

SPRING 2015

# OAKWOOD

G A Z I N E

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# OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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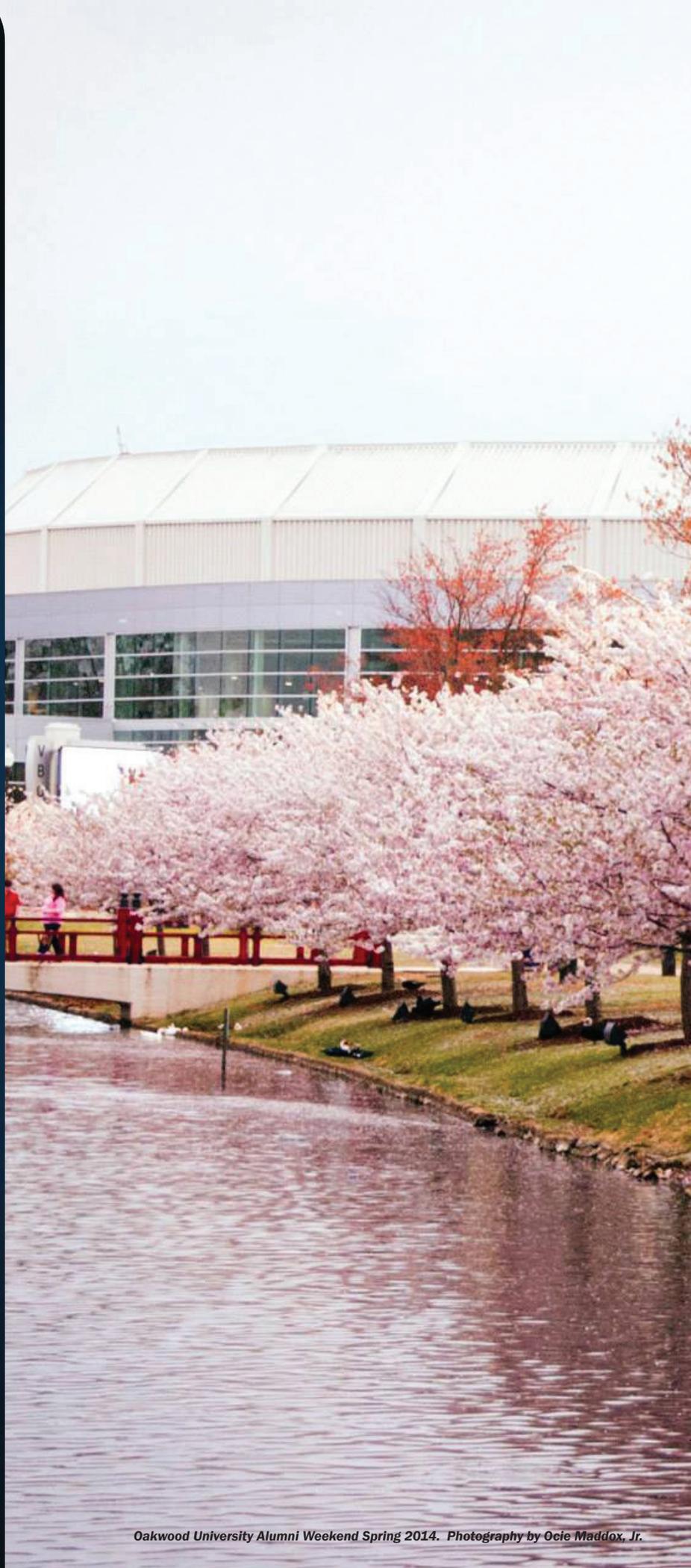
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**SPRING 2015**



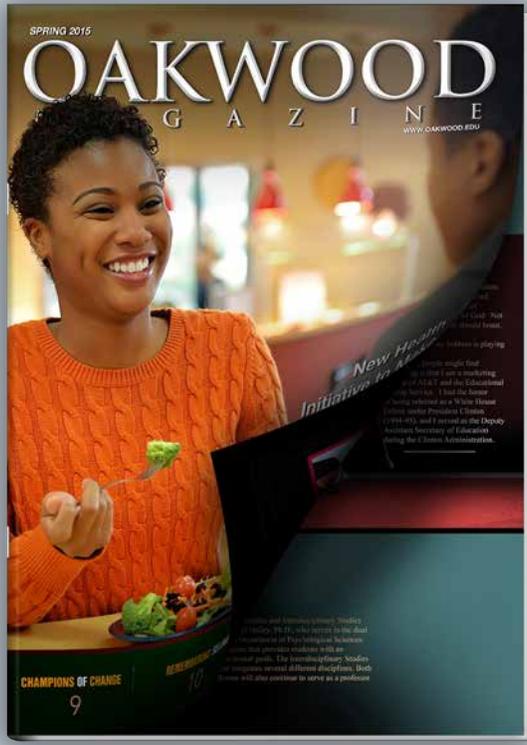


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*Jhanel Tam, senior psychology major takes time to enjoy a meal with Taylor Armstrong, junior communication major, in Oakwood's dining hall. Read on pages 6-8 about Oakwood University's new health initiative.  
Photo by Anthony Chornes, II*



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OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2015 celebration of spring on Oakwood's campus. Every Alumni Weekend, Oakwood University celebrates on Easter Weekend the resurrection of new hopes, new dreams, renewed friendships, and joyous reunions. Each spring, Alumni Weekend reminds me of one of my favorite quotes from Pablo Neruda, "You can cut down all the flowers, but you cannot stop the coming of the Spring!" In this spring edition of *Oakwood Magazine*, you will find that many strategic innovations and initiatives have come to Oakwood University. You will read about some innovations, which are destined to forever change the campus culture and benefit our students for generations to come.

Here is what I mean when I point to our value of innovation. My role in advocating innovation for Oakwood University actually began in November 2010, when, during the presidential search process, I spoke to the Oakwood University Board of Trustees concerning the specific role of the president in advancing the vision of Oakwood University. In that presentation, I announced several key innovations scheduled to begin in 2011 and continuing, with periodic revision, throughout my administration of the University. I will highlight a few.

Consider innovation in the Office of Spiritual Life. In November 2010, we seriously questioned whether a ministry ratio of 1,900 students plus 350 employees, which is 2,250 persons to one university chaplain, was a formula for success or a setup for failure. We proceeded in casting a vision for a ministry to the Oakwood Campus in which a senior chaplain would coordinate the ministry of incorporating faith into all classroom learning and empower faculty to minister to the needs of students. We also envisioned a ministry for a senior associate chaplain who would focus on Missions and Campus Ministry, especially to young men, along with an associate chaplain who would focus on the ministry needs of our campus young women, and *voilà!* The current Office of Spiritual Life was born. To date, this group has raised more than \$100,000 toward local, national, and international ministry for students, and has led hundreds of students and scores of faculty into ministry opportunities, both locally and globally.

Innovation called for a decision during the first 100 days of this administration to launch an unprecedented study of the spiritual commitments of Oakwood University to their Seventh-day Adventist faith and values. We believed that the simple transposition of other data onto our Oakwood students denied their distinctive voice and experience, for they, too, as a population group, were worthy of in-depth, statistical study. And in March of 2011, LifeCore was born—an unprecedented analysis of the spiritual commitments of our students. I am pleased to report that every odd year—2011, 2013, and coming again in 2015 – our students get to voice their unique journey in our Seventh-day Adventist Church. This data forms the foundation for the strategic ministry planning and programming on our campus.

Innovation means industry recovery—the founding principle upon which Adventist education was born in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Previously, everything from horseshoeing, carpet making, shingle construction, to a dairy, a laundry, and a bakery, were our industries. But how should innovation in industry recovery look in the 21st century? For us, we were led to purchase in a nationally branded, food-product chain named Edible Arrangements. Our goal was to diversify our income streams, support students, and decrease our dependency on tuition revenue. Oakwood as a 21st-century franchise owner in a mission-compatible business represents continued innovation.

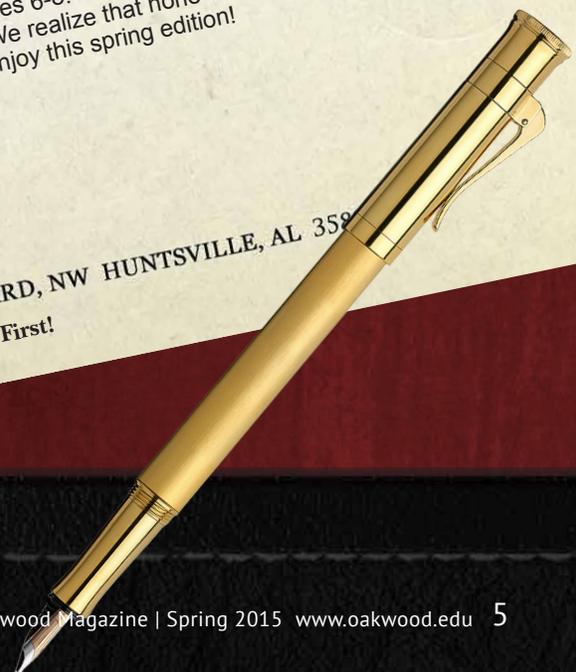
Another innovation announced then, will materialize in the coming school year—the Oakwood University Student Leadership Academy (OUSLA)—will complement our OUSLA, a leadership academy that will help us fulfill our mission to equip our middle management, from the director and chair levels and higher, with leadership skills appropriate to their responsibilities. Now, we are ready to launch our OUSLA, a leadership academy that will help us fulfill our mission commitment to graduating students who are servant leaders in service to God and humanity.

Finally, this spring edition highlights another burst of spring-like innovation. In this issue, we are pleased to highlight a first-of-its-kind campus wellness initiative called "Healthy Campus 2020." Healthy Campus 2020 is a groundbreaking program designed to make Oakwood University the healthiest campus in America, first through the scientific baselining of our students' health status, and then by intervening to improve their health status. Healthy Campus 2020 will officially "roll out" at our August Colloquium. You can read about it on pages 6-8.

*Leslie M. Pollard*

Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA  
President, Oakwood University

7000 ADVENTIST BOULEVARD, NW HUNTSVILLE, AL 35894  
God First!



# Health Initiative Plans to Make Oakwood the Healthiest Campus in America

by George Johnson, Jr.



Being physically fit does a body good. Photo by Ron Pollard.

**H**ealthy Campus 2020 is Oakwood University's organized and focused plan to study, track, and enrich the health status of the Oakwood student body. Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., MPH, RD, SPHR, who serves as the principal investigator and study design author, states, "HC2020 represents the culmination of years of conversation and concern over how our educational activity is impacting the health choices of Oakwood students. When the President said to me in a meeting one day, 'Why don't you use your skills in research design to devise a study, similar to LifeCore, but with the emphasis on health!' Healthy Campus 2020 was born." Dr. Prudence Pollard, a registered dietitian and public health professional, had served as co-investigator for a state-funded, cardiovascular, risk-reduction program, earlier in her career. After she interviewed Howard Shaw, Ph.D., chair of the Physical Education program and he shared his concern for the physical fitness of students on high school and college campuses, the decision to plan and organize was settled.

## The Vision

President Leslie Pollard's Vision 2020 challenged the campus to launch innovative missional activities to ensure that Oakwood students "Enter to Learn" and are prepared to "Depart to Serve." Campus physician Janice Thomas, MD,

indicated that for years she had observed a lack of student awareness concerning healthy lifestyle choices. "Many of the students came to Health Services with questions concerning various aspects of wellness," said Thomas. She knew that Health Services needed to develop something that would help to educate the students about the choices they were making. "I believe that good health is essential to optimal success in college," said Dr. Thomas.

Drs. Shaw and Thomas were not alone in their thoughts about educating students. In 2011, Maxine Garvey, D.P.T., MHS, chair of the Allied Health Department and Professor Claudia Follette, former dietetics director, began a two-year pilot study on student obesity and published the reports in two academic journals. Elaine Vanterpool, Ph.D., M.S., associate biology professor, was also instrumental in teaching proper hand-washing techniques to the pre-school students in Oakwood's Childhood Development Lab and has now extended her influence to Oakwood Adventist Academy elementary students.

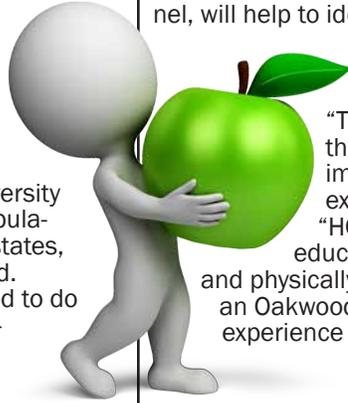
Although various entities were, in their own areas, trying to bring about greater health awareness about various elements of wellness, a centralized effort did not exist. It was not until a presentation to the UNCF in 2012 by former Surgeon General Regina Benjamin that Dr. Leslie Pollard saw in concrete terms what Oakwood could do as a mobilized campus. "Dr. Benjamin's charge was, to HBCU presidents, very simple—go back and try to create non-smoking campuses," said Dr. Leslie Pollard. After her talk, he approached Dr. Benjamin, and



she indicated that she was fully aware of the health commitments of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Oakwood's non-smoking policies. "Dr. Benjamin's observation caused me to contemplate how we could crystallize years of conversation into a specific, measurable, scientific study about student health practices and how can we impact those practices," he said.

