



OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR
RELIGION/SOCIETY STUDIES (ACRSS)

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Changing The World Through Social Research

Executive Summary: 2022 Year in Review

Dear OGS Stakeholders,

It's hard to believe I've been president of OGS for three full calendar years. It seems like just yesterday Drs. Nicholds and Anderson asked me to step into the role, yet it also feels like a lifetime ago. We have accomplished so much together in these three short years despite the challenges of a global pandemic. By God's grace, OGS emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever and well-positioned for a stable and prosperous future.

The partial sale of the campus in 2021 was one of the most difficult executive decisions I have ever had to make, but I am confident it was the right one. Mark Carpenter and "The Transformation Center" will be good stewards of the campus many of us love and I am certain they will be great partners moving forward. Although we have not yet established a specific target date for "blended" cores, I anticipate that will be our future in a post-pandemic world: mostly virtual learning with face-to-face and on-campus options along the way. But, we are now 100% debt free and the most financially stable we've ever been.

This year we brought back three vitally important OGS traditions: the Library of Congress Reading & Research Trip, the Oxford UK Reading & Research Trip, and an in-person Degree Day Celebration, all of which were stifled during the pandemic. It was such a joy to see a new cohort of students enjoying these transformative experiences that are central to the mission of OGS. Having the Rev. Dr. Michael Lloyd, Principal of Wycliffe Hall at the University of Oxford, as our commencement speaker was the icing on the cake.

Our team is now squarely focused on our 10-Year Accreditation Reaffirmation with TRACS. We have been hard at work on the self-study process and will host a visiting team in January 2023. As you know, there are not many things more important for the mission of the school than accreditation.

Thank you once again for your faithful support OGS and our mission! Thank you to my amazing team for their tireless work on behalf of the students we serve!

Sincerely,

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



Dr. Joshua Reichard
President & CEO

*"Valor is
stability, not
of legs and
arms, but of
courage and
the soul."*

- Haniel Long,
American Poet, Son of
Methodist Missionaries

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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 constructive social change.

“Changing The World Through Social Research”

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

2022 OGS BOARD OF REGENTS

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman, Dr. Gary Nicholds

Chancellor, Dr. David Anderson

Dr. Steve Maltempo, Dr. Joe Charles, Dr. Shane Merritt, Dr. Bob Page,

Dr. Joe Olachea, Dr. Alfred Cockfield, Peggie Baumman-White,

Patsy Huffaker, Dr. Troy Fitzpatrick, Dr. Cleveland Huntley, Dr. Sharlene Buszka

2022 STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

Dr. Curtis McClane Chief Student Success Officer (CSSO)



86%
**Student
Retention
Rate**

The CSSO role enables me to hear the hearts of our students and what they are struggling with.

My role entails listening carefully, caring deeply, and offering encouragement. On a regular basis students are contacted to make sure they are on track with their assignments and moving forward. This includes the role of the PhD/DPhil Tutor and the new DSL Tutor.

A huge part of this role has been to help each student navigate the challenges of COVID-19 without having to drop out. Financial considerations and assignment extensions have been granted that enabled the students to go forward. And, those students who have dropped out, because of my continuing engagement, have voiced a desire to re-enter when it becomes more financially feasible for them to do so.

Satisfactory Academic Progress being made each term, goes hand in hand with student retention. 16 SAP congratulation letters, with my CSSO accompanying email, were sent out to students who had been lagging behind, but now have met the criteria for Sat-

isfactory Academic Progress! In the midst of individual obstacles being overcome so that assignments can be turned in by the deadline, students demonstrated progress. Core assessments have demonstrated retention rates going up. For this, we are grateful.

Academic Involvement is also a significant part of my role at OGS. Functioning as a GRC Tutor, teaching Leadership courses in the PhD and DSL programs, and being a member of the Academic Affairs Council that meets bi-weekly—all of this keeps me quite busy and fulfilled!

As part of intentional Professional Development in my role as CSSO, I completed requirements for a graduate course from Harvard University Graduate Education Department entitled, “The Online Classroom: Strategies for Higher Ed Teaching and Learning.” Because of this training, we implemented the Community Connections Study Hall-Thursdays (CCSH-T). This is an open Zoom session on Thursday evenings when we do not have Topic Talk. It is amounting to 11 meetups this term. Students have availed themselves of this new opportunity to connect with one another, process their academic journey, ask questions, share their struggles and offer suggestions for improved processes at OGS. It has been a wonderful delight in my role to facilitate these sessions!

12 Virtual Study Hall Sessions Held in 2022!

Additionally, I am in the midst of a two-part webinar on “From Vision to Reality: A Texas Community College Student Success Case Study featuring Dallas College.”

We welcome Dallas Williams, our new part-time Assistant Operations Manager. He maintains everything in the Administration building, running the gamut from cleaning to repairs. He even ran back and forth from OGS campus to Bryan College on the day of graduation for some important regalia! He has been a joy to work with!

Finally, as OGS Chaplain, which dovetails nicely with the CSSO role, I continue my intercessory prayer ministry on behalf of students and the OGS wider family. May God bless us with signs of His divine pleasure because we are continuing the OGS kingdom mission to the glory of God!



Erik Christensen

Pastor, K-12 Educator, PhD/DPhil Student
New Jersey, USA



“Wow, where do I start!? During this Core, I began to experience...results from previous Core research taking place in tangible ways. Cross-cultural opportunities have begun to form in the public school I have been involved with. The clarity for my research, including the overall focus of the dissertation and research methodology, is taking place. The trip to the LOC was amazing not only regarding the Museum of the Bible and the Library of Congress itself, but also the wonderful OGS people to connect with. I am exhausted on one level, and yet so excited on another.”



