



OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR
RELIGION/SOCIETY STUDIES (ACRSS)

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Changing The World Through Social Research

Executive Summary: Year in Review

Dear OGS Stakeholders,

What a year! 2020 has been hard on all of us, but I am pleased to report, despite all its challenges, this year has been one of the best years in the history of Omega Graduate School! In my first full year as President and CEO, we've seen an effective executive team come together, enrollment and revenues increase, debt decrease, and our processes, programs, and delivery systems improve. I am honored to share our progress with stakeholders like you and invite you to continue to partner with us as we lead OGS into a bright future.

I am indebted to the founders, past presidents, chancellors, faculty, donors, alumni, and board members who have made my service as president possible. Without the vision of Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Green, presidents Tucker, Price, Humphrey, and Geiger, the relentless spirit of board chairs like Dr. Liebig and Dr. Loren Humphrey, the passion of chancellors Wagner, Van Broekhoven, and Anderson, so many others, and the everyday sacrifices by dedicated staff and volunteers, we simply would not be able to continue the world-changing work of Omega Graduate School. I recognize the fact that I am building on a strong foundation of decades of work for which I am deeply grateful. To everyone who has been a part of building OGS to this point: thank you! And of course, we thank God for His faithfulness over the past 40 years.

The future is brighter than ever before! Although we have a long way to go to continue to stabilize OGS and prepare it for future growth, the progress our team has made in one year is almost too incredible to believe. Please join me in celebrating our achievements as you read this year's annual report and consider sharing in our success by continuing to invest in our future. Although we're making progress, we still need your support to achieve our mission.

Sincerely,

Joshua D. Reichard, PhD, DPhil, EdS, CCS
President & CEO, Certified Clinical Sociologist



Dr. Joshua Reichard
President & CEO

"If I have seen farther than others, it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants."

— *Sir Isaac Newton*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Executive Summary	p. 1
Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Board of Regents	p. 3
Presidential Prayer Summit (photo collage)	p. 4
Student Success and Registrar Report	p. 5
Spring 2020 Cores (pre-pandemic photo collage)	p. 6
2020 Student Testimonies	pp. 7-8
Institutional Effectiveness Highlights	p. 9
Alumni Spotlight	p. 9
Academic Report	pp. 10-12
Introducing the Academic Team and New Faculty	p. 13
Remembering Honoring Joanne Phillips and Honoring Dr. Bill Boyd	p. 13
Library Report	p. 14
Admissions Report	p. 14
Future of Society of Scholars	p. 15
Journal of Sociology and Christianity	p. 15
Financial Report	pp. 16-17
New Website	p. 18
New Program: Gracism Studies Graduate Certificate	p. 18
Message from the Chancellor	p. 19
Message from the Chairman of the Board of Regents	p. 19
Opportunities to Give to Omega Graduate School / ACRSS	p. 20

OUR MISSION AND CORE VALUES

MISSION AND VISION OF OGS

Omega Graduate School exists to equip scholar-practitioners from a Christian perspective with research skills to integrate religion and society for positive social change.

“Changing The World Through Social Research”

Omega Graduate School will become the world’s preeminent graduate research institution for advancing Christian social change.

CORE VALUES OF OGS

Who	We value professional scholar-practitioners who change the world
Where	We value safe places to think within a diverse global community of adult learners
How	We value tutorial methods for individualized, self-directed, lifelong learning
What	We value faith-integrated interdisciplinary social science research
Why	We value research-based problem solving for Christian social change

2020 OGS BOARD OF REGENTS

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Chancellor, Dr. David Anderson

Chairman, Dr. Gary Nicholds

Dr. Steve Maltempa, Dr. Joe Charles,
Dr. Shane Merritt, Dr. Bob Page, Dr. Joe
Olachea, Dr. Alfred Cockfield, Peggie
Baumman-White, Patsy Huffaker

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Troy Fitzpatrick

Dr. Cleveland Huntley

Dr. Sharlene Buszka



SUNRISE ON A NEW DAY AT OGS

PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER AND HEALING SUMMIT, NOVEMBER, 2019



STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

Dr. Curtis McClane Chief Student Success Officer (CSSO)

Since our president asked me to take on the new role of CSSO, I have grown into this role and loved every minute of supporting our students for academic success! Both new students and current students have availed themselves of touching base with me for various reasons.

The CSSO role has dovetailed nicely with my Chaplaincy role. I am able to hear the hearts of our students and what they are struggling with. My role entails listening carefully, caring deeply, offering encouragement, and praying fervently for each student. On a regular basis students are contacted to make sure they are on track with their assignments and moving forward. This role has also come alongside and supported the work of both the DPhil/PhD tutor and the MLitt tutor. Additionally, Dr. Chuck Knowles has functioned as Peer Mentor working with all of the new students this summer and fall.

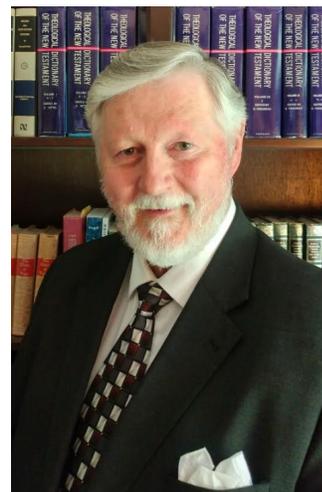
The practical outcome of this new role is seen in higher retention, students feeling supported, and a person that stu-

dents can contact for any reason if they have questions. I wrote and personally signed welcome cards to all of our new students. They are telling us that taking the extra step towards the “personal touch” has made a real difference.

