



OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (ACRSS)

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Changing The World Through Social Research

Executive Summary: 2024 Year in Review

We celebrated a year of growth and innovation in 2024! We experienced a peak record enrollment and continue to be amazed at the quality of students applying for admission to OGS. Increased marketing efforts made possible by a faithful alumnus and donor helped us reach more prospective students this year. I firmly believe, the world needs OGS now more than ever!

The Guardians of OGS program has been wildly successful, with many alumni and friends stepping up to make a financial commitment to help us offset accreditation and authorization expenses. As you can imagine, these expenses are our highest line item on the budget and our most important. The Guardians have committed to protecting our most important asset: accreditation and degree programs' value. Thank you!

Our finances reflect stability and modest growth. Our retention rate ticked to 90%, and our 5-year graduation rate remains at 89%. Student satisfaction and success remain strong, and we continue to find new ways to support our students.

We made some much-needed minor renovations to our remaining building on campus in Dayton, TN, including a reface of the front, a new commercial sign, and some cosmetic improvements to our office space. We continue to appreciate the partnership with the Transformation Center, which purchased the rest of our campus and is making beautiful improvements to our beloved former buildings and grounds.

Our commitment to fostering community and academic tradition remains strong. The Library of Congress research trip was successful. Participation in the Christian Sociological Association conference and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies Annual Symposium strengthened relationships within the academia. Dr. Sharlene Buszka stepped into a new role, combining Alumni Director and Society of Scholars Chair to enhance alumni engagement.

This year, we changed our sub-brand "ACRSS" to the "American Centre for Research in the Social Sciences" to reflect our commitment to growing our degree programs into social professions and adding focus of study areas in the future, such as Applied and Clinical Sociology, Medical Sociology, and even Artificial Intelligence Ethics! We'll be working on those in 2025!

Our dissertations were approved for publication in ProQuest this year, which is an exciting opportunity for graduates and a sign of the quality of our academic outcomes.

We launched our proprietary statistical analysis software, Practical Statistics for Social Research (PSSR) this year, freely available on our website at stats.ogs.edu.

We conclude this year's report with a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Loren Humphrey, whose legacy of generosity and leadership profoundly shaped OGS and laid a secure financial foundation for us for future generations. We also remember Dr. Bob Andrews, longtime OGS administrator and faculty.

Of course, I can't thank our small but committed leadership team, faculty, board of regents, donors, and students enough – we truly couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

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



Dr. Joshua Reichard
President & CEO

"If our culture cannot form people who speak with both conviction and empathy across deep differences... then it becomes even more important for the Church to use its theological and spiritual resources to produce such people."

— N.T. Wright, Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Executive Summary	p. 1
Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Board of Regents	p. 3
Thank You OGS Guardians!	p. 4
Chief Academic Officer Report	p. 5
Student Testimonials	p. 7
Alumni of the Year and Alumni Spotlight	p. 8
2024 Library of Congress Report	p. 9
2024 Degree Day Highlight	p. 10
Institutional Effectiveness and Registrar Report	p. 11
Admissions and Student Success Report	p. 12
Financial Report	p. 13
Welcome New Faculty and Staff	p. 14
In Memory of Dr. Loren Humphrey	p. 15
In Memory of Dr. Bob Andrews	p. 16
Messages from the Chairman of the Board of Regents and Chancellor	p. 17
Opportunities to Give to Omega Graduate School / ACRSS	p. 18

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 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

2024 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, Patsy Huffaker, Dr. Troy Fitzpatrick, Dr. Charles Knowles
Dr. Cleveland Huntley, Dr. Sharlene Buszka



OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (ACRSS)

Guardians of OGS have pledged to support Omega Graduate School's accreditation, state authorization, and compliance expenses to help ensure the institution's reputation and stability for future generations.!

Platinum/Legacy Guardians

Hollis L. Green
Kimberly Geiger
Loren Humphrey
Rebecca Tucker
Jerry Fleming

Gold Guardians

U. A. Thompson
David Ostrowski
David Anderson
Antwan D Brown
Rachel Gonatas
Cynthia Schmitt
J. Andrew McCullough
Hollisa Alewine
Shane Merritt
Sharon Perry
Robbie Johnson

Joseph Charles
Gary Nicholds
Sharlene Busca
Elderine Wyrick
Brent Brantley

Silver Guardians

Richard Nti
Cleveland Huntley
Darlene Draper
Pookattu Paul
Caroline Geer
LaKeisha Bryan-Hall
Misty Jesse
Quinton Egson
Mark Arnold
Bob Page
Joe Olachea

Join the Guardians!

ogs.edu/guardians

2024 ACADEMIC REPORT

Dr. Curtis McClane Chief Academic Officer and Executive Vice President



90%
Student
Retention
Rate

Gratitude

As I begin my report from the Academic Dean's Office, I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for my Dean's assistant, Richard Gamble. His invaluable gifts, support, and guidance have been crucial in my role. I could not have done it without him! Also, the regular meetings of the Academic Team (Dr. Ward, Richard Gamble, and Dave Moser).