Tamika Lynch

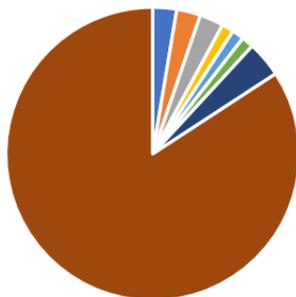
Youth Development Officer, DSL Student
Trinidad and Tobago



“Educationally, OGS has continued to surpass my expectations as the entire atmosphere set by the professors is one of welcoming and encouragement. Coursework allowed for insightful discussions about culture and community and our biased or unbiased responses to them; ultimately, it speaks to our changing society to allow for kingdom-building that pleases the Lord.”

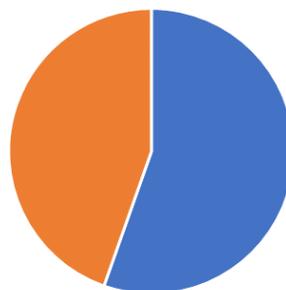
2022 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

National Origin Diversity



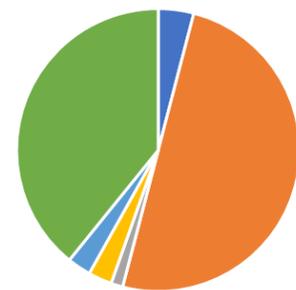
- Antigua and Barbuda ■ Barbados
- Ethiopia ■ Fiji
- Kenya ■ Romania
- Trinidad and Tobago ■ United States

Gender Diversity



- Male ■ Female

Racial Diversity



- Asian ■ Black
- Hispanic ■ Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- Unknown ■ White

DR. STEVE MALTEMPI, ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Steve Maltempi graduated from OGS in 2004 and presently serves on the Board of Regents. He served as the Next Gen Strategist for Southern Baptist state conventions and a Youth Ministry Strategist for the Louisiana Baptist Convention from 2015-2020 where he was responsible for connecting with 1400 churches and providing training, camps, conferences and network opportunities. He was responsible for executing an event with over 6000 in attendance. He was the student and collegiate ministry lead associate from 2013-2015 and the youth and collegiate ministry strategist for the Virginia Southern Baptists from 2009-2014 where he networked with 600 churches. Dr. Maltempi earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Louisiana Tech and his master's in education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. As a member of the Board of Regents, Dr. Maltempi has donated many hours of service to OGS/ACRSS by applying his construction and remodeling gifts to helping with projects around the campus.



Over the past two years, he and his wife joy have spent countless hours on the campus working with Sharlene Daniel to prepare the campus for sale and to complete small renovations and remodeling projects. Without Dr. Maltempi's help, we may not have successfully completed the property sale to the Transformation Center last year. We are indebted to Dr. Maltempi for his volunteer spirit and his love for OGS. It is our honor to name Dr. Maltempi as the 2022 Alumnus of the Year.

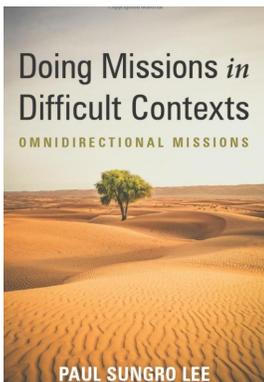
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Changing The World Through Social Research



Dr. Paul Sung-Ro Lee **OGS Alumnus, Missionary**

Christians of the future global church will face challenges. We live in a time of unprecedented suffering of Christians. In the gospel-restricted world, more Christians have been persecuted in the past few years than at any other time while in the free world, Christians increasingly face the temptation of corruption, immorality, and family breakdowns. Lee shares his research and suggestions gleaned from his thirty years of ministry both in free and persecuted worlds. In the face of growing Christian suffering worldwide, this book provides hope and encouragement with stories from difficult mission contexts like a pandemic, social unrest, and other hostile environments to Christians. This is a must-read for anyone trying to live a godly life in Jesus Christ.



Rev. Dr. Kevin Riggs

"I can say, without a doubt, my experience with C8 was transformational. From our very first time we met we felt like family and those relationships only deepened with time. I truly believe I have made lifelong friends with everyone involved with C8. I am a better person, and better leader, because of them."

C/DIA

Dr. Kevin Riggs

OGS Alumnus, Pastor & Community Activist

In 2022, Dr. Kevin Riggs was recognized by the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) for his work on issues related to racial justice, work with prisoners, and pro-life position concerning the death penalty.

ACADEMIC REPORT

2022 Library of Congress Reading and Research and Art, Culture and Society Trip

2022 ushered in the return of OGS signature curricular opportunities, last offered in 2019, the annual Library of Congress (LOC) trip and the historic Oxford U.K. trip. The LOC trip, a pre-candidacy requirement for all doctoral students, hosted the largest group of active, enrolled students attending together in known institutional history. Students came equipped with several research tools and multiple cores and terms of preparatory tutorials.

After attaining reader registration and an identification card, students received hands-on training in on-site research and reference services. Throughout the week, students were assisted with one-on-one support from LOC Research Librarians with expertise

in locating needed information specific to the student research areas. Once established, reference librarian support continues throughout the student's engagement in OGS' doctoral research programs.

Starting the week, the Art, Culture, and Society course and pre-candidacy cultural excursion premiered with the group attending the Museum of the Bible. Ph.D. student Gerald Ware remarked, "The course is vital for the success of the graduate students and the OGS program. As a student scholar-practitioner, I learned to integrate the influence of the Bible on art, society, and culture into my academic journey to achieve interdisciplinary goals".

