

TOWER

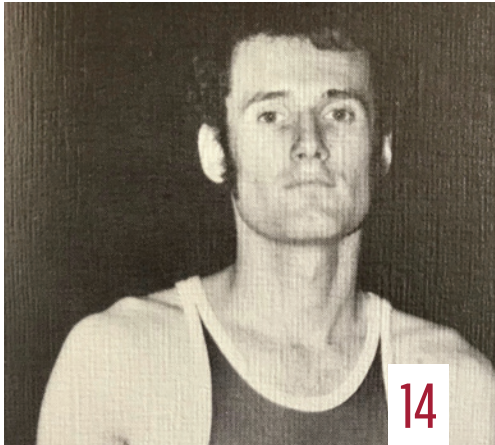
FALL 2018

UNITY

 **OKLAHOMA
WESLEYAN**
UNIVERSITY



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-5

The University is a place where a million different ideas and cultures and life experiences come together. Sometimes, it's a beautiful picture of humanity. Sometimes, it gets messy.

In a culture where we see division at every turn, it's become far too easy for me to focus on the mess and forget about the masterpiece that's made when we honor our differences while finding the Big Things that unite us.

In this edition of TOWER, we celebrate all the things that make OKWU special. But more importantly, we tell the stories of individuals who exemplify unity in the body of Christ—from the classroom to the boardroom, to the living room, to the mission field, and beyond.


One body. One Spirit. One hope. One Lord. One faith. One Baptism. One God and Father.

One OKWU.

Thanks for joining us.

Megan England, Editor
Office of University Relations

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READ MORE AT: OKWU.EDU/TOWER 

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A LETTER FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S DESK

At Oklahoma Wesleyan, we believe in the unifying Truth of Christ and Truth of Scripture. Over the past decade and a half, this university has waved the banner of Truth of natural law and common sense and we have done so without apology.

We have fought valiantly against the arrogance of power and the pretensions of men. This school actually stands for something in a world that is open to everything. We have the audacity to think some ideas are good and some ideas are bad and we teach our students to tell the difference.

Moreover, we hold that there must be a measuring rod outside of those things being measured or we can do no measuring. It is our goal that our graduates leave here understanding that the “yardstick” is actually bigger than their feelings or mine.

In the face of the daily news, we paddle upstream. We fight against the flow of what is popular, trendy and politically correct. We believe God defines life and you and I don't. Our school of nursing's pro-life mobile ultrasound clinic has saved 156 human lives over the past 24 months. We believe that girls should be respected and not used and, therefore, we have rescued 32 young women from sex trafficking and currently house them in a dorm we helped build in Southeast Asia. We think it's absurd for anyone to suggest that nuns such as The Little Sisters of the Poor should be forced to buy abortifacient contraception and we have stood with these courageous ladies on the steps of the Supreme Court to say so.

This academic community does its best to practice what we preach. We have not backed down. We continue to wave the banner and we refuse to be silent. We try to model what it means to lead and not follow.

This is called a university and not a “diversity” for a reason! We believe in unity and not division. We are not segregationists. We refuse to separate those things that should be bound together. Fact

This school actually stands for something in a world that is open to everything. We have the audacity to think some ideas are good and some ideas are bad and we teach our students to tell the difference.

cannot say to faith; “I have no need of thee”. Head cannot be separated from heart, and you can't segregate belief from behavior or sever reason from religion and be a whole human being. We are integrationists because we are people of integrity.

At OKWU, we take seriously the words of Bonhoeffer: “Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. God will not hold us guiltless.” Now is the time for coming together in one voice, under one banner for one common cause. Now is the time to practice what we preach.

Thank for supporting Oklahoma Wesleyan. Thank you standing with us in unity and in truth. Thank you for championing our mission to impact culture with the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Everett Piper, Ph.D.
President
 Oklahoma Wesleyan University



DR. STEPHEN BABBY

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Each year, Dr. Piper is granted the liberty by the Board of Trustees to select one person who exemplifies the OKWU mission as the recipient of the annual President's Award. This year, said Dr. Piper, it was an easy choice, as no one deserves the recognition more than Dr. Stephen Babby.

Dr. Babby has served an incredible 41 years (and counting) as a dedicated member of the Oklahoma Wesleyan Board of Trustees which speaks for itself as to his loyalty and commitment. Little more need be said, but pages could be filled with what Dr. Babby has done for the Wesleyan Church and for Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He has led for decades and he continues to do so as a voice of wisdom, common sense and biblical faithfulness on the OKWU board.

Steve and his wife, Barbara, have been married for fifty years, and have two daughters, Robin and Laurel, who both have raised their own beautiful families. Ordained by The Wesleyan Church in 1970, Dr. Babby has also been a leader in the denomination for decades, first as an assistant pastor for Skyline Wesleyan Church in California and then, from 1976 until his 2015 retirement, as District Superintendent of the Pacific Southwest District of The Wesleyan Church. He has also been a member of the Wesleyan Church General Board, the Wesleyan Pension Fund, the board of ministerial standing, and many other roles.

"It's our honor to thank Steve for his loyalty, partnership, and belief in OKWU and its mission," said Dr. Piper. "I know of no one who is more determined to defend the Primacy of Jesus Christ, the Priority of Scripture, the Pursuit of Truth, and the Practice of Wisdom than he. Steve's life exemplifies this mission, and his legacy is a textbook example to our students."