## The Proposal

Region IV of the United States Health and Human Services is divided into eight state regions: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The Centers for Disease Control have identified health disparities in these regions, such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. Although Oakwood University is located in Alabama, a great part of its student population has permanent residence in the above-named states, as well as about 40 other countries around the world. What has Oakwood University administration decided to do about the problem of preventable diseases? Dr. Prudence Pollard has crafted a proposal outlining how to educate the entire campus regarding healthy lifestyle choices. On December 12, 2014, Oakwood University signed a memorandum of understanding with Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida, as a key partner for the on-campus phase of the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative.



## The Plan

Healthy Campus 2020 is a longitudinal plan of 10 years. The first cohort, will finish in four years, the average time it takes for a student to complete their studies at Oakwood University. However, the University will continue to track information on the students after they leave the University, to see if the practices they learned were continued.

Upon entering Oakwood, students will be given a health transcript. This document, accessed by an Oakwood health coach/counselor, will allow students to be measured in the following areas: spiritual health, physical health, rest assessment, outlook (mental/emotional health), and their biomedical indices. "So many of our students don't understand how they have been designed—that the promise of John 10:10 applies to them. So, incorporating knowledge of whose they are, they begin to understand how they have been created, and how they should be stewards of their health," said Dr. Prudence Pollard. In the process, scientific data will be presented to the students.

Healthy Campus 2020 will also provide the opportunity for Oakwood to integrate health education more broadly into its curriculum and degree programs. Students preparing for careers in Nursing, Nutrition, Dietetics, and Health will receive more intensive training and preparation to teach health principles to the community.

Oakwood's residential property on the north side of Huntsville will be transformed into a health and wellness action clinic. "Learning is enhanced by doing," said Dr. Prudence Pollard. Science and Health Science students working at the clinic will practice what they have learned by teaching health principles in the community.

Oakwood administration also plans to develop activity stations around the inner loop of the campus. Students will be encouraged to practice health principles while walking the one-mile inner loop of the campus.

## The Implementation

Oakwood administrators plan to officially launch Healthy Campus 2020 this August, during its Colloquium session, to begin the school year. "It is important that our faculty and staff fully understand what is involved and model it, ourselves. We can't teach it to the students unless we are modeling it, ourselves," said Dr. Leslie Pollard.

"The United Student Movement has wholeheartedly bought into this concept," said David Knight, vice president for Student Services. He, along with other Student Services personnel, will help to identify "Health Champions" from the student body to help with implementation.

Healthy Campus 2020 helps to fulfill the value of innovation at Oakwood University. "This initiative is the result of thinking outside the box, which will break precedence and implement major changes in how Oakwood executes its mission," said Dr. Leslie Pollard. "HC2020 also elevates the seriousness of educating the whole person—spiritually, mentally, and physically. We are seeking donors who believe that an Oakwood education can and will be a comprehensive experience for our students."

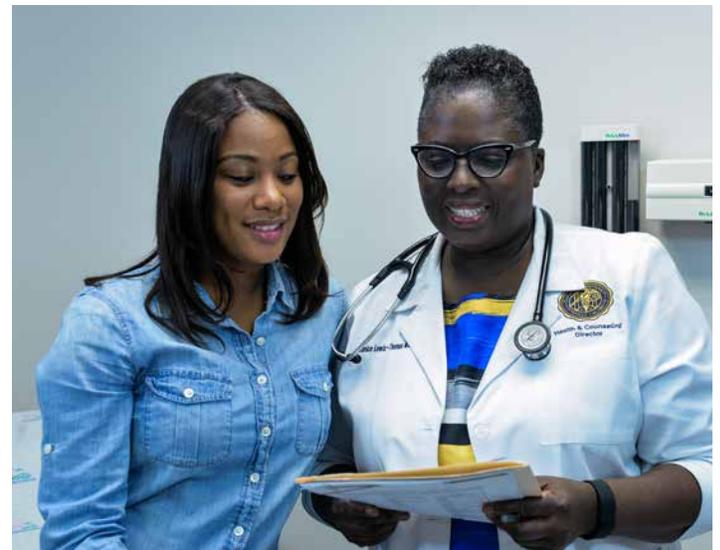
Donors wishing to financially support the Healthy Campus 2020 program should call the Advancement & Development Office at (256) 726-7201 or visit [www.ougiving.com](http://www.ougiving.com) to make a donation.

“

**This initiative is the result of thinking outside of the box**

~Dr. Leslie Pollard

”



Students will receive a health transcript from Oakwood University health Professionals. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.



Students enjoy a healthy meal in Oakwood University's dining hall. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.

## The Inaugural Healthy Campus 2020 Coordinating Committee:

Whitford Reid, MD  
Member, Oakwood University Board of Trustees

Janice Thomas, MD, MPH  
Director, Health & Counseling Services

Howard Shaw, Ph.D.  
Chair, Health & Physical Education

Flora Flood, Ph.D, RN  
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

Joy Peterson, Ph.D., M.S., RD  
Chair, Nutrition and Dietetics

Maxine Garvey, DPT, MPH  
Chair, Allied Health Department

Elaine Vanterpool, Ph.D., M.S.  
Biologist, Faculty Member

David Knight, M.A.  
Vice President, Student Services

Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., MPH, RD  
Vice President, Research and Employee Services

Florida Hospital Designees: Mark Hertling, LTG;  
Steve Smith, MD; and Stephanie Lind



Oakwood Healthy Campus 2020 working group.



# White House Honors Historically Black Colleges and Universities “Champions of Change”

**O**n February 24th, the United States White House recognized faculty and staff members at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as “Champions of Change” who are finding success promoting college completion and success. These leaders have worked with students, families, and policymakers to build pathways to graduation at their respective institutions. The event featured a panel discussion moderated by actor and E! News Co-Host, Terrence Jenkins, and remarks from Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx.

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

Oakwood University President, Dr. Leslie Pollard, nominated R. Rennae Elliott, Ph.D., as its Champion of Change. “When reviewing the criteria of selfless commitment to student success, willingness to coach and mentor the next generation,

and a role model who consistently supports student growth, one name came to mind, Dr. Rennae Elliott, chair of our Communications Department. Dr. Elliott is distinguished for her decade-plus commitment to the Honda All-Stars, as well as her close relationship to her students,” said Dr. Pollard.

Elliott currently serves as the chairperson and an associate professor of the Communication Department at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. In addition to classroom teaching and academic advising, Dr. Elliott serves as coach of Oakwood’s Honda Campus All Star Challenge (HCASC) team, a post she’s held for over 17 years. Influenced by her mentoring and advising, the team has won two championships and placed in the top four on five occasions. In 2014, HCASC named her Coach of the Year. Elliott’s committee posts include the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan, Rank and Continuous Appointment, and the Dean’s Council.

Congratulations, Dr. Elliott!

# SELMA

by Jordan Harris  
and Donald Monroe, Sr.

Every year, thousands come to Selma, Alabama, to commemorate “Bloody Sunday,” which occurred March 7, 1965, when a group of about 525 African-American demonstrators gathered at Browns Chapel Church to demand the right to vote. They walked six blocks to Broad Street, then across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where they were met by more than 50 state troopers and a few dozen posse men on horseback. When the demonstrators refused to turn back, they were brutally beaten. At least 17 were hospitalized, and 40 others received treatment for injuries and the effects of tear gas.

The attack, which was broadcast on national television,

caught the attention of millions of Americans and became a symbol of the brutal racism of the South. Two weeks later, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and 3,200 civil rights protesters marched the 49 miles from Selma to the state capital, Montgomery—an event that prompted Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act.

Every year, on the first weekend in March, the Bridge Crossing Jubilee commemorates both the bloody confrontation at the Pettus Bridge and the march from Selma to Montgomery that followed. Events include a parade, a Miss Jubilee Pageant, a mock trial, and a commemorative march to the bridge. Every five years, celebrants continue all the way to Montgomery.

- From the Selma Jubilee website

## Donald Monroe’s personal experience...

Donald Monroe, Sr., then a student at Oakwood College, was one of six students who participated in the Selma to Montgomery March. Below are his reflections from that experience:

During the 1950s and 60s, the demand for civil rights was at its highest, and we, as Blacks, wanted to assist in bringing about positive change. Discrimination, segregation, brutal hatred killings, verbal and physical abuse, and other acts of racial hatred were a way of life for Blacks, especially in the southern states. Some acts of segregation occurred in schools, public transportation, lunch counters, department stores, churches, sidewalks, salaries of workers, housing communities, and in all other aspects of life.

While a student at Oakwood College (1964-1968), the city was segregated, as well as the Adventist Church. As an older, married student, I was very concerned about what the future would hold for my two children and the black community, at large. The administration was fearful of participation in the Civil Rights movement because of hostile reactions from the white community. Most administrators of black colleges felt the same. They were concerned about the safety of their students and campus.

As a result of the brutal attack on marchers in Selma on March 7, 1965, five student friends and I decided to participate in the March 25 Selma to Montgomery march, that same year. The march ended with Dr. King’s famous “How Long? Not Long” speech, on the steps of the capital building

in Montgomery. Before coming to Oakwood, I deemed Dr. King one of the greatest men on earth.

Years later, the Oakwood students were honored at the 2009 UNCF Gala.



Steve Porter, gives his account of the Selma-to-Montgomery March at the 2009 UNCF Gala.

# Oakwood alumni reunite with 'angel'

By Lee Roop

Source: *Huntsville Times*  
Saturday, April 11, 2009

'White guy' offered a ride when they needed it most

Forty-four years ago, they marched in Montgomery when it could have gotten them killed. A young woman - Viola Liuzzo - was killed the same night.

This weekend, they met at Oakwood University in Huntsville to remember when a white "angel" saved six young black men from a beating - or worse - on a dark highway between Montgomery and Birmingham.

"In this case, the white guy was the chauffeur," Steve Porter, joking, told a class of Oakwood students Friday. Porter, 65, was the angel. That's what one of the black men, Wendell Russ Nelson of Colton, Calif., called him every time he told the story. Until a few weeks ago, Nelson, 63, never knew Porter's name.

Porter, then a Duke University student, was returning from the march on Montgomery the same night as Nelson and five other Oakwood students. The Oakwood group was crammed into a Volkswagen Beetle that died on Interstate 65. Porter stopped and gave them a ride.

He spent the night in an Oakwood dorm and "integrated the showers" the next day before heading on to Louisville, Ky. It's a simple story on the surface, but there's more. Now a Louisville attorney, Porter always wondered what happened to the Oakwood students. They hadn't swapped phone numbers or even names.

So Porter wrote Oakwood President Dr. Delbert Baker. Could the men be found?

Through the Internet they could, and three came to Oakwood this alumni weekend: Nelson; Harvey Holland, 65, of Prince Frederick, Md.; and Donald Monroe, 70, of Huntsville.

The four met March 25, 1965, the final day of the historic Selma-to-Montgomery march. All of them had followed the march on television, and they didn't want to miss the end.

They didn't want to miss Dr. Martin Luther King's speech on the steps of the Alabama Capitol.

"We were committed," Monroe said Friday. "We wanted to do what we could to bring about change."

As Duke students planned their own trip, Porter put his hand up, too. "I'm going," he said.

The Oakwood six ignored a warning from the school. They expected possible expulsion when they got back to Huntsville. Porter's two-car caravan had its own problems.

"As soon as we crossed the Alabama line, we were followed," Porter said. A gas station attendant wrote down his tag number.

In Montgomery, both groups marched. They heard the taunts, and they heard King.

"Someone said he'd never been called a lover so much," Porter

said Friday. "But he didn't like what was in front of it."

The marchers had been warned to be careful leaving Montgomery. The Ku Klux Klan had made threats. Klansmen did kill one white civil rights supporter that night. Viola Liuzzo, 39, of Detroit was shot giving marchers a ride back to Selma.

Porter was driving alone because his friends went back to campus. He was going to his parents' house in Louisville.

After the Volkswagen broke down, Monroe and another Oakwood student walked to a nearby cafe. They were ordered out. When they asked about the tow truck outside, the response was, "We don't have a tow truck."

And when the young blacks left so did a car full of white men. "There is nobody here that is going to deliver us," Monroe thought standing beside the road.

A few minutes later, Porter drove up in his Buick Skylark. "We didn't hesitate to pile in," Monroe said. "What about your car?" Porter asked. "Forget the car," they said. "Get us out of here."

As they pulled away, Monroe looked back and saw several cars pulling to the side of the interstate. In front was the car they'd seen leave the cafe.

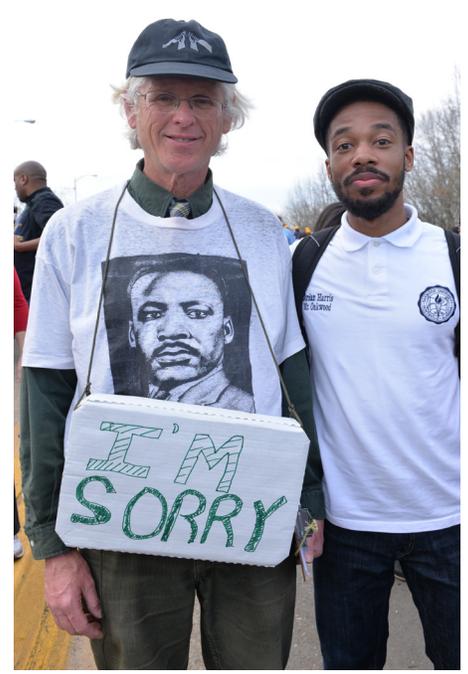
As they toured Oakwood's campus Friday, the four laughed easily like old friends at a reunion. They joked about riding around in Porter's car again.

