



OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

OKWU Milestone Timeline

Institutional and Campus Development

- 1905 Founded Rocky Mountain Missionary and Evangelistic School in **Colorado Springs, Colorado**
1910 – renamed Western Holiness College and Bible Training School
1925 – renamed Colorado Springs Bible Training School
1950 – renamed Colorado Springs Bible College
1959 – moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and renamed Central Pilgrim College
- 1909 Founded Miltonvale Wesleyan College in **Miltonvale, Kansas**
1972 – merged with Bartlesville Wesleyan College in Bartlesville, Oklahoma
- 1917 Founded Pasadena Bible Training School in **Pasadena, California**
1947 – merged with Holiness Evangelistic Institute
moved to El Monte campus and renamed Western Pilgrim College
1960 – merged with Central Pilgrim College in Bartlesville, Oklahoma
- 1930 La Quinta (Spanish for Country Home) designed by architect Edward Buehler Delk
- 1932 **Birth year of La Quinta** – Spanish Mission Style residence and Carriage House (garage)
Cost \$500,000 to build (2020 equivalent = \$8.8 million)
Architect–Edward Buehler Delk; Contractor/Builder–Joe P. Gier;
Assistant – Freeman Matthews; Helpers – Raymond Fritton and William Vandel
Located 3 miles from downtown, on the old Highway 75, consisted of 160 acres
Land boundaries: Caney River (north), Hillcrest Drive (west), Silver Lake Road (east)
Occupied by H. V. Foster, his wife Marie (Dahlgren) and two daughters – Ruth and Marie
Hosted many famous people in the guest wing on the north side of the rose garden
Largest mansion in the area at the time: 32 rooms, 7 fireplaces, 14 bathrooms, mahogany paneled library with hidden staircase, hand-painted ceilings, wrought iron balconies, roof of Spanish tiles, stucco covered walls, and a 4-story tower
Automatic player organ was built for La Quinta by Aeolian Company of New York
Landscaping included rose gardens, fountains, hand-painted Spanish tiles, and 25 varieties of trees and shrubs
Irrigation was provided by a pump in the Caney River ½ mile away
Summer of 1932 – 500 red and white flowers (petunias or peonies) bordered flower beds
- 1932 Founded Holiness Evangelistic Institute in **El Monte, California**
1947 – merged with Pasadena Bible Training School – renamed Western Pilgrim College
1960 – merged with Central Pilgrim College in Bartlesville, Oklahoma
- 1935 La Quinta earned a Certificate of Award as the best example in the residential class by the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
- 1937 Founded Pilgrim Bible School in **Spokane, Washington**
1941 – merged with Colorado Springs Bible Training School

- 1939 H. V. Foster passed away at age 63
 Family moved to the Foster Ranch south of Bartlesville
 (El Rancho de la Codorniz – Ranch of the Quail)
 La Quinta occupied by caretakers for 9 years
 Marie Dahlgren Foster married Clarence E. Burlingame in 1942 and lived with him in an English Tudor mansion on 48 acres adjacent to and south of the La Quinta property. After Clarence's death, Marie moved back to El Rancho de la Codorniz in 1961 and lived there until she passed away at age 99 in 1983.
- 1941 Established **American Boy Academy** in La Quinta for grades 5-9 – closed in 1948
 The academy's mission changed after the Pearl Harbor bombing and it became the American Military Academy
 Leased for \$1 per year – 173 acres, 2 lakes, and 3 buildings:
 (1) La Quinta
 (2) Carriage House (garage)
 (3) Paul Dahlgren House (Mrs. Marie Foster's brother)
 a.k.a. the South Barracks or Pink Palace
- 1948 La Quinta was vacant for two years except for caretakers
 During this time, some vandalism and deterioration of the building occurred
- 1950 **Central Christian College** (Church of Christ) opened on campus (1958 – moved to Oklahoma City)
 Some furnishings in La Quinta were loaned and others given to Central Christian College: paintings, carpets, draperies, and furniture
 Buildings constructed in 1950:
 (1) Girls' Dorm (now Suzanna Wesley Hall)
 (2) Bookstore (small brick building – enlarged in 1962 & named the Music Hall)
 (3) L-shaped frame building north & east of La Quinta, used for Chapel & classes
 (4) Men's dorm (a.k.a. the Barracks) – south of Science Building & east of Drake Library
- 1958 Sold La Quinta and 152 acres to local real estate developer, L. E. Scott
 Mrs. Marie Foster Burlingame retrieved family furnishings from La Quinta
 The land was sub-divided:
 (1) 20 acres containing La Quinta, Carriage House, and the four buildings added by Central Christian College
 (2) Established Hillcrest Heights neighborhood on the north side
 (3) Established Country Club Terrace neighborhood on the southwest side
- 1958 **Purchase of 20 acres** for \$140,000 by Colorado Springs Bible College consisting of:
 (1) La Quinta
 (2) Carriage House
 (3) Girls' Dorm (now Suzanna Wesley Hall)
 (4) Bookstore building – located on southwest side of Wesleyan Lake
 • enlarged in 1962 & named the Music Hall – razed in 2000
 (5) L-shaped frame building – in the approximate location of Chapman Hall
 • used as Chapel and classrooms until 1974 when it was used as a men's dorm (a.k.a. Warrior Lodge) until the December 1974 completion of Dorm 74 (Orange Scott Hall)
 • used again as the Chapel and classrooms until razed in the late 1970s/early 1980s
 (6) Men's dorm (a.k.a. the Barracks) (located in what is now the parking lot east of Drake Library and south of Science Building) – razed in the early-to-mid 1970s

