

2019

Annual  
Report

Ottawa  
University

O'DELL CENTER



## Mission Statement:

Building on its foundation as a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity.

## Vision Statement:

By 2020, Ottawa University will be positioned as a distinctive and rapidly expanding institution known for its innovative educational models, exceptional value, and special ability to prepare diverse student populations for lifetimes of enlightened faith, exemplary service, inspired leadership, and personal significance.

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### On the Cover

The new O'Dell Center for Athletics on the OUAZ campus in Surprise, Ariz.

The Annual Report is published annually by Ottawa University, 1001 South Cedar Street, Ottawa, KS 66067, and is distributed at no cost to alumni, parents, friends, and donors of the University. Financial reports reflect fiscal year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019.



# 2018-2019

## Year in Review

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Writing a concise annual report letter these days has become increasingly challenging as the complexity of all that is now Ottawa University has grown exponentially. There are so many items of note as the ensuing pages certainly indicate, but even these scarcely scratch the surface of all that is OU these days.

This University is a thriving, bustling, bee-hive of activity operating multiple campuses in multiple states, whose outreach is quite literally worldwide. Now headed into my 12th year as chief “bee keeper” at OU, there is evidence of some stings to be sure, but much more of sweetness and honey and of all the good that Ottawa University and its graduates are contributing to a world more desperate than ever for principled, competent, passionate and values-centered leadership. This is what Ottawa University graduates are known for in business, education, the sciences, health care, the arts, humanities, social services, the church, and government. Every part of modern society. All of this is the ultimate product of our institutional hive.

Our university is growing, quite rapidly in fact. This by itself is unusual in the landscape of today’s higher education. As we continue to be largely a tuition-driven institution, this is most fortunate for us.

Assuming we achieve our objectives for the new fiscal year of 2019-20, we will have demonstrated a three year revenue growth of more than 60 percent. Total assets, boosted especially by the burgeoning new residential campus in Surprise, Ariz., are

already at \$96.9 million—up from \$63.6 million just two years ago. We have posted two of the largest surpluses in the history of the University, and are hopeful of yet another in 2019-2020.

With the advent of our Arizona residential campus, where enrollments have grown from zero to more than 800 students in just our third year of operation, and the rapid expansion of our Executive MBA program for international students, total enrollments have increased by 10 percent despite heavy competitive and environmental pressures in the adult higher-ed space. Our people – faculty, staff and leaders who work tirelessly in pursuit of OU’s most worthy mission and vision – deserve great appreciation for their efforts and steadily improving results. That group, now totaling more 320 in number, is very special. I appreciate them, as do our alumni, students, and friends each and every day.

Along with growth comes an unending need for new programs, new people, new facilities, and new ideas. And all of that results in unending needs for capital and resources to support it all. Accordingly, we have announced the “Advancing The Experience” capital campaigns on both the Ottawa and Surprise residential campuses aimed at enhancing the total student experience. Funds for each are already impacting on academics, athletics and activities with the purpose of giving our residential students – now over 1,500 in number – that very special OU experience they will prize and appreciate throughout their lives.



The launch of a new residential campus with all of the inherent complexity associated with students, new living facilities, a new union, 24 varsity athletic programs, multiple majors and everything that comes with such a campus was the tipping point to move to a new organizational model. The University now operates under a regionalized leadership structure reporting to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees. OU Midwest (OUMW), which consists of the Ottawa residential campus, the adult professional campuses in Overland Park, Kan., and Brookfield, Wis., and online, reports to President Dr. Reggie Wenyika and Chief Operating Officer Nancy Wingert. OU Arizona (OUAZ), which now combines the Phoenix adult campus operations with the new campus in Surprise, is led by Dr. Dennis Tyner, who was named president there this spring.

Both of these regions are supported by a robust administrative and academic support organization that is centralized on behalf of both regions and the university as a whole. This new organizational model is proving to be more streamlined, market focused, and productive as we finalize our “Vision 2020” strategic plan initiatives and head into the new “Beyond 2020” three-year strategic plan.

Now, precisely because of our success and God’s blessing in helping to get us to where we are, we need your help more than ever. After reviewing the outlines for the campaigns, I hope you will seriously consider a gift of significance for the university that prepares its students for lives of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity—your University. You will be making a big difference in ways that matter, not only for Ottawa, but for those we serve.

Thank you for your tremendous support in all of its forms. Never doubt our gratitude and appreciation.

In the OU Spirit,

Kevin C. Eichner  
Chancellor

Above: The proposed Varsity Performance Center in Ottawa, KS.

# OUKS

## University's historic Kansas campus charts fifth-straight year of enrollment growth

Increased enrollment, housing additions and new advancement initiatives are some of the highlights that characterized the 2018-19 academic year at Ottawa University's Kansas residential campus (OUKS).

Enrollment was up in 2018-19, marking the fifth-straight year it has increased. OUKS welcomed 829 students to campus. This eclipsed the previous year's enrollment of 724 students, which then was the largest number since 1975. Total student enrollment was up 14.5 percent compared to the 2017-18 numbers. It is evident from this continued growth that OUKS's distinctive liberal arts educational offerings are making an impact in the marketplace.