But they've each thought hard since they got that first e-mail. "All of us were supposed to be together," Holland said. "We might have saved each other's lives."

They had a serious word for Oakwood students, too. "It's not over," Monroe told a class Friday. "We did not free you all. Don't go anywhere you can't get out of."



Donald Monroe (standing next to the lady) is seen in the middle of this photo of the Selma-to-Montgomery march, taken in March 1965. Photo by McCann Reid.



This year marked the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the Selma-to-Montgomery March, and the Voting Rights Acts of 1965. Approximately 50 individuals from Oakwood University traveled to Selma to participate in the bridge crossing on Sunday, March 8. The Oakwood delegation was among the reported 80,000 that participated in the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

As a member of the local NAACP chapter, Jordan Harris, an Oakwood senior, participated in several activities (March 5-8) planned by the Selma Jubilee, a local Selma-based organization that plans this yearly commemoration.

## 1965 - 2015

### Jordan Harris' personal experience...

**W**e live in the present, but we learn from the past." A quote that resonated in my mind throughout the weekend. My Jubilee-Commemoration experience changed my life. Being surrounded by so many pioneers and transcendent leaders who gave such treasured words of wisdom changed my way of thinking. For me, this march symbolized a number of directives. With our foot soldiers who marched 50 years ago leading the march, we physically and figuratively followed in their footsteps. Some, so frail they could only wave their hands to show their emotion, metaphorically handed us their torches at the end of the bridge, ending their stretch of the race and challenging us to *begin sprinting*, because the race continues—it has not yet finished.

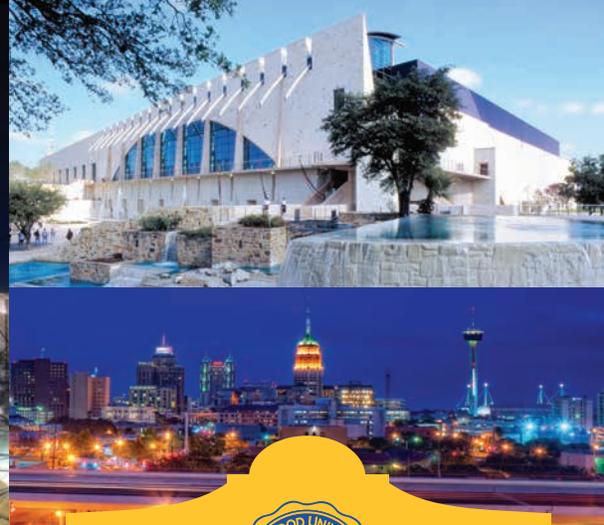
"Keep your tenacity, remain humble, and you will go far," one of Reverend Jessie Jackson's political affiliates told me. Another life lesson learned by observing our forerunners this weekend was that, like Jesus, it is through the love and service of others that we find ourselves. Neither working a job nor holding a title is enough to satisfy what each of us could contribute to bettering the world in which we live. Our leaders led such transcendent lives, because their mission was greater than themselves. If we wish to create change in the world, we must also mimic their character, passion and perseverance. Their compassion for people surpassed their contentment with their own well-being, as many were battered and bruised in their battle against injustice, determined to obtain the right to vote, as well as equality. Like Jimmie Lee Jackson, many sacrificed their lives so that I might experience the liberties and social equities I have today. Actually meeting the people who never knew me, but gave up so much for my welfare was

overwhelming. Mere words cannot articulate my gratitude. This Jubilee celebration was pinnacled by an appearance made by the first African-American president of the United States, President Barack Obama. His presidential position and presence showed the world how far we have come. He delivered what could very well have been one of the greatest speeches of his presidential tenure, and possibly of his entire political career. It was evident through the emphasis and compassion in his oration that his words ignited a deeply personal fire within him. This fire radiated throughout the crowd. He inspired and gave courage to millions as the event was televised across the globe. Obama invoked our trailblazer's names movingly, describing how their work in Selma opened the door—not only for voting rights, but for all rights, and even for his presidential office today. As he walked off the stage, he closed by chanting "We shall overcome!" and "Yes we can!" shouts that had a ripple effect throughout the crowd of approximately 80,000. With excitement on his face, he exited the stage, along with his family, and walked across the bridge, which was the perfect ending to his speech. The view of him walking across the bridge stirred the emotions of many older adults around me as they applauded and shed tears of joy.

In three short days, I have matured tremendously and found new direction in life. I look forward to, and highly anticipate, what my journey as a freedom fighter will entail. With the torch now in my generation's hands, we can continue the race... marching to the freedom land. "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."—Isaiah 40:3.

Jordan Harris, student writer

Visit us at the GC Session  
in San Antonio, TX  
July 2-11, 2015



While at the General Conference Session, stop by **Booth A516** in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and visit with Oakwood administrators, faculty, and staff to see what's new with Oakwood University.

**Oakwood Alumni**, make sure to attend the Oakwood On The Road receptions on **July 4, 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** and again on **July 9, 5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.** in the Lone Star Theater, 600 E. Market Street, San Antonio, TX.



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# Oakwood University conducts First Men's Conference

by George Johnson Jr., director, Office of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations



Oakwood University's (OU) Office of Spiritual Life hosted its first men's conference titled "Male by Birth, Man by Choice" on February 21-22. The Conference, organized by Ron Pollard, senior associate chaplain and missions and campus ministries director, sought to help men to accept their innate calling of moral leadership and to help equip them with information on making solid decisions in life. This two-day event began with Saturday afternoon workshops at Oakwood, then a Sunday trip to the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Featured speakers of the Conference included Jeremy Anderson, COO of Spirit Reign Communications & Publishing; Shannon Austin, former music producer; Gregory Nelson, senior pastor of the Madison Mission Church; John P. Ruffin, counselor; Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church; and Howard Weems, Ph.D., OU senior chaplain and special assistant to the president for Spiritual Life. The Saturday workshops were held on campus. The workshops dealt with a variety of issues that afflict men on a daily basis. The excursion to the Muhammad Ali Center allowed the participants to experience the story of a man who embodies conviction, confidence, determination, and training.

"If there was one thing I wanted all these men to take away

from this conference, [it's] that they are more than conquerors in Jesus Christ, who died for them," said Pollard. Pollard plans to have this conference every year. Next year's Conference is scheduled to be held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Reflections on the Conference by Oakwood students

A melodic sound, drowned in testosterone, filled the air, thundering with the sound of "Clean Up What I Messed Up." We, as men, came together singing songs to bring in the atmosphere of fellowship right before it was time for the main speaker, Jeremy Anderson. I was able to identify with his opening address as he spoke about identity and finding your purpose in Christ. I also had the opportunity to attend the workshop titled "God's Ideal Man," by Pastor Greg Nelson. What touched me most about this workshop was that I was able to talk to other people who were just like me or had more experience on the subject. Pastor Nelson gave us a chance to have dialogue where we could come together and express ourselves in a way that was very natural. I believe that the theme fit well within the discussion; often we think that since we were

born a male, growing up makes us a man. In this workshop, we clearly saw that God makes the man; he takes the best, and sometimes even the worst, and uses it for His good. The motto of my school is "Enter to learn; depart to serve." This conference has helped me learn so much about leadership and how God wants *me* to lead. I know for sure that this conference has been beneficial for me, personally, and my outlook on how I see things from a Christian male perspective. There is so much more that God can do for me and through me; I strongly encourage anyone who has the chance to participate next year, to do so.

- Chrislee St. Luc

When I first stepped into the Moseley Chapel at Oakwood on Saturday afternoon, my mind immediately went to all of the men's retreats and dorm worships I'd been to over the last 10 years. I thought, "Is there anything else I can be told, about how to be a man of God, that I haven't been hearing since entering my teen years?" My questions were immediately laid to rest, once the service began.

Hearing the testimony of Jeremy Anderson resonated with me, as someone who'd also heard the call of God on his life to service but found himself distracted with worldly pleasures upon entering college. The title, "Cleaning Up, What I Messed Up," was a reference to the lives he felt responsible for misleading before accepting his call to ministry. But the words were about more than just his experience, as he related the responsibility of being a man of God, to being a leader responsible for changing lives for the better. It was a challenge to us to be aware of our influence and to take charge over the lives God has entrusted us with by placing them in our path.

On Sunday morning at the Muhammad Ali Center, we learned about a man who shook up the world in pursuit of his dream, while demanding justice for his people. On the ride there, the deans of the men's residence halls provided worship thoughts on the worth of one's soul and the value of establishing boundaries in relationships, both recalling their own lives before coming to Christ and how they witnessed God calling them to a higher sense of duty, as men and leaders.

The weekend was a powerful spiritual experience, with plenty of male bonding, and enough inspiration from the lives of great men to further the goal of creating spiritual leaders out of the school who will accomplish Oakwood's mission statement, "Enter to learn; depart to serve."

- Paul Buford, III

With my continual desire to maintain a successful covenant with my wife, I considered it a no-brainer to participate in Debleaire K. Snell's session, titled "Outside of the Lines." Focused primarily for married men, inclusive of singles who wanted to get a head start, this session emphasized the liability of our actions, monitoring our egos, maintaining healthy boundaries with women and being the man that our wives need us to be in the 21st century. It was a great reinforcement to hear strategies geared towards overcoming several pitfalls faced by married men, and it only behooved those in attendance to utilize the knowledge given for marital success.

I find that successful conferences, like "Male by Birth, Man by Choice," leave one to yearn and desire for more. Until we assemble again, I will internalize what I have gained from this

conference, allowing it to materialize in my everyday actions.

- Adrian Murray

This conference really opened my eyes to who Muhammad Ali really was, and aside from that, the workshops on Sabbath really gave me information and well equipped me with tools to be the man that God wants me to be.

- JóPaul Scavella

I was really changed this weekend by the large number of black young men, just like me, who seek to strengthen their relationship with God. It encouraged and blessed me beyond measure, and I thank God for that opportunity.

- Jelani Holliday

I appreciated the fellowship and the words of wisdom that were passed down, and will be passed down, to future generations.

- Kevin Mendez

“  
**The Conference helped me personally with my struggles, and I left with a greater understanding.**  
 ”

- Benjamin Brooks

The experience was a spiritually riveting one. I deeply appreciated the outpouring of everyone who contributed to this project!

- Angelo Vetiac

Thanks for the invitation to this men's conference. It was a blessing, and it helped me to restore my trust in God to guide me to becoming a better Man.

- D'jevaunie Mcken



Jeremy Anderson speaks to the busload of men before the trip to Louisville. Photo by Ron Pollard.

# Oakwood Sounds a “CodeRed” for Theology Students

by J. Alfred Johnson III, pastor, Mt. Sinai Church,  
Trenton, New Jersey

**F**rom January 16 to 18, a weekend that commemorated the unforgettable life, service, and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a group of pastors came to Oakwood University (OU) to lead an exclusive conference for students of the School of Religion. The conference entitled “CodeRed” provided students preparing for ministry an opportunity to hear from and dialogue with pastors in the field about how to love God, love others, and responsibly love oneself, as a minister of the gospel.

This gathering, the first of its kind in the 118-year history of Oakwood, found its origins in conversations held between Myron Edmonds, D.Min., '99, pastor of the Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, and Mervyn Warren, D. Min., '57, an OU religion professor, about the need for interaction between the current students of the Religion and Theology department and pastors in the field, concerning the realities of ministry in contemporary times. Dr. Edmonds further explained the vision behind the weekend this way: “CodeRed was a clarion call to mentor the next generation of pastors. The presenting pastors came to pour in to, train, and develop would-be and soon-to-be pastors in the area of character development. Character is the CodeRed call.”

With the full support of Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, OU president, and Finbar Benjamin, D.Min., Department of Religion and Theology acting dean, Dr. Edmonds, organized and led the committee that prayerfully shaped the design of the weekend’s activities. The program included presentations based on the theme, as well as testimonies from pastors about God’s faithfulness to them during their ministerial journey.

The weekend began with a dynamic keynote message by Dr. Edmonds, on Friday evening. Other presenters included Pastors Trevor Kinlock, '99, Seth Yelorda, '03, J. Alfred Johnson, III, '97, Paula Olivier, '00, Keith Goodman, '96, and Alfonso Greene, III, '01. Brenda Billingsy, assistant ministerial director for the North American Division, fielded questions about her pastoral tenure and the growing opportunities for female pastors. Inspiring testimonies were shared by Pastors Noah Washington, '03, Duane Thomas, and Furman Fordham, '95. Accenting these was the music ministry lead by Pastor Greg Nelson, '02. Each segment of the program was ably led by Pastors Vandean Griffin, '01, and Kymone Hinds, with organizational assistance from Pastor John Coaxum, '09. Dr. C. Wesley Knight, '97, concluded the weekend with a riveting consecration message.