A huge part of this role has been to help each student navigate the challenges of COVID-19 without having to drop out. Financial and deadline considerations have been granted that enabled the student to go forward. And, those few students that did drop out, my special calling has been to keep up with each of those students so that they still feel like part of the OGS family which will make it doubly easier for them to re-engage when the time is right again.

Finally, out of my new experience as a CSSO, I wrote and had published two articles relative to this role in the *Christian Academia Magazine*. The first has to do with retention of students, and the second has to do with staying in touch with the students who have withdrawn.

I am thankful that president Reichard asked me to take on this new role. I feel the passion and calling to encourage and support our students. I cannot wait to see what exciting opportunities that God presents for 2021!



90%
**Student
Retention
Rate**

Richard Gamble, Registrar Report

This year, we made many important updates to DIAL, our learning management system, which have improved the processes of Core registration, student user experience, maintenance of student records, and communication:

- Students are able to register for Cores online in DIAL instead of having to complete and send in a registration form.
- Through the *General Helps* section on their DIAL homepage, students have access to an expanded number of academic resources and tutorials that will aid them throughout their program.
- DIAL is capable of tracking student Satisfactory Academic Progress (based on core attendance, GPA, timely submission of assignments, etc.), which will help us promote student success.
- DIAL can generate a directory of active student contact information which, along with the addition of discussion boards, has been used to promote and streamline student communication.





SPRING 2020 CORES
BEFORE THE PANDEMIC



2020 STUDENT TESTIMONIES

Erik Christensen

It is neat to be able to connect with a community of grace and Christ-centered people. It is very clear from the methodology that is used that you all live that that sense of community, and I want to thank you for that. It means a lot to me. It is encouraging as a pastor...because sometimes it feels very lonely. So, it is neat to have people to come alongside and genuinely do that in a way that you can tell it is authentic. And I am really grateful for that. So, thank you. It has been a good week!

Erik Christensen (Ph.D. Student) — from New Jersey



Ken Mollo

From the day I made my first inquiry into OGS it has been a really good experience. There has always been someone there to help me at every level. Dr. McClane responded and kept asking how I was doing. It is an excellent team, very supportive, and very committed. Thank you very much. When the timetable came out and the schedule showed when the classes were to begin a cocktail of feelings, a cocktail of emotions came out for me—fear and excitement at the same time because I am not really much of a tech guy. So, entering a Ph.D. program was a little scary. But every day has gotten better, even though [I have had to attend classes in the middle of the night] the classes have been engaging and captivating, thus allowing me to enjoy the process. It is so wonderful that the courses were content-based, while at the same time addressing personal needs. I experienced in the breakout room quite important discussions there.

Ken Mollo (Ph.D. Student) — from South Korea



Kimberly Witowski

It has been an awesome week, re-entering the program. I agree with Ken that it has been a cocktail of emotions: excitement and utter fear. I did my first two cores ten years ago. I loved it then. It changed every area of my life. Every aspect of research, and the way I approached things have been stamped with OGS. It is so refreshing to be with like-minded people. I find oftentimes in churches, because I still love to study, I do not fit in. When I am with a group that shares my love of study, it means a lot to me. We have talked about study being worship, and the ancient rabbis considered study to be the highest form of worship. I appreciate the fact that I can be with everyone, and I appreciate the fact that I can re-enter the program again. You all have been so accommodating, and the staff has just been wonderful, wonderful! I am just looking forward to the journey and see where I end up!

Kimberly Witowski (Ph.D. Student) — from Colorado





Kim Schmelzer

The first day it felt like drinking from a firehose--there was so much information and learning! But, it has been a wonderful learning experience. As a Masters student, I really did enjoy getting to join the doctoral students and get a peek into that program. I enjoyed my three classes, and each of the professors was so excellent with their communication and very helpful with the nitty gritty of the assignments and the information they shared. Then I just really appreciated the personal care. I also appreciated the direction of education that it is not just general, but toward that call that God has in each of our lives to really make sure that we deepen that call and make an effect in our world for the kingdom. I am excited to set up my schedule Monday. It has been a little crazy because of the fires here (Oregon), and that made it a little challenging. All of you on the staff are just amazing. So, thank you!

Kim Schmelzer (OL M.Litt. Student) — from Oregon



Doreen Oforu

Thank you for allowing me to enter the program. Thankfully I am back in, and God has a plan for all this. The vision is clear. From the lectures throughout the week and in my spirit I have experienced learning as a form of worship. The program speaks to one's calling and it is more than pragmatic. An aha moment occurred for me in class with Dr. Ward when Cindy shared an article from a professor in Africa who spoke and addressed the issue of power. And once you get it, it is all about a calling, and it is not about getting a degree and a title to one's name. And I really appreciate your support as I get back into academic writing.

Doreen Oforu (Ph.D. Student) — from Ghana

“It is all about a calling, and it is not about getting a degree...”