I have two more members of the Academic team who join us when we have to function as the Institutional Review Board to approve research methods and readiness of the dissertation student to go forward with their data collection: Dr. Brenda Davis, and Dr. Andy McCullough).

Finally, the regular meetings of the members of the Academic Affairs Council where we focus on the actual student performance. Amazingly, Dr. Davis and Dr. Ward have created a 3-tier system, working with Dr. Reichard, where students can be identified this way in DIAL. The positive results already are showing in students' academic performance!

Graduation

Graduation this past September saw one MLitt student, five DSL students, and three PhD students comprise the graduation class of 2014. The graduation ceremony was held on the campus of Bryan College again. The setting

was perfect for congratulating and interacting with the students and their families.

Academic Innovations

Two new innovations that have had a wonderful impact on the Academic picture for students has been a new entry point for new students during Subterm B, and a new statistical tool on our website for PhD students and DSL students. The new entry point has allowed students to come into the program in the fall instead of waiting for the Spring term. And, the new statistical tool, Practical Statistics for Social Research (PSSR), created by Dr. Joshua Reichard is a wonderful simplification of the dizzying options out there for quantitative research. It has helped narrow down the quantitative methodologies that our students can most effectively employ. Also, to add rigor to the DSL Action Research Project evaluation phase, there is a Chi-Squared application that we are teaching our students to use.

Supporting Faculty

As Academic Dean, my critical role is to support, shepherd, and encourage the faculty and TAs. We now have two tools that enable me to check in on the faculty on a weekly basis: Monitor Faculty Activity, and Executive Summary. Both reports are generated every Sunday morning at 5:57 a.m., and I can check how each instructor has been doing the past week. It has been fantastic tool to keep up with their teaching and assignment grading.

Two important things underscore how seriously I take my "shepherding role" of our faculty. First, I wrote and sent to all of the faculty my e-newsletter, *Academia Accenta Andragogia*. Three separate editions were sent out with the following topic: **Academic Dean's Message of Gratitude; Graduate Education of the Highest Order; and, The Power of Asynchronous Online Discussions: The Significance of our Scholar's Porch.** Second, I had published an article in the *Christian Academia Magazine* last year that highlighted the Dean's Shepherding role entitled "The Shepherding Role of the Dean of Faculty." I have made it a priority to be the "wind beneath the wings" of our instructors, following the rubric of engagement that I proposed in that published material. We have the best! Three new ones have joined us in various teaching roles: Dr. Jared Sorber, Dr. James Strecker, and Dr. Andy McCullough.

Academic Professional Development

In my own professional development (and we strongly

encourage this of all our teachers), I engaged in original research and made a presentation at the **Christian Sociologists' Association Conference** in Chattanooga, Tennessee this past summer. The title of that academic presentation was: "Socio-Prophetic Imagination"--A Paradigmatic Proposal for Cultural Engagement in these Fractured times." This new model of social critique from a Christian perspective was well received. Additionally, I had the joy of working with 3 of our students and having table fellowship with Richard Gamble, Derrick Snow, and James Hollywood, III who also attended in-person this event.

The JIS Symposium was hosted again this year by OGS. Dr. David Ward did an admirable job of facilitating the process and being host of the event. Several of our new students were able to attend and see academic papers being presented, and what they could be doing in the future.

Student Academic Achievement

This fall saw a great participation of our dissertation students in Core 7. Twenty-three (23) out of twenty-six (26) students attended the Core 7 Orientations session. This set them up to be successful and have fruitful meetings with their chairs. They know what assignment they are on, and are becoming familiar with the SR 990 Dissertation Workspace assignments to demonstrate progress in the dissertation process.

Additionally, we currently have eight (8) DSL students in the final phase of their Action Research Project. Dr. Andy McCullough and Dr. David Ward join me as the standing committee for our students when they defend their professional project after it has been implemented.

