

OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

Oakwood
Plans
for New
Wellness
Center

Student
Receives
\$25K
from UNCF

Meet the
New Mr.
& Miss
Oakwood

Graduation
2015



OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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ABOUT THE COVER

James Williams III and Lauren Eaton have been crowned the 2015-2016 Mr. and Miss Oakwood. See the story on page 12. Cover photos by xposure.

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PHOTO BY CHAD LUPOE

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Oakwood University won a \$50,000 grant in The Home Depot’s Retool Your School competition. The judges liked Oakwood’s grant proposal for a mile-long circuit of outdoor exercise stations emphasizing the laws of health. The stations will be a part of the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative that will officially launch this August. Winners were announced on May 12, in Atlanta, Georgia. The University’s administration would like to thank everyone who voted and/or utilized social media to help Oakwood win this competition, for the third year in a row.

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Captain **Loren Walwyn-Tross, MD, '08**, proudly shows off his Oakwood University gear next to a MEDEVAC HH-60. Captain Walwyn-Tross is currently stationed in Iraq, serving as a US Army flight surgeon in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. He entered to learn, departed to serve, and is now caring for those in harm’s way.



More Alumni Notes on page 42.



Board Matters

Do Board of Trustees' decisions make a difference in the life of an institution?

As Secretary of the Oakwood University Board, I sometimes revisit some of the historic actions taken by the University Board of Trustees in its early days as an attempt to see how we, today, benefit from the results of their prayerful governance. Here, I will highlight some of the past actions taken by the Board, and review a few of our most recent Board of Trustees' actions intended to benefit Oakwood University.

When Oakwood Industrial School was established in 1896, the original plot consisted of 360 acres purchased for \$8,000. Twenty-two years later, in 1918, the Board of Trustees voted to purchase an additional 826 acres, thus making the institution the 1,186-acre campus it is, today.

Another example of how we benefit from early governance decisions comes from 1944, when the Board of Trustees voted to change the name of the institution from Oakwood Junior College to Oakwood College, thus making it possible to bestow the institution's first bachelor's degrees in 1945.

Yet another example of Board votes benefitting future generations is when the Board voted to pursue, and, subsequently received, accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1958. In 1965 the Board voted for Oakwood to join the UNCF and officially to become the 33rd member of that elite body of institutions known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This decision represents significant financial support for students in the pursuit of their education because "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." And, in 2007, Oakwood College received approval to award graduate degrees. In response to this higher accreditation, the University's Board of Trustees and constituents voted to change the name of the institution to Oakwood University.

So, here is our final question: were all the decisions that matter taken in the past? I do not think

so. Recent votes of the Board of Trustees reflect the continuing impact of governance decisions. First, the decision of April 2014 to reestablish 21st century industry by purchasing stores in the nationally-chained franchise, Edible Arrangements®. In this industry initiative, we employ students and produce non-tuition-based revenue. One year later, at the April 2015 Board Meeting, Oakwood University Board of Trustees voted to proceed with the development of plans and funding for a \$19,000,000 Oakwood University Health and Wellness Center. A final example of beneficial decision-making is revealed in the Board vote of April 20, 2015, to endorse Healthy Campus 2020—a longitudinal collaboration designed to make Oakwood the healthiest university in America.

So what can we learn? God guides in the governance of His institutions. He used the collective wisdom, experience, and attentiveness to His will, to position his church for success. In the words of Ellen G. White, "The most important work of our educational institutions at this time is to set before the world an example that will honor God. Holy angels are to supervise the work through human agencies, and every department is to bear the mark of divine excellence." CCh, 206. We are convinced that God sends divine intervention to guide Board decision-making in the interest of advancing Oakwood. And thus, we have nothing to fear for the future, except we forget how God has led us in the past. As you read this edition of *Oakwood Magazine*, please offer a prayer for the successes and hard work of our Oakwood leadership. 🙏



Leslie N. Pollard

2015 SNAPSHOTS OF ALUMNI



WEEKEND

Honoring Our Legacy • April 2-5, 2015





Jajuan Sanders

Oakwood Student, Baltimore Native Receives Major UNCF Scholarship

By George Johnson, Jr.

Jajuan Sanders, now a junior theology and psychology major, received news on Tuesday, March 10, that changed his life. The phone call was from a representative of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), letting him know that he would be receiving a “Target Rising Stars” scholarship.

JAJUAN'S STORY

Like most students who are beginning college, Jajuan had to take out a student loan so he could be “financially cleared” to begin classes. However, the loan only covered a portion of his time at the University. When he returned this past January from the winter break, Jajuan felt as if his relationship with God wasn’t at its best. “I was literally at the point of saying that if I didn’t get cleared, I was going to go back home and go to another school and just study psychology,” he said. His mother, Christine, was also fasting and praying about his financial situation at Oakwood.

Right before this past Spring Break, Christine called Jajuan and told him to apply for scholarships on the UNCF website. When looking through the website, Jajuan noticed that theology majors did not qualify for most of the UNCF scholarships. There were only two scholarships that he could apply for, and, unfortunately, he had missed the deadline for one. However, the Evening of Stars scholarship was still active in the Web portal. Not reading all of the fine-print details about the scholarship, Jajuan quickly filled out the information. “All I was interested in was completing the application and writing my essay,” said

Jajuan. “After sending in the information, I prayed to God and asked for His blessing. I just put it in His hands,” he said.

When Jajuan received the phone call on March 10, he had just finished passing out literature for an upcoming revival at the Oakwood University Church. He listened to the UNCF representative as she explained to him that he was a scholarship recipient and that he would have to go to Atlanta for the prerecording of the UNCF: An Evening of Stars television show. He immediately called his mother to tell her the good news, but because UNCF keeps the information a secret until the airing of the show, she had been sworn to secrecy. “When it comes to my schooling and funding, I always want to make my mom happy because I know these things worry her most,” said Jajuan.

At the end of that week, UNCF flew Jajuan and the other Rising Stars scholarship recipients to Atlanta for the prerecording of the show. At the opening reception, Jajuan thanked the producers of the UNCF show for the \$5,000 scholarship he thought he was receiving. It was at that point that they told him the Target Rising Stars scholarship was for the amount of \$25,000. “I was speechless,” said Jajuan. Upon receiving this new information, he called his mother. “All I could do was scream,” said Christine. She was in choir rehearsal when Jajuan called. “People looked at me and asked why I was so happy. I told them, ‘I can’t tell you, but when you find out, you’ll be happy, too,’” she said.

According to UNCF, the 2015 Target Rising Stars scholarship was awarded to a total of five current

▲ You can see Jajuan’s story that appeared on UNCF: An Evening of Stars by going to OakwoodMagazine.com.





sophomores at UNCF HBCUs who excelled as leaders in the classroom and have made a difference on their campuses and in their communities. Along with Jajuan, the Rising Stars included: Frank Adams of Chicago, a Physics major at Clark Atlanta University; Tatiana Holder of Las Vegas, a Criminal Justice major at Benedict College; Donnie Pulliam of Midway (Ga.), a Political Science major at Morehouse College; and Dennis Richmond, Jr., of Yonkers (NY), an African-American Studies major at Claflin University.

“The work we do is vital in supporting students to and through college, and the support from long-standing partners like Target is vital to achieving this goal,” said UNCF President and CEO Dr. Michael L. Lomax. “I applaud the new class of UNCF/Target Rising Stars for the work they are doing to positively impact their schools and communities. They inspire us all to invest in better futures for young people across the country,” he said.

A LIFE-CHANGER

Once Jajuan began to speak with others at the prerecording, he saw that this was much more than just receiving an award. “I now understand that because I received this high honor, people are watching me. I was told that because of my story, people would be inspired to start or continue their academic journey,” he said. “So I’ve learned that I have to do my best to become a great influence,” he shared.

“I initially didn’t recognize the gravity of this award until the pre-taping of the show,” said Jajuan. “It’s not just about receiving the scholarship to attend college. It’s about HBCUs, overall, and recognizing their importance to students. Education for African-American students is important. We need it. It is something that a lot of us desire,” he shared.

While watching the show, that aired on April 26, with his friends, Jajuan stressed to them the importance of applying for scholarships. “One

thing that many students do is only apply for UNCF scholarships at the beginning of the semesters so that they can be cleared, and not throughout the school year. This experience has opened my eyes to applying for scholarships. There are a lot of entities and individuals out there that wish to help students financially,” he said. “And I knew when I was awarded this

scholarship; I knew that I should apply for more. They are investing in me.”

This experience has caused Jajuan to want to be a better student and role model. “I also want to do more in my community as a service to other black people,” he said. His declaration came days before Jajuan’s hometown, Baltimore, Maryland, was in the midst of riots, after the death of Freddie Gray, a Baltimore man who died of spinal injury from alleged police brutality. He plans to work with Baltimore city youth during the summer.

AFTER THE SHOW

Jajuan and other scholarship recipients have managed to stay connected through GroupMe, an app that allows you to stay connected with groups of people through text messages. “In the GroupMe, we encourage each other in our studies,” said Jajuan. One of the other recipients, Tatiana Holder, was especially



Dr. Michael L. Lomax (center) poses with all of the UNCF scholarship recipients.

supportive to Jajuan during the television recording process. “She listens and has a great heart,” he said.

The following week, after the show aired, Jajuan went back to the UNCF website to look at the information about the Evening of Stars scholarship. Remember, Jajuan didn’t read the fine print as it related to the scholarship. “I shouldn’t have been surprised that I received this scholarship. This is the one scholarship that I earnestly prayed about. I asked God for a miracle, and He answered my prayer,” he said. 🙏

George Johnson, Jr. is Director of the Office of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations.

BY THE NUMBERS

Male graduates - **135**
 Female graduates - **223**
 Total graduates:
358

Note: There were also **five** guests that participated in Oakwood's graduation services because of their university's graduations taking place on **Sabbath**.

DEGREES CONFERRED
3 masters' degrees
29 dietetic intern certificates,
326 bachelors' degrees

Major with the highest graduates -
Biology (33 total)

HIGHEST GRADE POINT AVERAGES

Traditional program:
Jonté Hunter (3.97)
Leandra Joseph (3.95)
Kaleem Burton (3.94)

Adult and continuing education program (LEAP):
Shannon Lallemand (4.0)
Ivan Allston (3.98) and Chaya Miller (3.98)
Beverly Cox (3.94)



23 countries represented by the graduates included:

- 
Bahamas
- 
Bangladesh
- 
Barbados
- 
Bermuda
- 
Canada
- 
Cayman Islands
- 
Cuba
- 
Dominica
- 
England
- 
United Kingdom
- 
France
- 
Guyana
- 
Haiti
- 
Jamaica
- 
Kenya
- 
Malawi
- 
Nepal
- 
Poland
- 
Suriname
- 
Trinidad and Tobago
- 
United States
- 
Virgin Islands
- 
British Virgin Islands

GRADUATION 2015

Oakwood University hosted its 2015 Graduation Exercises on May 8-9. Guest speakers included Michael Polite, associate chaplain of Faith Development at Andrews University; William Winston, president of the South Atlantic Conference; and Andrew Hugine, Jr., Ph.D., president of Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University.