Dr. Babby is passionate about the global church. He has given his entire professional life to building it and expanding it. He has been instrumental in the establishment of numerous multi-cultural ministries and new mission fields both in the United States and elsewhere. He has been part of the leadership team of this University for almost half a century! But perhaps most admirable is Steve's passion for his pastors and all others under his guidance and care. No one has ever taken better care of the "flock" under his charge better than Dr. Babby.

Marci and I, as well as hundreds of others, are grateful for his many years of service to OKWU. Dr. Babby's leadership on the Board of Trustees has been unmatched in bringing the University to where it is today!"

Dr. Babby will be honored at this year's Foster Bonanza on October 11th, 2018 in Bartlesville, OK. For more information about the event, visit OKWU.edu/bonanza

"It's our honor to thank Steve for his loyalty, partnership, and belief in OKWU and its mission. I know of no one who is more determined to defend the Primacy of Jesus Christ, the Priority of Scripture, the Pursuit of Truth, and the Practice of Wisdom than he." Dr. Piper.





RACHEL & ADAM NASH

YOUNG ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

The recipients of OKWU's 2018 Young Alumnus of the Year awards are Rachel and Adam Nash ('08). This award is given to alumni under the age of 40 who serve the Church, community, and Oklahoma Wesleyan University above and beyond the call.

Adam and Rachel more than exemplify these criteria. After graduating from OKWU in 2008, Adam spent a year with Global Partners in Cambodia teaching English and running soccer camps. After that year and then their wedding in 2010, the couple returned to OKWU where Adam joined the graduate assistant MBA program as an assistant coach with the OKWU women's soccer team. Once he completed the program in 2012, Adam joined a mission team to South Sudan in early 2013. That experience led Rachel and Adam to accept positions with Make Way Partners—an organization fighting human trafficking in Sudan and South Sudan. Adam provides financial and administrative expertise for Make Way as well as videography, while Rachel employs her creativity in leading the organization's child sponsorship program. In the midst of their active ministry, the couple also has started their own family: Eli (4) and Emry (2).

Both products of Wesleyan churches, Adam as the son of a Wesleyan pastor and Miltonvale alumni, and Rachel through her youth pastor, alumnus Isaiah Veale, the couple credit their time at OKWU as part of the foundation upon which they have built their rewarding and, at times, heartbreaking ministry. Representing one of the only remaining organizations to provide humanitarian aid [in Sudan and South Sudan], they have documented acts of genocide and government-controlled ethnic cleansing of the Nuban people to a world largely unaware of their suffering.

"I definitely appreciated the clarity of OKWU's mission," said Adam. "When one starts a family, comes face to face with the evils of this world, or deals with heartbreak and loss, [one's] faith in God is challenged...the foundation of OKWU and the relationships I made there have helped in those difficult times."

Rachel continued, "[the] Primacy of Christ reminds me that Christ is in complete control...Christ has already won the battle, leaving me free to live in his unconditional love, and in turn, unconditionally love others... The Practice of Wisdom reminds me of the essential meaning behind 1 Corinthians 13. If you dedicate and live your life by the P's, but have not loved, it is all meaningless. Wisdom is transforming Truth into acts of love."

"When one starts a family, comes face to face with the evils of this world, or deals with heartbreak and loss, [one's] faith in God is challenged...the foundation of OKWU and the relationships I made there have helped in those difficult times."

Adam and Rachel have truly embodied the mission of OKWU, and continue to take what they have learned to "restore a broken and hurting world."

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Adam: Unity does not ask us to change who we are, but to bring our diversity together for the greater good.

Rachel: Unity does not mean uniformity. It's not easy, many times it's messy, but it is always beautiful.

Interview by Blythe Freshwater (Class of 2020)



JAMIE & BARB PRESCOTT

OUTSTANDING SERVICE ALUMNI



KWU is pleased to award one of the 2018 Outstanding Service awards to OKWU “Power Couple” Jamie (’97) and Barb (Wahl, ’96) Prescott. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding service to the Church, community, and the University. Samantha Peterson, Vice President of Enrollment Services and friend of the Prescotts, said, “Their passion for doing life with young teens and helping them find their identity in Christ is truly remarkable.”

Both raised in Wesleyan churches, the Prescotts came to OKWU pursuing degrees in Pastoral Ministry (Jamie) History (Barb). The couple married while they were still students at then-Bartlesville Wesleyan College, and now have three children: Garrett (college sophomore), Layne (high school senior), and Keat (high school freshman). They began their career in youth ministry right after college, when Jamie became the youth pastor at Fairview Wesleyan Church in Cottdale, Alabama. After the birth of their eldest, the couple moved to Lawrence, KS, and Jamie took the role of youth pastor at Connect Church, where they have been for almost 20 years now. Barb also serves a number of roles at Connect, and became the Creative Director in 2015.

In addition to local church ministry, Jamie served as the Kansas District Youth President for over a decade, served on Wesleyan Youth Conference executive teams, and has also been site director for Never the Same Camp at OKWU. Both the Prescotts have a passion for supporting the Wesleyan Church, and Barb has been a member of the Kansas District Board of Administration for the Wesleyan Church and is on the District Board of Ministerial Development. While their service record is impressive, both say their greatest accomplishment is successfully “raising three teens who love the fact that their dad was also their youth pastor.”

By raising their children and ministering to others, the couple has learned they need to “love God with everything we have and love others unconditionally...In our own strength, we would exhaust ourselves doing this, but we’ve learned that our own relationship with God fuels our ability to love others.”