Sustained growth at the 154-year-old central campus in Kansas was mirrored with increased enrollment University-wide, including the new residential campus in Arizona, the three adult professional studies campuses and online. This can be directly attributed to the University's commitment to the "Vision 2020" campaign, the monumental strategic-planning initiative launched in 2008 that is now in its final year. The campaign's final phase is underway, and will soon reach fruition. A new strategic campaign – "Beyond

2020" – was announced in May. Building on the previous strategic plan, it sets a new three-year goal of materially improving the University's graduation rates and targeting student outcomes, as well as guiding students of all ages to lifetimes of personal significance with its highly innovative, responsive and collegial culture.

Prior to the Fall 2018 term, the University acquired the historic two-story home at 718 S. Cedar St., formerly known as Sheldon Hall, with a gift from distinguished Ottawa residents Charles and the late Sue Gillette. This historic house was built in 1889, having been commissioned by Herbert Franklin (H.F.) Sheldon as the Sheldon family home, and was designed by famed architect George Washburn. The house had previously been University property from the 1930's to the early 1970's. At that time, it was known as Sheldon Hall. After minor renovations during the summer, students moved in to occupy four bedrooms. The Gillette House joins two other off-campus housing options, University and Blue Mountain apartments.

The University's Office of Advancement spearheaded two Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) initiatives that

are being made possible by the generous support of alumni benefactors. These are aimed at furthering the University's long-standing commitment to STEM curriculum.

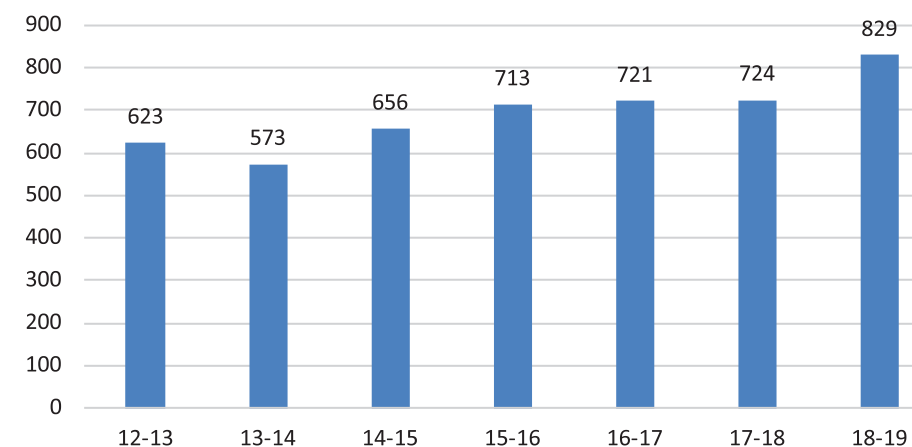
The first of these initiatives is the establishment of the Dr. Lewis V. Spencer Scholarship for Outstanding STEM Performance. This endowed scholarship honors the late Dr. Spencer, a beloved math and physics teacher at OUKS, and was initiated by Dr. Spencer's son, Carl '75, and wife, Dottie Underwood Spencer '78.

STEM at OUKS will also be bolstered by the construction of a 30-by-72-foot greenhouse on campus, which will be used to enhance the science curriculum in areas such as biology, botany and green chemistry. The \$360,000 greenhouse project received a lead gift of \$165,000 from the Don '69 and Carolyn Creed Foundation. Along with other targeted donations, the greenhouse project is more than half funded.

Ottawa University's foundational campus in Kansas continues to build on its 154 years of heritage, consistently growing its enrollment while strategically evolving with a keenly watchful eye toward the future.



### Total Student Enrollment for OUKS



**Facing:** Renderings of new construction and renovations in Ottawa, KS.

# OUAZ

## Landscape of University's two-year-old Arizona residential campus rises from the desert in West Valley

Saying a lot has happened during the past year at the University's new residential campus in Surprise, Ariz., is the epitome of an understatement. The 2018-19 academic year, only OUAZ's second full year of operation, was a whirlwind of activity. First, student enrollment was up by an impressive 49 percent, or 259 students, from 526 in its inaugural year to 785.

Enrollment was not the only evidence of growth at OUAZ. The three new campus buildings that had begun to take shape as the academic year started were at varying degrees of completion as it ended. The O'Dell Center for Athletics was 90 percent complete at the end of June 2019. Nearing 75-percent complete was the new 332-bed residence hall. Behind that was the OUAZ Student Union, which was the last of the new structures to break ground. All three were slated to open in the early fall of 2019. New construction on campus totals \$55 million.

The current phase of new development at OUAZ encompasses 13 acres of land on the north side of Tierra Buena Lane. The

next phase, in keeping with the University's enrollment goal of 2,500 to 3,000 students at OUAZ in the next 10 to 12 years, will be to develop another two acres on the north, as well as 20 acres of land across the road to the south. Beyond the initial 35 acres, conversations are underway to acquire additional land for future development.

