



KICK-OFF LUNCHEON BRINGS WARM WELCOME

We were thrilled to welcome retirees to the university's official Retiree Kick-Off Luncheon, held in the spring at Wilson House and hosted by President Kenneth Evans.

The President greeted guests and shared exciting updates about university programs and initiatives. The event also provided a wonderful opportunity for retirees to reconnect and share stories about how they've been spending their time in retirement; from traveling and volunteering to enjoying hobbies and family time.

The luncheon sparked a great beginning to building a vibrant OCU retiree community. Stay tuned for more events to come, and remember you can keep up with the OCU Retiree Association [on the web](#) or by [sending us an email](#). You can also help play a role in shaping the association by completing our [Retiree Interest Assessment form](#).

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RETIREES

The OCU Retiree Association is proud to welcome our newest members, including faculty and staff who have recently retired or will soon retire from Oklahoma City University. These exceptional individuals devoted their careers to educating, mentoring, and supporting generations of students. Now, as members of the Retiree Association, they join a growing community dedicated to staying connected through shared experiences and ongoing university engagement. Each of these members was recognized and celebrated at our annual [employee awards ceremony](#).

- David Engebretson, 18 years of service, professor of chemistry
- Charles “Joe” Meinhart, 13 years of service, associate professor of justice studies
- Denise Binkley, 24 years of service, director of student success and retention
- Michael Anderson, 21 years of service, professor of music
- Mark Parker, 35 years of service, dean of the Bass School of Music and School of Theatre
- Kyle Dean, 14.5 years of service, professor of economics

We were sad to learn that Denise passed away recently after an illness. No service was held, but we’re collecting condolence messages to deliver to her children. If you would like to send a card, address it to:

OCU HR
For the Binkley Family
2501 N Blackwelder Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73106



PATHWAYS TO INNOVATION: CREATE, CONNECT, EXPLORE!

Looking for a chance to spark your creativity or try something new while connecting with employees and former colleagues from across campus? Join us at 3 p.m. July 31 for Pathways to Innovation, an exciting, hands-on series of events designed to inspire fresh ideas and build community.

After a successful debut in the spring, this event is back by popular demand with new interactive sessions that are both fun and enriching. Whether you're learning a musical instrument, exploring artistic expression, or picking up a new hobby, there's something for everyone – employees and retirees alike. Upcoming classes include 3D printing, low-impact fitness, junk journaling class, woodcarving and more.

[Click here](#) to view the list of classes and register for your choice! Please be sure to register by July 28 to save your spot. If you're interested in facilitating a class at one of the upcoming Pathways to Innovation days, email OCU senior photographer [Ian Weston](#).

IN THE NEWS: OCU WELCOMES NEW ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Oklahoma City University recently announced the hiring of Sadiia Jones as the school's next director of Athletics.

Jones had been the executive athletic director for Dallas College since June of 2021. She's an Elk City native with a history of athletics leadership positions in state schools.

[READ MORE](#)





There's a lot happening on the OCU campus this fall! Be sure to save the date for the following exciting events:

- Sept. 23: [Martha Jean Lemon Distinguished Speaker Series](#)
- Oct. 30: OCU volunteer day at Infant Crisis Services
- Various dates: [OCU Music, Theatre and Dance shows](#) (visit the [Box Office website](#) for tickets and on-sale dates)
- Various dates: [OCU fall sports](#)



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