When asked about what it was like to lead the CodeRed committee Dr. Edmonds said, “The amazing thing about leading this committee was the unselfish, sacrificial spirit of the 15 pastors from all over North America, who paid their own way and vacated their churches, to spend uninterrupted time with theology students at Oakwood. The Spirit of God aligned all of the talks and presentations to the essence of what the students needed, and they were blessed.”

Freshman theology student Karsten Rogers summed up his experience this way, “CodeRed stressed the importance of staying connected to Christ, regardless of the ups and downs of ministry. Hearing from the pastors about ministry helped to give me a necessary reality check. Through all of the speakers it was evident that despite everything that God had brought them through, they all had an overwhelming love for God. This helped me to see in a tangible way that God will not bring me to anything that He cannot also bring me through.”

Senior theology student Eliot Brooks shared, “What I really appreciated from the pastors who came was the camaraderie and fellowship experienced with some of the very pastors many of us theology majors look up to. As a result of the

CodeRed conference, I believe that it raised morale among the theology department and really helped establish camaraderie among the students in the department. I believe it also helped us realize how much of an honor it is to be called by God and how important it is to continue leaning on Him as He leads us on our own pastoral journeys.”

One student, @\_HumbleServant, tweeted “Singlehandedly the absolute best weekend of my life aside from when I gave my life to Christ.”

This weekend had such a high impact on all who attended, that the CodeRed committee has already responded to Dr. Pollard’s invitation to return to Oakwood and lead another conference.



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Central State University Choir of Wilberforce, Ohio. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.



Minister Kwame Vanderhorst presents a message specifically for African American men. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.



Oakwood Adventist Academy Choir and students perform music and a play called "Within These Walls". The play was directed by Danita Wilson Jones. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.



Black inventions exhibit. Photo by Peggy Neal.



Students were able to discern a unique combination of theater, video, and live interaction through an unforgettable survey through history with Living Voices. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.

## Oakwood University and Church Host Black History Month Activities



*Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church presented Sybrina Fulton, mother of the late Trayvon Martin, with the 2015 Black History Achievement Award..*

**O**akwood University and Oakwood University Church planned an entire month of activities for the observance of Black History Month. “The administration, faculty and staff of Oakwood University is always committed to helping people understand how important it is to recognize African-American history and how it has helped to shape our culture in America,” said Timothy McDonald, Ed.D., provost and senior vice president of Oakwood University and chair of the University’s Black History Program Committee. “We are

proud to be a part of history, ourselves, here in Huntsville, being an institution that was originally founded to educate freed Blacks in the South,” he said.

“We planned activities that not only sought to educate the students, but they also served as a way to bring the campus together for other means of fellowship,” said McDonald.

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## OUPD Happenings

by Lewis Eakins, chief of Oakwood University Police Department

The Oakwood University Police Department (OUPD) has been collaborating with internal and external partners to enhance the safety of the campus community, by keeping current in public safety training, and educating Oakwood students and employees.



## Certifications & Training

Office Manager Charolette Brand, Captain Melvin Harris, and Chief Lewis Eakins received the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "Professional Continuity Practitioner" certification for completing the required training to plan for continuity of operations (business continuity planning) during and after a disaster. This training will prove helpful in the event of any sudden-occurring disaster.

Officer Sandra Winters recently certified as a Crime Prevention Specialist by the American Crime Prevention Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. Brand and Eakins have also met all the requirements for certification by the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers.

Captain Melvin Harris, Sergeant Shawn Byrd, and Sergeant Maurice Staples attended required law enforcement update training and firearm qualifications in Anniston, Alabama. Staples qualified as "expert" with a score of 90%.

## Other Happenings

Chief Eakins published an article in the *Domestic Preparedness Journal*, entitled "Integrating Law Enforcement and Emergency Management." Eakins explains how adopting decentralized decision-making and other tenets of Community-Orienting Policing (COPS) will more fully integrate law enforcement into disaster responses.

During February and March, Sergeant Harris taught Oakwood's female students and employees the Rape Aggression Defense System (RAD), a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. The comprehensive courses begin with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, and progressed to the basics of hands-on defense training.

"Second shift" employees Sergeant David Clarke, Officer Joycelyn Triplett, Officer Desmond Paramore, and Officer Kelvin Hughes, who work from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m., will continue their series of safety presentations at campus residential facilities.

The OUPD also secured a donation of approximately 200 cots and related blankets, pillows, and comfort packages for disaster preparation purposes.

## Technology Enhancements in Revenue Management

(formerly Student Accounts)  
by Paula Wilson, director of Revenue Management

The Automated Telephone Attendant (ATA), available by dialing 256-726-7791, provides instant analyses for students, in the following areas:

- Pre-billing information and clearance status
- Submitting a payment
- Requesting a refund

The Student Accounts Office employs a Microsoft Windows service that audits all automatic clearances and notifies students via email when they are approved to attend class. This audit maintains the integrity of the clearance status as it constantly monitors account compliance and will revoke an account when necessary.

Student Account Management is notified when these changes occur in the student's financial status, so that steps can be taken to provide a timely resolution where necessary. This process has resulted in vastly reducing the heavy traffic traditionally associated with financial clearance.

The audit combined with the ATA underlies the department's philosophy of "Pay online to avoid standing in line," and it has proven successful. Many students are taking advantage of this opportunity and, in return, are freed from the stresses related to registration.

## Default Management

With the initial efforts of Financial Aid and Financial Administration, Financial Resolution, an arm of Student Accounts, implemented the \$ALT Financial Literacy program to educate students about their fiscal responsibilities. A true gem offered by the \$ALT program, it is linked to the scholarshipexperts.com portal.



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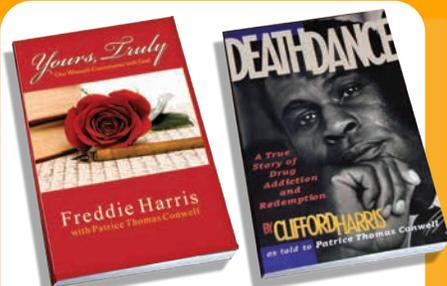
Cliff & Freddie Harris with DAP Clients & Graduates



The Drug Alternative Program is a Christian, non-profit, drug-free, sober living recovery home, providing a variety of resources for individuals affected by chemical dependency. Serving men ages 18-64 years old.

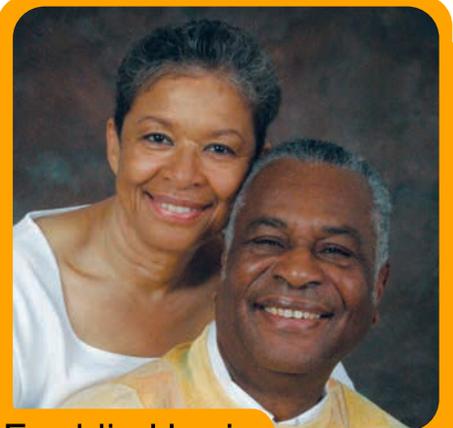
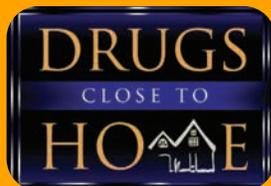
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# Newarc TRAVEL

# OU Life: A Look at Student Organizations

by Raymond King, director of Student Activities

There are more than 40 student campus organizations registered with the Office of Student Activities at Oakwood University. These campus organizations provide for students' interests, spiritual and social needs, as well as enhance students' academic life. These organizations also provide students with leadership experience.

Our campus organizations participate in community programs and events throughout Huntsville. Every year, there is a "Campus Organization Fair" that is open to all students to learn about and join the many authorized organizations. It is the goal of the Office of Student Activities to assist with forming a student-run organization that fits the social needs and interests of the student body while providing leadership opportunities.

**OU-A&M Connect** meets every Friday evening on the campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Alabama A&M) for Bible study and Christian connection with the students of our sister university. The organization has been very successful in establishing a healthy Christian relationship between the two institutions.

Oakwood is known for its choirs, such as the **Aeolians**, **Dynamic Praise**, and **Voices of Triumph**. A new music entity has begun on campus in the form of a drumline, known as **OU Percussion**, also affectionately called **The Acorns**. OU Percussion can normally be seen in the stands at Ambassadors' home basketball games, but have also performed at local schools and business openings. The leaders instruct the members with dedication and discipline.

**Pure Market** is one of the newest campus organizations that provides marketing services to students and organizations. They have helped facilitate election campaigns, event promotions, and graphic designs. The goal of the student-run organization is to help students in the marketing field to gain experience on campus so they can begin building their portfolios for their future careers. With the many campus organizations from which to choose, students can stay actively involved in campus life.



The Acorns, photo by Anthony Chornes, II.

## Academic Clubs

- Agape Day (Agape)
- Anonymous Artist (A.A.)
- Cancer Awareness Research Association (CARA)
- Future Healthcare Leaders of Tomorrow (FHLT)
- Human Development Club (HDC)
- Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS)
- National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)
- National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE)
- NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BLACK ENGINEERS (Nsbe)
- Oakwood Bio-Medical Association (OBMA)
- Oakwood Track Club (O.T.C.)
- Oakwood University Allied Health Club (OUAHC)
- Oakwood University Computer Club (OUCC)
- Oakwood University Education Club (OUCC)
- Oakwood University Literary Guild ((OULG))
- Oakwood University Pharmacy Club (OPC)
- Oakwood University Phi Alpha Delta Chapter
- Oakwood University Social Work Club (Social Work Club)
- Oakwood University Student Nurses Association (O.U.S.N.A)
- OU Social Work Club (Social Work Club)
- Phi Beta Lambda
- Project Re-Connect (ReConnect)
- PureMarket
- Religion & Theology Forum (Forum)
- Student Nutrition Awareness Club (SNAC)
- The Oaks Collective (The Oaks)
- TriBeta: Lambda Upsilon Chapter (TrBeta)

## Non-Academic Clubs

- African Student Association (ASA)
- Art & Soul (AnS)
- Caribbean Youth Association (CYA)
- City Lights Dance Ministry (City Lights)
- Dynamic Praise (DP)
- Girls' Awareness through Motivational Empowerment (G.A.M.E)
- Hitch University
- Human Development Club (HDC)
- Maison de Charme (Revel.)
- The Oaks Collective (The Oaks)
- Oakwood Improv Comedy Team
- Oakwood Track Club (O.T.C.)
- Oakwood University Ambassador Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP Oakwood Ambassador Chapter)
- OU Percussion (Acorns)
- Perfectly Flawed
- Prophecy Club (OUPC)
- Sewchet' (SCC)
- The Office of Student Activities (OU Life)
- Three Oaks Studios (Three Oaks)
- T-Time Management (T-Time)
- United Student Movement (USM)
- Voices of Triumph (VOT)

## Thompson Hospitality Makes Changes

by David Knight, vice president for Student Services



The Division of Student Services has as one of its strategic goals that “Oakwood University Dining Services will offer premier dining services aligned with SDA health principles.” To this end, two years ago the University partnered with Thompson Hospitality to make this goal a reality. The University has witnessed marked improvement halfway through its second year with Thompson Hospitality. The most notable changes are to the menu, food presentation, quality of food, and décor.

The menu, this year, focuses more on a variety of comfort foods as indicated through anecdotal commentary and annual surveys. The Thompson’s Food Committee, which meets monthly, has helped with making the necessary adjustments. Thompson has added a diversity of ethnic foods that have increased options to the already existing Italian, Asian, Caribbean, and Thai/Indian menus. Last year, several menus that were presented as monthly themes are now a part of the regular cycled menu, due to the positive feedback. The mod-

ification to the menu still allowed for the core presentation of Southern cuisine to maintain its presence.

In addition to menu changes in the Dining Hall, Christmas renovations included the following: Sprout (vegan station), a cosmetic upgrade to the grill station, and an increasingly popular self-service, soft-ice cream machine.

The market saw changes at “The Outtakes” to help expedite quicker services to its customers. Adjustments were made at the Be Right Burgers (BRB) with the addition of more food wells to increase additional burger options. Last, but not least, many tables and chairs were removed to make room for soft sitting furniture. Thompson Hospitality extends its service enhancements through its commitment to providing instant feedback via Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. This is invaluable 24/7 customer service.

## Division Update: Academic Administration

### MOOC Proves to be a Success

Oakwood University has officially become the first HBCU to successfully offer a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC). The idea was conceived in the mind of Kim Cliett Long, Ed.D., ('82), who currently directs the Wiley College based Center for Distance Learning, of which Oakwood is a member institution. The course, *Understanding World Religions: An Occupational Approach*, was designed and taught by Associate Professor of Religion, Keith Augustus Burton, Ph.D., who also directs the Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations and coordinates special projects for the President.

Based on the World Religions course offered to traditional and non-traditional Oakwood students, *Understanding World Religions: An Occupational Approach* is designed in a way that allows the student to customize the content to his/her chosen vocation or academic discipline. For instance, a health care professional may choose to focus on a religion's dietary regulations or a social worker may look at religious practices that could affect client placement.

When the seven-week course launched last October, 634 students had registered for it. Some of the religiously and geographically diverse enrollment included Muslims, Hindus, Zoroastrians, Jews, Wiccans, Catholics, Atheists and Agnostics, from Pakistan, Scotland, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, India, Serbia, France and the United States. They were retirees, students, clergy, bankers, engineers and teachers. In fact, one teacher took the course to get ideas for a World Religions course he was scheduled to teach at his institution.