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“Unity in our marriage doesn’t mean we always agree about everything, but we agree to try to put the other’s needs and emotions first. When [we] trust that the other person will consistently take their direction from God and submit to Him, it’s much easier to give grace to [each other].”

These foundations of their ministry started with OKWU, and some of the couple’s best memories of being OKWU students revolved around the faculty. Both said their professors “taught us to view and question the world through the lens of scripture, and definitely had the greatest impact in teaching us how to be mature adults. Often it was how they lived and treated us, more than specific words they spoke or lessons they taught, that showed us what it meant to live out Scripture, and to show the love of Christ...We both had several professors who cared deeply about us ... and knew us well enough to ask how they could specifically pray for us.”

One specific memory illustrates this show of Christ’s love: During their junior year, Jamie’s father passed away. “It was obviously a very difficult time,” said Barb, “and Jamie couldn’t focus on academics. One day he went to class, knowing they were taking a test he had not even begun to study for. After several minutes, Jamie turned the test in completely blank, not caring that he would have to take a zero on a test. Later that day, the professor called him into his office, expressed his sympathy, told Jamie he wouldn’t let him sabotage himself, and set up a time to retake the test.”

Jamie and Barb have taken those same lessons of Christ-like caring to heart and spent their careers showing Christ’s love to youth, to their community, and to their family, representing their alma-mater with excellence.

Interview by Blythe Freshwater (Class of 2020)



JAMES & ALICIA WINN

OUTSTANDING SERVICE ALUMNI

It's no exaggeration to say that James and Alicia (England) Winn's time at Oklahoma Wesleyan was life-changing for this alumni "Power Couple."

Alicia hails from a long line of Wesleyans, with three generations of her family connected to OKWU, but coming from her small hometown to a University with a global focus opened her eyes to a bigger world perspective, giving her the confidence she needed to move halfway around the world. For James, the OKWU story was unique. He moved to Bartlesville right after high school to coach and play table tennis. Word to the wise: don't challenge him to a ping-pong duel unless you're very, very prepared. James' host family at the time offered him a home if he chose to go to college while in Oklahoma. To this day, James said, he's not quite sure how he became an OKWU student, but somehow, what began as a college tour ended with a meeting in Dr. Bob Bonner's office where he found himself signed up for classes. "It was basically divine intervention," shared Alicia, because James joined OKWU as a nonbeliever, but through friends at the University and Bartlesville First Wesleyan Church, he came to faith as a sophomore.

James graduated with an Elementary Education degree in 1998, married Alicia that summer, and began teaching in the Bartlesville Public School system. Alicia finished at OKWU a year later in 1999 with a degree in Cross-Cultural work and a Linguistics Minor, and the couple signed on to go overseas. In 2000, they packed their bags, and shortly were getting off a plane in Central Asia, where they have spent the last eighteen years working and raising their family of three girls Jerah (15), Janae (13), and Juliana (10).

While in Central Asia, the Winns worked for World Hope International (WHI), a Christian relief and development organization working with vulnerable and exploited communities to alleviate poverty, suffering, and injustice.

Just this June 2018, the Winn family packed their bags to return to the States again, where James serves to mobilize others to overseas service and Alicia serves in Leadership and Learning, helping train workers around the world.

When reminiscing on how OKWU shaped their lives and careers, both Alicia and James recalled the global-focus of the University. "Even though my topic was education, my professors instilled a passion for the world," shared James, "whether it was in a prayer breakfast with Dr. Mike [Fullingim], the classroom with Professor [Charissa] Dunn or Professor [Mary] Manness, or even way-too-early-in-the-morning biology with Professor Macintosh."

While the couple met in that biology class, it was a trip to the Russia Youth Camp just after the fall of the Soviet Union that brought their relationship full circle, and gave them both a taste for serving overseas. "While the trip wasn't necessarily OKWU-sponsored, many students and folks from the University went—the atmosphere on campus was very globally-minded, and it was really cool to be able to serve with our classmates," said Alicia.

All Four Pillars of the University are clearly seen in the lives of the Winn family, as they have spent their careers serving in places where many have never heard the name of Christ, leading by example in their Pursuit of Truth and Practice of Wisdom.

UNITY "Through our marriage, We've seen that unity requires open communication. You can't be afraid to speak and share openly if you're going for true unity. With cross-cultural living, unity requires learning and understanding and humility from me. We can't really be unified until we understand where others are coming from in a deep way. And that's uncomfortable because you have to step outside your own perspective and see things from another perspective."

LESSONS I LEARNED FROM

Rev. Kyle White ('98) is the Vice President of Student Development at Oklahoma Wesleyan University

THE SUMMER OF 1987 CHANGED ME.

I surrendered my life to Christ, accepted the call to ministry, and shared all this publicly with my home church. A week later, my pastor invited me to speak at a local congregation. I was overjoyed! That Saturday, I bragged to my probation officer that I had my first “speaking gig.” I told everyone “I did such an amazing job when I shared my testimony that I’m already getting calls” and my arrogance grew with each telling.

On Sunday, July 19, 1987, I had a friend drop me off at the church. I was late.

A song ended just as I finally wrestled the door open, and began the silent walk to the front of the church. (Months later, I realized the suspicious eyes and uncomfortable stares I experienced during that walk were a daily experience in Oklahoma for this African-American congregation).

