



# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2019

Honor Classes: 1919 - 1929 - 1939 - 1949 - 1959 - 1969 - 1979 - 1989 - 1999 - 2009

---

APRIL 18-21, 2019

Oakwood University Church/Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Alabama

*Igniting Generations  
with Oakwood Love*

Oakwood University

7000 Adventist Blvd NW, Huntsville, AL 35896 • oakwood.edu



## Honorees and Special Guests



### Celebrating 30 Years of the Ministry of Dynamic Praise

**Directors:** Owen Simons • LeRoy Peters • Andrew “Benji” Young • Stephen Manders • Bruce Bean • Bryce Davis



### Celebrating 40 Years of the Ministry of WJOU

James Dykes, Sr. • 1979-1979  
Stanley Ware • 1979-81 (not pictured)  
Donald McPhaul • 1982-87  
Hallerin Hill • 1987-89  
David Person • 1989-92

Victoria Joiner • 1992 -2013  
Dammeon Malone • interim - 2013-15  
Reginald Hicks • 2015-2017  
Audree Johnson • 2017 - present

## Special Guest

Pastor Donnie McClurkin



## Office of the President



Dear Oakwood Alumni and Friends,

It brings me the greatest joy to welcome you to our annual Alumni Weekend 2019. The work of our planning team has been infused with the spirit of collaboration—between our staff and departments here on campus. We met a network of alumni volunteers across the country who have donated hours working behind the scenes to make this Alumni Weekend 2019 a success. Our deepest thanks to them and you for your undying loyalty to this transformational place called Oakwood.

During all the years that Prudence and I returned to Huntsville for Alumni Weekend, we always carried a deep desire to hear about the progress of our alma mater, to embrace friends and classmates we had not seen in many years, and to renew our commitment to the university and the faith that shaped us into the persons we had become. For us, Alumni Weekend was always a time when our love for Oakwood was reignited, nurtured, and increased. And even when the weekend was over, each time we had to depart, when we would hurry to the airport, or get into our cars and drive away from Huntsville, we always felt educated, illuminated, and inspired by the work taking place at “our dear Oakwood.”

Alumni Weekend 2019 is no different. As you walk the campus, hear the reports, and see the success of your classmates and our current students, you will say to yourself, “God is blessing Oakwood University in ways that are remarkable.” Academic programs, co-curricular initiatives, grants, contracts, philanthropy, new construction, industry recovery, online education, and most of all -- student success -- continue to endorse the vision of Ellen G. White, that “it was in the providence of God that the Huntsville school was established.”

Harvey S. Firestone, the visionary founder of Firestone Tire and Rubber company, once said: “It is only as we develop others that we permanently succeed.” Together, as Alumni, let us continue to work to develop and edify each other, and our institution. As we unite with the Oakwood family around this common mission, we will be amazed at what God can accomplish through us.

Welcome to Alumni Weekend 2019 and, most of all, welcome home!

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

## OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS INITIATIVES



### OU Alumni Philanthropy

Ignite 10 is our new monthly giving program. Once you're ignited to give back to Oakwood on a monthly basis, choose your level of support at [give.oakwood.edu/ignite-10](http://give.oakwood.edu/ignite-10). Then courage 10 other Oakwoodites to do the same.

**Ignite 10** - \$10/mo - 50% Student Scholarships, 50% the Annual Fund

**Ignite 25** - \$25/mo - 50% Student Scholarships, 50% the Annual Fund

**Ignite 50** - \$50/mo - 1/3 Student Scholarships, 1/3 the Annual Fund, 1/3 the Main OU Endowment

**Ignite 100** - \$100+/mo - 1/3 Student Scholarships, 1/3 the Annual Fund, 1/3 the Main OU Endowment

### OU Alumni 360 Engagement

Sunday, April 21

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A multi-location event to repurpose Sunday morning of Alumni Weekend, to bring alumni together with current students and department faculty. Please join your fellow Oakwoodites at the location listed for your field of endeavor. Location and time may vary. Check the Alumni Weekend Event App for up-to-the-minute updates.