▲ To view more pictures from Oakwood's graduation, please visit www.flickr.com/OakwoodUniversity



Introducing Miss & Mr.

The Oakwood Pageant seeks to identify, develop, and promote leadership within the Oakwood University community. Students who are selected to serve as Mr. and Miss Oakwood must develop programs that will

Miss Oakwood

Name: **Lauren Crystal Eaton**
Hometown: **Loma Linda, California**
Classification: **Senior**
Major: **Spanish and English**

Lauren

Lauren is a member of Art 'n' Soul, a spoken word group. After graduating from Oakwood, she will apply to a Ph.D. program in English writing in order to teach at the graduate level, hopefully one day at Oakwood. During her sophomore year, she studied abroad in Argentina and wishes to continue traveling. She also aspires to write a book, run a marathon, and give a TED talk.

Health and wellness is something very close to Lauren's heart. Many of her family members suffer from ailments such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer and Alzheimer's, making it her personal mission to be healthy and to encourage others to do likewise. As Miss Oakwood, she plans to organize a track and field day for the students on campus, and plan a health workshop and seminar so that the students will be better educated on how to make the best choices for their bodies. Her mission is to demonstrate that maintaining a healthy body can lead to improved spiritual, social, and mental health. 🌟

Photography
x|posure

Clothing
Dress: Glamour by Terani Couture
Shoes by BCBG

Hair/Makeup
Lauren Eaton



Oakwood University

promote campus involvement and address relevant issues. They are also expected to develop alliances with nonprofit organizations to promote community growth and development.



Mr. Oakwood

Name: **James P. Williams III**
Hometown: **Huntsville, Alabama**
Classification: **Senior**
Major: **Vocal Performance and Pedagogy**

James is a member of the world-renowned Oakwood University Aeolians. James is grateful to have been able to travel with the choir to Moscow, Russia; London, England; and Wales; Jamaica; Canada, and many other national destinations. After graduating from Oakwood, James plans to attend graduate school and then pursue a career in classical music performance.

James would like to renew the academic and spiritual life of Oakwood University in a dynamic way. As Mr. Oakwood, he plans to do this by emphasizing the importance of peer-to-peer academic accountability, and a spiritual environment that fosters overall brother/sisterhood. Through a series of workshops and seminars, and a social mixer, James wants his peers at Oakwood to feel encouraged by a closer, positive connection with one another and with God. 

Photography
x|posure

Clothing
Shoes by Aldo
Shirt by JC Penney
Tuxedo by Southeastern
Performance Apparel

Hair
Marcus Parker



ILLUSTRATION BY KPS GROUP, INC.

Health and Wellness Center to Play Significant Role in Healthy Campus 2020

by Michele Solomon

I had the opportunity to talk with President Leslie N. Pollard, regarding proposed plans for the long-anticipated Health and Wellness Center that is to become a part of the Oakwood University landscape in the very near future. Here are some of the exciting updates shared in our recent interview.

MS: *What is the main focus of the Health and Wellness Center, and whom is it designed to serve?*

LP: The main focus of the Health and Wellness Center is to provide the kind of facility needed for the faculty, staff, and students to experience wholeness of life and lifestyle. The primary focus, of course, is always the students. Its intention is to serve both the academic and the non-academic programs of the University, so it has to be a complex that has multiple functions. The idea is to satisfy both the curricular and co-curricular needs of the institution by bringing the two together in one space in which both can occur.

MS: *What is the proposed site for the Center, and will it be accessible to the Huntsville community?*

LP: God willing, it's going to be quite a big footprint, incorporating the Market Square, Ashby Auditorium, the Beach Natatorium, the Millet Activity Center, [and extending across the track and tennis courts], yet there will be elements of it that will be completely new. For

instance, the Ashby side is going to be a completely new facility, whereas with the natatorium, the architects have told us that we just need to tear down the walls and rebuild the locker rooms. The actual hole in the ground for the pool is really very serviceable and quite current. Not many institutions have a full, Olympic-sized swimming pool as Oakwood does. We are talking about some of the new technologies to convert it, perhaps, to a salt-water pool. Many pools today are salt-water. The old freshwater-with-chlorine model can destroy buildings and is not necessarily

MS: *What part will the Center play in the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative?*

LP: The Center will play a significant role in the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative because it will be the place where a lot of the lifestyle education takes place. So, we're going to have it in the classroom, because we're going to rework OU 101, the freshman seminar class, and take the Healthy Campus principles and embed them in OU 101. That's on the curricular side. The extra-curricular side is where a lot of the actual physical activity will take place. There needs to be a space that's dedicated to that—operationalizing Healthy Campus 2020—and that's what the Health and Wellness Center will satisfy.

MS: *How does the plan for a Health and Wellness Center tie in to the*

CREATION Health Model?

LP: The plan began as a quasi-experimental study, which means we're doing pre-testing, intervention, and then



ILLUSTRATION BY KPS GROUP, INC.

the most current type, although many people still use chlorine. But, when you've got it in an enclosed facility, then the chlorine contributes to the corrosion of pipes and that sort of thing.

post-testing. Now, that's a very gross design, but we're actually on the study side of this, doing pre-testing, which means we're base-lining a student's numbers. Every student will end up on the other side of this with a health transcript. So, we're base-lining their numbers, then we are using the eight CREATION Health principles—in partnership with Florida Hospital—which call for Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal, Outlook, Nutrition—and then we post-test, and we track this every year to see if through the exercise, and through the commitment to CREATION Health principles, there is a measureable benefit to the health outcomes of the students that we're tracking. So, that's what we're trying to do with Healthy Campus 2020—to track students—and CREATION Health serves as the key intervention.

MS: *This is going to span an average of four years for each student, correct?*

LP: Yes, every year that they're here. The actual program begins in August of 2015—but it has already started. The lead-up to the actual launch started July 22, 2014, when we made the initial presentation to our colleagues at Florida Hospital. Then, it will run for the next four years.

MS: *What about the accessibility of this facility to the Huntsville community?*

LP: Because it will be on the interior of Oakwood's campus, the same security measures will apply. Huntsville community members who wish to belong to the Center will have to access the facility through the security gate, as they do now for any campus event. This will help us maintain a secured campus. Although the plan is to offer memberships, the principle use will be for the curricular and co-curricular needs of the institution.

MS: *What is the construction model and timeline for the Center?*

LP: We began with a notice to proceed, which was voted by our Board [of Trustees] on May 1, 2015, and then we'll do the programming phase from May through August 2015—which means this summer, we'll be meeting with people on



campus, to get their vision, their interests, and what would make the Center relevant to them. Then, from September to October 2015, the schematic design will be worked out. From November 2015 to February 2016, design and development will take place. Construction documents are to be secured sometime between March and November of 2016—we'll be working on that consistently—and then construction would be intended to begin in December of 2016 and completed June of 2018. So, it will take about 18 months to construct it.

MS: *What are some of the unique features of the proposed Center?*

LP: Some of the unique features will be offices for the United Student Movement. In addition, we'll house the Office of Spiritual Life there. There's conversation about a rehabilitation lab that satisfies the physical therapy curriculum. We foresee seating for about 3,500 on the bleachers, with another 1,500 on the floors. We intend to expand the gym to three times its current size. So, where you see one floor now, with one full-length court, we plan to expand that to three. That will give us a lot of seating, an overall seating of 5,000.

MS: *Will the Center offer a multi-purpose type of space?*

LP: Yes, it will. In the gymnasium, we plan on using a lot of digital and HD-equipment so that we can facilitate

viewing events, like movies, plays and entertainment media.

MS: *Can the Center be considered part of Oakwood's revenue-generating industries, and if so, what potential do you think this project has for producing additional revenue for the institution?*

LP: I think it can be, but I think it will have limited revenue-generating power. Now, we can always rent out certain spaces for particular events, and that will be a form of revenue generation, but for the most part, we see this as a service center to the curricular and co-curricular needs of the institution. We have other things on- and off-campus that are revenue generators for us. There might be some possibility of some revenue generation by selling memberships to the club, but we're not competing with the people in Huntsville who do that every day for their living. Again, our focus is on advancing the spiritual and academic mission of the institution.

MS: *What is the projected cost for this facility?*

continued on page 32



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

R. Timothy McDonald, Ed.D., Provost and Senior Vice President

An Enduring Legacy

by **Jonathan A. Thompson, D.Min.**,
Director, Ellen G. White Research Center

Starting October 17 through October 23, 2015, Oakwood University will be celebrating 100 years of an enduring legacy. This celebration highlights more than the passing of an American humanitarian whose work has been legendary. At Oakwood, we are celebrating Ellen G. White's living legacy. Born on November 26, 1827, in Gorham, Maine, Ellen's prophetic ministry has spanned 70 years of American church history.

Although she died in 1915, the transforming power of her writings and the uplifting impact of her ministry have created new hope and new life for hundreds of thousands in Black America. During the agonizing pain of slavery, for Blacks, Ellen White, an abolitionist, wrote that God placed the same value on the colored slave as He did on the Hebrew slave and



declared, "Let My people go!"

Moreover, Ellen White supported the brainstorm of Edson White, who built a vessel to sail on the Mississippi River, teaching newly freed slaves to read,

through the *Gospel Primer*. White was also instrumental in the establishment of a school in Huntsville, Alabama, to train Gospel workers among Blacks. Eight of the first 16 students at the School in Huntsville were graduates of Edson White's Morning Star outreach. Those humble beginnings, however, have born the fruit of Gospel workers carrying out Christ's Great Commission in medicine, education, sciences, pastoral ministry, administration, business, law and evangelism, all over the world. Today, Oakwood University's enrollment is approximately 2,000 students, with five established academic schools.

The Ellen G. White Research Center, in conjunction with the School of Religion and Theology and the Oakwood University Church, is the proud sponsor of October's Symposium on Social Justice. Some of the presenters will be: Finbar Benjamin, Carlton Byrd, Ron Graybill, Ramona Hyman, Norman Miles, Craig Newborn, Leslie Pollard, C. B. Rock, Russell Seay, Ciro Sepulveda, Jonathan Thompson, Mervyn Warren, Jesse Wilson and more. 

WHY CHOOSE OAKWOOD?:

It's a Win-Win

by **Sabrina Cotton**, VP for Financial Administration

Oakwood University operates a goldmine industry that nets income for the University and provides year-round employment opportunities for students. These opportunities offer lifetime career experiences to the students. This summer, approximately 30 students from cross-disciplinary areas, including science, technology engineering, math, and business, will work on 11 subcontracts that generate approximately \$2.8 million

a year in business for Oakwood.