I told them my story, the story of my abusive family, the story of my abandonment, the story of my arrests and the truth of my unworthiness. I finally finished with a hokey, “If God can love an unlovable person like me imagine how easy it is for him to love all of you.” I walked off the stage, and the congregation surrounded me and shook my hand with genuine gratitude. They saw through this terrified little white kid to see something worth salvaging.

They loved me and I could do nothing but love them back. They asked me to come back to speak the next Sunday, and I did—for four years. This congregation became my spiritual mentors and taught me about God’s unifying, healing love.

Three of those lessons are particularly important: unity starts with Christ’s love and grace, unity is strengthened by truth and doctrine, and unity is sustained by obedience.

Unity Starts with Christ’s Love and Grace

At the end of a problematic church leadership meeting, one of my deacons pulled me aside and said, “Regardless of how difficult families can be, know that we are in this together.” Interpreting my skeptical look—that of a kid without the context of family—he gave a deeper explanation. “You were born into a world that broke you, and that brokenness separated you. We saw your brokenness when you found us, but Christ’s healing united us. Sin and brokenness separate, but God’s forgiveness unites.” He put his hand on my shoulder and concluded, “God’s love is stronger than our disagreements.”

I can’t tell you how many times I have plagiarized those words throughout my ministry.

The next Sunday, I spoke on Romans 10:12-13: “*For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’*”

After reading the verse, I declared, “We are united under Christ’s love, and any other banner than that banner won’t sustain us. We are family, serving the same father.” The boldness of my claim of family paused my words. I looked down at my notes. A few heartbeats later, looking up, eyes wide with hope, “You are my family!” I let the words hang in silence. Then someone from the audience: “That’s right, Reverend, you’re my family.” Another one, “We love you reverend.” After a moment, I was able to croak out, “And I love you.”

Unity is Strengthened by Truth and Doctrine

One morning, sitting in my small church office, the phone rang. The caller said, “Hello? Kyle? This is DL,” our church’s new Denominational Leader. My mind raced through all the possible reasons for this call, few of them hopeful.

“Hello Dr. DL. How may I help you?” DL explained that he had a “treat” for our church—a Big Time Preacher (BTP) who wanted to come and fill the pulpit on Sunday at no charge to the church.

That Sunday morning, the BTP showed up in a suit that cost more than six months of our offerings and a personality that filled our sanctuary. He graciously took time with each of our members and showed kindness and grace towards me. His sermon delivery demonstrated the justification of his popularity. I still remember the big idea that he left us with, “Doctrine should never divide. Doctrine should always be sacrificed for unity.” He left the stage with many an “amen” and a feeling of having listened to a high-quality speaker.

When I sat down to Sunday lunch with a couple of my trusted leaders that day, they were unusually silent.

My Head Deacon spoke first, “Reverend, I know he is a big deal, but please, don’t let him in your pulpit again. It is your responsibility to protect the pulpit, and we can’t allow bad theology.” Another leader chimed in, “We have several new Christians who don’t know the basic Bible stories, and it is your responsibility to protect them from bad ideas.”

I asked, “What bad idea are you referring to? I’m not following.”

The Head Deacon said, “Doctrine and truth should never be put aside for the sake of unity. Philippians tells us that we are to strive together for faith and so if faith and truth are violated we must not set it aside to maintain unity. Instead, we must call out those

MY CONGREGATION.

violators.” Just as I took a breath to speak, he added, “True unity is strengthened by the truth and doctrine of the scripture and unity is broken by false doctrines and lies.”

“Kyle, all scripture and truth are meat, we have baby Christians who have a milk understanding. It is your job to break it down to help them understand.”

Over the years, his wisdom proved itself. I quickly discovered that teaching sound doctrine and focusing on the truth of scripture strengthened the unity of our congregation. I also learned that a poor understanding of scripture built disharmony.

Unity is Sustained by Obedience

As I entered my house one day, I noticed a piece of paper with my name: “Mrs. S. wants you to call her. She doesn’t care how late.” I called immediately.

“Reverend, tonight, I found out that my son R. is living with his girlfriend and is engaged in premarital sex with her. Will you please confront him and let him know that he can’t act that way and still be part of our mentoring program?”

I spent the rest of the evening exploring ways to allow R. to stay part of our mentoring program. Then I realized what I’d been doing: I had spent all night exploring ways to shirk the responsibility of confronting sin.

Mrs. S. arrived at my office and I asked how she was.



With a sigh, she shared “I am upset and embarrassed over my son’s actions, and I told him how I feel. I told him that I love him, and he will always be my son, but I do not accept his behavior. I also told him that I was going to let you know what he was doing. And that he’s not hiding.”

“How did he respond?”, I asked

Her eyes closed. “He told me that other people in our church are doing wrong things we don’t know about, so the only thing that makes his sin worse is the fact that his is public.”

“He’s got a point,” I murmured.

Mrs. S.’s eyes flew open, “Excuse me Reverend? Did you say he has a point?” She didn’t give me time to respond, “He has a point, sure, and his point is stupid! The fact that we know about his sin doesn’t make his sin worse but requires a response. Publicly accepting sin is publicly condoning sin. The lack of knowledge of someone else’s sin doesn’t excuse the sin in your own life. How stupid!”

She continued, “Reverend, I know you are feeling uncomfortable with the idea of confronting my son. However, confrontation and kindness are not opposites. Both are aspects of God’s love. My son needs both, and he needs it from his pastor.”