Organizational Health

I want to conclude this section of the Academic Dean's Annual report with some remarks I was privileged to share this past September to the OGS board. On Friday, September

ber 27, 2024 I was asked by our president, Dr. Joshua Reichard, to share my thoughts of the last four years regarding the direction of the school, and my experiences the last year and a half in the role of Academic Dean.

The report was based on the remarks heard several times this past year:

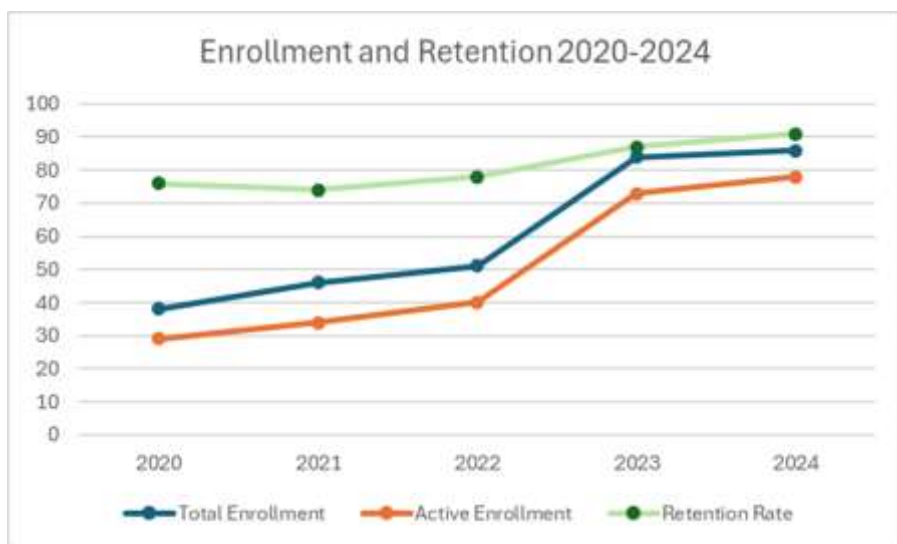
"OGS has turned the corner and the future is bright."

This became the theme around which three ideas were shared: morale, retention, and tutorial support.

Though there have been organizational "ups and downs" in recent years at OGS, Dr. Joshua Reichard has helped create a healthy team atmosphere that has fostered high morale. Retention of students has been one of the highest priorities that everyone on the team has bought into. There has been attention drawn to the concept of self-efficacy, and our role in aiding students seeing themselves being successful in their academic performance.

And, finally, we have the strongest tutorial support for students that is the envy of every institution of higher learning! The student's course instructor, the Senior Tutor, the CSSO, the Doctoral Candidate Tutor, and the Academic Dean (along with the Registrar!) are different layers of support.

One student, after being out for a number of years, during the Subterm A Roundtable on Saturday, gave a wonderful testimony about their OGS experience. The student praised how the school has tightened up the curriculum, aligned the course syllabi, and had provided incredible student support.



• 5-Year Retention Rates

- 2024: 91% (8 / 86; 78 Active)
- 2023: 87% (11 / 84; 73 Active)
- 2022: 78% (11 / 51; 40 Active)
- 2021: 74% (12 / 46; 34 Active)
- 2020: 76% (9 / 38; 29 Active)

2024 STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



James Hollywood III (Doctor of Social Leadership)

"OGS has been instrumental in my growth at home, church, and as a community leader. Witnessing the implementation of policy changes based on my research has been incredibly rewarding. Witnessing the implementation of policy changes based on my research has been incredibly rewarding. This program has significantly impacted my approach to service, and I'm enthusiastic about the future."



LaKeisha Bryant-Hall (Doctor of Social Leadership)

"OGS has truly transformed my life as an adult learner. The supportive environment, personalized guidance, and flexible learning options allowed me to balance my responsibilities while advancing my education. Thanks to OGS, I've gained confidence, skills, and opportunities that have positively impacted my faith, career, and personal growth."



Dr. Gina Marshall-Johnson (PhD in Social Research, 2024)

"Researching the social, ethical and theological intersection between my professional career in Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Johns Hopkins University has opened my eyes to the unlimited Spiritual Intelligence available to all compared to AI's limited worldview. I now want to help others live empowered by the Holy Spirit and make disciples of all nations."