In 2004, Oakwood began its relationship to support our nation's space flight business as a subcontractor to SAIC on the Unified NASA Information Technology Services (UNITEs) Contract. Under the direction of Timothy McDonald, Ed.D, who was then vice president for Advancement and Development, Marcia Burnette, who was director of Grants and Contracts, and Everett Roper, Ph.D., who was an associate professor



at Oakwood, SAIC and Oakwood established a partnership. This partnership was based on a comprehensive needs assessment, to position Oakwood for aggressive participation in NASA programs, as well as other federal and commercial contracting opportunities.

At the time, UNITEs was NASA's largest billion-dollar IT contract. Subcontract



The Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center: For Such a Time as This

by Jeffrey O. Brown, Ph.D., BCBLC Director



The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD) has established the rationale, “All pastors need to evidence professional development as part of their continuing employment.” The NAD is proposing 20 continuing education (CE) hours for pastors, or 2 CE units. The Office of Regional Conference Ministries partnered with Oakwood University some years ago to establish the Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center (BCBLC), in order to facilitate the leadership development needs of its clergy.

Building on the solid foundation laid by Dr. Harold Lee, Dr. Jeffrey Brown has been appointed as the Center’s new director. The BCBLC will:

- **engage** in qualitative and quantitative research into clergy needs;
- **engage** in research pertaining to all aspects of regional ministry: pastoral

leadership, administrative leadership, membership growth and development, financial growth, institutional development, management, preaching, education, health, youth, and family life;

- **ensure** that clergy within the Regional framework have access to professional development that satisfies their own longings and meets NAD’s core qualities required for continued licensing: Leadership, Worship, Evangelism, Management, Relational Skills, and Scholarship, all built on the foundation of Character.
- **provide** online courses that offer the 2 CEUs required annually;
- **provide** online courses that can also be accessed through NAD’s new Web portal, the Adventist Learning Center;
- **seek** to offer academic certification

in the form of graduate leadership credits;

- **make** its offerings available to the wider Seventh-day Adventist clergy community.

Oakwood University president, Dr. Leslie Pollard, says, “The plan will have some unique features which only an academic institution can deliver—evidence-based leadership development, rigorous continuing education with the potential for academic certification, and grounded, field-based research on the Regional work, designed to inform and improve Regional administrative decision-making.”

REASON NUMBER 365



services provided include contract administration and IT support. This partnership developed into a positive and dynamic relationship that has provided internships, part-time and summer employment, and scholarships for our students, as well as full-time job opportunities for graduates in the various fields of technology. Since its

inception, Oakwood has provided more than 120 students with internships at SAIC and NASA.

Today, Oakwood operates the sub-contract through

the offices of Research and Employee Services and Financial Administration, under the leadership of Sabrina Cotton, vice president for Financial Administration. Students work in multiple geographic locations and learn to perform networking, administrative support, database management and development, ISO 9001-2008 certifica-

tion, engineering, web development, systems engineering, procurement, environmental science, cyber security, and CISSP certification

In the last six months, Oakwood University has been awarded several contracts. The list consists of BOEING, in Huntsville; LEIDOS, in Virginia but supported in the Huntsville and Birmingham areas; Raytheon, in Colorado, but supported in Huntsville; Tec-Masters, in Huntsville; Northrop Grumman, in the Huntsville; DynCorp, in the Houston, Texas, area; and Honeywell. It has been a win-win, and we couldn’t be prouder of our success in the government sector.



Bessie Carter Hall Grand Opening Rededication

Oakwood University hosted a dedication service for the new Bessie Carter Hall on April 3. Carter Hall is the residence hall for underclass young women. It was originally built in 1966. At the time of

its building, Carter Hall was a very modernly equipped residence hall that needed to be built to house the growing female population in the late 1970s. Carter Hall will officially open in the fall. 📍



Miss Oakwood 2014, Oakwood Administrators, Wanda Carter, the Dean of Carter Hall and Miss UNCF 2014 join in the ribbon cutting.



1

1 Wanda Carter, daughter of Bessie Carter, gives a word of thanks at the rededication.

2 Carter family at the original dedication, circa 1966

3 Carter Family and descendants, circa 2015



2



3



A look inside the new Carter Hall ▼



- 1 Front Lobby
- 2 Sarah Granderson Richardson Hastings Living Learning Center
- 3 A typical Carter Hall "double room"
- 4 Carter Hall entrance and landscaping
- 5 Laundry Facility
- 6 Nutrition Center





Pressing Toward the Mark: Oakwood Hosts AIA Conference

by Jyremy Reid, '15

Leadership is a key asset in any organization. At every institution, student leadership is the heart of several important changes for each individual campus. Now, imagine what happens when all those individual groups come together. The end result is something extremely awesome.

The Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA) is a student council that oversees all the student governments of every Adventist institution across the nation. Every year, a different Adventist college or university becomes the designated host for a convention student government. Every officer, outgoing or incoming, is encouraged to attend the conference. This year, Oakwood University had the pleasure of hosting the 2015 AIA Conference on April 8 through 12.

The theme for this year's gathering was "Pressing Toward the Mark." It was based on Philippians 3:14, where Paul charges us to "press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The theme held particular significance for three reasons—

spiritual life, academic life, and social life. "Spiritually, we are commissioned by Christ to go and disperse across the world and preach to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Academically, we are students, first. We, as student leaders, should always be willing to help fellow students achieve academic excellence. Socially, as student leaders, our focus is to be the bridge between administration and students," said Scott McNeil, AIA president for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Present at the convention were the following institutions: Oakwood University, Andrews University, Southern Adventist University, Southwestern Adventist University, Union College, Washington Adventist University, Loma Linda University, La Sierra University, Pacific Union College, Walla Walla University, and Burman University. All the meetings were held at the Millet Activity Center and, though most events were held on campus, the fun was not restricted. Students also had the opportunity to tour the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center and enjoyed



an evening at Shakalaka, an indoor trampoline park.

The students who participated also gained a better understanding of how they could become the leaders that God has called them to be. At each AIA Conference, a new president and council are chosen. This year, the students chose Debbie Pinto from Union College as the 2015-2016 AIA president. At the conclusion of the conference, everyone said their goodbyes and exchanged contact information. McNeil said of his experience, "It was amazing—a chance to connect, worship, interact, laugh, and learn how student leaders can help steer the Seventh-day Adventist church! I was honored to serve as the 2014-2015 AIA president and host at Oakwood University!"

The Great Orators

by Jyremy Reid, '15, and Tyler Roberts, student writer

What picture comes to mind when you think of oratorical contests? When 2014-2015 United Student Movement (USM) Academic Vice Daniel Chandler thought of these contests, excellence came to his mind. "We want to bring back an Oakwood tradition and make it relevant again on this campus," said Chandler.

On March 26, for the first time in years, Oakwood University set out to host an oratorical contest. The University has a long history of par-

ticipating in oratorical contests, in the past. Winners have included well-known names, such as U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black. The winner of the contest this year was Lauren Eaton, 2015-2016 Miss Oakwood. She decided to participate, in order to make a difference. Eaton comments, "I decided my voice mattered, and I wanted to be heard."

Nia Johnson, 2014-2015 Miss Oakwood, served as one of the judges and was very impressed with the hidden talent that was displayed at the

contest. "Oakwood is usually known for its singers and musical ability. However, participating in this event helped me realize that there are just as many people who are able to speak eloquently." Oratorical contests give participants the opportunity to expand their minds while also teaching them important leadership qualities, and the ability to think and speak clearly. Next year, Oakwood will be hosting another oratorical contest, and the stakes are definitely going to be higher.



Title IX Policy Established for Oakwood

by **Ryan Smith**, Assistant Vice President, Student Services

Over the last few years the federal government has made significant changes to Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which protects campus community members from sex discrimination. As a result, Oakwood University is committed to providing a workplace and campus community free from sexual misconduct and harassment. President Leslie Pollard appointed a committee to ensure the University was in compliance and, more importantly, to ensure the safety of all community members.

On March 30, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights provided

training on Oakwood's campus. Local colleges and universities were invited and also participated in this training. Then, on April 7, various members of Oakwood's faculty and staff participated in a training provided by the Alabama Coalition Against Rape. This training focused on how to respond to those individuals who are victims of sexual assault. And, in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Oakwood University partnered with Crisis Services of North Alabama to provide awareness to students, faculty and staff. Presenters focused on the myths and facts about sexual assault and on prevention meth-

ods. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and engage the presenters after the program was over.

Ongoing training throughout the 2015-2016 school year will be directed toward students, faculty and staff. This training will include awareness and prevention, methods of reporting, and will identify those with whom you may speak in confidentiality, should you experience this type of abuse. In an effort to limit the occurrence of these types of offenses on our campus, Oakwood University has revised its student Sexual Misconduct policy, which may be viewed at www.oakwood.edu.

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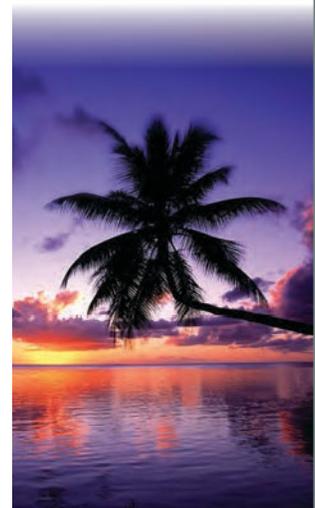
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Coming Home to the Homeless

by **Abena-Yolanda H. Baskin, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR,**
Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing

Ashleigh Hoagland, '15, returned to Oakwood University (OU) in August 2014 with her post-graduation plan pared down to practicing clinical nursing in Huntsville, Alabama, or in her hometown of Orlando, Florida. But, that was before she met Donna Shambley-Ebron, Ph.D., RN, recruiter and professor of Nursing at the University of Cincinnati (UC) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Shambley-Ebron visited the OU campus in September 2014 to inform OU's senior nursing students of a full Ph.D. Research Program scholarship. Briefly uninterested, Ashleigh took it to the Lord in prayer and fasting, and shortly received clear direction to apply to the program. The UC application included a brief entry about her potential research interest—inadequate healthcare for the homeless population.

Ashleigh's interest in the homeless population began years before meeting Dr. Shambley-Ebron. As a child, Ashleigh and her family, which included her mom and an older brother, lived in homeless facilities and housing in Orlando for many years. Her small family was often forced to move, in order to stay together and/or to reduce the high risk of communicable illness, injury, and violence. Ashleigh recalls that the living conditions in one shelter were



Ashleigh Hoagland

so deplorable that her severe asthma made it unbearable for them to live there. Unbeknown to young Ashleigh, the plight of the homeless that she witnessed firsthand was forming an interest that would someday be her life's Christian and professional calling—learning how homeless residents use homeopathic treatments to take care of themselves. Her goal is to be a healthcare advocate for the homeless who are resigned to living in communi-

ties with which she is keenly familiar.