Mrs. S.’s forthrightness and honest desire to see her son brought back to the fold profoundly impacted my ministry. I learned from her that as a follower of Christ I cannot compromise on obedience. No matter how much I want to be accepted or liked, my responsibility belongs to the values of Christ. Our response to the offender is to confront them with the love of Christ and the Truth of Scripture with the desire of pointing them towards Salvation through repentance.

UNITY

begins with love and grace, is strengthened through truth and doctrine, and is sustained by obedience. These are the lessons I learned from the congregation who saw through the terrified kid that first Sunday and still loved me—despite all our differences.

THERE’S MORE TO THE STORY!
READ FULL ARTICLE AT OKWU.EDU/TOWER18/MYCONGREGATION



AGS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JULIE HATTABAUGH

Occupation: Full-time missionary, wife, and mother
Pursuing: Bachelor of Science Ministry & Leadership

As a missionary in a war-torn Middle eastern country, Julie, her husband, and their children have learned much about unity. With Syrian refugees pouring into a nation fractured by decades of civil war, the change in demographics and strains on infrastructure, resources, and economy, produce varying levels of prejudiced division. This division, she notes, is not limited to the just the macro stage. Even among the small evangelical community, there is often isolation.

As a result, the Hattabaughs have begun to organize conferences to bring all the local ministry leaders together to equip leaders to promote unity in their own areas:

“We organized and hosted a conference specifically designed to create unifying fellowship among evangelical leaders... Our idea was simple: gather pastors’ wives and women in leadership roles in evangelical churches from around [the country]. When we first did this, everyone we told us no one would come...In 2016, we had 40 ladies gather. Last month, we had 74 from 18 different churches! These ladies went back to their churches and [are organizing] events among themselves.”

SERGEANT COREY CHANEY

Occupation: Non-Commissioned Officer- Team Leader/
U.S. Army Infantry-Operational Detachment, Founder of
Regional Discipleship Scholarship Foundation
Pursuing: Associates in General Studies

As a team leader in the infantry, Sergeant Chaney is responsible to train, equip, and lead a unified team, but most important, he emphasizes, is the unity he is finding with God and his will:

“Before I discovered OKWU, I had a master plan to attend a different college after exiting the military. Just before my second tour to Afghanistan, I got real with God. I surrendered all of my selfish ambitions and told Him that I was open to whatever he had in mind for me...my eyes and heart were opened to the idea of starting my degree program with OKWU and eventually moving back home and continuing my education [with a Bachelor’s and Master’s] on-campus... Financially, spiritually, educationally, and logistically, it was the right move...God knows my circumstances, and what’s ahead of me.”

JAMAHL LAWRIE

Occupation: Environmental, Health, and Safety Program Manager for Textron Aviation in Independence, KS
Pursuing: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Leadership

As a husband, father, student, and safety program manager for Textron Aviation, Jamahl Lawrie understands the balancing act of life. With the Christ-focus and weekly class schedule, OKWU’s AGS program at OKWU fits perfectly for Lawrie, and exemplifies collaboration:

“I have been introduced to many great students and staff members. The coursework is often based on group collaboration, which places an emphasis on the ability to unify as a group to reach a common goal. The cohort shows the ability to look past differences and rally around the team’s needs. It is refreshing to see others put the needs of the team above their own.”

CORY CARTER

Occupation: Area Manager at Walmart Distribution Center 7015
Pursuing: Associates in General Studies

For Sgt. Cory Carter, the AGS program is the perfect solution for his family. After Carter had been a Marine for nine years, his wife Katie enrolled at OKWU as a traditional Pre-Med student, and he enrolled in the AGS program shortly thereafter.

The focus of both pursuing higher education has helped Carter and his wife be unified and flexible as they “balance the home responsibilities, the kids’ activities and school, fixing a home to live in, and work” on top of each of their own schooling.

The clear goals uniting the Carter family have helped them find the balance they need with the many aspects of their lives.

READ MORE OF THESE STORIES AT: OKWU.EDU/TOWER/__

Interviews by Blythe Freshwater
(Class of 2020)



SEPT

ANTecedents GENERATIONS DENOMINATIONS OKWU

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (2 Timothy 1:5 ESV)

The history of Oklahoma Wesleyan University spans a huge geographic and generational space. With such range, it can be easy to give in to the folly of chronological snobbery. This is why it is important that we view our spiritual heritage not just in relation to our own generation, but in relation to the rich tradition that spans the ages of generations gone before, that unifies us in God’s story.

OKWU’s history is clearly about family and our connected stories throughout the years. Each of these generations were unified in the same important idea of seeking an education grounded in the primacy of Jesus Christ, His Word, and His Truth, in order to better serve God, their churches, and communities.

Just take a peek at one example connecting this focus across time:

Betty Lou Harris, Miltonvale Wesleyan College (MWC) – Oklahoma Wesleyan antecedent school, alum of 1965, along with her husband Phil Harris (1967) share an OKWU history that begins with Betty Lou’s grandmother, Grace Woodhams, who graduated in 1919 – during the earliest years of MWC. In addition, her grandma’s brother, Dr. Oliver G. Wilson, graduated from MWC, then taught at MWC, and went on to become a denominational leader and head of The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing House.



Grandma Woodhams then sent her daughter Maxine (1939) to MWC where she met and married Floyd Freiheit (1939). Floyd and Maxine soon sent their daughters, Betty Lou and Kathleen (1964). Then Betty Lou and Phil’s daughter Kari Jo attended Oklahoma Wesleyan University and their son, Scott (1998) graduated from OKWU and completed his MBA as well.