Dr. Peter Airewele (DSL, 2024; PhD Student)

"My doctoral journey in Social Leadership recently has been a profound personal and intellectual growth experience. It was such a transformative experience and has equipped me with the knowledge, skills, and passion to make a meaningful impact on society. I am excited to apply the lessons learned to address pressing social issues and inspire positive change. I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned from such brilliant minds and to have been part of such a great institution and a supportive community."



Semaj Zachary (Doctor of Social Leadership, 2024)

"OGS has changed my life and allowed me to deepen my studies while also involving my religion. It has also brought out my charitable side and shown me how I can best help others with my gift of knowledge in technology. I truly love helping others, especially in underserved communities."

DR. KEVIN RIGGS, ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Kevin Riggs (Pastor Kevin) has been the Senior Pastor of Franklin Community Church for more than thirty years (www.franklincommunitychurch.org). He is also the founder and Executive Director of Franklin Community Development (www.franklincommunitydevelopment.com) and Williamson County Homeless Alliance (www.wilcohomeless.com) All three organization are located in Franklin, TN.

Pastor Kevin believes one of the primary tasks of a pastor is to be the “conscious of the community.” He is extremely active in the community and is respected as an advocate for the poor and marginalized. Pastor Kevin is also involved in prison ministry, especially Tennessee’s death row, where his church has ordained one of the men on death row and helped him start a church called The Church of Life.

In addition to pastoring, Rev. Dr. Riggs taught Sociology for fourteen years at Nashville State Community College. He has written three books, *Failing Like Jesus*, *Evangelism for the 21st Century*, and *Church Health*. He has also co-authored a book with Pastor Kevin Burns, who is presently on death row in Tennessee. The book is set to be published in the Fall of 2024 is titled *Today is the Best Day of My life*. Furthermore, Pastor Kevin has an active ministry in Honduras, training pastors and visiting prisons. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Misty. Pastor Kevin is also an avid scuba diver. He and his wife live in Franklin, TN.

Congratulations, Dr. Riggs!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Colleen Damon-Duvall



“Sometimes you have to exit one door because God is shifting you to your greater next. Excited about joining and working with the Proverbs226 organization. The grand opening last weekend was a wonderful sight to behold. Ground breaking on so many levels. History was made as a prison is now converted to an Educational facility. The first in the nation. Mission, Ministry and Teaching thankful I will get to do it all in one place to use my gifts and love of teaching to impact the lives of so many.”





2024 Library of Congress Reading and Research Trip

Dr. David Ward

This year's OGS trip to the Library of Congress (LOC) was a wonderful success. From June 23-30 Dr. Ward led a group of 7 doctoral students to Washington, DC to stay at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Conference Hotel for a week of intensive research at the LOC, arguably the greatest library in the world.

2024 LOC Group in front of LOC Our week began with getting LOC Library Cards and then it was off to a New Readers' Orientation Class. The staff at the LOC know OGS from our over 40 years of experience doing these research trips. We were joined by Dr. Brenda Davis, our Chief Student Success Officer (CSSO) who lives near DC. As the trip faculty we never tire of the excitement and wonder our students experience when we take a tour of the Library and end up at the

Main Reading Room of the Jefferson Building to begin our research. Dr. Ward sets up appointments with each of our students Reference Librarians who specialize in their subject area. Everyone found treasures and enjoyed incredible fellowship over meals together.

By Friday afternoon we returned to our training room for a presentation by Dr. Sharlene Buszka, alumni and OGS Board Member. Dr. Buszka shared how her OGS training had led to professional elevation and publishing opportunities. Students had great questions and the discussion was one of the high points of the week.

On Saturday the group spent the day at the Museum of the Bible and marveled at the floor about the history of how Christian scholars had used the latest technology and publishing advances to get the Bible into the hands of the common man, century after century. Everyone came away inspired by a greater vision of how God could use them in the mission field of their profession through their research!

Thank you, Drs. Ward and Davis!

2024 DEGREE DAY CELEBRATION



Graduation Rate:

89%

Number of Graduates:

9

1 MLitt graduates
5 DSL graduates
3 DPhil/PhD graduates

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL LEADERSHIP

Peter Abraham Airewele
California

Paul Timothy Blake
Florida

Katherine Blanc
California

Joseph Jay Breish
Virginia

Rachel Ailene Gonatas
Ohio

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Seble Hailu Diglu
Ethiopia

Gina M. Marshall-Johnson
Maryland

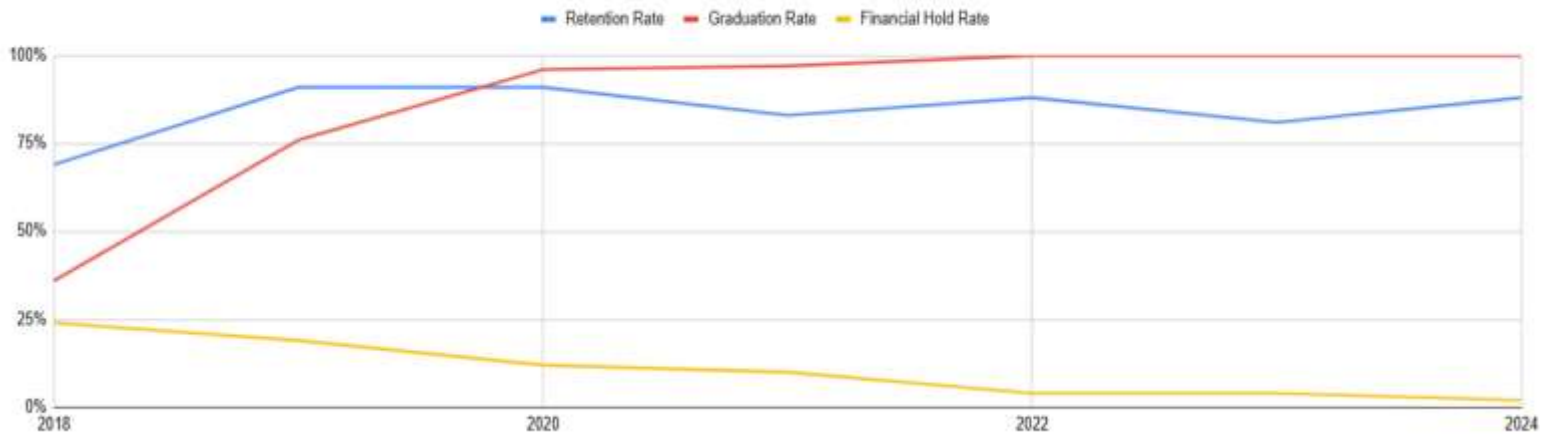
Gerald La Bron Ware
Tennessee

MASTER OF LETTERS

Robert D. Morris
Indiana

2024 INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS HIGHLIGHTS

Retention Rate, Graduation Rate and Financial Hold Rate



Richard Gamble, Registrar & IEO

In 2024, OGS has focused on integrating our online admissions system with DIAL to make the enrollment process more seamless for new students. Now, when prospective students are marked as accepted in the online admissions system, DIAL immediately creates a user account for them, sends them an email with their login information, and automatically enrolls them in our AA 101: Program Orientation Workshop (POW) course. The POW course was created this year to help accepted students understand the mission and values of OGS as well as how the initial Core 1 experience will work.

Within the course are helpful resources such as registration resources, video tutorials, assignment templates, APA style helps, and community-building discussion forums. Students also get to complete practice assignments so that they are better prepared and more confident when their courses begin. We believe that this course will help accepted students transition into full enrollment status and will get them excited about starting their program!

Finally, for both new and existing students, a “Book an Appointment with the OGS Finance Office” link was added to the DIAL home page so that new or existing students can schedule individualized advisement for financing their education at the press of a button.



The screenshot shows the DIAL interface for the AA 100: Program Orientation Workshop (Spring 2025) course. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Resources, Assignments, Grades, and Discussions. The main content area features a welcome message from Dr. Brenda Davis, the course description, and contact information for the Registrar (Richard Gamble) and the Chief Financial Officer (Michael Pecchia). There are also buttons for 'Add Appointment' and 'New Messages Posted Today'. The interface is clean and user-friendly, with a dark blue header and a white background for the main content.

ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

Dr. Brenda Davis, Chief Student Success Officer and Director of Admissions



Admissions Director

Since the pandemic, OGS Admissions has been recalibrating through connectedness (our experiences, perceptions, and feelings about OGS), cultivating supportive relationships, and increasing marketing strategies. There are challenging times in higher education admissions, but joy is in the collective work. My dual work roles (Director of Admissions and Chief Student Success Officer (CSSO)) are rewarding in part our amazing OGS executive team led by President Reichard! Change happens at the top! During the admission process, connectedness restarts with each enrollee who chooses OGS as their academic partner. Nouwen (1996), in his reflections on Christian leadership, explains trying to lead solo can lead to feeling as if one is walking on a tightrope waiting for applause while not falling off. Admissions is a communal and mutual experience with a developing system to sustain morale, retention, and a thriving community of scholarship.