Another major development was Chancellor Kevin Eichner's announcement that Dr. Dennis Tyner would be named OUAZ's first president. Tyner, with more than 30 years of experience in higher education, had led OUAZ as senior vice president and provost from its inception in February 2017.

As president, Tyner will lead the rapidly growing institution into the future with a primary goal of making further strides in advancing the newest arm of Ottawa University to further its reach as a comprehensive educational institution.

Academically, OUAZ continued to build upon and improve its innovative Personal Growth Days, or PGDs, which occur each

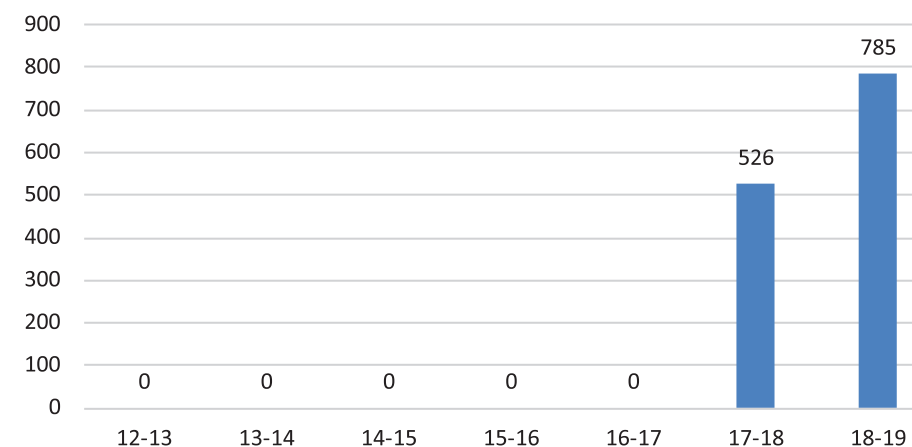
Wednesday. Paramount to OUAZ's faithful pursuit to develop the "whole person" in its students, PGDs replace Wednesday classes with a "Spirit Life" chapel service, food and fellowship and workshops teaching real-world skills.

The addition of competitive club sports also serves as a vital part of OUAZ's unique educational model, building on PGDs and the University's flex-term scheduling. Substantial scholarships are available for students to participate in these dynamic programs. Offerings include bowling, cycling, men's and women's wrestling, men's lacrosse, outdoor adventure and ultimate frisbee.

OUAZ continues to move forward and is quickly earning a reputation as an impactful institution of higher learning in the West Valley. With high growth potential, new state-of-the-art facilities, and the backing of the University's 154-year-old original campus in Ottawa, Kan., there are great hopes for the future at OUAZ.



### Total Student Enrollment for OUAZ



**Facing:** New building construction on campus in Surprise, AZ.

# APGS

## University's adult and professional unit experiences significant growth overall and in its two-year-old EMBA program

The University's Adult Professional and Graduate Studies (APGS) academic unit charted enrollment of 3,309 students in 2018-19, a slight drop from the previous year's 3,415 total. Serving students across the Phoenix, Kansas City and Milwaukee markets as well as online, APGS prepares professionals aspiring to complete an undergraduate degree or commence a graduate degree to pursue a new profession or promotion within their current career.

Achieving nearly \$10 million of contribution margin in 2018-19, the APGS unit exceeded its budgeted contribution margin goal of \$9.6 million as well as the previous year result of \$6.5 million. The contribution margin reversal was achieved by stabilizing the core enrollment, while accelerating the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) program. More specifically, revenue from all adult programs increased to \$23.1 million from \$16.9 million or by 37 percent.

Among OU's most successful newer APGS degree programs has been the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program with 195 students enrolled at the end of 2018-19, and 125 alumni since the program was launched. In addition, pursuing the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program was a focus this academic year. The MSN allows students in the BSN program to continue their education, while also giving those nurses who have already completed their BSN the opportunity to earn their graduate degree. Nurses who enroll in the MSN program can choose either the Nurse Educator or the Nurse Leadership specialization track. The

program is designed to be completed in as little as 18 months and requires 36 credit hours of coursework.

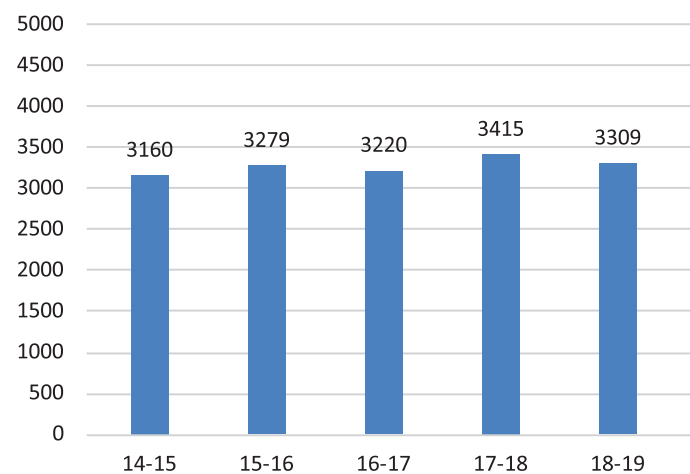
The EMBA program also experienced significant growth during the year with 570 total students arriving for Fall 2019 across Phoenix, Overland Park and Brookfield campuses, up from 370 total students in the year prior. With four concentration options, the most popular EMBA concentration is Information Technology with mounting excitement around the addition of Data Analytics in Fall II 2019. The EMBA program provides students the opportunity to learn with and from fellow emerging executives working primarily in software development and information technology roles nationwide.