During the course, students had an opportunity to interact through weekly discussions and group assignments, and received instruction through readings, videos and live streamed lectures—a first for the Canvas platform. Of course, Professor Burton was kept very busy grading the assignments and was relieved that—as is the case with most MOOCs—only five percent of the students chose to do all the graded assignments (people take MOOCs for a variety of reasons, not limited to the receipt of college credit).

Student course evaluations were generally positive, with a student from Italy remarking, "I want to congratulate Dr. Burton for this great work, teaching techniques, and interaction with the students.... With Dr. Burton I felt connected; he always had a comment for my assignments and he pushed me to go the extra mile, to go deeper in my insights and reflections, and I truly see him as a great mentor, passionate about his work and engaged in his teaching."

Overall, Professor Burton believes that the MOOC provided Oakwood University with a unique platform to share its mission and world view with a broader audience.



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## Didactic Program Receives Full Accreditation

Information from the letter received on January 30

During its January 14-17 meeting, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) board voted to continue full Accreditation for the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Oakwood University, for a term of seven years. The program's accreditation term will end June 30, 2022. Accreditation is granted for a Didactic Program in Dietetics at the baccalaureate level for a maximum enrollment of 15 third-year and 15 fourth-year students.

The decision was based on a peer review of Oakwood's self-study report addressing the 2012 Accreditation Standards, site visit report, and program response. The next accreditation review of the program by the ACEND® board will be in 2022. ACEND® values Oakwood's commitment to the quality and

continued improvement of dietetics education as demonstrated during the accreditation process. In this spirit, the ACEND® board commends Oakwood's students and program for its 100% pass rate.



Dr. Joycelyn Peterson, director of the Dietetic Internship Program, Dr. Leslie Pollard and Dr. Fiona Lewis, director of the Dietetics Program hold the accreditation letter.

## OU Professors Attend LLU Pre-Professional Advisors Workshop

George Ashley, Ph.D., acting vice president for Academic Administration, and Maxine Garvey, DPT, chair of the Allied Health Department, attended an intensive workshop, February 6-9. The workshop was aimed at providing North American Adventist Colleges and Universities with an introspective review of Loma Linda University's fit with the mission of Adventist health promotion within its eight graduate professional schools at LLU and the more than 200 healthcare options available to students within that institution.

The health professional field is one of the largest fields of interest for Oakwood students, especially in the fields of medicine and dentistry. LLU has made an intentional effort to partner with Oakwood to recruit undergraduate students from the

health and behavioral health sciences to fill the tightly competitive enrollment spaces within these graduate professional programs. "Oakwood students have consistently demonstrated the academic intellect, maturity, and preparedness needed to excel within the health and behavioral health professions," cited one LLU administrator.

Special thanks goes to the current chairs, Dr. Safawo Gullo (Biology), Dr. Garvey (Allied Health), Dr. Kenneth LaiHing (Chemistry), Dr. Cheryl Galley (Psychology), and Professor Helen Fischle (Social Work) who have worked tirelessly to ensure that Oakwood students are academically and professionally prepared for graduate school education within these fields.



Dr. Ashley and Dr. Garvey take a moment to visit with Oakwood University graduates currently attending LLU. From left to right: Dr. Ashley, Kayla Berry '14, first-year Masters in Healthcare Management student; Taylor Edwards '14, first-year Doctor of Physical Therapy student; and Dr. Garvey.



Shawnee Daniel, '14, (first-year Pharmacy student at LLU) shares her first-year experience at LLU with at the pre-professional workshop.

### Oakwood University Senior Student Nurses Interview for Employment at Florida Hospital

by Abena-Yolanda H. Baskin, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, assistant professor, Department of Nursing

Through a partnership program with Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida, Oakwood University's senior nursing students were invited to interview for nursing positions on December 3, 2014, through January 7, prior to their May 2015 graduation. Facilitated by Jillian Wills, associate professor, seven students prepared resumes, fashioned business attire, and rehearsed interview questions, for the anticipated two days of intense interviews and meetings with Florida Hospital staff and executives in Orlando, Florida.

Through nervous dialogue, students met with Human Resource managers, nurse managers, professional and support staff, and were greeted by the chief operating officer, Brian Paradis, who exemplified the hospital's value and mission statement. Senior nursing colleagues from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, also participated in the event, which gave the OU students real-life experience in jockeying for employment positions.

Narratives from the students reflect an attitude of trusting God and having the confidence to succeed. Their confidence increased during their interviews as they recalled their didactic and clinical nursing experiences to guide them into appropriate responses. *"I sought the Lord and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears"* (Psalm 34), became an experiential and applicable scripture for these students. By the end of the interview sessions, they all agreed they had the necessary qualifications to uphold the mission statements of Florida Hospital and Oakwood University— to extend the healing

ministry of Christ, and be leaders in service for God and humanity, respectively. The theme and purpose for the program had come to fruition, which was for Florida Hospital to employ nurses trained in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian program to minister to Orlando communities, exemplifying Christian healing attitudes and methods, and assist in the success of novice nurses in a Christ-centered culture of safety.

Soon after their return to OU, all of the students were contacted by Florida Hospital's Human Resource Department and nurse managers with employment offers upon graduation. Being offered a position in the field of study prior to graduation and before taking the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) is unprecedented for Oakwood University Nursing students, and surpasses what they could thought or hoped. One student's journal entry of her experience was described as follows: *"Life outside of Oakwood is nearer than we thought. Soon we all will be taking different paths. As we all go in different directions, whether it be Florida Hospital or elsewhere, we will each take this wonderful experience with us and, overall, our Oakwood nursing experience. Using your nursing skills to be a light and ministry to others in their highest and darkest moments is a skill set that not many schools offer. Boy, are we blessed."* - Yarimel Rodriguez

The all-expenses-paid trip to Florida Hospital was an inaugural event for OU's nursing students and one to be remembered forever. These student nurse pioneers have set the standard and raised the bar for fellow nursing colleagues.



### Oakwood Offers Reading Support Program to the Community

**F**or 10 weeks beginning this past February, the Education Department of Oakwood University offered a free, community service for students in grades kindergarten through 12 in need of one-on-one support in reading. Student teacher candidates of Oakwood University provided one-on-one instruction for 30-minute sessions on Wednesdays. The program was titled Reading and Succeeding at Oakwood University.

The instruction and guided practice were in the areas of vocabulary knowledge, reading comprehension, reading fluency, decoding, and phonics. In addition, they provided parent support with training sessions and distribution of support materials.

The session helped to determine a student's interest, and specific areas of concern through interest inventories, informal reading testing, and parent surveys. This helped the student teacher candidates to provide intentional, direct and cooperative instruction. Other activities included related games and critical writing projects.

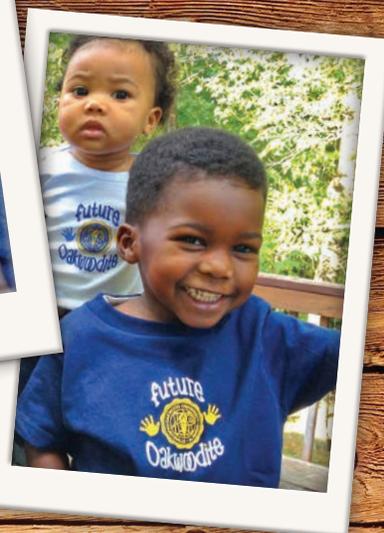


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Ginneh Wright (age 8 months)  
Jonathan Wright (age 3) —  
children of Stacia (Dulan) Wright,  
'00, and H. Marcel Wright.



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## Spiritual Life Hosts Family Crisis Support Training Luncheon

by Monica Spencer, student writer

**O**n December 4, 2014, the Office of Spiritual Life hosted its first “Family Crisis Support Training Luncheon” in the Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center. This training was designed to educate participants on how to define and approach a family crisis. Throughout the presentation, Oakwood University staff were taught to understand the psychological behaviors of families in crisis and how to respond to such behaviors. This training also aimed to teach staffers what the Bible says about family crisis.

Howard Weems, Ph.D., senior chap-

lain, envisioned this training after observing the dire need for the restoration of families. “I assessed a need to equip staff on how to manage the crisis in their own families and reach out and assist others,” he said.

One of the 18 staff members who attended was Desiree Price, who was enlightened by the presentation. She shared that “The seminar was an informative, in-depth insight into recognizing the ‘red flags’ when a family member or student is in an emotional crisis.”

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## Office of Spiritual Life Offers Global Service Course

by Monica Spencer, student writer

**F**or the very first time, Oakwood University is offering a Global Service course. This class prepares students to be servant leaders in the world, through reflective global outreach interactions. It teaches commitment to Seventh-day Adventist ideals of service, benevolence, and community involvement.

There are two parts to this course. The first, instructional portion of the class takes place in a classroom setting where the students meet once a week. The second component is international service participation and is conducted in a foreign country.

Samara Stagg, one of the students currently enrolled in this class, expresses her excitement and appreciation for the class: “This class helps you to appreciate and respect others more, and ignites your desire to serve as much as you can. Global Service class is helping us work together; it’s expanding our social horizons; it’s realigning our values and what’s important to us; it’s offering us a new and more broad perspective on life; it’s giving us a purpose and helping us focus on something greater than ourselves. This class is helping us to gain more respect for God and all that He does, not just for one or two people, or for you in your life, but for the whole world, the whole universe; He is caring for everyone. For us to have an opportunity to reach just a few people and let them know how

much He loves them and cares for them, that is a gift.”

She continued, “This class offers great experiences and strengthens our understanding of missions. Mission work isn’t just about getting to go to a different country. You can do mission work in your own house. Mission work is about sharing God’s love with as many people as you can and recognizing that others living differently can be even more of a blessing to you than you ever could have been to them. Mission work embodies Christ. Serving others and sharing God’s unconditional love with them, that is our purpose. That is what we are called to do. That is what I’m learning, and I am definitely enjoying it. I would encourage anybody and everybody to sign up for this class. It is a great one!”



## Oakwood Competes at Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Nationals in California

Completing a hard-fought journey that began in the fall, the team representing Oakwood University competed at the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship Tournament on March 21-25, in Torrance, California. Now in its 26th season, HCASC is a unique academic competition that showcases the academic prowess of the best and brightest students from America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Celebrating HBCU excellence, Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is one of Honda's largest and longest running philanthropic initiatives in the United States. Since 1989, the program has awarded more than \$7.5 million in grants to participating HBCUs, impacting the lives of over 100,000 students across 22 states. The participating HBCUs share in grants from Honda of up to \$328,000, each year. HCASC's impressive roster of past participants includes engineers, lawyers, doctors and professors.

With 76 HBCUs vying for a spot in the Nationals, teams competed in seven qualifying tournaments held in late January. Forty-eight emerged from the group, including Oakwood, earning the opportunity to compete for the title of "National Champion" and a \$50,000 institutional grant from Honda.

Greg F. Edouard, Parris Leshea Boles, Sesly Desiree Huerfano, and Jennifer Christine Miller will represent Oakwood. Dr. Rosland Rennae Elliott, chairperson for the Communications Department will coach the team.

Check back in the summer issue of *Oakwood Magazine* to see how the team placed in the competition.

For more information on the 2015 HCASC, including a full list of the 48 qualifying teams, visit [www.hcasc.com](http://www.hcasc.com). Connect with HCASC via social media for updates on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/HCASC](http://www.facebook.com/HCASC)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/HCASC](http://www.twitter.com/HCASC)), using #HCASC.



## Oakwood Expands Partnership with Kettering Health Network

by Cheri Wilson, CFRE, director of development

On January 29, administrators from the Kettering Health Network (KHN) visited Oakwood University to share KHN's mission and ministry and explore ways to match Oakwood's mission and impact.

The Kettering team included George Lewis, Oakwood alumnus and president of Kettering Physician Network; David Gordon, Recruitment Manager, Kettering Health Network; Keith Jenkins, HR Director, Grandview and Southview medical centers; and William Ragland, Leadership Partner, Grandview and Southview medical centers.

The day began with a breakfast discussion with OU administrators and academic department heads. Lewis stated that their goal is to "expand our partnership with Oakwood University with intentional efforts on recruiting students for internships and full-time positions."

Organized by Career Services Director Sonia Paul, the KHN administrators presented the weekly chapel program, conducted student interviews and an information session, and hosted dinner with a small group of students representing various academic departments.

David Gordon expressed gratitude for the "excellent hospitality," and said that the Kettering team "felt a strong connection with the Oakwood administration, department heads, and students. We anticipate follow-up visits that will strengthen our partnership, and we look forward to engaging the students for internships and full-time positions. We are excited for where this will take us and look forward to connecting again, soon!"



Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

## Oakwood and Southern Participate in DEEP Retreat

by Monica Spencer, student writer

**A**dministrators and student leaders from Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University collaborated from January 23 through 25, during their annual DEEP retreat. Themed “Calling, Vocation, and Diversity in the Body of Christ,” this year’s retreat was hosted by Southern Adventist University at Camp Chula Vista in Pell City, Alabama.

The Diversity Education Exchange Program (DEEP) is designed to encourage understanding among university students from diverse backgrounds. In 1997, former President of Oakwood University Delbert Baker, Ph.D., and President of Southern Adventist University Gordon Bietz, D. Min., decided to bring a group of student leaders together to learn of various aspects of diversity, to fellowship, and build lasting relationships.

