$ (OKWU Classic Tournament) 8:00pm Men's Basketball Game \$ (OKWU Classic Tournament)

Head up to the gym for the kick off weekend for Eagles Women's & Men's Basketball season. Includes fan participation and giveaways, special half-time entertainment and more!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

Join us for a wonderful brunch and time to celebrate our annual award honorees! President, Dr. Everett Piper will host a time of celebrating our history and the blessings that have brought us to this time.

10:00am Women's Alumni Soccer Game (OKWU Soccer Complex)

1:00pm Women's Soccer Game (OKWU Soccer Complex)

Concessions and Marie's Taco Truck available at the Soccer Complex

3:00pm Men's Soccer Game (OKWU Soccer Complex)

Evening Events in the Mueller Sports Center

6:00pm Women's Basketball Game \$ (OKWU Classic Tournament)
8:00pm Men's Basketball Game \$ (OKWU Classic Tournament)

Head back to the gym for the final games of our kick off weekend for Eagles Women's & Men's Basketball season. Includes fan participation and giveaways, special half-time entertainment and more!



SUPPORT OKWU

OKWU Friends and Family know the transforming power of Christian college education. Your gifts help OKWU advance its mission to impact the culture with the Lordship of Jesus Christ through our students.

Please go to okwu.edu/give and donate to help make college more affordable for deserving students, update & build facilities and encourage faculty development.

www.okwu.edu



- Financial aid OKWU gives 1.6 million in tuition dis Faculty development Sabbatical leaves are made Unrestricted resources Non-budgeted needs can be

Support OKWU

Gift Amount