21 new students for the Spring 2024 term has been one of the largest enrollments for Core 1 in the last three years! We enrolled 19 students for Fall 2024. Our 40 enrollees help to make up the 301 applications completed and/or started for 2024. Updates to our OGS admissions online application system offer a more seamless application experience for prospective students and more efficient work overall for us in Admissions. To foster community, new students enrolled in the Program Orientation Workshop (POW) to develop relationships while learning more about the school.

During partnership work with the National Association of Christian Social Workers (NACSW), I had the opportunity to attend the 74th Annual NACSW conference in Dallas, TX. Omega Graduate School was invited to a new session focused on Faith Integration. During a “Faith Integration, the Challenge to Faith Integration” session, the group was asked to analyze definitions of “faith integration” from three major universities. All three reported too convoluted, long-winded, and drawn out. I asked if I could read the Omega Graduate School mission and received rave reviews-thumbs up from the entire group!

Chief Student Success Officer (CSSO)

The role of CSSO and Admission go hand in hand. Incorporating REST and reorganization tools such as Response to Intervention (RTI) for increased academic success are central themes for my work as CSSO. A fundamental goal is to help care for our students’ well-being in a way that supports professional academic work balance for success. My professional development through OGS partnership work with the American Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges (ABACC) informs me that inadequate rest decreases performance and detachment from the mission. On December 7, 2024, I will begin a CSSO series presentation, “Engaging for Student Success in Higher Education” centered on behavioral health.

The CSSO series is a compilation based on my professional development work with the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality and Re-emerging Scholars, Johns Hopkins Alumni Council School of Education Leading Constructive Social Change, and Stephens Ministry. I will also make connections to a student’s dissertation, Yvette Seales, with cutting-edge research connections for integrating religion with spirituality into mental health (Oxhandler et al., 2024) and OGS professor Dr. Taladay’s (2021) work on spirituality and transformative leadership.

3,142

Admissions Leads

490

Admissions Applications

130

Applications Accepted

36%

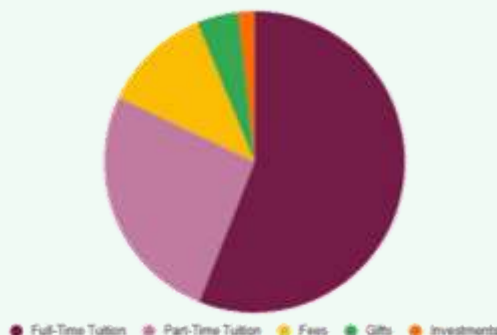
Inquiry to Application Rate

FY2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

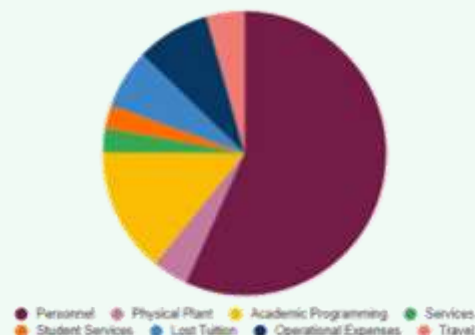


Michael Pecchia, CPA (i)
Chief Financial Officer

REVENUE



EXPENSES



2024: Stability and Modest Growth

Omega Graduate School is pleased to report a year of financial stability and growth in 2024, reflecting our commitment to responsible stewardship and strategic investments in our mission. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, total income exceeded expenses, resulting in a modest surplus. This surplus reflects careful budget management and targeted initiatives to enhance operational efficiency and academic excellence.

Our operating revenues increased by 3% compared to the prior year, driven by an 8% rise in tuition revenue and a 67% increase in donations. These gains are a testament to our students, alumni, and donors' trust in OGS. Successful fundraising efforts, including the OGS Guardians Program, supported critical initiatives, such as our accreditation and degree authorization expenses.

Operating expenses decreased by 6.4%, thanks to reductions in payroll, travel, and accreditation costs. At the same time, we strategically invested in marketing, enabling record enrollment of 21 new students and bolstering our long-term sustainability. These marketing efforts, supported by a generous donation, delivered remarkable results, including generating approximately 500 leads per month.

OGS remains debt-free, a reflection of our prudent financial management. With strong reserves, including an endowment fund that grew by over \$29,000 this year, we are well-positioned to sustain our mission and invest in future opportunities. Increased investment income from the endowment fund further underscores the strength of our financial strategy.