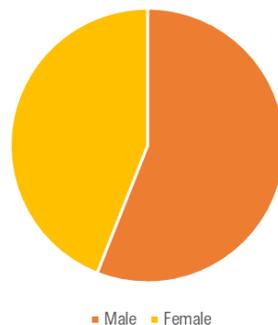
2020 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

International Diversity

Antigua and Barbuda	3%
Barbados	4%
Ethiopia	3%
Fiji	1%
Ghana	1%
Jamaica	1%
Kenya	1%
Nigeria	1%
South Korea	1%
Trinidad and Tobago	4%
United States	79%

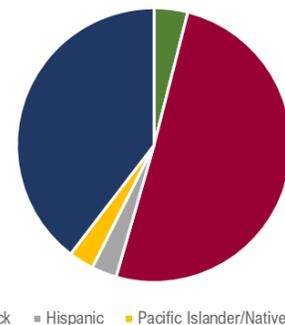
Sex/Gender Diversity

2020 Student Diversity by Sex

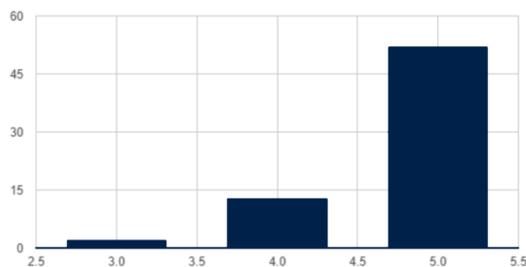


Racial Diversity

2020 Student Diversity by Race



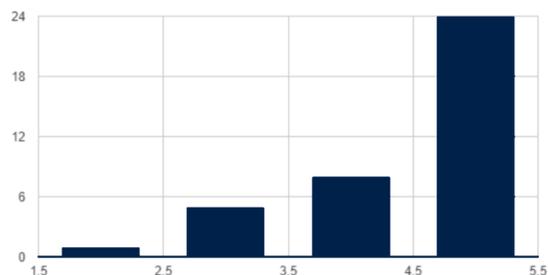
2020 INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS HIGHLIGHTS



4.75 / 5.00

I understand the “tutorial method” implemented by OGS.

We saw a dramatic improvement in our students’ understanding our own professed learning methodology by focusing on restating our mission, vision, and core values at every opportunity and intentionally integrating them with every core orientation, posting them in classrooms, and consistently communicating them to stakeholders.



4.45 / 5.00

The Candidacy process was adequately explained.

We invested considerable resources in the Graduate Research Council this year. Thanks to Dr. Rebecca Tucker’s expertise and experience and Dr. Cathie Hughes sound leadership, students expressed positive experiences with the GRC process, proposal development, and attainment of candidacy in the PhD program.

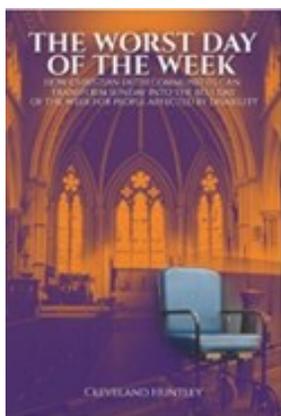
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Changing The World Through Social Research



Dr. Cleveland Huntley
Licensed Minister,
Lay Counselor, Author

Dr. Huntley published a new book, *The Worst Day of the Week: How Christian Faith Communities Can Transform Sunday into the Best Day of the Week for People Affected by Disability*” This faith-based book “identifies the realities that Christians must confront when interacting with people with disabilities” (Back Cover). In this writing, Dr. Huntley “offers practical suggestions for including and empowering [sic] those affected by disabilities in the life and mission of the church” (Bishop Claude Alexander). In 2020, Dr. Huntley was elected to the Joni and Friends North Carolina Ministry Development Board and was appointed to a three-year term for the Omega Graduate School Board of Regents.



Dr. Joan Pinkney
Lecturer, Counselling Psychologist,
Radio Host

Dr. Pinkney was the keynote speaker at the Presidential Installation of Dr. Kerr and November presentation of the 2020 graduating class for the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology, where she received her master’s in counselling psychology degree. During this event, the institution bestowed upon Joan an honorary Doctor of Science Degree in Psychology. Congratulations Dr. Pinkney!

ACADEMIC REPORT

Dr. Cathie Hughes, Chief Academic Officer (CAO)

The Office of Academics embraced the various occasions and challenges of the unexpected during 2020 to ensure that we served our students effectively, remaining faithful in our stewardship as an educational institution. Our academic team designed strategies with fidelity to the OGS Mission and Vision and implemented solutions to incorporate our core values. In March 2020, our school faced a challenge when ‘suddenly’ on the evening of Core 2/4/B during student-faculty residency gathering, the announcement of the pandemic and U.S. college campuses closing led to the decision to close our campus immediately.

With the next core starting in 72 hours, calls were made to incoming Core 3/C students to stay home as we were immediately moving to online classes. This call had one student mid-way across the country turn his vehicle around and head home, and a student from the South Pacific Islands preparing to board a plane in Fiji, canceling her flight. The news had our small academic team pooling our God-given skills, talents, and gifts to reengineer the classes to facilitate online learning and still offer the experience of our school’s unique DNA for students and faculty alike.