Amanda Hendricks, president of the Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS) at Oakwood University, expressed, “The retreat gave me a unique opportunity to exchange dialogue with Southern students. I was able to give and take ideas for making our school’s various organizations better and more serving to the students and us, alike.”

Southern Adventist University’s Sigorney Creighton shared, “This year’s retreat was an insightful and challenging experience. The focus on God’s calling and its relationship to our vocation and job expectations really clarified how to incorporate service to God into every fiber of my career. I also appreciated the administrator’s candid insight and meaningfully connection with other student leaders, as well.”



## USM Hosts Annual Student Week of Prayer

by Monica Spencer, student writer

**S**tudents gathered inside the Oakwood University Church, January 20-24, for the United Student Movement’s (USM) annual Student Week of Prayer. During each program, students were challenged to allow God to take over specific aspects of their lives. Speakers were Kiran David, Kyle Smith, Wesley Nathan, Darchell Clark, and Jordaan Houston.

When asked what inspired the theme, “Takeover,” USM Religious Vice Jordaan Houston, explained, “We chose ‘Takeover’ because we understand students have many different struggles, whether it’s financial clearance, academics, family, or relationships.”

He continued, “We understand that in order for us to grow and our faith to be fortified in Christ, we need to allow God to take over everything, including our everyday struggles. Matthew 6:26 declares ‘Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they?’ Birds of the air are totally dependent upon the Lord for everything, we should be, as well.”

## Oakwood’s Dietetics Program Awarded Grant

**T**he Produce for Better Health (PBH) Foundation awarded a grant of \$5,000 to Oakwood University’s dietetics program. According to a news release, this grant is to fund an enhanced collaboration between supermarkets and university nutrition and dietetics programs.

“The dietetics training grant program has and continues to gain momentum and garner interest,” said Elizabeth Pivonka, president and CEO of PBH. Notable results will be shared during their 2015 Annual Conference.

Joycelyn Peterson, DPH, director of Oakwood’s dietetics internship program, sent in a proposal for dietetics internship enhancement. The \$5,000 award will be used during the Spring 2015 Semester for training 12 dietetics interns. “A major program goal,” Peterson said, “will be to prepare competent dietetics practitioners to use their knowledge of nutrition to serve the community.”

Oakwood University dietetics interns will help meet the objectives of the Produce for a Better Health Foundation (PBH) Grant by improving the knowledge of food preparation through grocery store tours and food demonstrations and increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables by residents in the urban community, who typically do not meet the requirements for consumption.

## Voices of Triumph Choir Visits Toronto for MLK Celebration

by George Ashley, Ph.D., acting vice president,  
Academic Administration



Oakwood University's Voices of Triumph choir and Religion Professor Jesse Wilson, D.Min., were the featured guests for Canada's premier Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) celebration event held in Toronto, Canada, on MLK Day. The event honored the contributions of Dr. King, who was the face of the African-American civil rights movement in America. During the event, four Canadian Oakwood University students were the surprise recipients of academic scholarships from the Black Business Professional Association.

The weekend event included a special visit to Oakwood Collegiate Institute (OCI), a public high school with approximately 1,500 students. The choir was enthusiastically received as they shared their energetic and melodious voices with students and faculty. The OCI principal, Richard Nosov, was clearly moved by the music, synergy, and character that the Oakwood University students displayed and commented on how impressed he was with the student career aspirational goals, their character, and sensational singing. Nosov believes that from what he has seen and read about Oakwood and its

students, just being able to connect with students who have the same values and faith in a nurturing campus environment provided the groundwork for success. "I would not be surprised if students from our school chose to attend Oakwood University after completing high school here," Nosov stated.



*Voices of Triumph performs at Crawford Adventist Academy.*

## Oakwood's Chemistry Department Hosts UAB Fellow

by Monica Spencer, student writer



O n January 15, students and faculty gathered in the Chemistry Department, as Victoria Gibbs, Ph.D., shared her discoveries on stress and how it correlates with the lifespan of humans. Throughout Gibbs' presentation, she addressed stressors and the management or mismanagement of stress responses and how it affects humanity using a murine model.

Gibbs received her doctorate in Biology at the University of Birmingham, in 2011. Subsequently, she joined the Department of Biology at Villanova University as the Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in Organismal Biology. Currently, Gibbs is con-

tinuing her research as a Postdoctoral Scholar in the School of Health Professions at the University of Birmingham.

Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., assistant professor in the OU Chemistry Department expressed, "We were very pleased to have Dr. Gibbs present her research on stress, obesity, and aging as part of our Chemistry Seminar series, funded by the National Institutes of Health. Her visit gave the students an opportunity to interact with an individual who has recently obtained a Ph.D. in the biological sciences, and is at the beginning of a promising career."

## Oakwood Student Helps in Film Documentary

by Jasmine Bartholomew, student writer

**D**uring the holidays when most students were spending time with their families, I was busy preparing for the opportunity of a lifetime. From December 26, 2014, to January 5, 2015, 11 other students from local universities and I were in California to film a documentary entitled *Huntsville2Hollywood*.

*Huntsville2Hollywood* is a movie that allowed students majoring in journalism, mass communication, and film to go behind the scenes of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. The trip was sponsored by the Media Arts Institute of Alabama, founded by Leon Burnette.

Burnette and the Media Arts Institute partnered with Joetta DiBella to coach, mentor, and prepare us for this experience. Being able to sit at the energetic feet of DiBella was an honor in, and of itself, because she is an Emmy award-winning producer who has worked with 16 Tournament of Roses parades. Her passion for this project and her connections to the Rose Bowl allowed us to receive press passes, Rose Parade stand tickets, and access to behind-the-scenes preparations, including the Tournament House, building of the floats, the Rose Queen, and so much more.

Our access to the parade was just one of the many highlights of this trip. We also visited Rodeo Drive, Equestfest, the Staples Center, the Watts Towers, the TCL Chinese Theatre, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Beverly Hilton, home of the Golden Globes awards broadcast. We spoke with the 2015 Queen of the Parade, Madison Triplett; interviewed David Thomas of Take 6 and his wife, Marla, and Oakwood alumnus

and producer Erik Griggs.

One of the biggest highlights of the trip was unexpectedly receiving complimentary end-zone tickets to the Rose Bowl game, as well as speaking for an hour with the CEO for the Tournament of Roses, Bill Flinn, who extended an invitation for us to return next year.

This trip strengthened my faith in God and taught me that if you follow God's will, He will line up opportunities for you in the things you are passionate about. No matter where you are from, or what you have been through, there is no reason

to stop dreaming and turning those dreams into reality. leaders in every area of our society."



## Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc., Announces Awards

**T**he Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc., recently completed the calendar year 2014 scholarship awards cycle, providing scholarship assistance to four Oakwood University students. For the Spring 2014 and Fall 2014 semesters, Alice Merelus received funding assistance slated for one student pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The Foundation also provided assistance for three students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Music: Uhriel Jordier, Clenol Jean, and Candace Williams. Total scholarship assistance provided by the Foundation to OU students during the calendar year 2014 amounted to \$10,500. Also in 2014, Oakwood University's radio station, WJOU, received a \$5,000 grant to upgrade and

enhance technologic capability.

The Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation is an independent, private, not-for-profit 501(c) (3) foundation, incorporated April 14, 2010. The foundation was established in memory of Nathan L. Anderson, '05, who, in his short but remarkable lifespan was, by profession, a computer scientist, a lieutenant in the United States Public Health Service, a licensed private pilot, and a formally trained, gifted musician. The Foundation is primarily focused on providing scholarships to support students pursuing college degrees in Computer Science, Nursing, Music, and Aviation. Further information regarding donations and scholarship eligibility can be found at [www.rememberingnathananderson.com](http://www.rememberingnathananderson.com).

# Families Benefit from Angels Among Us Campaign

by Monica Spencer, student writer

**I**n December 2014, WJOU 90.1 FM sponsored an “Angels Among Us” campaign in an effort to assist with the needs of local Huntsville families for the Christmas season. A major focus of the campaign was to assist parents of the New Beginnings program. New Beginnings, housed on the Oakwood University campus, is designed to assist single-parent students on their journey to completing their degree.

With the assistance of Garden Cove Produce, Good Samaritan Hospice, and generous donations from community members and online givers, New Beginnings families received much-needed items—such as laundry detergent, bath soaps, pots, pans, children’s clothing, educational toys, and sheets—just to name a few. Along with assisting the parents and children of New Beginnings, the donations received from this campaign assisted some families in the Huntsville community. The campaign served a total of 53 people, which included 20 adults, and 33 children.

Reggie Hicks, general manager and director of WJOU,

expressed, “It was a wonderful collaboration of students, faculty, the staff of Oakwood, and the community. Hopefully, it is something that we can do every year.”



Nia Johnson, 2014 Miss Oakwood, and Monica Spencer, 2014 Miss UNCF, were spokespersons for the Campaign. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.

# Oakwood Aeolians Minister in Jamaica

**R**ather than tour from city to city to present concerts as they usually do, the Aeolians are spending time ministering to children and teenagers suffering from HIV in Jamaica, during the recent Spring Tour.

Their priority was to bring as much joy as possible into the children’s lives, spending quality time, sharing words of encouragement and love, playing group games, and singing songs.

Student Jim Williams said that he couldn’t “put into words everything that we saw or experienced. We went from one place to the next - giving back. But here’s the plot twist: we seemed to be the REAL ones on the receiving end... Pictures don’t do justice.

At one particular place, we weren’t even allowed to capture photos or videos. Nevertheless, what we experienced was real and will stick with me for the rest of my life.”



Photo by O'Brian Harris



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## The Blue and Gold Challenge

is designed to channel the dedication and OU pride of alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends to make a gift to the Oakwood Annual Fund Campaign between Alumni Weekend and 11:59 p.m. on June 30th. Show your Blue and Gold pride and invest in the next generation of prOUd graduates for service to God and humanity.

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## The Beauty of Research

by Britney L. Nelson, Project Coordinator, Research & Employee Services

### WHAT IS BEAUTY?

Beauty has been known to be different for every individual, and it's no different when dealing with research. Call it the "Beauty and the Beast" of basic research, but despite the best devised plans, research sometimes yields unexpected results. However, the results can occasionally be delightful. According to Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., vice president for Research & Employee Services, research has proven to play a vital role for Oakwood University, not only for students, but for faculty, as well, as they provide tremendous financial opportunities to expand the research done before the grant is awarded.

In a recent interview, I spoke with some faculty members who are receiving externally-funded grants, to provide a snapshot of the beauty behind the research. Following are the responses from the faculty as to why grants are important, the grants impact, and valuable tools we can take away from their funded research projects.

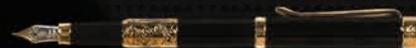


**Title: Leading with Nanotechnology**  
**Darayas Patel, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Math and Consumer Sciences**

The Instrumentation to Support the Development of New Nanomaterials for High Power Fiber Lasers Grant helps undergraduate students to be involved in cutting edge research. The grant has allowed Dr. Patel to set up a lab with equipment that is used for conducting projects in nanotechnology, laser technology, sensors, and photonics. The grant is important to students because it allows them to participate in the actual experiments and training on the instruments being used in the industry. Students are trained to put their research findings in a poster/presentation format and are able to meet colleagues from other universities/institutes to engage in discussions about their research. With students using the new instruments in the industry this is a positive aspect because it allows them to enter into graduate school or internships after college. It is key for students to look for opportunities to work on similar research projects across the campus to sharpen their skills as they move to graduate studies and work in industries.

**Three facts about Darayas Patel:**

- Has a beautiful family and admires the love and support they have given him at all times
- Favorite scripture: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
- Research is hard work and you do not get instant results, but with perseverance and endurance great heights are reached.



## Division Update: Research and Employee Services



**Title: Meaningful Mentoring**  
**Maxine Garvey, D.P.T.**  
**Professor of Allied Health**

Maxine Garvey, D.P.T., believes the Minority Health Research Center seeks to increase the number of competent, well-trained minority researchers and professionals working to decrease health disparities in the deep south. The grant is important because it positions Oakwood University as a leader in one of the eight HBCUs and helps increase the amount of well-trained minority healthcare professionals in the southern United States. The grant is important for students because they are able to receive early mentorship and hands-on experience in undergraduate research and scientific writing. Additionally, students are able to contribute meaningfully to the published body of knowledge through collaborating with faculty on publications and posters at various research symposia. The grant will help impact the future of students by gaining the competitive edge they need to matriculate into graduate health professional programs and for entering the job market. The key takeaway for Garvey's students is that the grant provides early exposure to clinicians in the field, health policy, health career planning and academic supports, that are valuable to achieving their career goals.