Within a few months of submitting her application, Ashleigh was notified that she was selected to receive one of the few scholarships. Her post-graduation plans have now changed, and she will be heading to Cincinnati in August to a city that has one of the largest homeless populations in the United States. She is planning to establish rapport and build relationships with the homeless residents of Cincinnati so that upon completion of the program she will have gained family—not research projects.

Reflecting on her homeless days in Orlando, Ashleigh underscores the personal and financial sacrifices her mother made to keep her and her brother within the Seventh-day Adventist school system. "This was crucial because it helped me find stability in Christ although everything else around me seemed out of control," states Ashleigh. As she recalls the words of her mother, "It's all for a reason that we are here." She feels affirmed in her decision and embraces the life before her, knowing that God is in everything.

The Department of Nursing congratulates Ashleigh on her accomplishments and awarding of the scholarship. We pray for her continued success—by His grace. 🙏

Oakwood University Enrolls its First Vietnamese Student

by **George Ashley, Ph.D.,** assistant vice president, Academic Administration



When Rosalie Phan enrolled at Oakwood University in the fall of 2014, she became Oakwood's first Vietnamese student. It all started three years ago, when Rosalie's aunt and uncle arranged for her to study in the

United States. Rosalie was 17 years old when she arrived and, for the sake of convenience, was enrolled at the closest high school, which happened to be a Seventh-day Adventist academy. Neither Rosalie nor her aunt and uncle knew anything about Adventism. Coming from a Buddhist background, and attending an Adventist academy was a very different



Rosalie Phan



kind of experience. “At first it felt weird,” said Rosalie. “I kept wondering who this person was, named Jesus, that they were talking about all the time, and who were these guys called disciples? It felt very strange because people talked about it like these people were commonly known to everyone—except me.”

Rosalie spent two years at this Christian academy, where she developed a deep love and appreciation for the Adventist lifestyle. “I really liked the friendly community environment—devotions at the beginning of each class and the healthy-eating lifestyle,” Rosalie remarked.

After graduating from high school, Rosalie wanted to continue her education at an Adventist institution of higher

education. She first heard about Oakwood University at a school fair where she met one of the recruiters, who shared with her the “Oakwood Experience.” She later researched the University online and liked what she saw. “I did not care about skin color or race. I came here because of what Oakwood had to offer, scholastically, and because I thought it was the best fit for me,” said Rosalie.

“I am extremely happy here at Oakwood University; I love the classes and teachers, and have made a lot of life-long friends. If I had to do this again, I would not change a thing,” says Rosalie.

Rosalie is a Business Management major at Oakwood University. 



Oakwood Hosts 57th Annual Honors Convocation

Close to the conclusion of each spring semester, Oakwood University hosts its annual Honors Convocation. This event recognizes the academic achievements of the students—freshmen through seniors—as well as the Adult and Continuing Education program.

Honor status is based on a cumulative GPA of 3.50 for a minimum of 15 to 29 Oakwood semester hours, and a GPA of 3.25 for a minimum of 30 Oakwood semester hours and above. To be eligible for the Highest Scholastic Achievement Award in each of the four areas, the following criteria apply concerning the minimum number of hours that must

be completed at Oakwood University:

Highest Scholastic Achievement in each category

CATEGORY I: 15-29 hours for 1 semester
Nandi Brooks, Gregory L. Darville, Nia J. Darville, Holly R. Forbes, Joy A. Gullo, Caryn A. Lai Hing, Melissa A. Mathews, Adrian L. Murray, Ashley L. Saunders

CATEGORY II: 30-60 hours for 3 semesters
Chanice J. Thomas

CATEGORY III: 61-92 hours for 5 semesters
Jodel A. Bernard, Kristoff V. Foster, Kristen Nedd

CATEGORY IV: 93+ hours for 7 semesters
Jonté M. Hunter

CATEGORY V: 12+ Adult & Continuing Education semester hours
Angel Ewing, Chanc H. Saari, Michael L. Yohe

The Highest Scholastic Achievement Award goes to the person who has the highest cumulative GPA among all students. To be eligible, a student must have completed at least 93 semester hours at Oakwood University. **Congratulations to Jonté M. Hunter**

Honor By the Numbers

TRADITIONAL PROGRAM:



White Ribbon Medallion – **96** students
3.50 and above GPA and 15 to 29 semester hours

Gold Ribbon Medallion – **110** students
3.25 and above GPA and 30 to 60 semester hours

Blue Ribbon Medallion – **88** students
3.25 and above GPA and 61 to 92 semester hours

Blue & Gold Ribbon Medallion – **90** students
3.25 and above GPA and 93 (minimum) semester hours

ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION (LEAP):



Blue & White Ribbon Medallion – **9** students
3.50 and above GPA and 12 to 32 semester hours

Green & White Ribbon Medallion – **15** students
3.25 and above GPA and 33+ semester hours

2015 Who's Who Among Students in American College & Universities – **64** students



Allied Health Hosts Alabama HBCU Minority Health Researchers

The Department of Allied Health was established on the Oakwood University campus in the fall of 2013, with one of its primary goals being to prepare students for entrance into graduate allied health professional programs. As the nationwide demand for minority health care providers outstrips supply, the department seeks to respond to current and future market demands for these minority health care providers that represent only an average of five percent in healthcare in the United States. In order to help Oakwood graduates become more competitive for acceptance into graduate professional schools, the department seeks to provide them with exposure and mentoring in undergraduate research. One such avenue is through



Attendees: L-R: Dr. Maxine Garvey (OU); Dr. David Chaplin (UAB); Katrina Waters (ASU); Dawn Fizer (UAB); Dr. Mona Fouad (UAB); Dr. Tony Jones (UAB); Dr. Mary Jane Krotzer (Stillman); Jennifer Causey (UAB); Ann Smith (UAB); and Matthew Lewin (OU).

minority researchers and health care professionals working to decrease health disparities in the southern United States, aka the “Deep South.” The program creates intensive learning opportunities in health-disparities research and increases enrollment in graduate professional schools. The students selected for the MHRC program are exposed to experts in health-disparities, learn about health related career options, take classes in scientific writing, work on research projects under the leadership of a faculty mentor, and develop a comprehensive career plan to achieve their goals. Scholars are tracked throughout the three-year program to assess their progress and to maintain their interest in a health career.

Since 2003, former NBA superstar Charles Barkley has served as honorary chair for the Minority Health Research Center at UAB. Barkley has channeled the strength and vitality he demonstrated on the basketball court into a new goal: eliminating health disparities and preventing diseases among minorities in his native Alabama and the Deep South. According to Mona Fouad, MD, from the Department of Preventive Medicine at UAB, “Since I met him, he

has emphasized his wish for minorities to improve their health and for students to strive to become doctors, teachers, and scientists, rather than assume that sports are the best or only option for their futures.”

On March 31, 2015, Oakwood University was selected to host the MHRC Annual Spring Academic Advisory Council Meeting. Maxine Garvey, DPT, chairperson for the Department of Allied Health and Oakwood campus coordinator for the MHRC program, served as host for the guests. Among those in attendance were Dr. Mona Fouad, the principal investigator and recipient of grant funds from the National Institute of Health to provide this program for minority students across Alabama. Oakwood administrators, Timothy McDonald, Ed.D, Prudence Pollard, Ph.D, George Ashley, Ph.D, and Flora Flood, DPN, welcomed the guests to our campus and brought greetings from their respective divisions. The meeting reflected on the summer enrichment program in 2014 and made plans for summer 2015. Two Oakwood student participants from the summer enrichment program were invited to serve as guest speakers: Jocelyn Woodson, then a second-year student, and Matthew Lewin, a graduate of the program. 



Oakwood University student guest speakers: L-R: Matthew Lewin; Jocelyn Woodson.

collaboration with the Minority Health & Health Disparities Research Center (MHRC) Summer Enrichment Program through the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). This collaboration includes other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in Alabama—Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Stillman College, Miles College, and Tuskegee University.

The goal of the MHRC Summer Enrichment Program is to increase the number of competent, well-trained



Email Devotionals Reinforce Adventist Beliefs, World View

by Monica Spencer, '15

Howard Weems, Ph.D., Senior Chaplain in the Office of Spiritual Life, was inspired to minister to Oakwood's campus through biweekly devotional thoughts sent via email. In addition to personally visiting faculty, staff, and students, Dr. Weems felt compelled to share words that would reinforce what we believe as a church and encourage faith through learning. In expressing the purpose of the devotionals, Dr. Weems states, "These devotions are written for Adventist people, with a contemporary flow, to nurture the Adventist culture and keep what we believe before the people, lest we forget."

So far, Dr. Weems has produced four devotional thoughts. This past March, Dr. Weems shared his first devotional thought entitled, "The Blessing of a Guilty Conscience."

"The first devotional I wrote focused on the Holy Spirit and how He works through the conscience. If we respond to the luminous and converting influence of the Spirit, we will turn to Jesus and repent." He continues, "The spirit creates awareness of the importance of surrendering to the sovereign power of God and of

obeying His divine requirements."

"A Spiritual Blind Spot," "Dead Man Walking," "Fixated on God," and "The

Reward of the Outcasts" are the most recent devotionals written to remind readers of our world view and reiterate the Adventist faith. It is Dr. Weems' prayer that these devotions and others will prepare and comfort God's people in these last days. "There are myriad of events and global conflicts occurring in the world today. These

events can be disheartening to a person with an imbalanced world view," he explained. "However," he continued, "Christians who are waiting for the Second Advent can interpret current events accurately and find hope and inspiration from the Word of God." 🙏



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Mission to Miami

by Kimberly Mann, associate chaplain

During the week of March 1-8, Oakwood University 4Him National Missions students embarked on a journey to “make a world of difference, one life at a time” in Miami, Florida, where approximately 20 students participated in a variety of mission and service-related activities.

The first stop was to visit at Forest Lake Academy, where the group conducted evening worship, and spent time praying and sharing with the academy students.

On Monday morning when we arrived in Miami, the 4Him group ministered through song, skits, and panel discussion to the students at Miami Union Academy. OU students had planned the programs, themselves, and they were well received. We also visited William Curlew Jr. Academy, where more than 175 elementary students were waiting for our arrival. At the end of the school day, Oakwood students helped with some of the academy students who were in after-school care.