**Cooper Science Complex**

Allied Health, Dietetics, Health Education  
Nursing

**Peters Hall Fine Arts Building**

Music

**Oakwood Academy**

Education

**Green Hall (tent)**

Psychology

**Wade Hall**

Social Work (Brunch)

**Peters Media Center – Studio B Wade Hall**

Communication, PR & Journalism

**McKee Business & Technology Complex**

Healthcare, Dental, Research, Biological Sciences  
Engineering, Mathematics, IT  
Business, Management

**Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center**

Theology, Religion, Chaplaincy



### OU Celebrates Our Legacy Families

During Alumni Weekend, we will be celebrating our **“Oakwood Legacy” Families** -- those families with **multiple generations of family members who have attended “the Oaks.”** Look for our professional photographers during the following events throughout the Weekend:

**Registration** - Tent between Blake Center and Eva B. Dykes Library - Thursday and Friday, April 18 & 19

**Friday Evening Programs** - Oakwood University Church lobby - Friday, April 19

**Sabbath School and Divine Worship** - Von Braun Center front lobby - Sabbath, April 20

**Sabbath Evening** - Oakwood University Church lobby - Saturday evening, April 20

**Sunday** - Oakwood Mall on Campus - Sunday, April 21



## Office of Alumni Relations



Dear Oakwood Family,

It is with great anticipation that I welcome all of our Oakwood alumni and friends to Alumni Weekend 2019!

I'm excited, honored, and humbled to be your new Director of Alumni Relations at Oakwood University. I follow a rich history of those who came before me - Dr. Sherman Cox, Mr. Fred Pullins, Dr. Barbara Stovall, Dr. Victoria Joiner, Ms. Edith Pruitt, and Mr. Richard Hodnett. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for the leadership and service they have given to Oakwood University.

Last fall, we invited almost 100 alumni and friends of Oakwood to our Inaugural Alumni Summit. Their insights and collaboration warmed our hearts and was a great encouragement as we move Oakwood University's Alumni Relations toward bigger and better engagement with you, our alumni family. The volunteer spirit of the Summit attendees was, and continues to be, greatly appreciated.

The Office of Alumni Relations' "Big 3" initiatives relate to our theme: "Igniting Generations with Oakwood Love." The verb "ignite" means to catch fire. We need for each of you to catch "fire" for Oakwood and to participate in one or each of the "Big 3" initiatives to demonstrate your commitment and support for your alma mater.

As you reconnect and reunite with classmates, family, and friends during Alumni Weekend 2019, we hope your experience will be an indication of how much Oakwood loves all of its alumni and "ignite" everyone's love toward Oakwood. We pray that each of you experience a sense of awe at how God has continued to bless Oakwood, Oakwood alums, their families and friends.

Again, welcome and enjoy this special weekend - it's all for yOU!

Continued blessings,

Emile D. Parker, MBA

Director of Alumni Relations



Check the Official Alumni Weekend Event App to get the latest updates.  
Scan with your smartphone camera to get app, and then "add to Home Screen."



## Friday Vespers Speaker

Pastor Debleaire Snell was born in Tallahassee, Florida, to Deborah and Larry Snell. He is the eldest of two brothers, Javaris and Andrew Snell.

He embraced the call to the ministry as a freshman at Oakwood College, and graduated with a B.A. in Theology in 1999. Immediately after graduation, he began his ministry in the South Central Conference.

While attending the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary at Andrews University, he served as the Youth Pastor for the Praise Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Bend, Indiana, and in December of 2001, he received his Master of Divinity. Also while at Andrews, he began courting the former Gianna Norman of Nashville, Tennessee, and his life was made complete as they were married on November 2, 2003. They are the loving parents of sons Jadon and Braydon, and daughter Brooke.

Pastor Snell has pastored churches in Columbus and West Point, Mississippi, and Lexington, Kentucky. Through personal ministry and an emphasis on evangelism, the Lord added steady growth to the churches he has pastored, and many souls were won for the kingdom.

In 2010, Pastor Snell began serving as the senior pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, where explosive church growth has taken place under his leadership. Pastor Snell also serves as an adjunct professor in the Religion Department at Oakwood University. He has authored five books, and numerous articles and essays. His favorite text is II Corinthians 5:17: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

## Friday Vespers Program

Oakwood University Church - April 19, 2019 - 6:30 pm

Praise and Worship	Oakwood University Church
Opening Prayer	Sean Calliard '09
Introductions	Dr. April Seay Toure '09
Welcome	
Mr. Emile Parker, '83	Director, Office of Alumni Relations
Dr. Carlton Byrd, '94	Senior Pastor, OUSDA Church '94
Dr. Leslie Pollard, '78	President, Oakwood University
Special Music	Resolution '99
Scripture	Jamie Roddy and Stephen Gray (Both 99)
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Joe Grider '79
Special Music	Joy '99
Speaker	Pastor Debleaire Snell '99
Remarks	Dr. Jesse Wilson, '81
Offering	Brenton and Lynae Harrison (Both '09)