Post-residency spring core 2020 established the framework for the many enhancements, successes, and opportunities for improvement experienced throughout summer and the Fall of 2020 — and preparing for 2021!



TWO MAJOR ACADEMIC MILESTONES IN 2020 WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

TRACS Accreditation Recognized as Equal With Regional Accreditors

This year, the US Department of Education announced the elimination of any distinction between “regional vs national” accreditation, electing instead to use only “institutional” and “programmatic” designations. TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools) is designated “institutional” by USDE making OGS’s accreditation effectively equal. USDE has always maintained it requires the same rigorous approval process for all authorized accreditors. **This development signals significant broadening of recognition of OGS’s accreditation for all students and alumni.**

THEC Approval for DPhil/PhD Nomenclature Interchangeability

For its forty year history, OGS has traditionally used the British degree nomenclature of “DPhil” for its Doctor of Philosophy degree. However, graduates in the USA have expressed concern about the broader recognition of the DPhil versus a more recognizable PhD. Approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to use the PhD nomenclature has evaded OGS in recent years. **This year, Dr. Reichard and the Academic Team made an appeal to THEC and approval was granted for all OGS alumni to use DPhil or PhD interchangeably at their discretion.**

100+

Zoom Sessions Held

18

Courses Revised

16

Topic Talk Thursdays
24+ Participants on Zoom

4

DPhil/PhD Graduates

Academic Report, Continued...

Student engagement highlights. Highlights span the creation of discussion forums for every course with interaction between students and faculty in answering 20-day online assignment questions, to a Scholar's Porch for student and professor interactions related to assignments and academic matters, and most recently, The Lion and Eagle Refectory, a discussion forum for student-led peer-support, encouragement, and prayer requests. For all students and the wider community, we created Topic Talk Thursdays. These sessions are held most Thursdays from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and include either a forum paper presentation or all-core student "meetup", or moderated sessions that introduce a topic pertinent to the sociological integration of religion and society (on 11/5 the topic was "C.S. Lewis on Forgiveness and Social Ills" and on 11/12, "Spiritual Growth through Online Education"). These well-attended sessions keep our OGS

community active and engaged, including students, faculty, alumni, and friends of OGS.

Ten-year Curriculum Review. The Office of Academics is working with a curriculum review committee, QA and Peer Reviewers, and content experts to prepare a program-wide curriculum review for all master and doctoral-level courses. Several factors lend to the urgency of a comprehensive review, including the availability of COVID-19 funding to support the review process as needed for transition to an online delivery format, the introduction of new courses (e.g. Gracism) and programs that need to be aligned using course, program, and institutional curricular maps, updating syllabi with current content and resources, a pressing need to identify strengths and gaps in courses, and ensure conditions facilitate optimal achievement of learning outcomes for students coming from cultures and nations from around the world. The duration of this project is anticipated to span 12-18 months.

TRANSITION TO ZOOM



MEET OUR 2020 ACADEMIC TEAM!

Richard Gamble, Registrar and MLitt Senior Tutor

Richard earned his BA and MA from Lee University. Richard serves as the Prayer Ministry Coordinator at Two Rivers Church in Chattanooga, TN. He is a Ph.D. student with a research interest in the intersection of Calling and Vocation Theory and College Student Development.

Cindy Schmitt, Online Learning Coordinator

Cindy worked in Applied Behavioral Analysis Online Programs and brings 13 years' experience in Continuing Education with Florida Institute of Technology, where she provided continuing education for space industry professionals, and eventually academic and continuing ed programs in science, engineering, liberal arts, psychology, and STEM education. Cindy is a Ph.D. Student with an interest in social science research and higher education in the online environment.

David Moser, Academic Graduate Assistant

Dave brings his experience as an Instructor and Guidance and Career Counselor at Christian Valley Schools to manage

our institutional curriculum review and development project. He serves as a TA for the Master's program and is the graduate assistant to the Dean. Dave is a Ph.D. student.

Richard Nti, Teaching Assistant

Richard is a Ph.D. work study student and an expert in bio-statistics and data analysis. Richard is originally from Ghana and is a long-time member of the OGS family.

Dr. Rebecca Tucker, GRC Chairwoman

Dr. Tucker stepped up to support Academics in October 2019 when she participated in the Core 5/7 workshops and dissertation proposal reviews. In 2020, she served as faculty for two doctoral courses and joined the 5/7 dissertation workshops for all terms. She is currently serving as the Graduate Research Council Chairwoman. She is a former president of OGS.

David Richardson, DIAL/SIS Developer

David Richardson is an MLitt graduate of OGS and has helped with various IT projects over the years. He is currently upgrading and improving DIAL and various systems.

MEET OUR NEW 2020 FACULTY MEMBERS!



Dr. Stan DeKoven

FLE Lead Faculty

Dr. Stan DeKoven is a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and president of Vision International University.



Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew

Reverend Dr. Elmes-Matthew is an ordained pastor in the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province and a licensed insurance agent in Atlanta, Georgia.



Dr. Shelley Murray

OL Lead Faculty

Dr. Shelley Murray is Head of Schools at Valley Christian Schools in Ohio.



Danielle Womack, Esq.