OGS will continue prioritizing financial stability, transparent reporting, and mission-driven growth as we move forward to ensure we remain a leader in integrating faith and social research for constructive change.



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

WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!

Dr. Jared Sorber

Instructor

- LDR 810 Cross-Cultural Dynamics
- PHI 801 Ethics in Global Society



Dr. James Strecker

Instructor

- LDR 813 Organizational Dynamics
- COM 803 Hermeneutics & Communication

Dr. Sharlene Buszka

Director of Alumni Relations and Society of Scholars Chair (forthcoming)

Dr. Sharlene Buszka has a PhD in Social Research from Omega Graduate School and an MBA with a Certificate in Human Resource Management from the University of Buffalo. For the last 15 years she has been certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) from the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM). She recently retired from Daemen University in Amherst, New York where she was a Full Professor of Business Administration specializing in Human Resource Management.

While at Daemen she served three terms as Chairperson of the Business Administration, Accounting and Paralegal Studies program. In this role she was instrumental in obtaining a 1.5 million grant to fund a Veteran's Center for Career Transition based on a career readiness curriculum she developed.

Her research interests are in areas related to workforce diversity, meaningful work, career development, and faith and work integration. Over the years, she has published, presented and acted as a subject editor on these topics and previously co-authored a book entitled *Integrating Christian Faith and Work: Individual, Occupational, and Organizational Influences and Strategies*. Sharlene is currently acting as Society of Scholars Chair and Director of Alumni Relations for Omega Graduate School in Dayton, Tennessee. She also serves as Vice President of the Buffalo City Mission and volunteers as a career coach for 716 Ministries.



A Note About Society of Scholars

Dr. Buszka will work with Dr. Reichard and the Board of Regents on a formal plan to reboot the Society of Scholars organization. In 2020, the Board of Regents voted to place SOS under the office of the president, and it has been dormant since that time, so OGS could focus squarely on its organizational and financial turnaround. We are slowly preparing to reboot SOS.

Stay tuned for future developments concerning the Society of Scholars!



Mary McDermott

Business Manager / Bookkeeper

Mary joins OGS with a long career in business management and book keeping, including experience in Christian schooling and educational service organizations.

Memorial for Dr. Loren Humphrey

Former Board Chairman, Legacy Donor, and Society of Scholars Doctor of Letters Recipient

By Dr. Curtis D. McClane

Dr. Loren Humphrey graduated from Albion College in Michigan. We had that Michigan connection and knew a few of the same places there and individuals. He would reminisce about those early years. I got to know Dr. Loren Humphrey in my role as Executive Vice-President and Chief Operations Officer.

My office was up on the second floor in the administration building across from president Dr. Kim Geiger's office. When he would arrive in my office, at least twice a week, he usually wanted to talk about his brother Richard, his medical experiences, maintenance issues on the campus, academics, and his love of history and ethics. You can imagine the breadth and depth of discussion in each of these areas.

He loved to talk about how different he and Dr. Richard Humphrey were, and yet how they could still work together for the good of OGS' mission. He was very proud of that fact, and often said that he believed it was a model for all Christian adults to follow in their working together. He would always come back to the book, *Embryo Factor: The Stem Cell Wars*, that they both co-authored.

He loved to relate to me his journey of medical school, chief of surgery, and his own original research with immunotherapy for cancer. He also loved to share the episode where, as I understood the story, he actually operated on himself! I never did ask Richard about that for confirmation, but Loren loved to tell it on occasions. His medical practice, research, publishing, and training of surgeons was an example of the type of academic and professional rigor he expected of others.

He had a passion for doctoral research. One day he came into my office and asked me, "What is your PhD in?" I replied, "Leadership studies." He was thrilled that I was able to answer so quickly because he felt that our DPhil in interdisciplinary studies was too broad and was not equipping individuals for marketplace recognition with their degree. He was an early and strong advocate for the PhD nomenclature, which we were able to eventually achieve. He especially loved the ongoing work of the Society of Scholars and wanted to figure out ways to get more outside participation of presenters that did not have connections with OGS. He loved talking about the Society of Scholars.

Additionally, he loved our conversations about history and ethics. I treasure the two books he gave me: *Embryo Factory* [co-authored by he and Richard Humphrey], and *Johnny Come Home* [the Civil War in Northeast Missouri]. Engaging discussions about stem cell research and Civil War battlefields tended to be a weekly fare.