Current program enhancements include renovating the Human Resources undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Additionally, refreshing

Business Administration to include student engagement tools featuring interactive simulations and dynamic decision making have increased learning outcomes and perspectives. The Business Ethics course now showcases an interactive learning experience whereby a student makes ethical or unethical decisions which increase or decrease their marketability and lifetime earnings throughout their simulated career.

While the adult market continues to battle significant competition, Ottawa University remains steadfast in its approach of unique programming, interactive learning and affordable pricing, managing some uptick in enrollments and a material improvement in contribution margin, which few institutions have managed to achieve. Resilience and excellence are quintessential as professional learners continue to navigate technology transformation globally. OU is fortunate to continue its pioneering spirit by forging and accelerating online-learning growth.

### Total Student Enrollment for APGS



# Capital Campaign

## "Advancing the Experience" initiative launched on OUKS, OUAZ residential campuses

The University-wide "Advancing the Experience" capital campaign was launched in Fall 2018. During the past year, it has resulted in many exciting developments. Both Ottawa University residential campuses are benefiting greatly from this multi-million dollar initiative. Phase 1 of the capital campaign kicked off in May 2019 at the Ottawa, Kan., residential campus. In Surprise, Ariz., new campus construction that is part of its campaign has been completed. Both campaigns are now in the public phase.

### Kansas Campus (OUKS)

The Kansas campaign includes dramatic enhancements and additions to the 154-year-old original residential campus. With a goal of \$9 million, the Kansas campaign aims to provide much-needed upgrades and updates to the campus to enhance the student experience as enrollment continues to grow. With a major lead gift from alumnus Jeff Hull '88, the first of five phases was slated for completion in fall 2019. Phase 1 includes upgrades to stadium and Larry D. Peters Auditorium, which will serve as the home for the OUKS's new esports program.

The \$1.75-million stadium project include enhancements to the stands and construction of a new press box with space for the relocation of the Braves Hall of Fame, which will serve as the centerpiece for the Hull Family Athletic Complex. The improvements to Peters Auditorium carried a price tag of \$550,000, and transformed the space into a state-of-the-art facility for esports with adaptability to continue hosting theater productions and other staged events.

Foundational and lead gifts, including Hull's major donation, have raised nearly \$4.5 million, half of the campaign total. Fundraising is still active for the remaining phases. These will include the construction of a varsity performance



center, improvements to the Mabee Center, renovating and re-purposing the former Hall of Fame space at the Hull Center into Allied Health classrooms and labs, renovating and re-purposing the varsity performance center at the old Myers Library building into a student recreation and wellness center, and installing turf to the baseball and softball fields at Dick Peters Sports Complex.

### Arizona Campus (OUAZ)

At the two-year-old residential campus in Surprise, Ariz., the capital campaign has a goal of \$12.5 million over three years. About 70 percent of the total, \$8.7 million, was donated during the silent phase.

Three major new structures on the OUAZ campus, between 75 and 90 percent complete as of press time, will open in fall 2019. (See cover photos.) The O'Dell Center for Athletics was being built adjacent to Spirit Field, and includes a press box/VIP suite, locker rooms, coaches' offices, training facilities, classrooms and labs for biology, chemistry and engineering, and student services offices.

Additional new construction on the Arizona residential campus includes the OUAZ

Student Union. It will house the dining complex with indoor and outdoor seating, gathering spaces, study rooms, offices and a conference center. OUAZ's first residential hall will feature 83 suite-style rooms with a total of 332 beds offering exceptional living spaces in the heart of campus.

OUAZ is seeking people and organizations to contribute in helping advance the University's vision, while impacting the City of Surprise and the West Valley. That campaign will recruit donors to become part of the "OUAZ 1,000" membership. Members of this prestigious group will have contributed \$1,000 or more, will commit to donating an additional \$1,000 or more annually and will recruit others donors in the future.

Overall, the "Advancing the Experience" campaign affords alumni and friends of the University the opportunity to make an impact on capital improvements with their contributions. In addition, there are a variety of naming opportunities available for new and existing facilities on both campuses.

# Fredrikson Center

Expansion of on-site and virtual programming helps center develop stronger ties with OU campus communities

**Facing page, top to bottom:** “The Nerd” theatre production, alumni Wiley Angell during “Adventures in Faith,” Labor of Love, and the 2018 Easter egg hunt in front of the Administration building.

The Fredrikson Center for Faith & Church Vitality increased the tangible scope of Ottawa University’s mission in 2018-19 through the expansion of its on-site and virtual programming. Offerings to high school, residential and non-traditional students were also expanded, and the Fredrikson team forged deeper connections with the communities where OU has a footprint.

