Get to Know Dallas Pettigrew

What is your role in the School?
I am an Assistant Clinical Professor on the Tulsa campus.

Have you always lived in Oklahoma? Or, are you a transplant? Tell us more!
I was raised in Southern Adair County, I moved to Deep East Texas for a year when I was 21, and I lived in Bryson City, NC, for a year in 2015-2016. Otherwise I have lived in Tahlequah, OK and now, Tulsa, OK.

Where did you go to school?
Rocky Mountain Elementary, Stilwell Public Schools, Northeastern State University, and OU-Tulsa!

What are some of your favorite places you’ve worked, work you’ve done?
I really enjoyed working at Wal-Mart as a teenager, and I liked working with families in the Child Welfare System. I love the job I have now.

Why do you like working at OU?
I get to be around current and future Social Workers all day long!

What motivated you to pursue your area of research?
Childhood trauma and its results have devastated my state and community. I've worked with people in the helping field for about 20 years and until graduate school, didn't really know what to do. Now I have some ideas and I want to share them widely! Child Welfare, Parenting Education, Children's Behavioral Health, Underage Alcohol Prevention, Tribes, and Early Care and Education are really the most important things to me.

What goals do you have for your time here at OU?
I would like to see our program become even more diverse than it already is. We should be representative of all the people of Oklahoma.

What is your favorite thing about social work – or what surprised you about social work?
One thing I love about social work is our Code of Ethics, specifically our Core Values: Service, Social Justice, Integrity, Competency, the Importance of Human Relationships, and the Dignity and Worth of the Individual. I also love that Social Work uses science to guide our work. We don't just do what feels good, we do what we know works!

Do you have any hobbies? Please tell us about one?
I like to kayak and hike when I have time. And I like road trips.
Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that few people know or that would surprise people?
I am a shy person, but work really hard to be extroverted.

Learn more!