**Three facts about Maxine Garvey:**

- Recipient of the Oakwood University 2014 Teaching Excellence Award
- She enjoys working one-on-one with students and patients to help them achieve their career and health-related goals, respectively
- Favorite Bible verse: "Dear friend, above everything else I want things to go well with you and for your body to be as healthy as your soul." (The Clear Word, 3 John 1:2)



**Title: Understanding Invasive Species**  
**Onesimus Otieno, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Biological Sciences**

Biodiversity and the monitoring of invasive species allow the US Geological Survey (USGS) to effectively manage wetlands and other areas. Otieno says that by partnering with the US Geological Survey (USGS), Oakwood University is able to make progress and impact new areas of research and knowledge. By doing this, the University will gradually build the institutional capacity to offer an even wider network of professional experiences. The funded grants are important because we have very limited offerings in the Ecological Sciences, and this project will expand additional opportunities for hands-on experience. Oakwood faculty and students will team up with USGS researchers based in the National Wetlands Research laboratory. This collaboration will allow students to become familiar with issues in biodiversity and invasive species, especially in the Alabama. The key takeaway for students is that the species monitoring project will give students the satisfaction of contributing to a real problem in real time.

**Three facts about Onesimus Otieno:**

- Worked as a farmer, and is still a farmer at heart
- Enjoys photography
- Advocate for access to vaccines around the world to give children a shot at life



**Title: Healthy Shopping**  
**Joycelyn Peterson, Dr.P.H.**  
**Director, Dietetic Internship Program**

Joycelyn Peterson, Dr.P.H., believes that grants have the power to transform, through the dissemination of research-based knowledge, not only to those enrolled as students, but also to the community. The State Tour Training grant provides didactic and experiential opportunities which enable interns to develop skills, demonstrate professionalism, and apply knowledge. We are happy to make a positive contribution to our community by enhancing the skills of dietetics interns in teaching and advising on diet, foods, nutrition, and health in home and family environments. Engaging students at Oakwood in experiential and healthy shopping activities will impact students' future health choices. The career takeaway for students should be that grocery store dietetics is a growing field of employment for nutrition professionals. This grant also exposes dietetics interns (DIs) and dietetics seniors to skills needed to lead grocery store tours, with a particular emphasis on fruits and vegetables. The Produce for Better Health Foundation desires to support these efforts by defraying out-of-pocket costs for training.

**Three facts about Joycelyn Peterson:**

- Loves God and her fellow man
- Recently published in the Annals of Nutrition & Metabolism, Paper entitled "Effect of Consumption of Dried California Mission Figs on Lipid Concentrations"
- Recently awarded the Store Touring Training Grant to enhance dietetics interns' skills needed, from the Produce for Better Health Foundation



**Title: Building Minorities in Math and Sciences**  
**R. Timothy McDonald, Ed.D.**  
**Provost**

The grants, Education Opportunities for the Development of MSFC STEM Workforce and IMARI, give the University an additional stream of income, prestige, and specific goals to complete for the grant. The two grants focus directly on students and allow the opportunity to chart and direct a career path. The grants give a direct positive impact on our students financially and on the quality of education that they are receiving. The STEM workforce grant allows students to work with NASA and learn about space exploration and experiments with rocketry. The STEM grant brings 15-25 students to Oakwood from HBCUs around the world to learn how to improve in science and mathematics. The students receive a stipend and their accommodations are paid by the institution. The IMARI program exposes students to biomedical sciences and promotes the option to achieve a Ph.D. rather than medical school.

Three facts about Timothy McDonald:

- Working as an administrator, I enjoy saying "yes" when I know it will better a worker and the institution
- I am happy to announce I have been married to one woman for 56 years.
- I enjoy research and I am learning more by being a Principal Investigator on the IMARI grant.



**Title: Increasing Research among Minorities**  
**Kenneth LaiHing, Ph.D** **Professor of Chemistry**

The MERIT (Mentoring Experience in Research, Instruction, and Teaching) grant seeks to enhance the research backgrounds and teaching experiences of developing scientists to conduct quality research in an academic environment. The program promotes interactions between research-intensive universities and partner institutions that will lead to collaborations in research and teaching that will ultimately increase the number of well-qualified underserved students entering competitive careers in biomedical research. The LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) grant is aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of students successfully completing science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) baccalaureate degree programs and increasing the number of students interested in, academically qualified for and matriculated into programs of graduate studies.



**Title: Saving the Children**  
**Helen Fischle, M.S.W.**

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program is important for Oakwood University because it assists the Social Work Department in training future social workers to address the various issues children face while growing up. The grant is focused on training future social workers to work in the area of child welfare which is one of the most challenging yet rewarding areas of social work. The grant is important to our students because it allows them the opportunity to learn about the area of child welfare by exposing them to placements and full-time employment with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (ADHR). The grant impacts the future of students at Oakwood University, specifically in the Social Work Department, by helping to provide the resources needed to give students the knowledge, skills, and values needed to work with children in the field of social work. It also provides students with a stipend when they do their 450 hours field placement during their senior year, as long as the student recipient works for two years for with ADHR, upon graduating.

Three facts about Helen Fischle:

- Born in Reading, England
- Loves interior and event decorating
- Married, with two children, ages 13 and 17

## Meet Oakwood University's Newest Employees



### Adana M. Wilson

Administrative Secretary,  
President's Office  
My favorite Bible text is Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. My hobbies include listening to music, traveling and shopping.

What people might find interesting about me is that, although my family is from Trinidad, I am a native of Huntsville.

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### Preston Foster

Assistant Professor, History &  
Political Science  
My favorite Bible text is Ephesians 2:8-9: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

One of my favorite hobbies is playing golf. What some people might find interesting is that I am a marketing veteran of AT&T and the Educational Testing Service. I had the honor of being selected as a White House Fellow under President Clinton (1994-95), and I served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education during the Clinton Administration.

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- Nellie Maulsby, Associate Professor, Biology
- Eunice Muriu, Assistant Professor, Nursing
- Carla Noel, Database Coordinator, Development
- John Patton, Operations Manager, Edible Arrangements
- Vanessa Smith, Supervisor, Custodial Services
- Jonathan Thompson, Director, E.G. White Estates Branch Office
- Sondra White, Medical Assistant, Health & Counseling Services

Theodore Brown, Sr. Ph.D., has been appointed the new General Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies program coordinator. The programs are transitioning from Cheryl Galley, Ph.D., who serves in the dual role of dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences. The General Studies program is an undergraduate degree program that provides students with an opportunity to choose selected courses to meet career or educational goals. The Interdisciplinary Studies major affords students the opportunity to pursue a major that integrates several different disciplines. Both programs will now be housed in the School of Business. Brown will also continue to serve as a professor in the Business Department.

## Profile on Some of Oakwood's Alumni Living Legends

by Cynthia Powell-Hicks, Ph.D., OU Board Member

Barbara's two daughters, Tracey White (1996) and Trina White Boyce (2000) are both Oakwood graduates. In 2013, after Barbara's uncle, Aaron Samuel Granderson, passed away and bequeathed \$75,000 to Oakwood University, Barbara and her family presented this gift for education scholarships, a music media room, and a study room for Carter Hall.

Judi Simons Wright graduated from Oakwood Academy. Her husband, Dr. William "Bill" Wright, is an Oakwood alum (class of 1964); her oldest son "Chip" is an Oakwood alum (class of 1990), and her son Todd also attended Oakwood. Her oldest granddaughter, Keli, is currently a junior at Oakwood; Judi's second granddaughter, Marissa, can't wait to attend as a freshman in August, 2015. Judi has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, is a licensed California fiduciary, and earned the Master's level Certified Specialist in Planned Giving (CSPG) from the American Institute of Philanthropic Studies. She has retired from 40+ years of denominational work, which included working as a registrar at Oakwood Academy in 1973, and as a planned giving consultant and trust officer in Southern, Central, and Northern California conferences, and as a trust officer at Loma Linda University. Judi and Bill are active members of the Oakwood University California Alumni Chapter. They cherish their two sons, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren.

**T**he 85 members of the Oakwood Alumni Living Legends continue to lead by example with their spiritual and financial support of scholarships and campus projects. We hope that you will be inspired and reminded of the value of Christian education as we share some of the life journeys of the Oakwood Alumni Living Legends.

Rear Admiral Clara Henderson Cobb, Assistant Surgeon General, is the Regional Health Administrator for Region IV of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she directs five regionally-based programs designed to protect and promote healthy lifestyles within eight southeastern states. She attended Oakwood University, and obtained her BSN from Washington Adventist University and her MSN from Georgia Regents University. Her daughter Chelsea is currently a senior at Oakwood.

Alice Pettiford Powell grew up the seventh child of a family of twelve. She attended Oakwood College as a freshman in 1945, where she met her husband, the late Chaplain Col. Joseph T. Powell (the first African-American, Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain in the military). Alice has two daughters, Cynthia Powell-Hicks, Ph.D., and JoAnne Powell Lightford, and five grandchildren. Both of Alice's daughters and her three granddaughters are Oakwood alumnae. In 1961 she graduated from North Carolina University in Durham, with a B.A. in Library Science and Sociology. She later graduated from Rutgers University with an M.A. degree in Information Science.

Barbara Jean Johnson White graduated from Oakwood College in 1968 with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education, and received an M.S. degree in Education from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, in 1969. After teaching for 35 years at various grade levels in four states, Barbara retired in 2012.



Photo illustrations by Ocie Maddox, Jr.

Dr. beauTina Robinson was adopted at an early age by James and Birdie Wright. From 1960 to 1963 she attended Oakwood College, and later furthered her studies at West Virginia State and Indiana Universities, where she majored in sociology. In 1996 she received her doctorate in Humanities. Tina is known for her work with McDonald's Corporation as the coordinator of the annual Southern California Gospel Fest, celebrating decades of raising thousands of dollars for the United Negro College Fund. Having extraordinary communication skills, she is an enthusiastic public speaker and has worked in the entertainment industry in both the Christian and secular arenas.

Serving on many civic and professional boards, Tina's passion is working with the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, D.C. She is devoted to improving the lives of disadvantaged at-risk children, young adults, seniors, offenders and ex-offenders. She assists decision makers at federal, state and local levels in working collaboratively with consumers and families to improve the effectiveness of various programs targeted for low-income families. Dr. Robinson is the CEO of Teen's Happy Homes, Inc., a foster family agency and group home specializing in at-risk, multiple-diagnosed, minority children and teens. She is the mother of two adult children, Tajhauna and DuBravny, and the foster

mother of Tyler and Spencer Sims. Tina is actively involved in her local church and shares her beloved, adopted mother's credo: "If I can help "one" somebody, then my living shall not be in vain."

## Living Legends pictured on page 44:

1. Barbara Jean Johnson White
2. Alice Pettiford Powell
3. Judi Simons Wright
4. Clara Henderson Cobb
5. beauTina Robinson

## Introducing Oakwood University's Miss UNCF 2015

by Monica Spencer, Miss UNCF 2014

**J**ameela Hall, a junior social work major, was born in California on January 21, 1994, to Jessie Gilmore and was adopted and raised by Sharon Hall. Growing up as an only child and raised by a strong single mother instilled a sense of determination in Jameela at an early age.

Jameela enrolled at Oakwood University in August 2012, and each semester experienced the challenge of financial clearance. It was by God's grace and the financial assistance of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) that Jameela was able to clear. These experiences inspired Jameela to raise funds to assist students who, like her, struggle to financially clear. Jameela decided to raise money for the UNCF and vied to become Oakwood's Miss UNCF.

After months of petitioning funds from family, friends, and church members, Jameela was crowned Oakwood University's Miss UNCF 2015 on December 7, 2014. While reflecting on her experience, Jameela shared, "I would consider raising money for the UNCF a character-building lesson because it taught me to have more faith. I had to keep my eyes on the end goal and keep raising funds, even if it looked like my total was not rising."

She continued, "It was an emotional experience because I was not only raising money for others, but also competing for the crown. God showed me through another experience that I have to always have faith in Him, because through Him all things are possible."

Thus far as Miss UNCF, Jameela has led a service project around Oakwood's campus to collect gently worn shoes from generous participants. From this project, Jameela was able to collect several large bags of shoes for a Women's shelter in

Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jameela has lots to look forward to for the remainder of her reign as Miss UNCF. Along with several other events, Jameela is thrilled to be attending the UNCF "An Evening of Stars" program. She expressed, "I am looking forward to an evening with the stars on BET the most. I cannot wait to be surrounded with the Black Entertainment Television stars and celebrate the UNCF and the accomplishments of my people."



Jameela Hall and escort, Isaac Nwadike. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.

## Celebrating a Legacy of 35 Years

By Reggie Hicks, general manager, WJOU

**F**or 35 years, WJOU Praise 90.1 FM has been a radio ministry licensed to Oakwood University. Over the course of these years, things have changed. Oakwood College is now Oakwood University and WOCG is now WJOU. The station moved from the old factory building on campus that was used to make Afro pick combs back in the 70s. Today, WJOU is located in the "4920 Building" with four studios. But as this important Oakwood University outreach ministry continues to grow, change becomes necessary.

The launch of the WJOU 35th Anniversary Fund will help to transition the station from analog to digital technology. This change includes a new transmitter capable of broadcasting three different channels of programming, a new digital remote telephone interface, digital broadcast and audio production studios, and a new digital program automation system.

Change will also come in the form of helping students. Here at WJOU Praise 90.1 FM, students have always played an important role in spreading the good news through radio broadcasting. Also, students have garnered valuable experience in broadcasting. As part of our 35th Anniversary Fund, we will establish several scholarship opportunities to assist students. This school year, alone, WJOU has provided over \$8,000 in student assistance.

Come and be a part of the change as WJOU celebrates 35 years of ministry. More information can be found at [WJOU.org](http://WJOU.org).