Reflecting on the excursion, Jared Sorber shared that "the stories of the Bible came alive through the retelling of the Old Testament. I stood in awe at God's plan to redeem humankind," adding, "The LOC Magnus Corpus cannot be overstated."



Dr. Cathie Hughes
Chief Academic Officer



300+

Zoom Sessions Held

97%

Graduation Rate

24

Topic Talk Thursdays
24+ Participants on Zoom

7

Graduates

Developmental Readings Training

The academic team selected the documentation and training for developmental readings as one of its premier projects for 2022. Developmental Readings provide students with focused and directional studies in a selected field of knowledge. Acquiring knowledge in the curriculum is a developmental, cumulative process. The eclectic readings increase perceptions, reasoning, and understanding of a subject to expand effectiveness in a profession and sphere of influence.

The initiative spanned several months to standardize, document, and publish a student and faculty guide. Faculty and students across all programs were included in the process, and several hands-on trainings were offered throughout the year. Led by PhD Graduate Assistant David Moser, the Office of Academics published a 15-page student guide to developmental readings and hosted a post-core workshop for all students, with an intensive hands-on experience for new students. All workshop recordings and documentation are now available to all active faculty and students in DIAL.

DSL Program Open for Enrollment!

The DSL program officially debuted in 2022. A welcoming success was immediately realized, with 20 new applicants enrolling this year. Many cultures and professions were represented, including international students from Vietnam, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ethiopia.

Within the United States, students joined the program from coast to coast. Several adult learners are actively involved in ministry, while other students represent the fields of education, government, family, business, and non-profit leadership. Students transferring from the PhD program are the first group to be involved in doctoral action research projects.

Library Project

The OGS library collection was downsized during 2021-2022 to meet the needs of students for referencing current scholarly resources and seminal materials. The physical collection resides in the main reading room of Parks Hall and lines the walls of the classroom/conference room located on the lower level. The OGS Library is organized with the Library of Congress Cataloguing system, and the volumes are arranged and tagged by a specific course reserve reference. The OGS Library houses a non-circulating collection. Remotely, students can search by subject, course number, title, or author to find pertinent books

for course assignments through the Library's online catalog.

In 2021, Caroline Geer, MLIS, was appointed Director of Library Services. Ms. Geer's MLIS was awarded by The University of Texas at Austin in 1996. After graduation, she served as a Reference Librarian at the Legislative Library of the State of Texas. She then accepted a position as Information Resources Librarian at LeTourneau University Margaret Estes Library. She is currently ABD in the OGS PhD program. Dr. Ward continues to coordinate book donations and acquisitions and oversees the cataloging of new items.

Graduation Colloquy

Restoring the Graduation Colloquy was a crucial accomplishment in a virtual residency context. Historically, the colloquy consisted of two days of workgroup intensives that prepared doctoral students for transitioning to scholar-practitioner in a real-world context.

New Staff and Faculty Hires

Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew — MLitt Tutor & Organizational Leadership Lead Faculty

Dr. Ken Schmitt – Graduate Research Council (GRC) Support & Lead Faculty DSL Action Research Projects

Dr. Sean Taladay – Lead Faculty, PhD Program Research Design & Methodology Track

David Richardson, MLitt, DSL Student – Online Learning Management System & Zoom

Ionut (John) Breb — OGS Zoom Events Coordinator and Virtual Meetings Support

10-Year TRACS Self-Study

The OGS Academic and Executive Team has been collaborating on our 10-year reaffirmation Self-Study with our accreditor, TRACS. The accomplishment of this monumental task is a testimony to the work of the team over the past few years. The Site Visit will occur in early January 2023, with a decision made by the TRACS Commission by April 2023. Please pray with us for a favorable outcome.



2022 UK/OXFORD READING & RESEARCH TRIP

In August 2022, our President, Dr. Reichard and CAEO, Dr. Brenda Davis, led the Oxford, UK trip with seven DPhil/PhD students. We participated in the Summer School at Wycliffe Hall and participated in intimate lectures with NT Wright, Sharon Dircx, and others. The theme of the Wycliffe Hall Summer School was, “Worldly Wise? Biblical Wisdom for a Broken World.”

Dr. Reichard gave a joint lecture and the OGS students had one-on-one Q&A with Dr. Michael Lloyd, Principal of Wycliffe Hall. Students were inducted into the Bodleian Library and have enjoyed a number of excursions to locations around the city of Oxford. The whole OGS team contributed to the logistics of the

OGS trip, but Dr. Ward helped organize the paperwork for the Bodleian and Dr. Davis has been a true champion for our students during their week in Oxford, caring for them and ensuring they are having a great time! Thank you Dr. Davis and Dr. Ward for your commitment to our students!

All OGS alumni should smile knowing that this tradition is alive and well and another generation of OGS students are enjoying the Oxford experience!



2022 DEGREE DAY CELEBRATION

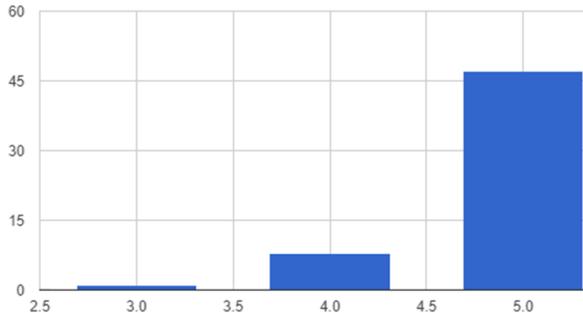
In September 2022, OGS honored three years of graduates (2021-2022) with an in-person Degree Day Celebration in Dayton, TN. This live event, held at Bryan College, honored five Ph.D. and two Masters program graduates and was attended by several honored guests and members of the Board of Regents. Founder Dr. Hollis Green spoke on the school's Foundation Stones, Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew delivered an impactful valedictory speech, and Rev. Dr. Michael Lloyd, Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University, gave the commencement address. Awards presented included *Alumnus of the Year*, Dr. Steve Maltempi, *Chalice Award*, Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew, and the *Grail Award*, Dr. Ramatu Afegua-Sabbatt.