The Miami Downtown Rescue Mission was our next stop. We helped organize the store, sorted more than 1,000 books for the mission library, folded donated clothing items, polished furniture, and cleaned the mission. Mission participants were also interviewed and

videotaped for the mission’s news program. In the afternoon, the group visited Perrine Church’s food pantry, where the students served over 100 people, and distributed several boxes of food. They prayed with those standing in line, and our servant-minded young men carried food and other items to recipients’ cars, baskets and bus stops. The food pantry organizers were so excited to have our help that they invited us back for their Sabbath church service.

On Wednesday, we worked at HisHouse, a foster home/orphanage for children ages one through 17 who have been removed from abusive or neglectful situations. The 4Him mission students played various games with the little ones, played sports with the older children, and spent time mentoring the teenagers. A seed-planting activity introduced the lesson of Jesus growing in their hearts. Everyone played until sunset, and the children didn’t want us to leave. Some of the Adventist staff members expressed how impressed



“During this trip, I got to see how something as simple as a handshake or a game of basketball can go such a long way! Having a chance to practice my faith has done more for me than any sermon has in my life and I’m grateful for that.... I’m excited to let God use me.” —Tino Mkorombindo



“Working at the orphanage gave me insight into what it will be like to be a social worker in the future. This trip has impacted me in a positive way because it allowed me to get a hands-on experience into service and enabled me not only to be a servant of God, but also to truly be a friend to those who need one.” —Ray Brown

they were to see young people serving.

Thursday was spent at the Chapman Partnership, which houses, feeds, and services more than 200 homeless people, children and families, per day. In the morning, the students prepared and served lunch to the homeless, and in the afternoon, they tutored the children. The evening hours were spent with children who were waiting to be picked up by their parents. It was inspiring to see the Oakwood mission students sitting on the floor with children painting, playing games, and asking the children what they wanted to be when they grew up.

On Friday morning, we conducted worship at the Perrine Elementary School and shared stories about Thomas, the doubting disciple, and having faith in Jesus. It was inspiring to see the children look up to our college students and express their

BY THE NUMBERS

1,538 miles driven



2 OU Staff

21 OU students ministered to 200 elementary students and 90 high school students

1 orphanage visited



150 homeless fed





What a blessing to see our 4Him students kneeling in prayer with a bowl of food for the homeless!



"If I could highlight a specific moment, it would have to be when we actually 'served' at the homeless shelter. It was interesting that at Chapman they treated the people [who] came in as if they were at a restaurant, and brought them their trays and whatever else they needed. I enjoyed the trip, and I would definitely do it again!" —Desirae Baker

interest in attending Oakwood when they grow up. The Perrine principal is the parent of an Oakwood graduate, and she enthusiastically shared her support for Oakwood.

The end of the week brought an opportunity to relax at the beach and bring in the Sabbath on the shore.

The students shared testimonies of their "unexpected moments" that God provided on the trip. At that very moment, God did something unexpected. As the moon rose over the ocean, it began to turn a bright gold color, and seemed to be shining directly over us. The glare on the ocean looked like a golden path that

led directly toward our worship area. Everyone was in awe at the presence of God, and God's presence was truly felt in that moment. The students spread out and had personal, quiet time with God.

Responding to the invitation earlier in the week, the mission group wor-

shipped at Perrine Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, where greetings from Oakwood's president, his administrative team, and the Office of Student Life staff were conveyed. The group raised approximately \$150,

distributed copies of the *Oakwood Magazine*, and envelopes for mail-in donations. Oakwood students also participated in outreach with the Miami Dream Center, inviting the homeless in the beach area, to meet for food and worship. As the crowd gathered, the students served the meals to the homeless, prayed with them, and everyone worshipped together.

It was truly an experience that all of our students need to have. What



" Oftentimes, people go to mission trips to find their calling, but it was almost as if I had lost mine. I went out to do devotion by myself, away from the distractions, and I read Isaiah 43:1, which reminded me of my purpose, assuring me that God has called me. I realized then that I needed that reassurance so much and that I wouldn't have gotten that if I had not attended the mission trip." —Chelease Moore

a blessing to see our 4Him students kneeling in prayer with a bowl of food for the homeless. Many of the mission students left in tears. After church, they passed out bottled water, along with any leftover food items from the mission experience, not wanting anything to go to waste. 🙏

 **PERRINE SDA SCHOOL**



125 food donations delivered

2 churches visited



18 water bottles given to homeless

9 students tutored

40+ hours of community service logged



Oakwood Prays for Baltimore

➔ On April 28, the Office of Spiritual Life held a prayer service for unity and peace after the tragic events that occurred in Baltimore, Maryland, surrounding the Freddie Gray case, a man who was allegedly killed while in the care of Baltimore city police.

During this service, eight students who are from the Baltimore area, as well as three staff members who have ties to “Charm City,” were surrounded by the group of fellow students and employees on the Eva B. Dykes Library patio.



Oakwood History & Political Science Students “Discover Law” at UA

➔ On February 20, the Department of History and Political Science took several students to the University of Alabama, School of Law’s “Discover Law Open House” in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Following introductions and breakfast, the day was filled with fun, insightful activities that included meeting professors and touring the law school.

The Dean of the Law School and some of the professors were introduced, followed by a presentation on successfully completing the law school application process. Current law students provided a guided campus tour and answered questions about everyday student life.



Kaplan Test Prep presented a sample class on how to approach the logic questions on the LSAT. The law school also gave away a scholarship for an LSAT prep class. To end the program, a university law professor taught a mock law school class, to give students the experience of an actual class in law school.

Overall, the students who attended rated the event as “informative and helpful” as they prepare for law school after Oakwood.

Oakwood Students Learn, Serve in Community Classroom

➔ On March 31, approximately 59 students who were enrolled in OU 101 (Freshman Seminar) “departed to serve” and to learn in the community classroom.

Students chose from two service options:

- Work at the Red Cross facility, washing and cleaning emergency service vehicles, preparing materials and making mats used by individuals who are homeless, power washing the entrance, and preparing coolers for the upcoming tornado season.
- Work at the Habitat for Humanity warehouse, building walls for a home soon to be inhabited by a family from Cameroon. Other students disposed of debris and other non-useful items to tidy the warehouse.

Students shared their thoughts after the experience in reflective essays. One female student said, “As believers of Christ, it is our duty to serve. Even the son of man came not to be served but to serve. As it says in the Bible, ‘As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.’” (1 Peter 4:10).”

A male student admitted he was “a little nervous about working with someone of a different race, as an African-American young man, especially after what has been transpiring [across the country]. Meeting other people definitely showed me that everyone isn’t the same, and some people do not see color, but character.”

The students were accompanied by their instructors, Regina Jacob and Patricia Stewart Daniel; and Dee Hill from the Huntsville Green Team.

FYI: It takes 700-750 bags to make one mat.

Summer 2015

Oakwood Chapter of NOBCChE Hosts Community Science Career Fair

➡ On March 27, the Oakwood University Chapter of NOBCChE (National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers) hosted a Community Science Career Fair in the Northwood Community of Huntsville.

Minorities, including African Americans, remain underrepresented in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Disciplines. One reason for this is because there is a shortage of role models in science-based careers to be found in low-income communities.

The goal of the Science Career fair was to inspire young people and show them that careers in science are within their reach. Several career options were presented to the attendees.



Oakwood's Student Services Hosts Tim Wise

➡ On March 30, the Oakwood community gathered in Moran Hall as antiracist author and educator, Tim Wise, returned to campus to speak on issues surrounding the treatment of minorities in this country, and how communities can respond appropriately to injustices. In 2010, Wise, along with several other notable presenters, including Cornel West and Roland Martin, spoke during Oakwood's "Sharpen Your Mind" Lecture Series.



Wise has spent the past 20 years speaking to audiences at 1,000 college and high school campuses, in all 50 states. He has also lectured internationally, in Canada and Bermuda. Wise's antiracism work traces back to his days as a college activist in the 1980s, fighting for divestment from (and economic sanctions against) apartheid in South Africa.

Sophomore Theology major Paul Deshield expressed, "Tim Wise's presentation was both informative and inspiring. I knew him from his book *White Like Me*, but hearing him speak in person is a totally different story. He spoke with so much passion on the topic of inequality that there was no question that he was genuine. His speech reinforced things I already knew about society, but he also opened my eyes to many things that 'slip under the radar.' I think the University should definitely bring Tim Wise back again."

Oakwoodites Attend Vaccine Advocacy Summit

➡ Four Oakwood University students and one staff member learned more about vaccine advocacy on March 2-4, in Washington, DC, at the Shot at Life Champion Summit. They participated in expert-led sessions, and heard from authorities in the field, including United Nation's Foundation's CEO Kathy Calvin, and Global Parenting Expert and TV Personality Jo Frost.



(L-R) Steffany Mupfawa (OU), Andre Marks (OU), Ruth Munene (OU), Annalyse Keller (Legislative Assistant at Representative Mo Brooks' office), Denise Finley (OU) and Guidalia Dormeus (OU).

The "take-aways" from the 2015 Summit were:

- Vaccines work.
- Vaccines save lives around the world.
- Vaccines are cost-effective and beneficial as primary prevention.
- Every child everywhere deserves a shot at a chance for a healthy, normal, productive life!