Oakwood Honors Presentation  
Celebrating the Ministries of



and



---

**Concert**

Oakwood University Church  
April 19, 2019

**Guest artists include:**

Tamara Bodie  
Wayne Bucknor & True Identity  
Connect 5  
DOXA  
Stephen Manders & Decree  
1Voice  
Sharon Riley  
Antonia Simons  
Duwane Starling  
Sherice Tomlin

---

## Sabbath School Program

Von Braun Center - Propst Arena | April 20, 2019 - 9:15 am

Superintendent	Elder David Long, '79
Song Service	Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Elder David Long, '79
Welcome	Mrs. Renee Saunders Jones, '79
Special Music	Mr. Caleb McIver, '22
Xperience Oakwood	Oakwood University Broadcast Network Video
Lesson Study	Dr. Herbon Fleming, '79 Mr. Ronald McElroy, '79 Dr. Erogers-Hykes, '79
Xperience Oakwood	Oakwood University Broadcast Network Video
Closing Prayer	Mr. Donald Bedney, '79
Musical Interlude	

---

## Oakwood Experience

Von Braun Center - Propst Arena | April 20, 2019 - 10:15 am

Program Facilitator	Mr. Emile D. Parker, '83
Prayer	
Musical Prelude	The Aeolians   Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, Director, '99,
Musical Selection	The Aeolians of Oakwood University
Xperience Oakwood	Oakwood University Broadcast Network Video
Alumni Impact Honorees	Dr. Leslie Pollard, '78 Mrs. Cheri Wilson, '82  Honorees: Mr. Toson Knight, '13 and Dr. Nicole Houghton, '05
Musical Selection	Dynamic Praise   Bryce Davis, Director, '18
In Memoriam/Necrology	





## Divine Worship Speaker

Elder Calvin Watkins is a native of Dayton, Ohio, and a product of a God-fearing mother and Christian education. He is a 1974 graduate of Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania; a 1979 graduate of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama; and Mercer University and Fulton Law Academy, both in Atlanta, Georgia.

Elder Watkins has served as pastor and departmental director for more than 40 years, and was one of the longest serving and productive departmental directors in the North American Division.

In the last 40 years, he has baptized over 8,000 souls into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and has established over 17 new congregations. He has conducted campaigns and training schools throughout the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Cuba. In 2010 he led out in the Good News Atlanta Campaign, resulting in over 1,000 baptisms. Many people affectionately call him “Wild Fire” because of his many campaigns of setting churches and cities on fire.

Elder Watkins is regarded both within and outside of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination as a lecturer in the fields of church growth and ministerial training. He is also the author of the books One Hundred and One Ways to Witness and Evangelism for the New Millennium. He conducts seminars for Adventists and non-Adventists alike on the “Science of Soul Winning,” “Church Planting,” and “Church Organization and Management.”

In 2015 he was elected president of the Southwest Region Conference, which encompasses the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Elder Watkins has been married to the former Ruth Laurie of Panama for 40 years. They have three sons: Calvin L. Watkins II, Julian L. Watkins, M.D., and Jared L. Watkins.

## Divine Worship Service

Von Braun Center - Propst Arena | April 20, 2019 - 10:45 am

Introit

Call to Worship/Invocation

Dr. David Richardson, Jr. '93  
V.P. of Mission, Enrollment Services & Retention, Oakwood University

Hymn of Worship: “Watch Ye Saints”

Elder Debleaire Snell, '99  
Senior Pastor, First Church of SDA, Huntsville

Scripture

Elder William Winston, '84  
President, South Atlantic Conference of SDA

Welcome/Remarks

Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, '78  
President, Oakwood University  
Mr. Emile Parker, '83  
Director, Alumni Relations, Oakwood University

Special Music

Dynamic Praise  
Mr. Bryce Davis, Director, '18

Welcome/Remarks

Elder Dan Jackson  
President of North American Division  
Chairman - Oakwood University Board of Trustees  
Elder Benjamin Jones, '71  
President, South Central Conference