OL/FLE Law Faculty

Attorney Dani Womack is the Executive Director of San Diego City Hope Ministries.



Dr. Andy Alexson

GRC Proposal Reviewer

Dr. Andy Alexson is the former PhD Program Director at Tennessee Temple University.

**Please join us in welcoming these
new faculty members to the Omega
Graduate School family!**

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

Mrs. Joanne Phillips

Long-time OGS Servant Went Home to Be With the Lord in 2020

Joanne Bond Phillips, mother of three, grandmother of ten, and great grandmother of ten, was one of the longest serving employees of Oxford Graduate School. After working for an insurance company when her children were young, Joanne became a vocational teacher for high school students, teaching practical skills to assist them in their life and future employment. In her retirement, Joanne unselfishly served OGS in several capacities wherever she was needed, whether in the Library, Administration, Business, or Student Services.

Willing to think outside the box, Joanne wholeheartedly accepted the founding principles of OGS and the strategy for adult education. Her background in vocational education made her an excellent fit for the innovative educational delivery. She was able to connect the concepts founded in the UK and advanced in Tennessee. She had a teachable spirit but was an excellent qualified teacher herself.

Joanne was an advocate for equality. She would give and take in serious discussions and wanted the input of others; however, she was firm in her grasp of equality for all people. She relished maintaining positive contact with staff and students; Dr. Green and I were grateful beneficiaries of that ongoing contact. When her age limited travel to the campus, she volunteered at local services near her home.

One characteristic of Joanne's personal and professional life was demonstrated in her final days. After a terminal diagnosis, she arranged for a positive "living wake" with her family and friends. Although her death July 20, 2020, at the age of 88, preceded the celebration, those present voiced admiration for her life and legacy.

We thank Joanne Phillips' children: Dr. Virginia Foley (SOS), Bryan Phillips, MLitt. and Charles Phillips. The OGS family benefited from her Christian principles, work ethic, and authenticity. What a wonderful combination to emulate.

Gail Parks Green, MLitt, *Retired Director of Student Services*

Dr. William Boyd

Retired From OGS in 2020

Dr. William (Bill) Boyd retired from teaching at OGS in 2020 and will be missed in the classroom by students and fellow faculty. Since starting 2004, Dr. Boyd taught five different courses over the years in the Communications curriculum cognate, including an elective he created, COM944, *The Influence of Art in Culture & Society*. His course comprised a popular day trip to the arts district in Chattanooga. Dr. Boyd was our resident musician, often playing for Chapels and Graduation ceremonies. Bill said of his experience with us, "It has been my privilege to be a part of the faith journey of so many outstanding students during my years at OGS and I have enjoyed writing and playing the music for Degree Day." Thank you, Dr. Boyd, for your service and impact!

David Ward, DPhil, ThM, *DPhil Senior Tutor / Library Services Director*



LIBRARY REPORT

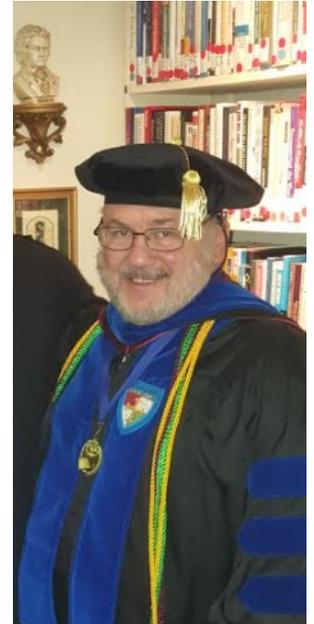
Dr. David Ward

Library Services Director and DPhil/PhD Senior Tutor

The OGS Library had a great year despite COVID transitions! We added 1217 new books to our physical collection for MLitt and PhD Course Reserves as well as to the General Collection. On the new OGS website, the Library pages (see <https://ogs.edu/library/>) have *updated online resources* for students, faculty, and alumni.

In the **Library Tutorials** link we have 38 open access resource links: to computer basics, to our OGS Academic Journal (*The Journal of Sociology & Christianity*), to Oxford's Bodleian Library and the Library of Congress, as well as to Information Literacy (online research) training. In the **Library Databases** link we have Subscription and Open Access databases and two (full text downloadable for free) Dissertation databases (PQDT & OATD).

Our Librarian, Sarah Lambert co-teaches library skills instruction with Dr. Ward, the Director of Library Services. Dr. Ward is always available to help with any research resources guidance (directorlrs@ogs.edu).



ADMISSIONS REPORT

A Great Year for the OGS Admission Team!

A Word from Dr. McClane, Dr. Ward, and Richard Gamble

We are currently getting new leads for the Spring 2021 cores! Our new Admissions link on the new website will enable us to serve our students better, and keep up with significant documents that are required for application. We are encouraging all new students and all alumni to **send us the name of just one individual they can recommend for attending OGS**. It is this personal one on one connection that provides substantial recruiting leads.

We are reaching out by phone to prospects, the students who almost

came for the Spring or Fall, but who postponed for personal reasons at the last minute (impact of COVID19, timing with family or work issues, financial preparations for taking on graduate school costs, etc.).