The Reverend Dr. Michael Lloyd, Principal of Wycliffe Hall at the University of Oxford, was the commencement speaker. In his commencement address, Dr. Lloyd encouraged OGS graduates to hold in tension both “open-mindedness” and “critical thinking” as two important academic virtues of Christian scholars. He noted that the world desperately needs people who can think beyond their own “tribalism” and transcend polarization.



2022 INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS HIGHLIGHTS

Academic advising provided answers to questions and concerns.
Average: 4.82

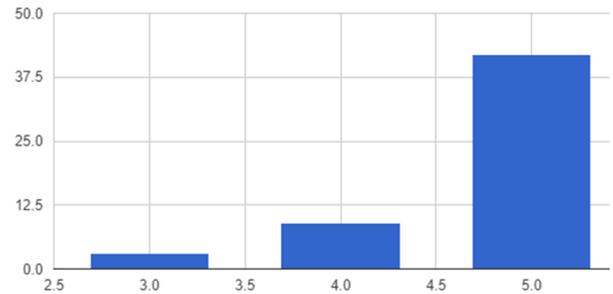


4.82 / 5.00

Academic advising provided answers to my questions.

Our faculty and program tutors continue to improve in providing exceptional advising to students according to OGS' tutorial learning methodology. As students are supported with individualized advising, they are equipped to succeed in their studies and to grow as self-directed, life-long learners.

The enrollment and admission process was well planned, comprehensive, and effective.
Average: 4.72



4.72 / 5.00

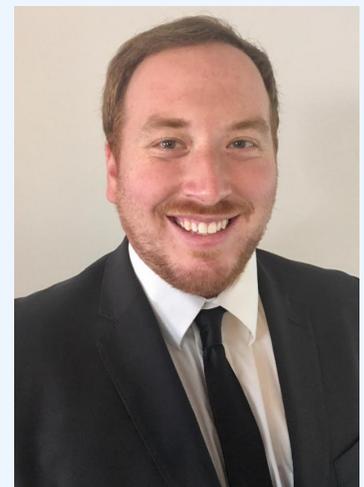
The enrollment and admission process was effective.

Thanks to Dr. Davis' role as Chief Admissions and Enrollment Officer, Dr. McClane's ongoing support in Admissions and Enrollment as Chief Student Success Officer, Richard Gamble's work as Registrar, and Mike Pecchia's role as Chief Financial Officer, we continue to refine our admissions and enrollment process to be more personalized, rigorous, and supportive for prospective scholar-practitioners.

Richard Gamble, Registrar Report

In 2022, the Registrar's office has continued to make improvements to DIAL that have enhanced student and faculty engagement:

- We have created a course in DIAL called the Developmental Reading Workshop (AA 301) in which new and current students are enrolled. The course provides students with access to resources that further equip them to complete their 60-Day Developmental Reading assignments.
- We have continued to refine the Scholar's Porch Discussion Board. The Scholar's Porch is a Dial-based virtual gathering place in each course designed with the OGS tutorial method and relationally oriented learning experience in mind. Students will be asked to answer which essential element in the course is the most formational for them in applying interdisciplinary knowledge, integrating religion and social sciences, to an area of interest or vocation. This venue provides students an opportunity to discuss course-related content with the professor and with each other.
- To better serve our faculty in their busy lives, DIAL has begun sending out a weekly grading reminder notification to faculty. The reminder includes a list of submitted assignments, along with their submission date, and an encouragement for faculty to grade assignments and provide helpful feedback to their students.
- DIAL can generate a student activity report in which OGS Senior Tutors can view which assignments have been turned in by a student for a particular course. This has made student academic progress easier to track for the Tutors so that they can initiate informed communication that encourages and aids students in their academic success.



ADMISSIONS REPORT

Dr. Brenda Davis, Chief Admissions and Enrollment Officer (CAEO)

Sharing the value and brand of Omega Graduate School American Centre for Religion and Society Studies on behalf of our team is one of the most rewarding parts of my work as Chief Admissions and Enrollment Officer.

Admissions involves selecting mature graduate students led to study social research from a faith-based perspective. OGS relationships within a community of scholars evolve from our value and branding, selectivity, research, and life-long learning.

Admission Reflections for 2021-22 include 20 newly enrolled students selected from among numerous applicants around the world. The OGS admissions process consists of qualitative interviews, discernment, and ultimately individuals with an academic profile whom we believe are led to study social research. We realize that graduate education is a health decision. As such, throughout the admissions process and acceptance, we offer a first line of quality support for our prospective students encouraging self-care in a safe learning environ-

ment. With consistency drawn on personal and professional experiences, the students' end-of-the-week Core round table discussions revealed high levels of student satisfaction and reflections.

To recruit the finest students, the OGS admissions process remains rigorously competitive to select the most sagacious students who are driven by integrity. We continue to rely on personal one-on-one recommendations from OGS alumni for recruiting students to our institution. Sharing your OGS experience is the best way to help us continue to grow our enrollment and to support the admissions department.

Admissions will host our annual Virtual Open House events! Please invite prospective students to visit our website, OGS Facebook, or send an email of interest to admissions@ogs.edu.