Xperience Oakwood	Oakwood University Broadcast Network Video
Welcome/Remarks	Dr. Carlton Byrd '94 Senior Pastor, Oakwood University Church
Xperience Oakwood	Oakwood University Broadcast Network Video
Special Music	The Aeolians of Oakwood University Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, Director, '99
Honor Classes Roll Call	Mr. Emile Parker, '83 Elder David Lee, '06 Ms. Theresa Blakey, '89
Welcome/Remarks	Mr. Devyn Keith, City Councilman Mr. Will Culver, City Councilman Mrs. Laura Hall, State Representative
Special Music	Pastor Donnie McClurkin
Welcome/Remarks	Elder Dave Livermore President, Gulf States Conference of SDA
AdventHealth Presentation	Dr. Ronald C. Smith, '79 President, Southern Union Conference of SDA
Special Music	Dynamic Praise   Bryce Davis, Director, '18 Aeolians   Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, Director, '99
Special Music	Pastor Donnie McClurkin
Offering	Mr. Emile Parker, '83 Mr. Lewis Jones, '80
Ministry Impact Award Presentation	Dr. Leslie Pollard, '78 Mrs. Cheri Wilson, '82
Introduction of Speaker	Ms. Elizabeth Hardy, '19 President, Class of 2019
Special Music	Pastor Donnie McClurkin
The Spoken Word	Elder Calvin Watkins, '79
Appeal & Appeal Song	Dynamic Praise
Benediction	Dr. Kim Logan-Nowlin, '79
Response	The Aeolians   Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, '99

**In concert: The Aeolians of Oakwood University**  
Oakwood University Church - April 20, 2019 - 5:30 pm



**One Mime Ministry | "They Didn't Know"**

Oakwood University Church - April 20, 2019 - 7:00 pm

As **One Mime Ministry & Project O** presents a mime and dance dramatization of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This will be **a powerful 6 MINUTES** you don't want to miss during this alumni weekend performed by our students.







## Sabbath Vespers Speaker

Paula Olivier was born in Brooklyn, New York. She spent her early years in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and then moved to Miami, Florida. In 1996, after weeks of prayer and fasting, Paula answered God’s call to enter the gospel ministry. She is a graduate of Oakwood University with a Bachelor in Ministerial Theology and a minor in Psychology. She holds a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, and a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary.

Pastor Olivier’s spiritual and innovative preaching ministry has been featured at local and national conferences, on radio and television, including the Hope Channel and 3ABN. She has spoken across the United States, Canada, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Olivier has served as the official clergy representative for the Montclair Community Intervention Alliance, which administers a state-funded grant supporting substance abuse prevention among youth. In 2012, the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation awarded Dr. Olivier the Carlos Wormley Community Service

Award, and she was honored with a joint Legislative Resolution from the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey for her leadership. In 2015, she served on the District Family Advisory Council of the Montclair Board of Education. Olivier holds several certificates in non-profit leadership and crisis intervention, and is a member of the Worldwide Federal Chaplains, Inc.

Dr. Paula Olivier is happily married to Dr. Smith Olivier, an ordained minister of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Her favorite text is Galatians 2:20: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

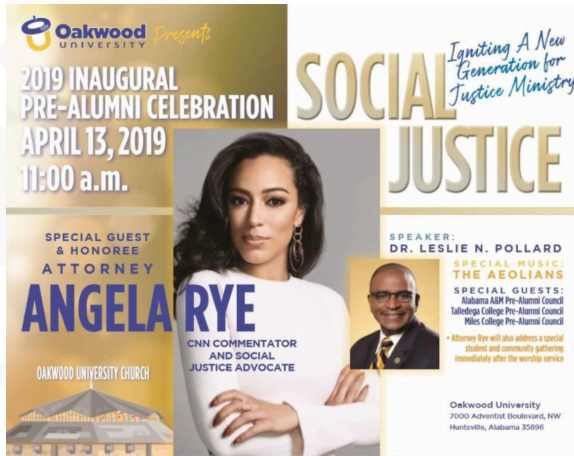
## Sabbath Vespers Program

Oakwood Univeristy Church | April 20, 2019 - 7:15 pm

Facilitator	Dr. Carlton Byrd, '94
Introduction of Speaker	Mrs. Jynean Palmer Reid, '83
Special Music	
Speaker	Dr. Paula Olivier, '00
Benediction/Closing Remarks	Dr. Carlton Byrd, '94

# 2019 Alumni Week Celebration

This year, we have launched a week-long series of events leading up to Alumni Weekend. Last Sabbath, we welcomed CNN commentator Angela Rye. The AdventHealth System Case Study occurred on Tuesday. Guests Natalie Cadet and Chris Willis ministered to us at a special Alumni Chapel service on Thursday, and that night, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the UNCF.