## OUMW

On the Ottawa campus, the Center launched the “Faith Ambassadors” fellowship group, which is experiential programming to hone and deepen the faith journeys of junior- and senior-level undergraduate students. Fall programming engages participants in coursework emphasizing self-assessment, academic analysis of experiential and service learning, and participation in service projects. In the spring, participants will engage in self-directed service and experience projects whereby they serve at local agencies and are mentored by faculty instructors, staff and peers within the classroom setting and at service gatherings. This programming was underwritten through a grant award from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE), an initiative administered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) designed to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students.

Under the direction of the Rev. Dr. John Holz Hüter, University Chaplain, theater productions of the musical “Oklahoma” and the play “The Nerd” on the Ottawa campus experienced sold-out performances. Other campus activities facilitated by the Center included the first OU-sponsored Community Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt, which more than 600 attended.

On OU’s Wisconsin campus, the outreach dimension of the Fredrikson Center further expanded through a generous grant award from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust of the American Baptist Foundation. The programming connects with those in communities who are in the “recovery phases” of their lives. It focuses on faith formation, a stepped path to vocation and avocational learnings and brokers social healing and reparations.

## OUAZ

Mirroring campus ministry support at Ottawa’s main campus in Kansas, Fredrikson Center engagement on the new Surprise, Ariz., campus included facilitation of “Social Style” and “Conflict Resolution” seminars for all first-year students on OUAZ’s Personal Growth Days. Additional engagement was focused on Spirit Life events and helping to schedule motivational speakers, such as veteran NFL linebacker Sam Acho’s visit in April being underwritten by the Norwood L. Jones Convocation Series. Programming was also launched to help target specific life-barriers reported to inhibit student success in school, work and life.

On the Phoenix campus, a year-long season of programming commenced in the Fredrikson Chapel Room. These included opportunities for prayer and meditation, along with facilitated sessions led by Dr. Paula Artac targeting peace, tranquility and exploring the world of art.

## University Wide

The Lilly Endowment Inc. graciously expanded grant funding for OU’s Theology, Action & Understanding (T.A.U.) Institute. Targeting high-school students nationwide, the goal of the institute is to cultivate a new generation of morally and spiritually grounded activist-theologians, who are prepared to work – intellectually and practically – across cultural and theological divides. As the first round of participants graduated high school, several of them were welcomed as incoming OU freshman the following semester.

Fredrikson Center’s “Bemmels Broadcasts” video series expanded as well. In addition to video streaming chapel services, this year’s season included the “Chaplain’s Chat” and “Women of Faith” video series produced by students. These videos featured perspectives from pastors and laity on both tender and tough topics of faith, submitted in response to nationwide surveys on youth engagement and church connectivity.



# Braves Athletics

Tradition of excellence continues on University's Kansas residential campus

Ottawa University's Kansas athletics season got off to an award-winning start in August 2018 with the announcement that OUKS had been named a "Champions of Character" Five-Star Institution by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Each year, NAIA institutions and conferences are evaluated and earn points on their progress in pursuing character-driven athletics across all teams, coaches and players. This marked the fourth-straight year OUKS has earned either a Bronze or Gold ranking in the competition.

The Braves football team kicked off its 2018 gridiron campaign with a convincing 42-12 win over Bethel College, winning six out of their first seven games en route to an 8-2 record. This was a remarkable turnaround from the team's previous 3-8 season. The Braves finished in second place in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC), and ranked 20th in the NAIA Top 25.

Women's volleyball at OUKS continued its impressive run that has netted four-straight NAIA Tournament appearances, and three out of four KCAC Tournament championships. The 2018 season was a prime example of this as the Braves finished

ranked 20th in the NAIA Top 25 with a 27-13 overall record. The team captured the KCAC Tournament Championship by defeating #17 McPherson College 3-1, snapping the Bulldogs 21-match winning streak. In the final conference standings, OUKS finished second with an 11-1 record.

OUKS's women's soccer team welcomed Ben Boehner as its new head coach following its 2018 season. Boehner became the ninth coach in program history, replacing Roman DuChateau. OUKS's women's soccer teams have compiled an unparalleled 51-12-3 overall record the past three seasons, and 30-3-1 in the KCAC for a championship and two second-place finishes. The team has qualified for the NAIA Championship Tournament the last five out six years, and its three-straight appearances is a program best. In 2018, the Braves finished 25th in the NAIA Top 25 with a 15-5-1 record overall, and 10-1-1 in KCAC play.

An 8-1 overall record and regular season and tournament championships in the KCAC highlighted the Ottawa Braves men's wrestling team's accomplishments in the 2018-19 season. Colby Crank, OUKS's first-year head coach, was named "Coach

of the Year" by the KCAC. The team had seven wrestlers named First-Team All-KCAC, and five received Honorable Mention. Three Braves grapplers won conference championships – John Reina (149), Ryan Delforge (157) and Micah Miller (174) – and qualified for the NAIA National Tournament. Two others, Chance Schooler (285) and Santino Gee (184), earned wildcard berths..