39%

Inquiry to Application Conversion
Inquiry to Registration Conversion

Spring 2023 is promising with 71 leads and 10 pending applicants!

Check Out Our Admissions Portal!

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

106

Admissions Inquiries

10

Applications Pending

12

Countries Represented

FINANCIAL REPORT

Michael A. Pecchia, CPA(i)

This year we bid farewell to our longtime business manager and CFO, Sharlene Daniel, and welcomed a new CFO, Michael Pecchia, and Bookkeeper, Darlene Johnson. The transition of the finance office was smooth considering its complexity. Although OGS has a small budget, it must still undergo external audits, report to the federal government and our accreditors, and maintain complex accounting like any other accredited higher education institution.

Michael is a former CPA, corporate CFO, and Christian school president. He brings decades of experience in both the for-profit and non-profit accounting worlds. Darlene was the business manager for an accredited career school and has experience working with Title IV and student tuition accounts.

We are thankful for the smoothness of the finance office transition in 2022 and look forward to continuing to ensure OGS's financial stability in the future. We honored Sharlene for her nearly 17 years of service to OGS with an "Outstanding Service Award" and wish her well in her next endeavors!



Enhancing Trust

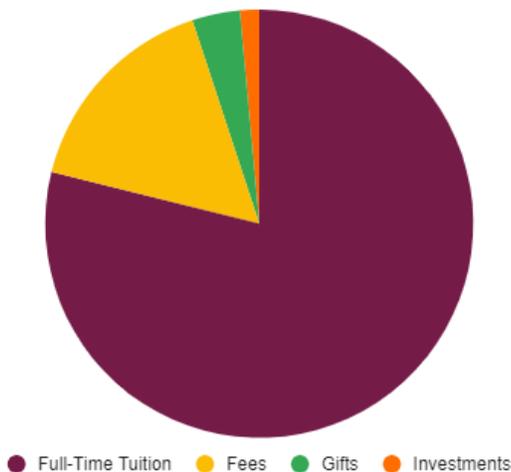
**Evangelical Council for Financial
Accountability®**
440 W Jubal Early Dr, Suite 130
Winchester, VA 22601
<http://www.ecfa.org/>

2022 Financial Health Highlights

- ✓ Elimination of all debts and reduction in expenses.
- ✓ Continued stability in cashflow and tuition revenue.
- ✓ Strong audit despite reduction in capital assets (sale of campus).

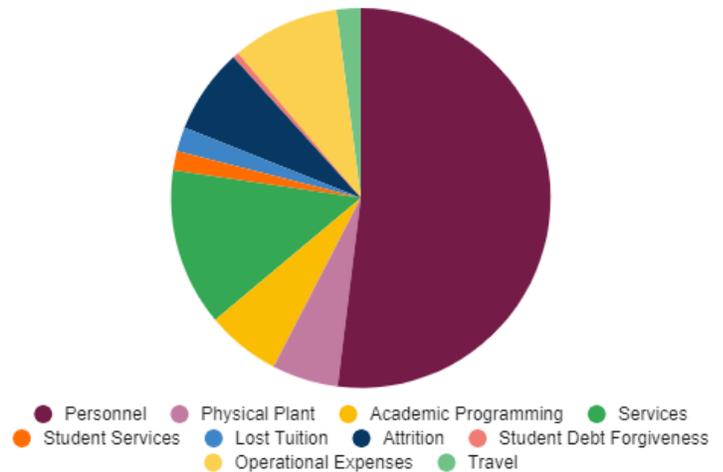
FY2022-2023 BUDGET

REVENUE



Estimated Revenue: \$415,280.00

EXPENSES



Estimated Expenses: \$386,681.00

In Memoriam: Richard the Great Heart of OGS

Richard A. Humphrey, PhD, DLitt,
CFLE, Fourth President of Oxford/
Omega Graduate
School

A Eulogy by
Dr. David Ward

Omega Graduate School wishes to announce the passing of a beloved member of our heritage and family, Dr. Richard A. Humphrey. Dr. Humphrey passed away on Monday morning March 29, 2022 at Stony Point Assisted Living in Chattanooga in the presence of his daughter Beth, son Zane and his older brother Dr. Loren Humphrey. Dr. Humphrey played several major roles during his committed contribution to our school, and he will be truly missed as a former Distinguished Professor, Dean, interdisciplinary scholar, and the 4th President of OGS/ACRSS.

In this celebration of life eulogizing the fourth President of OGS, dear readers, alumni who knew him well will recognize a Great Heart in the story of our heritage. Students who were not blessed to know him will recognize in the testimonies to follow that Dr. Richard Humphrey embodied several of the Core Values that are impacting their lives through their current journey at Omega Graduate School. I am David C. Ward, PhD, ThM, a current Distinguished Professor. I served as a graduate assistant to Dr. Humphrey in 2007-2008 while in the DPhil program. He changed my life with how he poured into me and imparted a passion for interdisciplinary research. When I first came to campus, I met him at Beta House when he was donating a carload of boxes of books for the OGS library. I immediately felt a kindred spirit in the love for the history of revivals, awakenings, and social reform movements. I have been asked to share with you this chronicle of his life, aided by contributions from his brother, Dr. Loren Humphrey, past chairman of the OGS board, and four of our school's Presidents.