We are reaching out to our admissions files since 2015 with a fresh offer about changes in the school and online school possibilities. This may stir new interest since we have discovered greater interest in online delivery through Zoom with our last two terms of recruiting. We are exploring other marketing efforts online (Ads, website page for testimonies, links to alumni websites, etc.).

Please refer any prospective students to our website or by email to admissions@ogs.edu

22

New Students

3

Foreign Countries

14

U.S. States

Check Out Our New Admissions Portal!

<https://ogs.edu/info/>



Chancellor,
Dr. David Anderson

President/CEO,
Dr. Joshua Reichard

Chairman of the Board,
Dr. Gary Nicholds

THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS

Some alumni and friends of OGS have asked, “What happened to the Society of Scholars” program?

In an effort to focus on stabilizing the institution internally and financially, the Society of Scholars was placed under the direction of the Office of the President by the Board of Regents in January, 2020. Dr. Reichard made the decision to put Society of Scholars activities on hold until further notice to ensure the resources, time, and attention were placed on building a stronger and more sustainable future for Omega Graduate School. This report demonstrates the tremendous strides we have made in calendar year 2020. However, due to the pandemic and other issues, Society of Scholars activities will likely remain on hold until 2022. If you are interested in helping with a resurrection of the Society of Scholars through intentional strategic planning, careful stewardship of resources, and alignment with the vision, mission, and core values of OGS, please contact Dr. Reichard via email. We look forward to collaborating for the future of the Society of Scholars!

JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY AND CHRISTIANITY

Founded by Dr. Reichard in 2010 as *The Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion & Society*, the official academic journal of OGS is now the *Journal of Sociology and Christianity (JSC)*. JSC is a peer-reviewed, academic publication designed to provide a forum for the latest research and commentary relative to the intersection of Christianity and society. ISSN 2572-4088. The journal is now widely read and indexed by major academic library services. JSC is published jointly by Omega Graduate School and the Christian Sociological Association. JSC is published bi-annually in April and October.



We celebrated our 10th year anniversary in 2020! Learn more about JSC at www.sociologyandchristianity.org

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sharlene Daniel

Chief Financial and Operating Officer (CFOO)

This year, our auditor commented that despite our institution's finances the numbers are **reflective of a strengthening and stabilizing** of the school. Through careful management of cashflow, utilization of grants related to the CARES Act, reduction of debts and expenses, and increased student support and retention, Omega Graduate School is more financially stable than it has been for many years. Although much work remains, we are on a trajectory for a bright future!



2020 Financial Health Highlights

- ✓ **No Line of Credit Draws** in calendar year 2020; we have paid down the Line of Credit debt thanks to faithful giving to the "Fresh Start Fund".
- ✓ **Improved Cash flow** due to new students electing annual payments and financial stability of enrolling and retaining high-quality students.
- ✓ **Reduced Expenses** in the audit, a \$40,000 reduction was seen at the current FYE as compared to the prior FYE.
- ✓ **Increased Revenue** from student tuition due to increased enrollment and student retention efforts; unfortunately, unfulfilled pledges from the previous year led to a decrease in revenue for giving.



Enhancing Trust

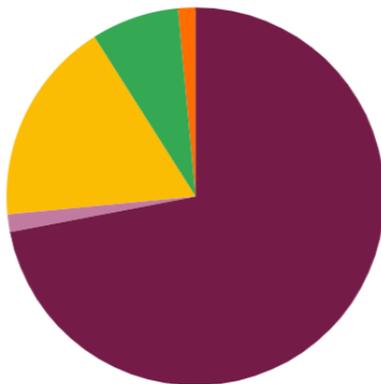
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability®