DapperDude



Handmade Men's Accessories

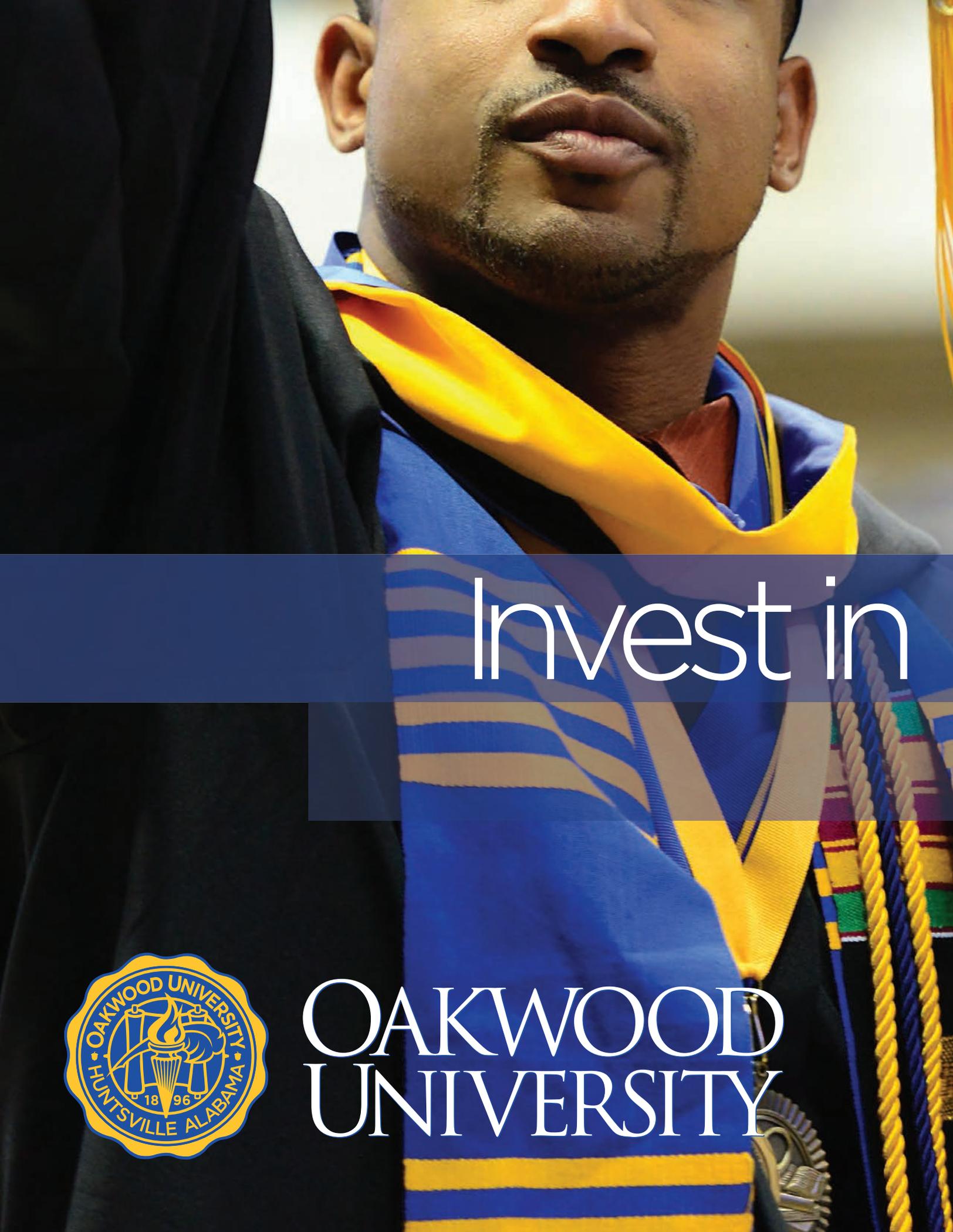
Bow Ties | Lapel Pins | Pocket Squares

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"Wellness Center" continued from page 15

LP: The projected cost is \$19,030,000, which is part of the big reason that we're building it where we are. There was an original proposal for a Health and Wellness Center out on the Adventist Boulevard area, right across from the [main] security booth, but the thinking was—when we talked with the architects—that if we built a stand-alone facility without [capitalizing on] the existing space, the price of the building would double, from \$19M to \$38M. That's because everything—all of the infrastructure—would need to be put in place at the front of the campus because it's just [currently] not there. That's a beautiful field, but that's all it is—a field.



MS: *I'm sure that you've already identified some major donors for this project.*

LP: Yes. The first major donor gift we've already received, which is \$2M from Adventist Health Systems.

MS: *What can those who would like to financially support the project do to assist in bringing the Health*

and Wellness Center to fruition?

LP: They can go to www.ougiving.com and click on "Donate" and select "Health and Wellness Center."

This project represents the largest construction project in the history of Oakwood University. It represents 25 years of conversation about the needs of our campus in the wellness area. At the April 20 Board session, the Board of Trustees, under the direction of Elder Dan Jackson, determined that it was really time to move on a project like this. 🌐

Michele Solomon is Customer Care Coordinator for the Office of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations.

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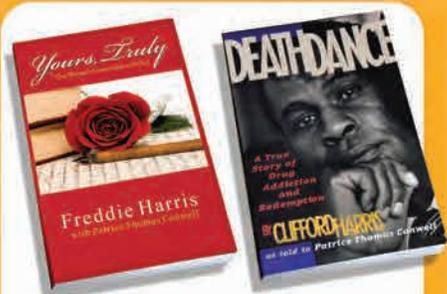
Cliff & Freddie Harris with DAP Clients & Graduates



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.

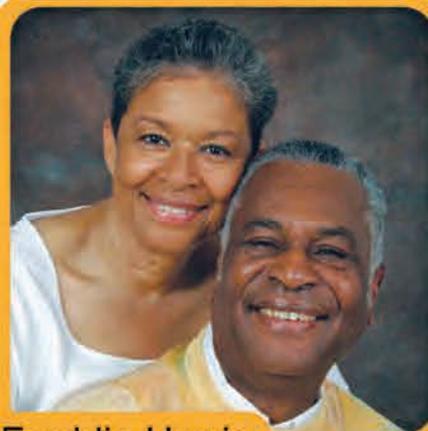
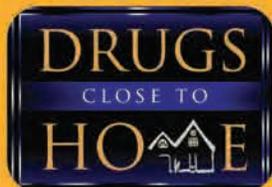
Offering a variety of resources for men addicted to drugs:
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Call for your copy of
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DAP Co-Directors

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www.drugalternativeprogram.org
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RESEARCH AND EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., MPH, SPHR, Vice President

Meet Oakwood's Newest Employees

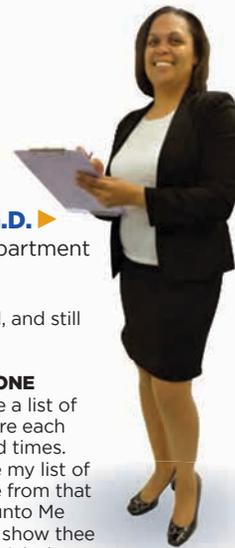


◀ Jeffrey O. Brown, Ph.D.

Director, Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center
Professor, School of Religion

My favorite hobby is writing, and I love those "at sea" days on a cruise ship—no phone, no email, just sun, sea and sky—aah! I am savoring the opportunity to carry on the legacy of Elders Bradford, Cleveland, and Brooks, who were "drum majors for justice," and significant role models for service.

My favorite Bible text is the Message paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 14:1: "Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does."



▶ Carmen Bucknor, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

I have always loved to read, and still enjoy it very much.

You want me to pick just ONE favorite Bible text?! I have a list of 40+ Bible verses which were each a source of strength in hard times. Those verses have become my list of encouragement. One verse from that list is Jeremiah 33:3: "Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

▶ James Kelly

Enrollment Specialist, Admissions & Recruitment

My favorite hobbies are reading, listening to music, and traveling. I don't know if it's a hobby, but I also like to search out new restaurants. While a student at Oakwood, I was social vice president of the United Student Movement (USM), then USM president, and after graduating in 2013, I was blessed to serve as a Young Alumni member of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees.

My favorite Bible text is Romans 8:38-39: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



▶ Vilma Ortiz

Enrollment Specialist, Admissions & Recruitment

I truly enjoy anything outdoors—hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking, white water rafting, zip-lining, riding a motorcycle with my husband—enjoying, completely, the outdoors and God's creation. I feel so blessed that God had a plan for me to become part of the Oakwood University family!

My favorite Bible text is Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.



▶ Britney Nelson

Project Coordinator, Office of Research and Grants

I love to travel!

My favorite Bible text is 1 Corinthians 16:14: Let all that you do be done in love.



▶ Jonathan Polite

Admissions Coordinator for Adult and Continuing Education

Being from Massachusetts, my favorite sports teams are the Boston Celtics and New England Patriots. I like to play tennis, and like to go zip-lining. I haven't been skydiving yet, but it's on my list.

My favorite Bible text is Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."



▶ Malcom Taylor

Director, Admissions & Recruitment

I'm a fun loving person. I like being in nature, enjoying God's creation. Fishing is one thing that I love when I am enjoying the outdoor life.

My favorite Bible text is John 14:1: Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[believe also in me.



◀ **Sheila Figgins**

Training Coordinator,
Research and
Employee Services

I like to cook, crochet, and travel, although I don't get to travel as much as I'd like. My ultimate travel destination is Heaven.

My favorite Bible text is Proverbs 16:24: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.



Dwight L. King ▶

Lab Technician, Department of
Biological Sciences

I love to play sports, and experience/ explore new things. I am aspiring to be a doctor. As a 6-month-old baby, I had to have a tracheotomy procedure done to save my life, which resulted in me having a trach tube for the first two years of my life. By God's grace, I was miraculously healed. The scar on my neck serves as a reminder that I have a purpose in this life.

My favorite Bible text is Isaiah 43:25: I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.



◀ **Kamarie Manning**

Computer Statistical
Analyst, Adult and
Continuing Education

I enjoy computer programming, Web development and photography. I'm from the British Virgin Islands, and one time when the Detroit Pistons visited the British Virgin Islands, I met Tayshaun Prince.

My favorite Bible text is Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



◀ **Michael Taylor**

Data Clerk, Enrollment
Management

I like singing, and playing the bass guitar. I like to go canoeing, although I can't swim. As long as I have a life jacket, I'm good. Oh yeah, I like Krispy Kreme donuts.

My favorite Bible text is Psalm 121:1-4: I will lift up my eyes to the hills— from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

TaNaysha Harris ▶

Office Manager, Office of Spiritual Life

I love spending time in nature, whether I'm riding a bike, taking a hike or long walk, going fishing, or lying out in the sun and reading a good book. I'm a very crafty person, and I love to do "DIY" projects, like making personalized decorations or other things for birthday parties, baby showers, and other special events.

My favorite Bible text is Psalms 119:165: Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.



Sierra Hammond ▶

Data Coordinator, Quality
Enhancement Plan

My favorite hobbies are singing and performing, and I am one of 20 graduate students accepted into the Voice Performance Master's Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I was the president of my class (2014) at Oakwood, and was a runner-up for Miss Oakwood 2013-2014.

My favorite Bible text is Psalm 30:5: For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Psalm 30:5



◀ **Levi Woodson**

Application Support Specialist,
Administrative Systems

I love all sorts of technology, especially 3D printing! I spent a year in Japan for an internship. Where I lived faced Mt. Fuji. Every day I had to look at it. One day, I'd like to climb that mountain, just to say I did.

My favorite Bible text is 1 Timothy 6:10: For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

NOT PICTURED

Andrew Lindsay

Engineer 1
SAIC - Houston, Texas

Frances Jae Lynch

Engineer 1
SAIC - Houston, Texas



Honoring Our 2015 Retirees



Timothy McClure
21.38 years

Joseph Dailey
39.50

Annelee
Smith-Winbush
37.50 years

Mervyn A. Warren
52.83 years

Flora Flood
38.50 years

Cecily Daly
32.50 years

Ivy J. Starks
20.38 years

Sonia E. Paul
40.50 years

As part of the Spring Board Meeting activities, Board members, administrators and friends gathered at the Annual Retirees & Employees Recognition Banquet on April 19. This gathering honored our employees for years of service. Each year the members of the Oakwood University family show how much the employees and retirees are appreciated.