Humphrey tells us how his brother *Richard Humphrey embodied a core value of the school, facilitating and valuing scholar-practitioners in social professions who change their world.* He writes,

“The year was 1988. Brother Richard called me and asked if I would give a paper at the OGS Society of Scholars. He knew of my long interest in and study of ‘The Relationship of Science and Religion.’ The 1988 meeting was a life changer. The program and the people presenting papers, the discussion that followed each, and the knowledge and fervor was striking. Richard’s love and dedication to the school (Oxford Graduate School then) was profound. Over the next many years Richard would get me involved, whether giving a graduation speech or discussing a paper, or teaching a class. When my wife died in 2010, I moved to Dayton and for ten years I gave my life to OGS just as Richard had done. To do otherwise, *it seemed to me, would be to reject a call from Christ, as it were,* for the people, administrators, faculty, students, and alumni, are truly of one mind in Christ. OGS truly is God’s school.”

Richard’s Life (according to brother Loren Humphrey)

Richard was born in Peoria, Illinois in 1936. Their father was an abusive alcoholic. One of the ways Richard dealt with their father’s abuse was to work at the Rainbow Council Boy Scouts Camp during the summers until finishing college. Richard became an Eagle Scout and played football, basketball, and ran track in high school. He received a scholarship to Cornell College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa graduating in 1958 and married his first wife, Judy (b.1937).

Richard then enrolled in Drew University receiving a Bachelor of Divinity in 1961 and was ordained as a Deacon in the Methodist Church, serving as an Associate Pastor. Richard continued graduate studies at Drew Seminary receiving a Masters of Divinity in 1964, and Drew Graduate School receiving a PhD in History and Religion in 1967. He became an Assistant Professor of Religion at Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio. During this period Richard and his wife Judy adopted two brothers from Cleveland, Zane (age 3) and Olen (age 12). In 1967-70 Richard taught at Philander Smith College in Arkansas as Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Chairman of the Humanities Division.

Eventful personal life and career years began in 1970 when Dr. Richard Humphrey became a Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

A renowned cancer research surgeon, Dr. Loren

The following year Richard was awarded the Outstanding Teacher of the Year at ASU and served for six years as the Chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. In 1971, Richard remarried Nona (b.1936) and adopted her son Alan who was eight. Richard and Nona had a son in 1973 who died before his second birthday. Their daughter Beth was born in 1976.

While teaching and leading at Appalachian State University he became the Chairperson of the Philosophy and Religion Department. He also served as the Director of the Interdisciplinary Master's Program at ASU where his proposal was key in establishing the ASU Center for Appalachian Studies. He had done a graduate thesis on Appalachian families. He was an advocate for the alien, the poor, and the marginalized. His social research passion centered on ethnographic research, which over his academic career, led to writing four books and 25 articles exploring the religion and culture of Southern Appalachia.

Pastor Richard Humphrey

In 1982 Richard became a minister of Cherokee United Methodist Church in Johnson City, Tennessee and taught at East Tennessee State University. He pastored and taught until 1988 when he became minister of Russell Memorial United Methodist Church in Lebanon, Virginia. In 1990 he was appointed as pastor at First Methodist Church in Dayton, Tennessee. In 1994 Richard became minister of White Oak United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Over his career in pastoral ministry, Richard Humphrey was known for turning around and revitalizing smaller family-oriented churches that were in decline.

Oxford Graduate School

According to Dr. Hollis Green, Founder and First President of OGS, *Richard Humphrey embodied the OGS core value of facilitating and valuing research-based problem-solving for constructive Christian social change.* Dr. Green hired Richard Humphrey as a Professor of History of Religion and Ethics in 1988. Richard brought his experience as an interdisciplinary scholar to the distinctive educational approach of OGS. In 1990 Dr. Humphrey was honored as the Distinguished Professor of Family Life Education and Ethics. He became certified by the National Council of Family Relations as a Family Life Educator, CFLE. Richard then helped pioneer the school's Masters' program in Family Life Education. True religion to him was taking care of the orphan and the widow. Dr. Humphrey was a longtime participant of the school's Society of Scholars (SOS), often presenting papers at its yearly events. He was awarded the DLitt degree by the Society of Scholars, the highest recognition possible from SOS.

With Dr. Humphrey's academic specialization being in

the History of Christianity with a career of graduate teaching experience, he taught the *History of Religion and Society* as a Core Course. This course under different titles over time has been the big picture course for our students which focuses on the mission of Oxford Graduate School to produce world changers for family, church, and society through evidence-based real-world problem-solving research. Dr. Humphrey eventually retired from the school, but Dr. Humphrey's retirement from service to God through OGS was not to last!

According to Dr. Rebecca Tucker, second President of Oxford Graduate School, *Richard Humphrey embodied the OGS core value of facilitating and valuing faith-integrated interdisciplinary social science research.* Richard played a significant role in helping the school achieve Accreditation with TRACS, the Transnational Association of Christian Schools in 2008. Accreditation has been strategic in helping the school's degrees create leverage for our students as scholar-practitioners in the social professions to change their world. She writes,

Dr. Richard Humphrey was a key member of the administrative team which prepared OGS for the institutional accreditation process with TRACS. The letter accompanying his check of financial support stated that if he could assist with the process, please contact him. I did contact him with the request that he return from his retirement in Florida to be the Academic Dean of OGS. He came to Dayton where he made significant contributions in the revision of the curriculum and syllabi and in the evaluation of library books. His days of work in the library helped to identify appropriate books and cull them for better organization of the library. In addition to accreditation tasks, Dr. Humphrey performed the operational duties of preparing core schedules and interacting with students. His heart for people, his strong work ethic, and his love for Christ made working with Richard Humphrey a joy!