- 1959 **Clarence E. Wert, President** – served CSBC 1957-1959 (Colorado) and CPC 1959-60 (Bartlesville)
- 1959 Renamed as **Central Pilgrim College** (formerly Colorado Springs Bible College)
A junior college with a four-year ministerial degree program
- 1960 **Western Pilgrim College merged** with Central Pilgrim College in Bartlesville
- 1960 **Dr. Norman N. Bonner, President** – served CPC/BWC from 1960-1962 and 1964-1969
- 1962 **Dr. R. G. Flexon, President** – served CPC from 1962-1964
- 1962 Constructed President's Home (east side of campus, along Silver Lake Road) – used as the Business Office from the early 1970s until razed in 1998 to construct the Chapel/Fine Arts Center
- 1962 Doubled the footprint of the bookstore building – renamed as the **Music Hall** (razed in 2000)
- 1963 Received accreditation for the Junior College Division of Central Pilgrim College
- 1965 Constructed **Wert Hall**
- 1968 Merger between Pilgrim Holiness and Wesleyan Methodist denominations
- 1968 Renamed Central Pilgrim College as **Bartlesville Wesleyan College**
A two-year college with a four-year religion degree program
- 1969 **Dr. Leo Cox, President** – served CPC/BWC from 1969-1974
Acting BWC President – September-November 1983
- 1971 Purchased seven acres to form the **Athletic Field**
- 1971 First intercollegiate athletic team was basketball
- 1971 Warrior mascot for intercollegiate athletics
- 1972 **Merger** of Bartlesville Wesleyan College and Miltonvale Wesleyan College
- 1972 **Accredited as a four-year, degree-granting institution**
- 1972 Painted La Quinta – bone with olive black trim
- 1972 Formation of Wesleyan Lake
- 1972 Purchased 2301 Silver Lake Road – a.k.a.:
1972 – Greek House (men's dorm until 1975, then women's dorm & head resident home)
1996 – Adult Education Division
2001 – Professional Studies Division
2003 – Adult & Graduate Studies (AGS)
2021 – Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS)
- 1972 Constructed maintenance storage facility at Athletic Field
- 1973 Completed the first Prayer Chapel in the former ping pong room of La Quinta's basement
- 1973 Constructed the W. P. (Bill) and Alice (Merle) **Haltom Campus Center**
- 1974 Constructed **Science Building**
Renovated in 2013 and dedicated as the Robert and Joyce Campbell Science Building
- 1974 **Inaugurated Dr. John Snook as President** – served BWC from 1974-1983
- 1974 Constructed Dorm 74 – renamed Orange **Scott Hall** in 1997
- 1974 Began **Elementary Teacher Education program**
- 1975 Graduated first class of elementary teacher education majors
the first 4-year degree other than religion
- 1975 Addition of three modular housing units for women (a.k.a. the Mods) on the west side of Greek House – Modular units were removed in 1995
- 1976 Donation by Dorothy Glynn Adams of a 6-acre strip of land with a barn – south side of campus
Barn was razed – land used to build Performance Center and Buildings & Grounds Center
- 1977 5-acre nature study area donated to BWC (west side of Athletic Field)
- 1977 Held Commencement in the rose garden for the last time – future commencements held at:
First Wesleyan Church (1978-1979)
Performance Center (1980-1998)
Chapel/Fine Arts Center (1999-)