The OUKS women's track and field season was highlighted by Adia Vaughn's record-setting season. Vaughn won the KCAC indoor championship in the 60M, earning All-KCAC Indoor honors and qualifying for the NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships. In outdoor, Vaughn won the KCAC championship in the 100M by setting both a conference and University record with a time of 11.81. She also set a University record in the 200M with a time of 24.45. She received All-KCAC Outdoor honors, and qualified to compete in the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships in three events: 100M, 200M and 400M. Finally, Vaughn was named a NAIA All-American in Outdoor.

# Spirit Athletics

Athletic programs at University's Arizona campus rapidly rising to prominence

The Spirit is on the rise in the Valley of the Sun, where OUAZ has quickly made a name for itself with the impressive early success of its athletics teams. In just two years, the OUAZ Spirit have earned seven National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national tournament appearances, two individual national championships and one team national championship. That's not to mention OUAZ having hosted and played in the 2018 NCCAA Victory Bowl game in its inaugural season on the gridiron.

Speaking of the Spirit football team, its first-ever bowl game bid capped off an impressive seven-win first season. OUAZ's high-powered offense scored an average of 54 points per game, and tallied 70-plus points in two of its victories. The Spirit's 7-3 regular-season record included a five-game winning streak. The team was 5-3 in the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC). Its Victory Bowl appearance against Olivet Nazarene was played in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Spirit Field on Nov. 30. The two teams combined for 10 touchdowns and 1,000 yards of offense in a game that came down to the last offensive series with the Spirit on the short end of 38-35 score.

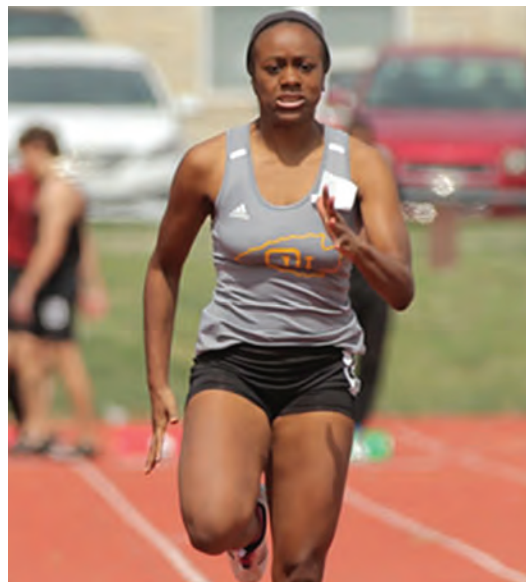
The Spirit athletic program's second year of competition was further bolstered by the women's and men's soccer teams. Both teams qualified for the NCCAA D1 National Championship tournament. The women's team finished its sophomore season with 13-6-2 record, and then advanced all the way to the third round of the national championship tournament only to lose to the eventual national champion, Trinity Christian College. In men's soccer, OUAZ finished 2018 with a 12-7-1 record. They advanced to the semifinals of the national tournament, where they too lost to the eventual national champion, Southwestern Christian University.

Men's golf returned to the NCCAA National Championship tournament in its second season. This time, the Spirit came within two strokes of recording the school's first national championship as the team finished in second place. OUAZ did secure its first individual national championship at the tournament as Spirit golfer Carter Lewis shot a final round 75 to finish with a 2-under-par 214 for first place overall.

Two exclamation points were placed on all of the success OUAZ has had during its first two years, both coming in spring 2019.

First, in January, the Spirit men's volleyball team captured the school's first national title in a team sport. OUAZ aced the NCCAA National Invitational Tournament in convincing style with a perfect 4-0 record and wins in 12-straight sets. Overall, the team netted a 14-8 record and finished in third place in the Golden State Athletic Conference.

Then, in April, the OUAZ beach volleyball team capped an amazing inaugural season by winning the championship at the AVCA/NAIA Small College Beach Volleyball National Tournament. OUAZ finished with a 5-0 record to end their inaugural season at 23-4. All four losses came against NCAA Division I teams, including two that were nationally ranked.





# Advancement

Participation in University's first-ever 'Giving Day' shows promise for future; donors help establish several new endowed scholarships for students

**Facing:** Action during the Braves Classic golf tournament, and coach Chris Creighton during the Norwood Jones family endowed cultural event.

The Office of Advancement's record-setting year in contributions in 2017-18 set the bar high, invigorating the University's team of fundraisers as they entered the 2018-19 fiscal year. Although this year's final tally did not eclipse the aforementioned record, it was still quite admirable. In 2018-19, nearly \$8.5 million was donated by alumni and friends of the University, providing the largest two-year total in University history.

The single-largest donation in 2018-19 was \$2 million designated for athletics scholarships. It was graciously given by friends of the University, John and Marny Sherman. This coincided with Advancement's newly launched initiative to start several crowd-funding platforms, beginning with athletic teams and their coaches. The goal is to build more opportunity by reaching out to targeted affinity groups in this way.