Richard Humphrey was very popular with students because of his passion and great heart was so evident in the classroom. In fact, he was known to be often moved to tears before his students over his concern for religion to impact society. According to Dr. Kim Geiger, the fifth President of Oxford Graduate School, *Richard Humphrey embodied the OGS core value of facilitating and valuing the tutorial method for individualized, self-directed, life-long learning.*

Dr. Humphrey's influence teaching, mentoring, and championing the leadership development of students led her in her own journey from Masters' Student, to Doctoral student, to Faculty and Administrative staff, to finally follow him as President of the school. Dr. Geiger writes,

When I first came to campus Dr. Humphrey was the first faculty I saw. He was my first OGS mentor. He would always greet you with, "Good morning, God bless you!" He imprinted on me and there were several times that I tried to greet him and say it before him, but I couldn't... he always won! He later introduced me to his brother, Dr. Loren Humphrey, who would become one of the best mentors of my life as the Chairman of the Board when I became President.

As my Professor, Richard Humphrey taught me a course called *Self-Concept*. To be honest, it was a course that I dreaded and thought completing it would be like pulling teeth. The last project Dr. Humphrey assigned for the course was a portfolio of the highlights of your life. I ended up producing a scrapbook as part of the project and enlisted my mother's help to send me childhood pictures. The pictures she sent and the conversations I had with her and with Dr. Humphrey lanced the infection of deep wounds that I did not know were there. God brought significant healing and restoration to my heart. Dr. Humphrey metaphorically held my hand and supported me through the process. He was my cheerleader.

Richard Humphrey with his brother Loren, taught Dr. Geiger (and many other students) how he *embodied the OGS core value of facilitating and valuing a safe place to think within a community of adult learners*. She shares,

Richard loved to debate with his brother Loren, who was a retired cancer research scientist. Loren would represent science and Richard would represent religion. When they debated, they showed students how to disagree in an agreeable academic discussion. Richard and Loren would demonstrate how engaging differing thinking positions on issues would stretch you and make you a better scholar. I learned so much from these scholarly discussions in an academic environment which was a safe place to think.

Besides debating and stirring up academic discussions, the Humphrey brothers wrote and published an interdisciplinary novel together called *The Embryo Factory: The Stem Cell Wars*. The novel, which is still available on *Amazon.com*, is about the biological, ethical, and spiritual issues involved in cloning. Loren covered the scientific dimensions while Richard wrote covered the relational, social, and cultural challenges.

Richard, the Great Heart of OGS

Dr. Geiger saw during the last years of Dr. Humphrey's service to OGS the tremendous courage and determination to overcome challenges that epitomized thinking of him as Richard, the Great Heart of OGS. Richard suffered from several heart problems during his latter years. Dr. Geiger shares,

Many times he overcame tremendous physical challenges. One time during a Congregation weekend with a Society of Scholars event, he was having difficulty walking steadily without a supportive device. He was on his way to the campus Wier Chapel to present one of his best papers ever on the Holy Spirit. He fell and hit his head opening a wound that had to be bandaged. He was so determined to present the paper he had worked on for so long that instead of going to the emergency room, he presented the paper being helped to sit at a podium with a bandage and ice on his head while he amazed the audience with his presentation.

Richard loved to tell the story of one time out of his many heart incidents, when he coded in the hospital. During this state of medically dying, he was caught up between heaven and earth. In this out of body experience a Lamb/Ram came over the hill he was on and kicked him in the chest and sent him back to earth. He awoke with a defibrillator on his chest. When they pulled it off the marks looked like hoof prints on his chest. He loved to explain that God was not finished with him yet and kept healing him to do more work for His kingdom!

The final testimony that the fifth President Kim Geiger said was Richard Humphrey's highlight of his career. As he shared with her, it was the great test of his faith when OGS asked him to become the Fourth President of the School within 24 hours.

The sixth and current President of Omega Graduate School, Dr. Joshua Reichard witnessed Richard A. Humphrey's great heart in that moment that saved the school's accreditation visit challenge with a ten-year re-accreditation on the line.

Dr. Reichard writes, "Sara and I share many memories at OGS with Dr. Richard Humphrey. We shared the cottage on Route 30 with him over many summers, we collaborated on curriculum on accreditation, and of course, he was one of the first professors we both had when we attended OGS as students. He introduced me to H. Richard Niebuhr's 'Responsible Self' ethics and, in his own tender and pastoral way, challenged the theological and social presuppositions of many students.

But, his finest hour was when he rose to the occasion of serving as president of OGS when called upon. I remember receiving a call from our accreditor that night during a site visit – and receiving confirmation from Dr. Humphrey’s brother Dr. Loren that he would indeed serve. In that moment, I think of Elrond’s response to Frodo at Council of Elrond in the Lord of the Rings: ‘I think that this task is appointed for you... Who of all the Wise could have foreseen it?’ And, Dr. Humphrey rose to the occasion and served, as so many others have, self-sacrificially to rescue the future of OGS from despair. Dr. Humphrey will live in OGS lore among its great heroes.”

The scholar-saints of Omega Graduate School share their praise to God for you Richard, the Great Heart, now that your earthly heart has failed while serving Christ faithfully to the end. You truly embodied the core values of the school to which you gave so much of your life to advance. We share in praise to God for your Great Heart and for your impact for our Lord Jesus Christ as He says to you,

“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” – Matthew 25:23, ESV

Eulogy/Life Memories of Dr. Richard Humphrey

By Dr. Curtis D. McClane, OGS
Chaplain & Friend

When I first came to OGS, I discovered to my delight that Dr. Richard Humphrey and I were fellow Drew-ites! The Drew University Theological School had a special bond for the both of us. With both of us receiving a doctoral degree from there, we knew of common professors, and had many delightful stories to share of our time on campus there. He loved to share his own struggles and challenges to obtain his PhD. Our mutual love of the “School in the Forest” created a bond of life-long friendship over the last 15 years that I knew him.