Dr. Loren Humphrey loved OGS students. It was a joy to watch him interact with students when he was on campus. He would listen to life stories and offer them words of encouragement. Constantly, he was reaffirming for them the difference that graduate studies were going to make in their personal and professional life.

Often I would pull up in the morning into the parking lot and I would see Dr. Loren Humphrey dressed in his old work clothes with either a paint brush or trowel in hand repairing a stucco wall. He never ceased being involved in ongoing maintenance. One day he asked me to bring a shovel, and we went up the hill and began digging the old sewer system to clean it out. To this day, my shovel has a hole drilled near the end of the handle where he hung it on the wall in the basement of the Scholars Porch. That was his workshop. Everything was labeled and arranged in perfect rows. Everything was in its place, and every place held its own unique tool waiting to be used. My shovel reminds me of his propensity for keeping things neat and in order.

Last of all, he loved the school so much that he poured himself and his financial resources into the school. Not only did he help with the operational expenses of the school, but he loved to tell me about the Janice Scholarship named after his wife. He was proud of that scholarship and loved it when Janice Scholarship recipients would write him letters of thanks.





In Memory of Dr. Bob Andrews

Dr. Andrews Served OGS in Various Roles from 1982-2020

Robert Dexter Andrews "Bob," 79, entered peacefully into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Aug. 26, 2024, after a courageous battle with numerous health issues.

Bob was born July 5, 1945, to the late Dexter Otto and Viola Beardsley Andrews in Edmore, Mich. He has resided in Dayton since 1972.

Bob is survived by his wife of 56 years (June 15, 1968), Lillian Seera Andrews "Lil;" sister, JoAnn Culp of Arkansas; brother, Dennis Andrews (Lois) of New Jersey; nieces, Sheri Wilson (Keith) of Iowa, Christy Dubendorf (Paul) of Pennsylvania, Jen Croessmann (Ross) of New Jersey, Suzanne Page (Rob) of Illinois and Heidi Maxwell (Shane) of Minnesota; and nephews, Tim Culp (Keli) of Arkansas, Tyler Siira (Stacie) of Tennessee and Travis Seera of Tennessee.

Bob graduated from Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Mich., in 1963 and Bryan College in Dayton in 1967. He earned a master's degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., and Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tenn., and a doctorate in Educational Administration from UT Knoxville. Bob spent a few years in World Book management, but he spent most of his professional life as a teacher and administrator in higher education at Bryan College and Oxford/Omega Graduate School.

Bob's lifetime of ministry took several paths which included teaching college Bible courses, serving as elder at North Shore Fellowship Church in Chattanooga where he also taught Sunday School and Bible Studies, sang in church choirs, toured at home and abroad with the Glenn Draper Singers and taught in Bible schools in Europe. Bob was the founding director of the Chattanooga Colson Fellows Affiliate for worldview studies where he has served to the present.

Bob was a people-person and loved connecting with former students, classmates and colleagues. His sports passions were tennis and soccer, both of which he played and coached with his usual competitiveness. And Michigan football was an annual event, calling for faithful fall TV viewing. Bob found a lot of relaxation and adventure on his motorcycle trips throughout his life. Whether it was a quick ride in the Sequatchie Valley or long bucket list trips with Andy, Frank or Travis, traveling the lower 48 states, Canada and Mexico, he came home with many tales to tell. Even after logging over 100,000 miles of riding, he was always planning his next adventure.

Dr. Bob Andrews faithfully served Oxford/Omega Graduate School for over three decades. He held key leadership roles, including Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, guiding the institution's academic vision with distinction.

Dr. Andrews contributed significantly to curriculum development, faculty mentoring, and the advancement of the school's mission to equip scholars-practitioners through faith-based social research. His steadfast dedication, intellectual rigor, and heartfelt commitment to the institution and its students leave a lasting legacy.



I challenge you to make a gift or pledge this year to help us continue the good work we're doing for the institution we all love!
— *Dr. David Anderson, Chancellor*



Now that you've read the Annual Report, you can see, it has been an exciting and important year for Omega Graduate School. I am so pleased with the financial goals met in the academic/administrative achievements. I am filled with gratitude for all the people who have helped make this possible... including you! We have so much to celebrate together!

As you read about the exciting developments at OGS, will you consider how you would like to further your impact this year? I invite you to continue your generosity and make your best gift to enable our school grow.

Please consider being one of our faithful supporters, and I thank you for keeping our mission in motion, today and every day!

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

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