- 1 2019 Inaugural Pre-Alumni Celebration  
Theme: Social Justice  
April 13, 2019  
Oakwood University Church

- 2 AdventHealth System Case Study  
April 17, 2019  
McKee Business & Technology Complex



- 3 Alumni Chapel  
Guests: Natalie Cadet & Chris Willis  
April 18, 2019  
Oakwood University Church

- 4 41st Annual UNCF North Alabama Campaign  
Guests: Lalah Hathaway, John Stoddart  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael L. Lomax  
April 18, 2019  
Von Braun Center





OAKWOOD  
UNIVERSITY



# LEAP

## Adult Degree Completion Program

[leap.oakwood.edu](http://leap.oakwood.edu) | 256-726-7098

**Oakwood University**  
INTRODUCES THREE  
NEW ONLINE GRADUATE DEGREE  
PROGRAMS

### **Beginning Fall 2019**

**Master of Business Administration:**  
Leadership

**Master of Public Health:**  
Nutrition and Wellness

**Master of Arts:**  
Urban Ministry and Community Development

Currently hiring doctoral level faculty to  
teach in the graduate programs apply at  
[www.oakwood.edu](http://www.oakwood.edu)

For more information, please contact the  
Office of Graduate Education  
[gradadmissions@oakwood.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@oakwood.edu),  
phone at (256) 726-8091.

[www.graduate.oakwood.edu](http://www.graduate.oakwood.edu)





## **Future Oakwood Dates**

**Student Online Registration** | April 13 - July 24, 2019

**Commencement** | May 9 - 12, 2019

**Registration for New Students** | August 7, 2019

**New Students Orientation** | August 8, 2019

**Oakwood Live!** | October 10 - 13, 2019

**Alumni Weekend** | April 9 - 12, 2020

## **Who to Contact in the Division of Advancement at Oakwood**

### **Alumni Relations**

Emile Parker | [emparker@oakwood.edu](mailto:emparker@oakwood.edu)  
256-726-7039

### **Donations**

Cheri Wilson | [cwilson@oakwood.edu](mailto:cwilson@oakwood.edu)  
Miriam Battles | [mbattles@oakwood.edu](mailto:mbattles@oakwood.edu)  
256-726-7204

### **Wills, Trusts & Planned Giving**

Lewis Jones | [ljones@oakwood.edu](mailto:ljones@oakwood.edu)  
256-726-7584

### **WJOU Praise 90.1 FM**

Audree Johnson | [arjohnson@oakwood.edu](mailto:arjohnson@oakwood.edu)  
Dammeon Malone | [dmalone@oakwood.edu](mailto:dmalone@oakwood.edu)  
256-722-9990

### **Integrated Marketing & Public Relations**

Kenn Dixon | [kdixon@oakwood.edu](mailto:kdixon@oakwood.edu)  
Maquisha Mullins | [mfordmullins@oakwood.edu](mailto:mfordmullins@oakwood.edu)  
Debbe Millet | [millet@oakwood.edu](mailto:millet@oakwood.edu)  
256-726-7202

## **How to know what's going on at "the Oaks"**

[www.oakwood.edu](http://www.oakwood.edu)  
Oakwood Magazine | [pr@oakwood.edu](mailto:pr@oakwood.edu)  
insideOakwood | [pr@oakwood.edu](mailto:pr@oakwood.edu)  
Instagram | [@oakwoodu](https://www.instagram.com/oakwoodu)  
Twitter | [@oakwoodu](https://twitter.com/oakwoodu)  
Facebook | Oakwood University

# Alma Mater

Composer: O. B. Edwards

Arranger: H.L. Anthony

Our dear Oakwood within whose vale  
Thy standards will not fail;  
Our hearts are filled with wondrous cheer  
When thoughts of thee draw near.  
We love thy pines, thy elms, thy oaks, and campus always green.  
Thy many flow'rs and distant mounts form one impressive scene

To thee our dear Oakwood, to thee we shall ever sing.  
For decades thou hast stood, thy name should ever ring.  
Here we've spent our happy days, so we love to sing thy praise;  
and wherever we may be, we'll always be true to thee,  
Oakwood University.

*Thank you!*

To all of our alumni and friends, our Alumni Summit attendees, and our Oakwood staff -  
and everyone who helped make this Alumni Weekend 2019 a success.

*See you next year!*



Program Cover Design: Jyremy Reid, MBA, '15

Program Layout: Debbe Millet, Jyremy Reid