In April, the Advancement Office held its first-ever "Giving Day" campaign. The plan is for it to become an annual event on or around the University's "Charter Day" on April 21. In all, 74 donors participated in the inaugural day of giving helping to raise more than \$26,000.

The University also received support in 2018-19 from several estate gifts. The largest of these was from Estel Jones, a former longtime OU employee and honorary alumna from the Class of 1943, who arranged for her trust to provide a \$600,000 to the University at her passing last year.

The Advancement Office also worked with donors to establish several endowed scholarships to support current and future students. These new scholarships for 2019-20 are as follows: Kurt Barbour '89 Memorial Football Scholarship, Butch Lewis '61 Memorial Football Scholarship, Dr. Lewis Spencer STEM Scholarship, Dr. Hank Tillinghast Science Scholarship, Doudna-Cochrane Family Scholarship, Dee Ellen Kruzal '72 Education Scholarship, Charles & Sue Gillette Scholarship, and Chancellor Kevin & Marilyn Eichner Admissions Scholarship.

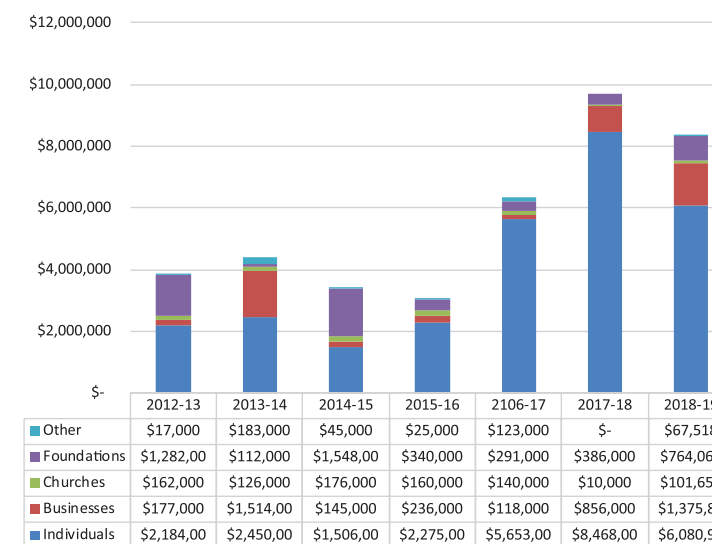
Having spent the past year focusing on creating a larger social media footprint, the Advancement team began to see its hard work pay off with increased engagement with alumni. This was especially true of younger alumni who graduated during the past 10 years. In 2018-19, Advancement built up its social media channels to include 1,500 followers on Facebook, 281 followers on Twitter and 228 followers on Instagram.

The University said goodbye to two beloved former faculty members and champions of the University during the latter part of 2018-19. Dr. Sherwin Snyder and Dr. Henry (Hank) Tillinghast both passed away in July. Snyder joined OU's faculty in 1960 as a professor of Economics and Organizational Administration, and taught at both the Ottawa, Kan., and Phoenix, Ariz., campuses for a total of 38 years. The University's Angell-Snyder School of Business is named after him and former colleague Dr. Wayne Angell. Tillinghast was an Emeritus Professor of Science. He served Ottawa University for 15 years, teaching chemistry and microbiology.

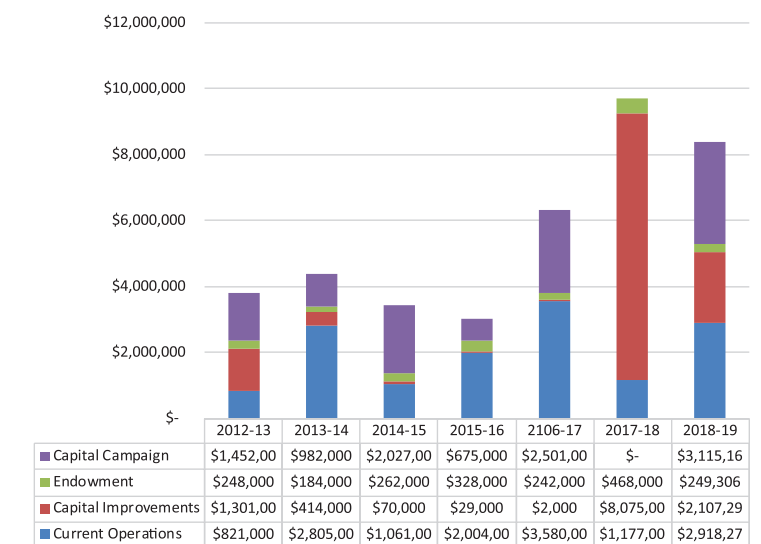
These are exciting times at Ottawa University with sustained growth on both residential campuses, as well as several campus construction and improvement projects. In turn, this growth drives the needs of each campus and affords alumni and friends the opportunity to make an impact.



