

# Wesleyan Wednesday

## Ron Sharp

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We have an extra special #WesleyanWednesday for you today, Panthers! When interviewing several of the recently featured alumni, we found a common theme when asking them who served as a mentor.

It's safe to say Ron Sharp is a man of many talents. You can find Ron on campus, with his always-present and contagious smile, managing The Panther's Den, teaching religion and advising a fraternity. He's also the pastor at No Creek Community Church in Hartford, Ky. and is known to be the Owensboro Chick-fil-A's number one customer.

Ron first arrived at Wesleyan from Grand Canyon University in 2009 to run the campus bookstore with his wife, Brenda, and son, Daniel. He also quickly made some connections within Sigma Nu fraternity and agreed to serve as the organization's advisor – a decision he remembers as truly transformative. "I'm not sure he knew what he was signing up for when agreeing to advise us," jokes Justin Jones '12. "He taught us ethical values and how to be men of Christ. He's continued to mentor me since graduating and actually officiated my wedding."

He left the bookstore management role in 2012 to join the pastoral staff at Owensboro Christian Church, but continued to be involved on campus with the fraternity. He was eventually offered a position at the College as a religion professor in 2014 and then began running The Panther's Den simultaneously in August of 2018.

Ron is living proof that you don't have to be an alum to call Wesleyan your home. "Since the first day I set foot on this campus until now, campus has always felt like home," recalled Ron. "During the interview process, I met numerous alumni who were employed by the College. I thought, 'there must be something here that keeps them here.' Many people with whom I spoke recalled with great affection their college days here. What I have concluded is that Wesleyan really is family – not just a word to throw around, but a true family."

Cory Coble '13 is another recently featured alumni who credits Ron for much of his success. "Ron is easily one of the most influential people in my life. I feel like there are so few people like him because of the genuine qualities he possesses. He's one of those people who made me want to strive to be better. He helped me to be a better student, friend and man, and I still feel like some of the conversations we had are helping me today be a better father."

Some of Ron's favorite memories of his time at the College include the first commencement he walked in as a faculty member, being initiated as an honorary Sigma Nu and seeing the first group of students he taught graduate.

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When asked what his favorite place on campus is, he answered right away. "It always refreshes my spirit to go to Hocker Hall Grove and sit, pray and listen to music. I always leave with a heart more full and more grateful."

Wyatt Foust '12 continued to echo the thoughts of his classmates. "I have never been around anyone else like Ron in my life. He challenges you to be the best version of yourself because of an unspoken expectation he makes you want to meet. No one cares for their friends/students more and makes sure they know it than Ron. The word selfless always comes to mind, but it doesn't do him justice. He's just that special."

"The guys in Sigma Nu aren't the only ones who are better people because of Ron," said director of alumni relations, Summer Crick '14. "Anyone who crosses paths with Ron knows what a special soul he is. We are lucky to have him and I'm glad to call him a friend."

We are so grateful that Ron has planted his roots at Wesleyan and we think we can all agree that our campus is a little more special with him here. As we ended our interview, it was evident the impact that his time at Wesleyan has had on Ron's life. "I wouldn't trade the past 10-plus years at KWC and in Owensboro for anything. I am truly blessed."

Thanks for letting us feature you, Ron! We are lucky to have you in the Wesleyan family! #TheWesleyanWay