Celebrating over 340 collective years of service to Oakwood University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church are Tim McClure, Joseph Dailey, Annelee Smith-Winbush, Mervyn Warren, Flora Flood, Cecily Daly, Ivy Starks, Sonia Paul, Florence Marchand, Ephraim Gwebu, and Edith Fraser. 🌟



God Restores

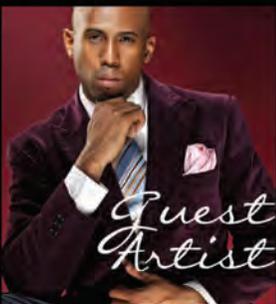
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Deadline for mailed-in registration is September 1



Guest Artist

ANTHONY BROWN

WEDNESDAY
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7:00 p.m.

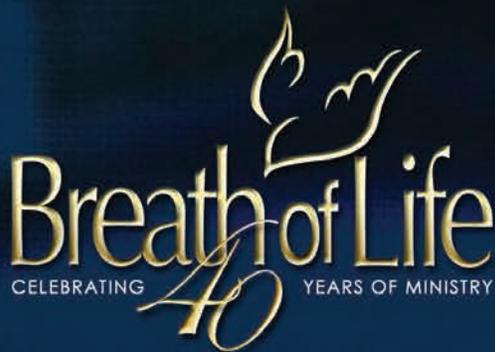
THURSDAY & FRIDAY
MORNING WORKSHOPS
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THURSDAY & FRIDAY
EVENING WORKSHOPS
Doors open 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY
CONCERT
6:00 p.m.

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3ABN - Saturdays at 2:00 am, 6:00 am, and 8:00 pm

**All times are Eastern Standard Time.*

For national and regional television broadcast schedules, please visit www.breathoflife.tv.



Dr. Carlton P. Byrd
Speaker/Director



Leadership by the Book

Submitted by Leadership Academy staff

“...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

Luke 12:48 NIV

Leadership expectations are established in Scripture. The Bible provides expectations for leader behaviors at Oakwood University. Leadership comes with a variety of responsibilities with one of the most significant being self-development and organizational development. Accordingly, the University established both an employee evaluation system and a Leadership Academy for managers.

The Academy was created three years ago at the direction of the Office of the President as a supportive resource for middle and executive management. Dr. Prudence Pollard, vice president of Research and Employee Services, recalls the beginnings of Leadership Academy, “The Leadership Academy was born in 2011, after a series of conversations about how to launch Vision 20/20. The task of the Supervisory Leadership Committee was to examine everything from customer service concerns to workforce performance evaluations and surveys. Focus groups identified key competencies that were needed to support Vision 20/20.”

The result of these concentrated meetings produced the vision-inspired mission for Leadership Academy, which is to empower, support and deploy high-impact supervisory leaders. Dr. Prudence Pollard states, “The Academy directly supports the pillars on which implementing the mission rests, with the notion that it is the leaders who are responsible for implementing the mission. Leadership Academy provides

participants with the capacity to lead strategically.”

Keeping in line with the University’s God First motto, the Academy’s logo, iLEAD, serves as a spiritual benchmark for members. It reminds leaders of their accountability to God and his authority as the supreme leader in life and work. iLEAD also communicates the leadership ideal from a servant leader standpoint directing leaders to follow the example of Jesus.

As a result of the vision and thoughtful planning, members of the Academy have a unique opportunity to build their skills through interactive training, thought-provoking exchanges, and engaging applications that demonstrate understanding. Verniece Wright, Testing Services coordinator and a member of the planning committee, comments on the activities and interaction, “As an observer, I have found the interactive activities to be well-developed and highly appropriate for the concept being addressed. The visual aids and activity table items have always brought excitement and curiosity to the participants.” The sessions are designed to accommodate visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners, while providing occasions for introspective reflection and social interaction. Ryan Smith, assistant vice president for the Division of Student Services says of the Academy, “It has caused me to go deeper in areas that I had not considered, prior to being a participant in the Academy. Being able to interact and getting to know other leaders across the campus community has truly been beneficial.”

The curriculum emphasis of the Academy’s seven-month term is the result of a collaborative effort by the Leadership Development Committee. The focus of this year’s Leadership



Academy was on the seven institutional values of Oakwood University: Respect, Compassion, Integrity, Innovation, Excellence, Service, and Collaboration. In each session, facilitators highlighted and the members discussed specific values that inform leadership decisions



and strategies focusing on their alignment with God and the University. Smith asserts, “Membership

means that I can talk freely and openly about challenges I might be facing as a leader. Also, the information that was given provided me with a roadmap on how to respond to those I lead.”

Making sure that the needs of leaders are being met and that information and resources are useful is vital to the success of the Academy. Members are given the opportunity to evaluate the workshops and make recommendations by completing evaluative surveys that help to guide the design of future sessions. As the primary facilitator, Dr. Prudence Pollard states, “Our expectation for the Academy is to present leaders with actionable information that will be useful in their repertoire. Also, we expect to engage managers enough, so even if they do not think they need development, it will pique their interest. Even if they take away one point from the Academy, we will be satisfied.”

Impactful leadership, by The Book, means modeling Christian principles and providing a supportive environment for growth. It also means self-development and providing continuous opportunities for leaders to develop and sharpen their skills in a professional and collaborative atmosphere. 🙏



A Heartfelt
 congratulations to our
 Southeastern
 Conference Honorees
 who raised well over
 \$10,000
 for scholarships which
 was the highest
 amount raised for
 2015 from
 Oakwood University
 Alumni Association
 regional conferences.

Orlando Chapter President Dan Smith
 LaSandra Elves | Alumna of the Year
 Shawn R.H. Smith, Esq. | Alumnus of the Year
 L. Sharon Gooden Kelly | Certificate of Merit
 The Jeffrey & Meryl Williamson Family | Family of the Year

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Oakwood Hosts 37th Annual UNCF Gala

by David Person, UNCF Gala committee member

Naturally 7 lived up to its reputation for the more than 900 guests who attended the 37th Annual UNCF Gala, hosted by Oakwood University on April 2.

“Wow! What a night!” said Cheri Wilson, Oakwood’s former director of Development. “We celebrated a great cause while enjoying awesome fellowship, food, an outstanding speaker and entertainment!”

The world-renowned *a capella* group, which has performed across North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia, had the audience on their feet, not only during its

“We celebrated a great cause while enjoying awesome fellowship, food, an outstanding speaker and entertainment!”

30-minute performance, but also during the encore—which was almost as long as the main set.

“Naturally 7 was so amazing,” Wilson said. “And we were honored that the UNCF and Oakwood University became a part of Naturally 7’s history, because Oakwood alumnus Armand Hutton gave his final performance at the Gala—and Lee Cort, another Oakwood alumnus, was introduced as its newest member.”

Another highlight of the evening was the keynote speech by Rey Almovodar, chair of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and CEO of



Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation. Almovodar, a native of Puerto Rico, paid tribute to his parents for helping to ensure his success.

Almovodar’s speech complimented the Gala’s Latin-American theme, conceived to celebrate Oakwood’s more than 80 Latino students, faculty and staff. The dinner menu featured Spanish-

influenced cuisine. Music was provided by the Latin jazz ensemble Soft Note Combo.

The purpose of the UNCF Gala is to honor the corporate and organizational sponsors and individual donors who have made financial

contributions to Oakwood’s annual fundraising campaign for UNCF. Oakwood is one of 37 UNCF-member institutions,



Dr. Pollard and 2015-2016 Miss UNCF, Jameela Hall.



Dr. Pollard with Natalie Rodriguez and Rey Almodovar.



Naturally 7 with Huntsville Mayor, The Honorable Tommy Battle.



and the only one in North Alabama. These colleges and universities, along with their 78 sister-institutions that are historically black, embrace a special mission to ensure that aspiring African-American college students have a chance to attend college.

This year's Gala honorees were Dr. Ernie Wu, president of ERC, Inc.; Elder James Lewis, executive director of the Office for Regional Conference Ministries, North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; Brenda Martin, former director of Multicultural Affairs for the City of

Huntsville, as well as a UNCF planning committee member and an Oakwood University LEAP graduate; and Juanita Phillips, director of Human Resources at Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation, and an Oakwood University LEAP graduate.

One of the Gala's many pleasant moments occurred when Natalie Rodriguez, a physical therapy student and UNCF volunteer, was named the first recipient of the Rey Almodovar Latino Student Scholarship. Almodovar, who enabled the scholarship to be funded by declining a speaking honorarium from Oakwood, was so moved that he committed to funding the scholarship for the next five years.

"Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, planning committee and guests for supporting the UNCF North Alabama Campaign," Wilson said. "We appreciate your commitment to partnering with us in empowering the next generation of servant leaders."



Rey Almodovar delivers the Keynote address.

Oakwood Announces New Endowment

by Kisha R. Norris, M.Ed., CFRE

The Columbia Union Conference has given a gift of \$30,000 to establish a scholarship endowment for the business department. They make this gift in honor of Oakwood University alum, Seth Bardu, '85. This speaks volumes about his service and representation of his alma mater.



The scholarship will distribute its first award in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Additionally, the Columbia Union Conference was a silver sponsor of the 37th Annual UNCF Gala.

Oakwood University would like to extend many thanks to the Columbia Union Conference and Seth Bardu for their ongoing support.

If you or someone you know is interested in establishing an endowment at Oakwood, please call the Development Office at (256) 726-7201 or email at developmentoffice@oakwood.edu.



Alumni News

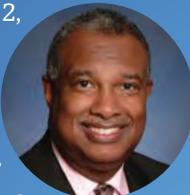
1950s

Mervyn, '57, and Barbara Warren, were recently honored during the African-American Healers Conference, for over 50 years of servant leadership in the Oakwood community.



1970s

The Honorable Clifton R. Jessup, Jr., '76, was sworn in on March 2, and will hear cases in the Northern Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama, which is based in Decatur, Alabama. Judge Jessup comes to the bench from the firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP, where his practice was focused on creditors' rights, business reorganization, and bankruptcy. His distinguished career spans over 35 years.



1990s

Dr. Frank Mullins, '97, assistant professor of Management at North Carolina A&T State University, along with co-authors, Pamela Brandes and Ravi Dharwadkar, recently had their manuscript titled, "To thine shareholders be true? Linking large corporate ownership to the firms' use of commitment human resource practices," published in *Human Resource Management (HRM)*. In addition, he has also been recognized as a 2014-2015 Louis O. Kelso Fellow by the Employee Ownership Foundation and Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations. Dr. Mullins is married to **Maquisha Mullins, '98,** who is completing a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies with a concentration in leadership development at North Carolina A&T State University.