## Sources of Gifts

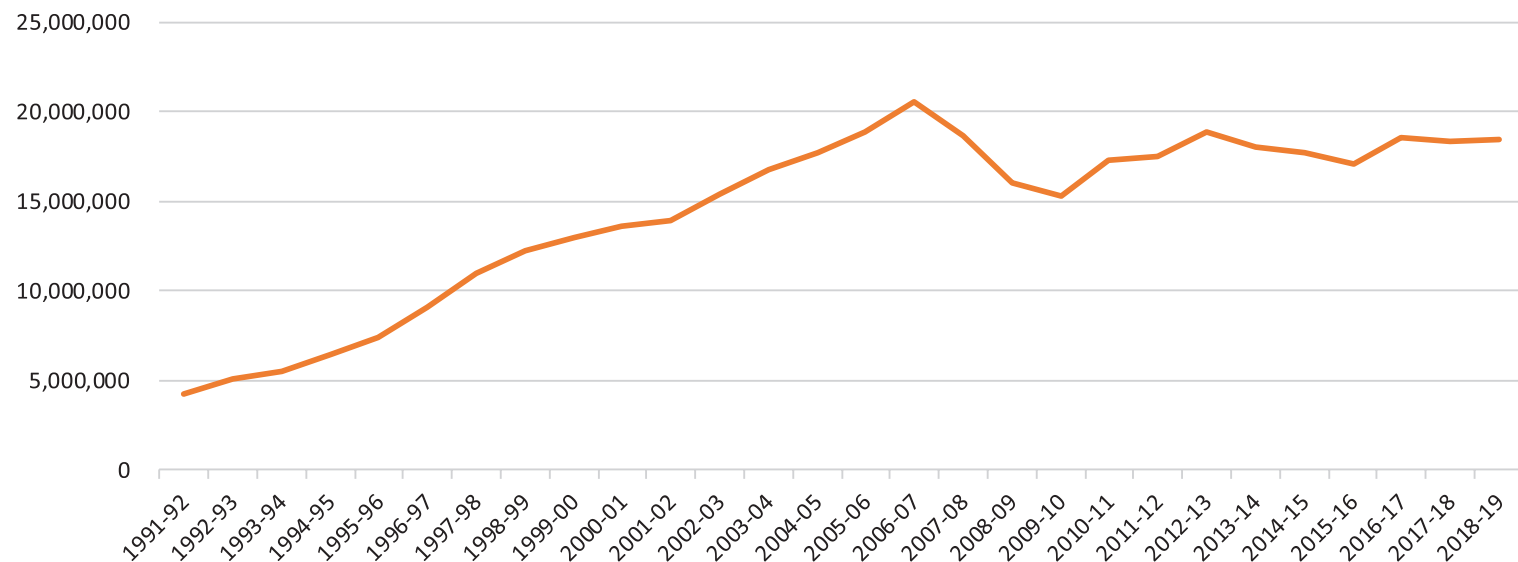


## Uses of Gifts





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Above: "Resumania" in the Schendel Conference Center; "Fusion" in downtown Ottawa, KS, and family celebrating graduation in front of the Fredrikson Chapel.

## From the Chair

When Chancellor Eichner assumed the presidency of Ottawa University in 2008, OU was confronting a variety of major challenges. In an effort to both address the existing challenges and chart a future course for the University, Chancellor Eichner and his team created the "Vision 2020" strategic plan, a 12-year initiative that incorporated some very ambitious goals for the institution. While anyone that observes the higher-education arena knows that challenges abound, Ottawa University has been blessed in a variety of ways. Since 2008, through the collective efforts of Chancellor Eichner and his administrative team, the faculty and staff, much has been accomplished since "Vision 2020" was unveiled.

Just a few of the "Vision 2020" achievements would include: a revitalized relationship with the Ottawa Tribe, major financial turnaround, the creation of three new schools creating greater academic integrity to programs across all sites, the successful launch of several new programs (nursing, EMBA and engineering, etc.) major campus construction and beautification projects, mission clarification and renewed commitment to the faith dimensions of OU and church relations, much more professional and effective marketing materials and website, material enhancements and additions to faculty and an enhanced Board structure and operations processes. And if that was not enough, the University undertook what most would characterize as the herculean task of establishing a new residential campus in Surprise, Ariz., which has thus far surpassed all expectations.

While much has been accomplished in recent years, staying relevant in the higher-ed environment does not allow one to relax for even a moment. For that reason, Chancellor Eichner recently led the Trustees, his administrative team, faculty representatives, and student representatives through a history of Ottawa University and laid out a vision for "Beyond 2020." The historical perspective reinforced what many already knew; Ottawa University has been both an innovator and pioneer in the area of higher education for many years. Pursuant to the new leadership reorganization announced last year, Dr. Dennis Tyner was recently named president of OUAZ. While Dr. Tyner and his wife Patty have been valued members of the Ottawa University family for many years, we are delighted that he was willing to become OUAZ's first president. We know that Dr. Tyner will continue to provide the same enthusiastic leadership that has characterized his previous roles with the University.

I want to personally thank the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment and dedication to the mission and vision of Ottawa University, and to all of our alumni and friends who continue to support it, its leadership, faculty, and students. OU has much to be thankful for and as we look "Beyond 2020," we have much for which to look forward.

In the Ottawa Spirit,

S. Lucky DeFries

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