440 W Jubal Early Dr, Suite 130
Winchester, VA 22601

<http://www.ecfa.org/>

FY2020-2021 BUDGET

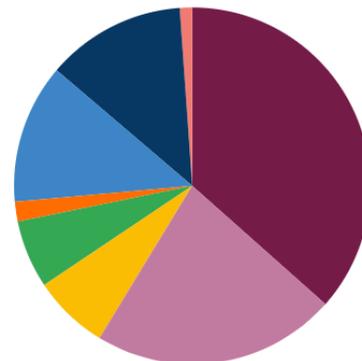
REVENUE



● Full-Time Tuition ● Part-Time Tuition ● Fees ● Gifts ● Investments

Estimated Revenue: \$430,080.00

EXPENSES

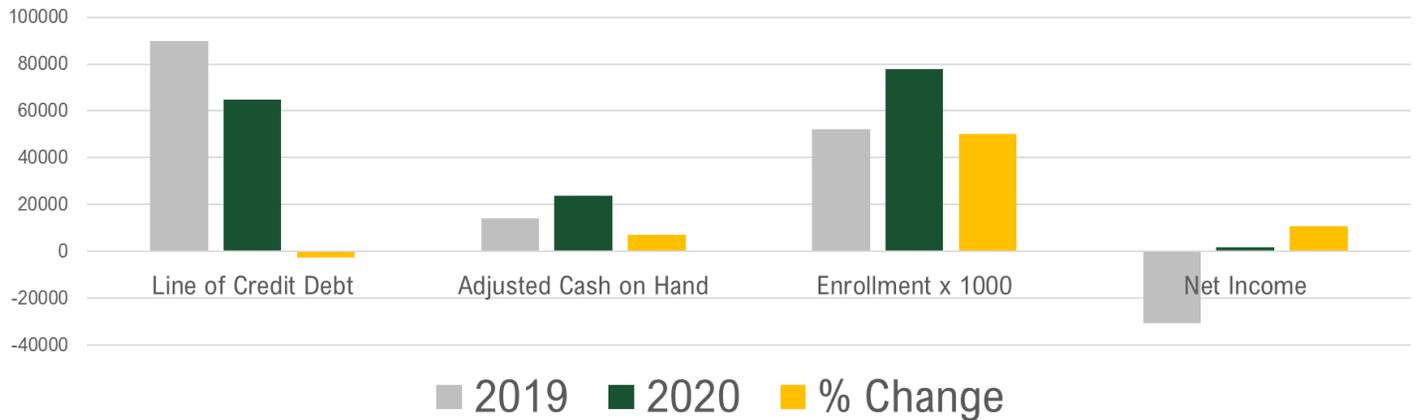


● Personnel ● Physical Plant ● Debt Service ● Services ● Student Services
● Lost Tuition ● Attrition ● Student Debt Forgiveness

Estimated Expenses: \$420,159.92

FINANCIAL METRICS

FY 2019-2020 vs 2020-2021 YTD



2020 ENROLLMENT METRICS

FTE Enrollment 2020: 78 Students *50% Net Increase!*
FTE Enrollment 2019: 52 Students

CARES ACT GRANTS

When congress passed the CARES Act, Mrs. Daniel and Dr. Reichard went to work securing the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loan and three levels of federal grants under the Higher Education Economic Relief Fund (HEERF). Although these were complicated and time consuming processes, they resulted in a boost to funding which helped OGS address various needs related to adapting to remote learning.

None of our employees missed a single paycheck through the pandemic, eligible students received direct relief payment checks, fees were covered/forgiven, additional technology was purchased, and support personnel were hired. These grants applied to US students (Title IV eligible) only. We are extremely thankful for the additional grants and anticipate we will participate in future funding opportunities in the second economic relief package.

57

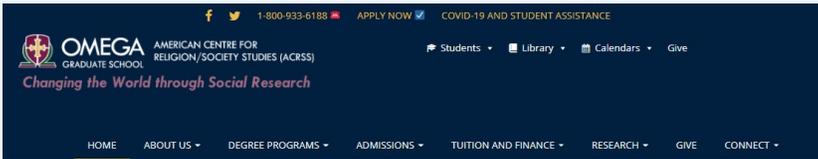
Students received funding which paid their Fall Term Technology and Materials Fee

26

Students received Emergency Relief funding checks. The amount of each check was \$195.85

7

Students received funding due to COVID related job losses or distress from COVID illness – funds were applied toward their student account



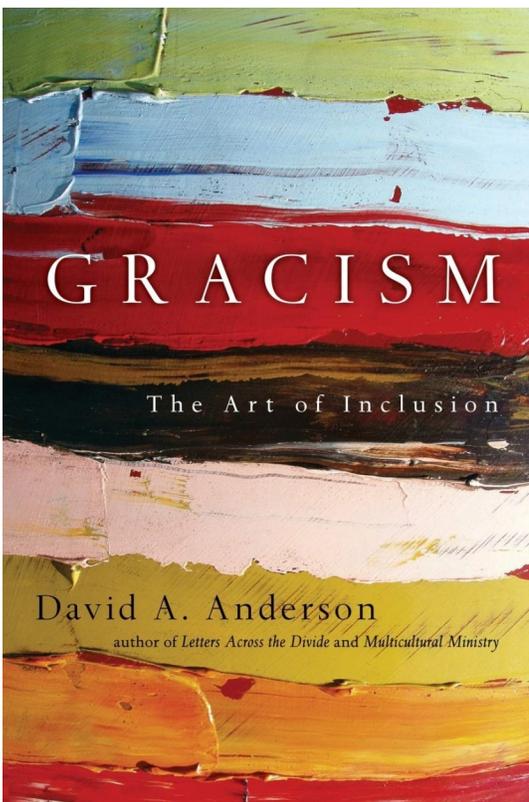
CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

One of our major projects this year was to refresh the OGS brand and launch a new website focused on recruiting new students. We are seeing a positive response as enrollment is steadily increasing. We are also launching more formal advertising campaigns with Google and Facebook ads.

www.ogs.edu



NEW GRACISM STUDIES CERTIFICATE!



As many of you know, our esteemed Chancellor and OGS alumnus, Dr. David Anderson, is internationally known for his book and teaching on "Gracism" as a Christian perspective on racism and the marginalization of underprivileged people around the world. Dr. Anderson's teaching has had far-reaching impact, from Ferguson, MO to Cape Town, South Africa. He has appeared on many national news outlets and of course has his own daily radio broadcast in Washington, DC, Real Talk With Dr. David Anderson.

We believe Dr. Anderson's teachings are consistent with OGS's mission to sociologically integrate religion and society. Gracism cuts through politically polarizing perspectives on issues of racism and offers a distinctively Christian alternative. We affirm that a Christian perspective should transcend political polarization, not align with it -- whether left or right.