The story continues just as our story within God’s family continues – a testament to the unity of generations within the OKWU family.

IMPACTING CULTURE {Quietly}

SAMANTHA PETERSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT AND ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES

THE QUIET AND PROFOUND SUPPORT OF ONE COUPLE DEDICATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION AT OKWU HAS BEEN CHANGING LIVES FOR DECADES. *Acts 20:35 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Impacting the world for the Kingdom of Christ: there are so many commands in Scripture where God instructs us how to use the resources given to us for His glory. I further believe that discovering what it means to be impactful as God has individually called us can be a lifelong journey. Meeting people who have made this discovery and consistently walk in the grace and generosity associated with their ability to impact is profound.

What I think is easy to miss are the real ‘soldiers for Christ’ that prayerfully and faithfully support God’s work at OKWU. They ask for no public thanks and are happy to remain anonymous. There is no better example of Christ’s love at OKWU than Don and Naomi Mueller. I’ll be honest—for me, the monetary support they give to OKWU is least in importance of ways they support the University. From prayer support and admiration of the staff and faculty, to personal notes in every correspondence sent, Don and Naomi encourage the OKWU team to continue to walk in God’s grace and continue impacting the world for the Kingdom of Christ. Their handwritten notes of encouragement tend to sit on my desk for weeks after I’ve received them.

I’m a 16-year product of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. I have seen countless miracles here; both in my own life and in those around me. God’s presence on this campus is alive and well. Don and Naomi understand what it means to be impactful. I am forever grateful for the example they set, and OKWU is a better place because of them!



“From the sharing of their time and talents through teaching and serving on the Board of Trustees, to their faithful giving, to helping us make vital connections, Don and Naomi have long been a profound blessing – not just to the University, but to me personally.” - Dr. Piper.



You can join the Muellers and many others supporting the mission of OKWU by impacting culture at OKWU.edu/GIVE

ESTD.  2017

PIONEERS

IN FREE ENTERPRISE
FELLOWS

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, AT THE H.V. FOSTER RANCH

At the annual Foster Bonanza gala, Oklahoma Wesleyan is excited to honor Pioneers that have significantly impacted our community and most importantly OKWU. The Pioneer in Free Enterprise Fellow is a designation 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. One of this year’s Fellows entering the Keating Center Pioneer Hall of Fame posthumously is H.V. Foster. Foster was key to the development of Bartlesville and his successes set the stage for the beautiful campus where OKWU proudly resides today.

Foster’s legacy has continued through his family and the generations to follow. And his family has continued to impact OKWU. We will be recognizing the Kanes, Prestons and Doornbos connections during our celebration.

Our second Pioneer Fellow for 2018 will be Dr. Mike Stice. Dr. Stice has a long list of accomplishments as a highly successful businessman having made a significant impact in the oil and gas field. He has now served as the President of the OKWU Foundation Board for X years. We look forward to celebrating Dr. Stice’s pioneer attributes of being a “bridge-builder, bringing others together and helping them flourish”, as his efforts in doing this brought about key gifts to OKWU and the building of the Keating Center.

In addition to honoring our faithful Pioneer Fellows, the evening will include dinner, music, and a brief live auction to provide support for the work of OKWU’s Keating Center and student scholarships.

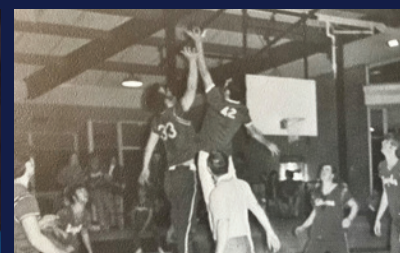
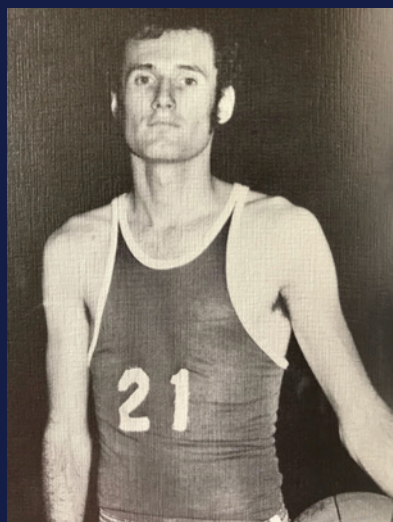


JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION AND INSPIRATION!
QUESTIONS? WANT TO RESERVE TICKETS? INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A TABLE?

Visit OKWU.edu/Bonanza

OKWU Eagles Sports Hall of Fame

ROGER SKELLY



1974 Oklahoma Wesleyan University graduate and current OKWU Board Member Roger Skelly's induction into the OKWU Eagles Sports Hall of Fame was an easy decision for the nominating committee. As a member of the first intercollegiate basketball team at OKWU (1971-72), a former assistant basketball coach (1974-80), and former head baseball coach (1981-83) for the university, Roger has gone above and beyond for Eagles Athletics from his time as a student to the present.

Raised in the Wesleyan Church on a farm in Northern Kansas, Skelly left home initially to work in the racecar business, tuning high-performance cars and drag racing around the Midwest. After attending a revival service during his travels, he recommitted his life to Christ, and then decided to attend Oklahoma Wesleyan (formerly BWC) in the fall of 1970 at the age of 21.