2000s

Entrepreneur **Kevin Carrington, '03,** was recently interviewed on the Explore Riverside Weekly podcast, regarding his

luxury-tech accessory company, Carrington Case. Carrington's mission is to go beyond just selling cases and tablets, to wanting to make a real difference in the community.



Dr. Ty-Ron Douglas, '00, an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri, received a \$25,000 NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice grant to study black male athletes. According to *Columbia Daily Tribune*, "his proposal, focusing on the experience of black male student-athletes at Missouri and what the department can do to better help them attain their goals, was one of six chosen from a pool of 94 applicants by the NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice grant program on February 17, a program used to fund research 'aimed at benefitting college athletes' psychosocial well-being and mental health."



Lynda (Murphy) Freeman, '05, graduated on September 30, 2014, from Nova Southeastern University with a Doctorate of Health Science (D.H.Sc.). Her husband **Dr. Sydney Freeman, Jr., '07,** was recently recognized by Auburn University's Graduate School with the Auburn Authors Award for his book titled, "Advancing Higher Education as a Field of Study." Additionally, the American Association of University Administrators (AAUA) awarded him with the Robert MacVitte Emerging Leader Award.



Allycin Powell Hicks, '05, is engaged to Aaron White.



Akunna Iheanacho, Ph.D., '00, was an honoree at the Black Excellence Gala this past April in Silver Spring, Maryland. She recently was part of a team that developed a vaccine for the Ebola virus. Dr. Iheanacho is employed as a staff scientist at Paragon Bioservices, Inc.



Tia D. Jeffery, Ph.D., '03, was honored by the Washington Wizards on February 24, during their Black History Month spotlight of individuals who are making a difference in their communities. She is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and Certified Health Educator, and believes the development of a healthy mind and body empowers our youth to overcome obstacles in life. Her passions include adolescent health, minority health, and faith-based wellness initiatives.



Fedora Elaine Rugless, '07, and Cortez Stewart were married on August 31, 2014, in Huntsville, Alabama, at the Oakwood University Church.



Victor Wongk, '10 & Ashley Brown Wongk, '10, both received their long white coats from Howard Medical School. They also were matched with their residency programs, Family Medicine in Virginia for Victor and OBGYN at Howard for Ashley.



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Témar L. Ellis '12





Introducing the Oakwood Alumni Association Officers 2015-2018

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Powell Hicks, '76, has dedicated her life to helping abused and neglected children throughout the southern California area for 30 years. She is an Oakwood University Board of Trustees member and a founding member of Oakwood Alumni Living Legends, a philanthropic group of alumni.



and Accounting. She is an active member of OUAA through the Alma Blackmon Aeolians Chapter and the Washington, DC, Metro Area Chapter. Tammy is a certified Senior Human Resources executive and a current MBA candidate.



VICE PRESIDENT

Desmond Pierre-Louis, '81, graduated with two BS degrees, in Early Childhood Education and Psychology, from Oakwood College. He later received a M.Ed. from George Mason University. Desmond has been an active member of his local alumni chapter for 23 years, where he served as Regional VP for the Allegheny East Region. He is an Education Services Specialist with the U.S. Department of Defense.



SECRETARY

Patricia McBean Pates, '83, is a motivational speaker for youth and women's ministries and enjoys participating on public evangelism teams. God has blessed her with opportunities for service across the United States and internationally. She has served the OUAA as Assistant Secretary, and currently serves as Secretary; and at the Greater Orlando Chapter, as secretary.



VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Shelli Palmer, '94, has been a member of the Alumni Association since 2009. Shelli's vision for the organization involves bringing alumni together for memorable class reunions and getting younger alumni engaged in the programming and fundraising efforts of the association.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Harry Swinton, Jr., has participated with the Alumni Association since the early 1980s. He served as President and Vice President of the Texas Chapter. He also served as Parliamentarian of the National Association from 2009 to 2015. As Chair of the OUAA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Swinton developed the very first constitution ever ratified by the OUAA, in 2010, as well as the first bylaws in 2014.



TREASURER

Randal Leonard, '80, is the Assistant Controller at Bowie State University. He received his BA from Oakwood in Theology and Business and a MA in Accounting from Bowie State University. He has over 25 years of accounting experience.



CHAPLAIN

Donald L. Bedney, II, '79, is a native of Southern California. He is a graduate of Oakwood College with a BA in Theology. An ordained minister, he most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Human Resources for Lake Region Conference, and currently serves as a Senior Development Officer for Andrews University.



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Jayson S. Brown, '05, graduated from Oakwood University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. As a native New Yorker, he has held positions with Morgan Stanley, Newsday, and J.P. Morgan Chase. He credits his matriculation at Oakwood for his spiritual awareness and establishing lifelong friendships.



PARLIAMENTARIAN

Anthony J. Albury, Jr., '03, is the father of two sons. He holds a BA in Theology, an MBA, and a JD. Anthony is currently a Case Manager at Hylton Adamson Watson, PLLC, and will sit for the July 2015 Florida Bar.



REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Northeastern Conference
Leslie Phipps, '86

South Atlantic Conference
Emile Parker, '83

Allegheny East Conference
Robert Patterson, Jr., '90

Allegheny West Conference
Ron Mainess, '80

Southwest Region Conference
Peggy Burns, '83

Lake Region Conference
Barbara Ann Escoe Bryant, '82

Pacific Union Conference
Danette Bryant Batiste, '94

South Central Conference
Debrah Slack, '06

Southeastern Conference
Shawn R. H. Smith, '98

00101

From Vision



The White Family: Ellen, William C., James and Edson



Emma and J. Edson White



Evangelist Charles M. Kinny



▲ The Morning Star, docked along the Mississippi River. Circa 1894.

READERS: This new section of the magazine seeks to tell the Oakwood Story—in bite-sized pieces. The narrative is compiled from information found in the Eva B. Dykes Library and the Oakwood University Archives. The first few installments will introduce the early history of Oakwood.

Ellen G. White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is also credited with the establishment of what we now know as Oakwood University. On March 20, 1891, Ellen White issued a challenge to the leaders and delegates at the 29th General Conference (GC) Session, in Battle Creek, Michigan. Her message, entitled “Our Duty to the Colored People,” emphasized the need to develop the missionary and humanitarian work among Blacks who had been so abused and neglected through slavery and the years following. Two years later, her own son, Edson White, discovered and read the text of her sermon and determined that

he would devote his life to making her call to action a reality. In 1894, Edson teamed up with Will O. Palmer, who had recently renewed his commitment to the Church, to build the Morning Star Steamboat, and they began their work in Vicksburg, Mississippi. For about 10 years, the Morning Star operated as a school and church. Edson White held educational classes and taught the good news. During the same time, Evangelist Charles M. Kinny, expressed a desire for a school in Huntsville. In 1895, Ole A. Olsen, GC president; Harmon Lindsey, GC treasurer; and George A. Irwin, GC president (1897-1901), arrived in Huntsville to locate land for a black school. Pastor Charles M. Kinny, the first black ordained minister (1889), and Huntsville resident, recommended

By Paulette Johnson, Director, Eva B. Dykes Library; and Heather James, Archivist



to Reality

Solon M. Jacobs, First Principal of Oakwood Industrial School. ▼



Some original pioneers and students of Oakwood Industrial School, 1896.



▲ Principal Jacobs looking over Oakwood's fruitful orchard, 1909.



Slave cabins on the original property. ▶

the site. The General Conference provided the \$8,000 needed for the purchase of the 360-acre property on which sat nine slave cabins, four buildings, and 65 oak trees, from which the name Oakwood was derived. Interestingly, the slave cabins served as temporary residences for some male students who arrived on the campus in anticipation of an earlier start date. However, after months of intense preparation, under the leadership of Principal Solon M. Jacobs, Oakwood Industrial School opened for operation on November 16, 1896. The curriculum was appropriate for children of former slaves, who did not have access to education, and included English, religion, and industrial arts.

On the first day, 16 students were reported in attendance. Etta Little-John, one of the

original students, later became Etta Bradford, mother of Elder Charles Bradford, president of the North American Division, 1980-1990, and grandmother of Calvin B. Rock, D.Min., Ph.D., Oakwood's eighth president.

Sources:

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Etta Littlejohn, one of the original students of Oakwood.



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Family Reunions

I have a very large extended family. My maternal grandmother was one of 16 children. Yes, you read correctly, 16! The Nutt family were a strong unit, and because of the family size (and because they took care of one another), they were well-known in the community.

Throughout my early years, we always had family gatherings. Whether it was at the recreation center park, across the street from “Grandma Nutt’s” house or in the basement, shooting pool, or at holiday dinners, we were all sure to have a great time. But as all of us got older, and everyone got busier and busier, the gatherings began to dwindle.

A few years ago, members of my family got together and planned a weekend getaway—a family reunion—for all the descendants of the Nutt clan. And, after months of planning, two charter busses left Baltimore on a Thursday morning, around 2:00 a.m., headed to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. When we boarded the busses, we were excited about the trip. Everyone had planned for the vacation. However, since it was very early in the morning, our sleep deprivation took over, and we found ourselves asleep, trusting the driver to take us safely to our destination.

Hours into the trip, I was awakened by the sunlight that peered through the windows. As I started looking around, I began to see all of the faces of the individuals who were traveling with me. Some were vaguely familiar and others were not. I heard my wife whisper to me, “Who’s that?” Remember, my family tree has 16 main branches. There’s no way that we are going to know every single “Nutt” from the tree.

As the morning drive continued, I started reading through a magazine I had brought on the trip. My vegetarian magazine caught the eye of the passenger (my cousin) across from me. It turns out that Anthony had been recently trying out vegetarian cuisine and was looking for more ideas. The more I had conversations with others around me, the more I saw that

we had other things in common.

When we finally reached our destination, we were excited to take advantage of all the activities that were planned for us. I had a great time swimming at the beach and pool, going to the local amusement park, and fellowshipping at the banquet. However, one of the most memorable times of the reunion was riding in the bus and getting to know the people around me.

While you are reading this, you may be attending or preparing to attend Camp Meeting or the General Conference Session. These summer events are just like family reunions. We gather for a few days and catch up with old friends and acquaintances, as well as make new connections with members of our church family whom we have never met before. In the end, we vow to keep in touch and are reminded that if we don’t, we will meet in Heaven.

Now, this is the family reunion that I am most excited about, when the Lord returns for His people. During that time, as we travel to

“Can you imagine the activities that God and the rest of the “family reunion planning committee” have prepared for us?”



Heaven, we will be meeting all types of “extended family members”—those we know and those we haven’t even met before. And, can you imagine the activities that God and the rest of the “family reunion planning committee” have prepared for us? Songwriter Eliza E. Hewitt put it best by saying, “When we all get to Heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory!” I can’t wait for that ultimate family reunion. How about you? 🙏



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