I remember sitting in his office in the Administration Building with long, engaging, and invigorating discussions of theology. Tillich, Niebuhr, Bonhoeffer, and Barth became the stuff of such conversations. We loved to explore together the theological landscape and historical trajectory of the church and where we felt that OGS had a special niche in that discussion!

Dr. Richard Humphrey had many stories of ministry and its challenges. Some of his most delightful memories that he shared had to do with the men’s groups that he would gather together to study the Bible, share and pray together, and the many individuals whose lives he

touched outside of the church walls. He especially loved to share stories about individuals he knew who were either antagonistic toward the Christian faith, or were ambivalent about it, and how he would winsomely offer his warm greeting of “God bless you” and how it changed people.

The history of ministry, especially the circuit riders of the Appalachian region, was an area of his own historical research. We loved to talk about pastors of that era who had left an impact in the Eastern United States during the Great Awakening.

Dr. Humphrey was a Christian Scholar all of this life. He continually was writing and researching on a project. Several years ago, I facilitated a session at the Christian Scholars Conference on Lipscomb University Campus in which he made a presentation on his dream of a Disciples’s School. As we made plans to ride together for this event, we lost each other, missed our rides together and I had several phone calls with Nona and we had the police looking for him. I went on to campus, and there he was in our dorm room that we had reserved. We spent most of the night up late talking about OGS!

After his challenges with his first heart attack, I visited him at the Rehab Center. My dropping in on him during that rehab session seemed to light up his life! I was impressed with his never-die-attitude, and he was determined to improve with his exercises and therapy to regain his normal activities. After that, I visited him and Nona at the NHC Retirement Center. We had several memorable visits in that location, with stories, dreams of the future of OGS, his family, and his health challenges all shared on the little patio outside.

My final visit was at Storey Point Assisted Living Center. I took a special wind chime gift to him as a message of condolence and love from OGS. We talked about life, its meaning, and having an impact in one’s sunset years. He missed Nona, and he missed his men’s Bible study Group at NHC. He was beginning to make new friends there and anticipated another Bible study group. He was a Christian pastor who loved people and loved the church. I could tell from our conversations how difficult it was for him in the last years to no longer be able to use his gifts in ministry. Everywhere he went he knew no stranger! His special laughter and throwing his head back in delight was the Dr. Richard Humphrey that will always be imprinted on my heart. In the vein of the Reader’s Digest, he was one of my most unforgettable characters in my life!

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR CHANCELLOR AND BOARD CHAIRMAN

A Word from Our Chancellor, Dr. David Anderson

What a joy it is to see good leadership and godly favor drive the academic success, social research, and the synergistical learning style of OGS. With the establishment of two new academic programs, including the Gracism Studies program, a strong board of regents, new faculty and administrative positions being filled, and the line of credit fully paid off, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

I also want to thank our board chairman, Dr. Nicholds, all of our board of regents, and the capable and forward thinking leadership of Dr. Joshua Reichard, our president. Our quality alumni, like many of you, and the prospects that are incoming over the next year, I can tell you as the Chancellor, our future looks very bright for OGS. I personally encourage you to tell all of your friends, family members, and colleagues who are searching for growth, challenge, learning, and a safe place to think to check out OGS.edu. Just copy, paste, and send them the link. Tell them that this is the graduate school you are proud of and celebrate. Let them know that there are available opportunities for them to get in on what God is up to at OGS.



Thank you for joining me in sharing the good news about OGS!

A Word from Our Board Chair, Dr. Gary Nicholds

I hope that as you read this, you are as amazed as I am at all of the accomplishments in our Annual Report. What an amazing year this has been! Who would have thought two years ago that OGS would be where it is today?

Every day during my morning devotionals I pray for the leaders and staff of OGS and for our school's continued success. I have read that faith is assurance of those things hoped for and certain of those things not seen. It is my opinion that this Annual Report is a manifestation of those words. OGS has been truly blessed by a loving God. Our work is not over, it has only begun. If we do not leave God, God will not leave us.

You are now aware of our accomplishments at OGS over the past year. But what you may not be aware of, or read, or see, is the attitude, teamwork, determination, and plain old tenacity and grit that takes place behind the scenes. Without this, all these accomplishments would not have happened. Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." This has been very evident this year in the interaction between Dr. Reichard, his team, and the Board of Regents. I offer my sincerest appreciation and thanks to everyone for a job well done.

We are in that time of year when we have experienced Thanksgiving and appreciation for blessings received and now, we enter Advent a season of anticipation and hope. As we look forward to Christmas and the New Year, let us pray for one more thing... a grateful heart each and every day.

Please consider investing in the future of OGS with giving options on the next page.

— Dr. Gary Nicholds, Chairman of the Board of Regents





OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR
RELIGION/SOCIETY STUDIES (ACRSS)

PLEASE INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

ALL DEBTS ELIMINATED!

To all our stakeholders who gave to help Omega Graduate School last year, thank you! With the partial sale of the OGS campus in 2021, OGS has enjoyed its first full calendar year 100% debt free! The mortgage and line of credit are paid off and expenses are substantially reduced, setting OGS on strong financial footing for the years ahead. We are committed to staying the course of financial stability and security.

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!*

Our FY2022-2023 budget only anticipates \$30,000 in donations and gifts. Can you help us reach and exceed that goal so we can continue to stabilize OGS? Although we've made great strides, we still need your help! We can only build for the future with your help! Your gifts are tax deductible

THANK YOU!

30+ INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDERS

GAVE TO THE MISSION OF OGS LAST YEAR!

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Omega Graduate School is a Cause You Can Trust

- OGS is an established 501(c)(3) with more than 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