Skelly came to Oklahoma Wesleyan as an act of obedience to God, and discovered that OKWU solidified his beliefs and strengthened his values. "It was expected that you would go to chapel three times a week, so it was just a way of life for me... my professors were hard, but they were very good, and very concerned about the spiritual life of their [students]. College really grounds you in the things you strongly believe in."

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When reminiscing on his time as a student-athlete, Skelly recalls both the challenges and excitement of that first intercollegiate basketball team. Without a gym on campus at the time, the team held their six a.m. practices at the Boys Club. Their first game was played against College of the Ozarks, and while the Eagles lost, Roger still said "It was fun [because] we played for the love of it."

He married fellow student, Donna Brown in 1971, and in the time since, built the successful Skelly Homes business, spent 26 years as a high school referee, served as a well-loved auctioneer for many local charity events, and sat on a number of local boards and committees. The Skellys have two adult children, both OKWU graduates, and 14 grandchildren. Today, Roger continues to serve Oklahoma Wesleyan as a board member of 30 years and counting. He calls OKWU basketball

games for the radio, and he leads the charge on the re-launch of OKWU's athletic booster club, the Eagles Club.

When asked what advice he might give his college self today, Roger emphasized the importance of Christian education and being grounded in your biblical beliefs, saying "do it sooner! I spent four years [before college] where I could have been pursuing God wholeheartedly,"

"Roger's commitment to Christian higher education is second to none," said Coach Mark Molder ('00). "His love for OKWU and desire to see OKWU succeed is unmatched. Roger is an Eagle through and through!"

Interview by Blythe Freshwater (Class of 2020)

OKWU Eagles Sports Hall of Fame

ERNEST JONES III



Ernest Jones III was an OKWU basketball powerhouse in his two seasons for the Eagles. A leading scorer, Jones put up an astounding average of more than 650 points per season, was named a conference player of the year in 1996 and 1997, and NCCAA Division I 1st Team All-American in both 1996 and '97 as well as NAIA Division II 2nd Team All American in 1996. With these accolades just a few from a long list, Oklahoma Wesleyan is proud to welcome Jones to the 2018 Eagles Sports Hall of Fame.

“Ernest was an amazing player and a huge reason for the success of our teams during his time here,” said former teammate and current OKWU Head Women’s Basketball coach, Mark Molder.

“I came to try out in 1995, and fell in love with the campus,” said Jones. “I just loved the environment, and being able to play was awesome. Our Coach was really good, and that put me in a situation where I was able to work on my spiritual walk—which is what I most appreciated about OKWU...it helped me [learn} not only how to be a man and what that looks like, but it taught me how to be a man of God most importantly. I was fortunate to have spiritual mentors from OKWU that really helped me grow into the person I am today.”

Ernest shared that his best memories from OKWU centered on the people – his teammates who supported him during difficult times, and his friends, like current OKWU Professor Keri Bostwick. “I was blessed to have friends like Keri who were honest with me and at the same time helped me in my spiritual growth...That’s what made OKWU special—not only did I make lasting friendships, but a lasting foundation for my spiritual walk.”

In 1997, Jones was presented the opportunity to play professionally in Ireland, and spent a year and a half playing until the limitations from a shoulder injury forced his retirement. While some of this journey was disappointing, Jones reflected that it was there he found his passion for coaching, as the owner of the team allowed Jones to become a basketball coach at their local Catholic schools—“At that moment I realized that even if I stopped playing, I wanted to coach.” Jones retired from professional basketball and pursued a career in education and coaching—a career he has had for nearly 18 years.

“I came to try out in 1995, and fell in love with the campus. I just loved the environment, and being able to play was awesome. Our Coach was really good, and that put me in a situation where I was able to work on my spiritual walk—which is what I most appreciated about OKWU.”

“Ernest has been a friend and loyal supporter to OKWU for many years,” said Molder, “and it is great to see him receive such an honor.”

Interview by Blythe Freshwater (Class of 2020)

OKWU dedicated another new dorm in October. Adee Hall now stands as a testament to the generosity and faithfulness of the Adee family. Combined, the Adee women— Alice and daughter Marla —have served nearly than 30 years (and counting) as board members. The Adee sons are alumni, and the entire family is known for their long-time support of OKWU.



Pillars for Freedom – the communications outreach of the Keating Center for Capitalism, Free Enterprise, and Constitutional Liberty, launched in March 2018. Visit or subscribe at OKWU.edu/pillars



Digital Cinema program premiered their short film, “Desolate” in May 2018. The modern retelling of the Good Samaritan received rave reviews. To view other films from the program, visit okwu.edu/digitalcinema



Five OKWU School of Education graduates were nominated for local area public schools’ annual Teacher of the Year and Rising Star Teacher awards. The school district local to OKWU’s main campus now employs nearly 50 OKWU Education alumni.

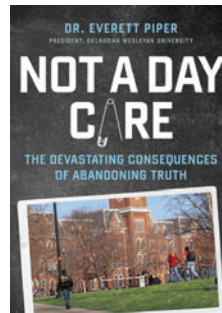


OKWU’s Adult & Graduate Studies team is breaking into a new market in the Kansas City region. The first step of this new venture is a relationship with Shawnee Mission Medical Center, where OKWU’s RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing is set to launch in the fall of 2018.