- 1978 **Granted full accreditation** by North Central Association of Colleges
A four-year, Christian, liberal arts college
- 1979 Dedicated the Performance Center; renamed **Mueller Sports Center** in 2004
- 1980 Changed athletic mascot to the Eagle
- 1981 Purchased 1669 Silver Lake Road and 100 acres
- 1982 **La Quinta** at age 50 is designated as a **Registered National Historic Site**
- 1983 Dr. Leo Cox served as Acting President – September-November 1983
- 1984 Inaugurated **Dr. Paul Mills as President** – served BWC/OKWU from 1984-January 2002
- 1984 Bestowed the **First Honorary Doctorate** to Rev. Armor Dale Peisker: “a man of service”
- 1986 Created the Eagle’s Nest (named in honor of MWC’s snack shop) in the Performance Center
- 1987 Dedicated the Women’s Cottage
1996 – donated by Dr. Tom and Joan Phillippe and renamed **Phillippe Residence Hall**
- 1987 Purchased President’s Home – 2122 SE Mercury Court – Sold in 2017
- 1988 Established the **La Quinta Preservation Foundation** to restore, maintain, and preserve La Quinta mansion for future generations
Received grants from: Adams Foundation, The Kerry Foundation, The Lyon Foundation, Phillips Petroleum Foundation, and Silas Foundation
Oversaw renovations of \$225,000 through 2003:
Stained, painted, and covered with plexiglass: stained glass window above main stairway
Repaired and restored: fountains (south garden and rose garden); marble wishing well; ceiling in dining room/president’s office
Restored: sandstone walkway; brass shutter dogs; stucco; wrought iron
Created and installed: hand painted tilework on garden benches and tower
Replaced exterior doors with solid oak doors: 40 out of 77 doors on east side & living room
Installed: shutters; wrought iron rails to assist visitors
Planted and maintained gardens, often by master gardeners
- 1989 Official Seal for BWC was created by a student
- 1989 Began the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarship (CASS) program
First group of 16 students (from Central America) came to take classes
- 1989 Began **adult degree-completion program** in Bartlesville – Names for the adult program:
1989 – Management of Human Resources (MHR)
1996 – Adult Education Division
2001 – Professional Studies Division
2003 – Adult & Graduate Studies (AGS)
2021 – Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS)
- 1991 Established a sister institution in Japan – Ogaki Women’s College
19 exchange students came to BWC for a 3-week ESL week program
- 1991 Began adult degree-completion program (Management of Human Resources) in Tulsa
- 1992 Graduated first class of Communications majors (Bachelor of Science)
- 1993 Established the Nursing Center in the renovated Carriage House
- 1994 Offered nursing courses for the first time
- 1994 Began “Operation Facelift” fundraiser for the Girls’ Dorm (Women’s Dorm/Wesley Hall)
a project of Western Area of Wesleyan Women International
- 1995 Established the **Division of Nursing** and graduated the first class of nurses (associate degree)
- 1995 Remodeled the Greek House & dedicated it as the **Adult Education Center**
- 1995 Began adult degree-completion program (Management of Human Resources) in McAlester
- 1996 Refurbished the Dining Hall/Dining Commons
- 1995 Dedicated the **Buildings and Grounds Center**