A picture of the old transmitter.



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# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1970s

**The Class of 1976** will celebrate their 40th reunion, March 24-27, 2016. They are on Facebook: OC CLASS OF 1976, and the email is: occlassof1976@gmail.com. Class reunion members are: Dianne Terrell Malone (618-558-8477), Freda James (256-755-6276), Dee Dee Woodson, Cynthia Powell-Hicks, Stephen Foster, Terri White Mitchell, and Keith Artis.

## 1980s

**1 David Person, '85**, was selected as one of Huntsville's 10 Most Influential People for 2014. He was selected by the reporting staff of al.com, who chose non-elected individuals, whom they believe have made an impact on the Huntsville and Madison County community. Person hosts a drive-time radio talk show on WEUP's gospel station, in Huntsville.

## 1990s

**2 Ruby Lathon, Ph.D., '92**, was one of many interviewees in a special report on ABC's Nightline titled *Race. Justice. In America*. The program originally aired on December 11, 2014.

**Sophia Omoro, MD, Ph.D., '93**, otolaryngologist and fashion designer, originally from Kenya, has established the Blooming Lily Foundation, "to empower women to lead, [and] positively fulfill their destiny and give back." Omoro feels that she is "optimally placed (and obligated) to connect people globally, so we can

make a positive difference in our own lives, and someone else's."

**3 Colin Sandy, '96, and Carla Sandy, '97**, of Sandy Audio Visual LLC, received the distinguished 2014 Top 100 Minority Business Enterprise Award. The award acknowledges and pays tribute to outstanding minority business owners in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

**4 Carmen B. Bucknor, Ph.D., '98**, completed the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology from Tennessee State University (TSU), in Nashville, Tennessee. Because graduation ceremonies for TSU were held on Sabbath, she chose to have a special hooding ceremony at a later date with her program advisor and mentor, Dr. Robin Oatis-Ballew.

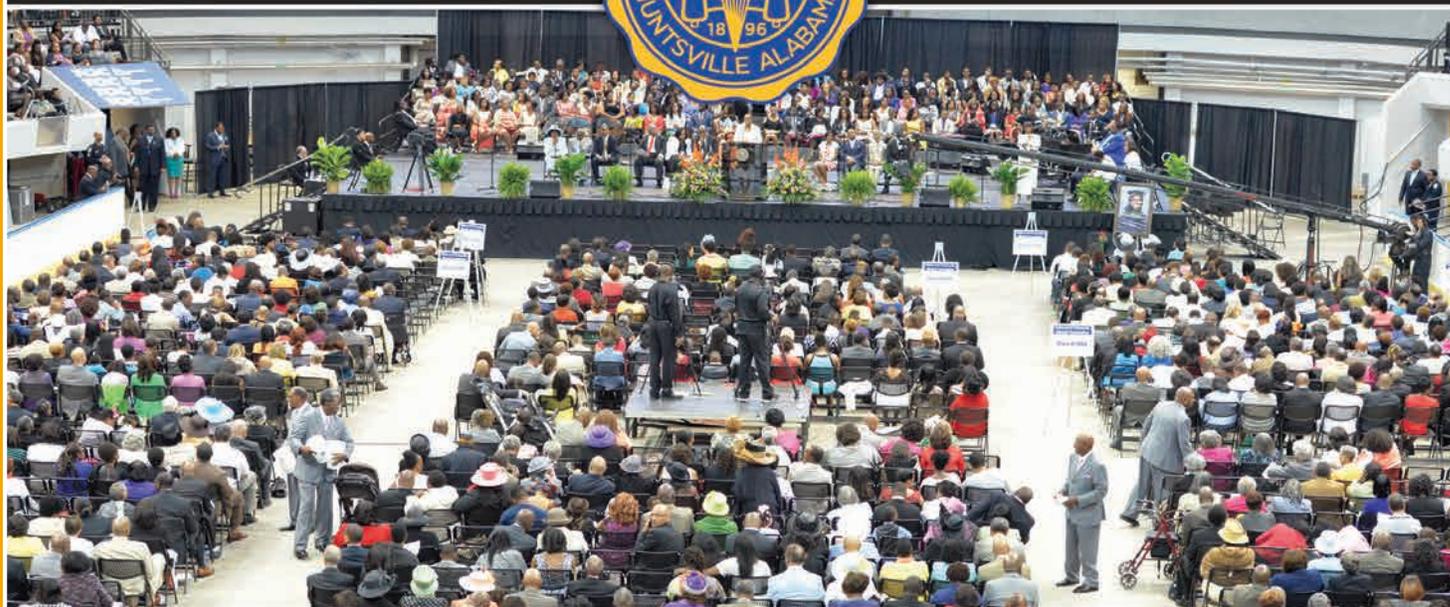
**5 Frenita Buddy, '99**, is the new Communications & Resources Manager for Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM). Buddy will lead the revamped Communications & Resources department, which manages overall corporate communication, public relations and branding functions. Additionally, this department will focus on resource development to enhance and expand ARM's risk management education programs.

## 2000s

**6** While a second-year internal medicine/urban health resident physician at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, **Ryan Lang, MD, '09**, is serving as a visiting resident with the Medical Unit at ABC News in New York, New York, for a four-week period in November/December, 2014.



Photo illustrations by Ocie Maddox, Jr.



# *Congratulations Homecoming Honorees April 3-5, 2015*

## **Families of the Year**

The Jeffrey Williamson Family - Southeastern Conference  
The Joseph McCoy Family - South Central Conference

## **Alumna of the Year**

LaSandra Alves - Southeastern Conference

## **Alumni of the Year**

Shawn R.H. Smith Esq. - Southeastern Conference  
Isaiah J. Ashe - South Central Conference

## **Certificates of Merit**

L. Sharon Kelly - Southeastern Conference  
Mamie Pruitt - South Atlantic Conference

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# Why Alumni Weekend?

by Monica Spencer, student writer

**F**rom Ashby Auditorium, to Edwards Hall, Moran Hall, and the Von Braun Center, Oakwoodites have united for years to fellowship, reflect, and celebrate Oakwood. Alumni Weekend is a special time of year for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Throughout the 45 years since its inception, it remains a time for alumni to return to the grounds where their most precious memories lie, and reminisce.

Oakwood's Alumni Association created this weekend to encourage alumni to serve and support their alma mater. The National Alumni Association was started in 1925 to promote a bond of unity among graduates and feed on active interest in the growth of the institution. The

Association continues to inspire graduates to be active alumni in serving and improving their Oakwood.

Jennifer Stone, DDS, '78, has served as president of the National Alumni Association for the past three years and vice president for six years prior. While reflecting on her Alumni Weekend experiences, she shares, "I enjoy the religious services; it just takes me back to my first days of college at Oakwood. To see - even though it is 30-something years later, we are still carrying the message that Jesus is coming soon!" She continued, "It is also a time that allows me to reflect, to see how Oakwood has grown, and how I, too, have grown. It is a time to come back and give back to my alma mater."

## Some Interesting Facts about Alumni Weekend

1967: Celebrated the first Alumni Weekend "Alumni Homecoming" off-campus at the Carriage Inn Hotel

College president who helped usher in the first Alumni Weekend: Frank W. Hale

First National Alumni President: Elder Lee A. Paschal

In 1974, Alumni Weekend services were held on campus at Moran Hall and Ashby Auditorium

In 1975, Alumni Weekend was themed: "Alive in 75"

In 1978, Alumni Weekend services were held at the Von Braun Civic Center



# Introducing Nike Tennis Camps: The Doug Goulding Tennis Experience

**D**oug Goulding is completing his third year serving as an adjunct faculty member in the Health and Physical Education department at Oakwood University. He was taught by some of the world's best tennis minds and teaching professionals of the 21st century - Dennis Van der Meer, Vic Braden, Peter Burwash, Nick Bollittieri, Stan Smith, Dennis Rolston and Arthur Ashe, just to name a few.

"Doug Goulding is an excellent tennis teacher and coach. If there were such a thing as a Ph.D. in tennis, he would have it," said Dr. Howard Shaw, chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education at Oakwood University. Shaw continues, "Goulding has a heart for our students...and a desire to reach the broader Huntsville community. I am delighted to have him as a member of our staff."

## Nike Tennis Camps

The camp is directed by Doug Goulding, Northern Alabama and the Tennessee Valley's top tennis coaches. Goulding is the founder of the International Tennis and Life Academy. He is a certified Lifestyle Coach, a certified Professional Tennis Registry teaching professional, and a world class coach and player.

Goulding has over 25 years of coaching experience, as well as experience as a camp owner and director. He is a former National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Men's and Women's head tennis coach at Fairleigh Dickinson University,

former Davis Cup candidate for Jamaica, and former number one varsity collegiate player at Christopher Newport University. He served as a Regional Director for the United States Tennis Association, Eastern Section, Southern Region, where he was honored in 2003 as one of 17 national Tennis Heroes who made significant contributions to growing tennis at the grassroots. Goulding is the founder of the International Tennis and Life Academy in Huntsville, Alabama, and currently serves as head varsity boys tennis coach at Randolph School, in Huntsville.

Goulding brings a great deal of knowledge, passion and experience as a director and coach, and he is excited about helping everyone improve their game while having fun. He currently serves as tennis instructor and director of tennis in the Physical Education Department at Oakwood University.

Goulding carefully selects and trains his staff of tennis instructors and is confident that each camper will improve, have fun, and have a positive tennis experience that they will never forget. He uses tennis as a vehicle to impact the lives of hundreds of youth and adults, alike. As a tennis and lifestyle coach, he offers each student the opportunity to be their best, on and off the court.

The community is invited to attend a **free tennis** clinic sponsored by the Health and Physical Education Department on Sunday, April 26. This event is for youth ages 7 to 17 and adults. For further information, call 256.726.7312 or send an email to: [dougouldingtennis@yahoo.com](mailto:dougouldingtennis@yahoo.com).



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# Values in the Attic

by George Johnson, Jr.



While living at my grandmother's house during my childhood, there was one place that, whenever I got a chance, I found myself stowing away. It wasn't my bedroom. It wasn't the patio. It wasn't even the family room that had the inviting smell of firewood still cradled in the hearth. It was a place where, as a kid, I was told, "stay out of there!" It was the attic.

The door that was next to the linen closet in the upstairs hallway led to the very top part of the house. The attic had stairs leading up to this special, split-level hiding space. The aged stairway would tell on me each time I sneaked up there, creaking with each ascension. However, because I yearned to be up there, I didn't care (at that moment), if I got caught.

Now, you're probably thinking that this attic was furnished to look like a loft. No pre-HGTV team transformed this space. The attic had wooden floorboards and exposed beams on the ceiling. In the winter, it was colder than any cold you had ever imagined, and in the summer, the heat was hotter than...well you get my point.

The attic was used as a storage place. Boxes that were stored there were marked with familiar names—various family members who owned those particular items.

Boxes that were marked with "Rene" were my mother's. My mother decided to return to college to pursue a degree in nursing in 1984, when I was in the fifth grade. Contained in some of these boxes were some of her collegiate books and handwritten papers. Comments from the teacher, in red, outlined the three-ringed binder paper. "Great work, Rene" and "I enjoyed how you made this character come alive" were written on a few of the pages. Other items in her boxes included pictures and books from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. My mom's smile permeated the pages of many promotional items from the university. At that time, she was the only African-American woman in her classes, and the School of Nursing utilized this as a selling point for the department. I thought she was famous. She told me that she would utilize these opportunities to help her get the education she needed.

She also told me that because this was a very competitive nursing program, she had to make sure she was as competitive in grades and work with her cohorts. She was determined to create a better quality of life for my younger sister and me. And she did that.

Boxes that were marked "Bernett" were my grandmother's. Her boxes contained certificates of appreciation and cards from the members of her church where she served as a deaconess and health ministries leader. Other certificates were from her places of employment. In the 1940s, she had been employed in a beauty salon, however, in 1964 she earned a licensed practical nursing degree, and then became a registered nurse in 1970. Not satisfied, she furthered her studies and earned a bachelor of science in nursing degree in 1979. Her love for nursing and the ability to help others opened up opportunities for her to be employed at many health/hospital facilities. Grandma retired twice in her nursing career, after completing 13 years of service at one location and 12 years of service at another.

So why did this unattractive, uncomfortable space keep my interest? These boxes contained items that conveyed family stories—telling me more and more about each member's journey, gifts, and commitment to service. What did I learn from the two matriarchs of my life? Excellence and service are the two key values that permeated their stories. They were both challenged to perform at their highest capacity. And through their vocations, they were able to assist with human needs.

Every one of us has a story, and all of us have treasures. We all have gifts that God is waiting to unleash, and like my loved ones, excellence and service is at the height of it all. These women spent their lives building careers that would not only help to feed their families, but the souls of others. Looking through the boxes of my family proved to be educational. These history lessons have helped to shape the values that I hold dear, today—values that now will pass on to my sons.

“ Every one of us has a story, and all of us have treasures. ”

\* You'll note that the above story illustrates values that were important to my family as I was growing up. Oakwood University also espouses values that are important to its employees and students: **respect, compassion, integrity, excellence, service, innovation, and collaboration.**

*-George Johnson Jr. is the director of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations for Oakwood University.*



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