OKWU’s new Presidential Leadership Scholarship program completed their inaugural round of applications and interviews and is excited to welcome 11 new Scholars to campus in August 2018. This scholarship is valued up to \$40,000 and highlights the best of the best in incoming freshman who possess strong academic and leadership skills and have a passion for campus and community involvement. Learn more at OKWU.edu/PLS.

Dr. Piper’s latest book, “Not a Day Care: The Devastating Consequences of Abandoning Truth” launched in August of 2017 and quickly became an Amazon bestseller.



At this year’s annual Josh McDowell Institute Collision Conference, the OKWU student body, the local community, and attendees at the Edmond, OK conference day, asked the question: what is God’s original intent for our identity? Three unique guests spoke at the conference on issues of religious, racial, and sexual identity.

A key part of the Practice of Wisdom is to “promote healing and wholeness” in a broken world. In February, OKWU partnered with Faces with Names to do just that. Partnering with CEO Eric Mills (1992 Alum), **OKWU students gave the parents of 83 local kids a night out.** The children, most of whom are in foster care and range in age from 0-16, were dropped off in the Mueller Sports Center for an evening of fun with 35 college students.



Led by Men's Basketball Coach Donnie Bostwick, the OKWU chapter of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes (FCA) is having a profound impact on campus culture. What started in the fall semester as simple worship and teaching every Tuesday night quickly began to change lives—*the first semester culminated with the baptism of nearly 40 students!*



ATHLETICS

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Qualified for the NAIA National Tournament for the first time in program history

MEN'S SOCCER: Qualified for the NAIA National Tournament and lost out in the Semifinal round.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Qualified for the NAIA National Tournament and made it to the second round

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Top 25 Women's Basketball Coaches Association 2017-18 NAIA Academic Honor Roll

SOFTBALL: Qualified for the NAIA National Tournament

BASEBALL: Qualified for the NAIA National Tournament



TO SEE ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAGLES ATHLETICS, VISIT OKWUEAGLES.COM/HIGHLIGHTS1718



COME VISIT US!
GO TO OKWU.EDU/VISIT
TO SCHEDULE YOUR TRIP



CHAPEL 2018-19

DNA

This year, OKWU will be working through the book of 1 Corinthians, with a focus on unlocking the building blocks for life in biblical community. Learn more about our chapel curriculum or listen online at www.okwu.edu/chapel



SEPTEMBER 19 & 21, 2018 | RANSOM CHURCH

PHILL TAGUE

Established in 2009, Ransom is a church based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and its mission is to set captives free as they “Worship Free of Inhibition, Live Free of Sin, and Serve Free of Self.” Phill Tague, an OKWU alum, serves as the lead pastor of Ransom.



FEBRUARY 13, 2019 | VENTURE

PAUL HURCKMAN

Paul has spent time working in higher education, the church, and the non-profit sector. The common thread with each of these has been a passion for advocating on behalf of those affected by injustices happening in the world, as well as educating and mobilizing communities as to their responsibility and opportunity to change these situations.

2018-19 FEATURED EVENTS

October 9, 2018 | Fall Concert
October 11, 2018 | Foster Bonanza
October 11-12, 2018 | Board of Trustees
October 18-21, 2018 | Fall Break
October 26-27, 2018 | Homecoming & Family Weekend
November 21-25, 2018 | Thanksgiving Break
November 29, 2018 | Christmas Concert
December 8, 2018 | Winter Commencement
January 15, 2019 | Spring Semester Begins
January 25, 2019 | Josh McDowell Institute

March 12-13, 2019 | Dunn Institute
March 14-15, 2019 | Board of Trustees
March 16-24, 2019 | Spring Break
April 19-22, 2019 | Easter Break
April 25, 2019 | Spring Concert
May 9, 2018 | Spring AGS Commencement
May 10, 2018 | Baccalaureate
May 11, 2018 | Spring Traditional Commencement

Keep up to date with these events and more at www.okwu.edu/calendar



AS PART OF THE OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN FAMILY, WE ARE THRILLED TO INVITE YOU TO

JOURNEY BACK TO YOUR OKWU "HOME"

FOR THE 2018 HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND.

RSVP at www.okwu.edu/homecoming for more information and to connect with your reunion year!
\$ indicates ticketed events and can be purchased online. All others are free of charge.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 8:30am Registration Open- Chapel Lobby - Coffee and pastries prior to Chapel
10:10am Homecoming & Family Weekend Chapel Featuring Alumni Award and Sports Hall of Fame Recipients
11:30am Golf Scramble \$ - Adams Golf Course (lunch included)
5:30pm #Flashback Friday Dinner \$ - La Quinta Mansion
Join us for a relaxing dinner and flashbacks to an earlier time in the history of OKWU. #soaring seniors

Evening Events in the Mueller Sports Center

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

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 10:00am Baseball Alumni Game Time is currently tentative
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) Time is currently tentative
1:00pm Class Reunions (to be arranged - to help please contact the University Relations Office 918.335.6225)
1:00pm Women's Soccer Game (OKWU Soccer Complex) Time is currently tentative
3:00pm Men's Soccer Game (OKWU Soccer Complex) Time is currently tentative
5:00pm Class Reunion Dinners (to be arranged -for help contact the University Relations Office 918.335.6225)

Evening Events in the Mueller Sports Center

Head back to the Sports Center for the final games of our kick off weekend for Eagles Basketball. The evening will include fan participation and giveaways, special half-time entertainment and more!

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

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IMPACTING CULTURE WITH THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST



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