- 1997 Repaired and restored the Wesleyan Lake
- 1998 Dedicated the Allen **Chapman Hall**
- 1998 Repaired two cast iron bells in the rose garden and the missing bell was cast and installed
- 1998 Held groundbreaking for the Chapel/Fine Arts Center
- 1998 Began nursing adult degree-completion programs – Tulsa, Afton, Sallisaw, Oklahoma City area
- 1999 Began nursing adult degree-completion program in McAlester
- 1999 Painted the exterior of La Quinta in historical colors (\$100,000+)
- 1999 Reinstated the Music Major
- 1999 Began **December Commencements**
- 2000 **Nursing – RN/BSN Completion Program granted initial accreditation**
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- 2000 Began nursing adult degree-completion program in Bartlesville, Miami, Muskogee
- 2000 Began business adult degree-completion program in Afton
- 2000 Dedicated the Lyon **Chapel/Fine Arts Center**
- 2001 Dedicated the C. B. and Mabel **Colaw Hall**
- 2001 Dedicated and renamed Women’s Dorm as Suzanna **Wesley Hall**
- 2001 Renovated the W. P. (Bill) and Alice (Merle) Haltom Campus Center
- 2001 Changed institutional name to **Oklahoma Wesleyan University**
- 2002 Offered the first **Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree**
- 2002 Began business adult degree-completion program in Enid
- 2002 **Dr. Charles Joiner, Interim President** – served OKWU from 2002-2003
- 2003 **Dr. Everett Piper, President** – served OKWU from 2003-2019
- 2003 Opened new teaching site for the Adult & Graduate Studies program – 4500 South Garnett, Tulsa
- 2004 **Teacher Education program granted initial accreditation**
National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- 2004 **Business program granted initial accreditation**
International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE)
- 2004 Renovated the President’s Conference Room – now **Doc Lacy’s Coffee House**
- 2004 Began the Prelude to Christmas celebration which was presented through 2013
- 2004 **Nursing Bachelor of Science (BSN) approved** by Oklahoma State Board of Nursing and the
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- 2004 Began nursing adult degree-completion program in Hugo
- 2005 **Launched the first graduate program** – Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- 2005 Received a \$1 million grant from the Lyon Foundation to restore La Quinta’s interior spaces
- 2006 Participated in *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* television program filmed in Dewey
- 2006 Launched the Church Administration and Leadership program – Adult & Graduate Studies
- 2007 Began nursing adult degree-completion program in Kansas, OK and Coffeyville, KS
- 2008 Began nursing adult degree-completion program in Topeka, KS
- 2008 Launched the first online programs – business and nursing
- 2008 Purchases of Honors Houses continue on the east side of Silver Lake Road
- 2009 Dedicated the Lisa and Mark Roberts **Fitness Annex**
- 2009 Launched **Master of Education (M.Ed.)** program
- 2009 Adult & Graduate Studies moved to 10810 East 45th Street in Tulsa (Highways 169 & 51)
- 2009 Dedicated the Ernie & Caroline **Lewis Alumni Park**
featuring iron gates and lights from the north (original) entrance to campus
- 2009 Dedicated the Janice and Charles **Drake Library**
- 2009 Installed **The Blind Man Rising from the Pool of Siloam sculpture** created by Scott Stearman
- 2010 **OKWU Professors ranked #1 in USA** by CBS Money Watch (also in 2011, 2012)

- 2011 Established the **John Dunn Pastoral Leadership Institute**
- 2011 Began the CROSS Training certificate program (an online program for those seeking ordination)
- 2012 Implemented the Criminal Justice degree
- 2013 Dedicated the Governor Frank & Cathy **Keating Center**
- 2013 Began the **Foster Bonanza fundraising event** at Foster Ranch (Rancho de la Codorniz)
- 2013 Completed the Janice & Charles **Drake Hall**
- 2014 Established the **Nursing Master of Science (MSN)** program
- 2016 Installed the ***Taking Flight* eagle sculpture** created by Scott Stearman
- 2016 Dedicated the Everett & Marcie **Piper Hall**
- 2016 OKWU faculty named *Best Faculty in the Nation* by Bestcolleges.com
- 2018 Dedicated the Richard & Alice **Adee Hall**
- 2019 **Inaugurated Dr. Jim Dunn as President** – served OKWU from 2019-
- 2019 Purchased President's Home – 2316 Burlingame Ridge
- 2019 OKWU ranked *#1 college in Oklahoma over the last 10 years for graduates finding jobs*
- 2019 School of Business ranked *2nd best in Oklahoma*
- 2019 Health & Wellness major ranked *3rd best in Oklahoma*
- 2020 Launched OKWU Prep dual enrollment initiative for high school students
- 2020 Adult and Graduate Studies programs transitioned to all online courses
Tulsa AGS offices closed and moved to AGS building in Bartlesville
- 2021 Acquired Buell home and property at 2200 Price Road
- 2021 **First doctoral program approved** – Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- 2022 **Second doctoral program approved** – Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA)
- 2022 Launched OKWU Pro certifications, badges, and training programs through MindEdge Learning