We are proud to announce we officially received approval from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to offer a Graduate Certificate in Gracism Studies with a focus on "Leading with Gracism". We believe this graduate certificate will help professionals in all industries to upgrade their skills to lead organizations and communities toward an implementation of "embracing gracism" over political polarization.

The program will consist of three courses, two of which are already part of our MLitt in Organizational Leadership, and an optional small-group weekend retreat or Zoom conference with Dr. Anderson himself.

We are currently pursuing approval from TRACS. We expect to launch the certificate program in Spring, 2021!

Please pray for us as we prepare to launch this exciting program!

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR CHANCELLOR AND BOARD CHAIRMAN



A Word from Our Chancellor, Dr. David Anderson

I couldn't be happier with the direction and leadership of Omega Graduate School. With Dr. Joshua Reichard as our new president in partnership with an amazing Board of Regents who are spiritually-grounded and academically-minded professionals, we have a strategic course set to grow thousands of graduates as world changers in the decades to come.

Your prayers and financial support will continue to be the wind beneath the wings of this incredible graduate school that shapes social research in ways that positively impact the sociological integration of religion and society. **Thank you, in advance, for your support as you make your best gift before the end of the year.**

May the God of hope who has carried us through the tumultuous season of 2020 bring you life and peace as we step into 2021 positioned to rise higher than ever before!

A Word from Our Board Chair, Dr. Gary Nicholds

During the last four months of 2019, OGS was in one of the most crucial times in our school's history. We were seeking a new president and the road ahead was uncertain. Through much prayer and the grace of God, Dr. Josh Reichard became our president. He hit the ground running and began taking the first steps to recalibrate and restructure OGS for its future. The resulting transition was painful but necessary. However, the result was a staff that became a healthy and highly functioning team. COVID-19 was not yet on the radar but it was coming. The path before our school seemed daunting, and it was. But, if you step back for a moment you will see God's hand upon OGS.

The pandemic has been an extraordinary experience, where the school and all parties involved, have helped each other look deep inside of themselves. What emerged from this introspection was hard work and a committed team with a new energy and a can-do spirit. The list of accomplishments from stronger finances, increased enrollment and student retention to new courses and staff is remarkable.

Through Dr. Reichard's skillful leadership, he and his team are successfully navigating the storm, setting OGS on solid ground, and preparing for a bright future in the midst of great adversity. We are

learning to not worry about opposition because, as the old saying goes, a kite rises against the wind, not with it. I could not be more proud (Heb. 12:1-2)!

I hope by now you have read the annual report and have a thorough understanding and appreciation for the great strides OGS has made in the last twelve months. We have a committed team who have and will continue to work hard to

achieve the goals and vision for our school. But, they cannot be expected to go this alone. They need your prayers and your financial assistance.



Will you please take a moment and think about what you are holding in your hands, what it represents, and what you can do to propagate what so many have worked long and hard to achieve? You will not regret the support you extend to Omega Graduate School. I believe in "sowing and reaping"! We all have an audience of "One"!

Options for investing in the future of OGS are on the final page of the Annual Report.



OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR
RELIGION/SOCIETY STUDIES (ACRSS)

PLEASE INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

THANK YOU!

30+ INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDERS

GAVE TO THE MISSION OF OGS LAST YEAR!

To all our stakeholders who gave to help Omega Graduate School last year, thank you! We raised about \$23,000 toward the “Fresh Start Fund”! We’re encouraged by the more than 30 individual stakeholders who made gifts and pledges toward this fund! Thank you! We are also so thankful for board members, alumni, and volunteers who helped with campus improvements and library work to move OGS forward this year. *Your gifts make it possible for us to continue to achieve our mission!*

Although we have improved our financial situation this year, we still need help to address past debts and ensure a strong foundation for the future of Omega Graduate School. We still have about \$65,000 outstanding on the line of credit, debt Dr. Reichard inherited when he became president. Although the funds we raised from last year’s “Fresh Start Fund” have helped, we still have a long way to go toward a “fresh start”!

Our FY2020-2021 budget only anticipates \$30,000 in donations and gifts. Can you help us reach and exceed that goal so we can continue to address past debts? We can only overcome this obstacle with your help! Your gifts are tax deductible.



GIVING OPTIONS

Give Securely Online

You can give securely online using the Donately® platform. Just visit:

ogs.edu/give

Mail a Check

Yes, you can make an "offline" donation! If you'd like to make recurring monthly donations, we can send you out a monthly reminder or securely charge your credit card. Please mail your check to:

Omega Graduate School
Attn: Sharlene Daniel, CFOO
500 Oxford Drive
Dayton, TN 37321

Make a Pledge

You can make a pledge by simply emailing Sharlene Daniel at finance@ogs.edu with your pledge amount! We will send you monthly invoices for your giving pledge!

Omega Graduate School is a Cause You Can Trust

- OGS is an established 501(c)(3) with more nearly 40 years of history of financial responsibility.
- OGS is accredited by the ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability)
- OGS undergoes an external audit by a CPA firm every fiscal year

We are an ECFA Accredited 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Organization

You can give to OGS with peace of mind. Omega Graduate School is accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability®, a national financial accountability association, and submits annual external audits to its national accreditor, TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools).



Enhancing Trust