



One Faith,  
One Future,  
One Oakwood

OAKWOOD ALUMNI HOMECOMING



APRIL 13 - 17, 2022



# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

**H O M E C O M I N G 2 0 2 2**

## Reunion Honor Class Celebrations

**Celebrating 75 years - The Class of 1947**

**Celebrating 70 years - The Class of 1952**

**Celebrating 60 years - The Class of 1962**

**Celebrating 50 years - The Class of 1972**

**Celebrating 45 years - The Class of 1977**

**Celebrating 40 years - The Class of 1982**

**Celebrating 35 years - The Class of 1987**

**Celebrating 30 years - The Class of 1992**

**Celebrating 25 years - The Class of 1997**

**Celebrating 20 years - The Class of 2002**

**Celebrating 15 years - The Class of 2007**

**Celebrating 10 years - The Class of 2012**

**Celebrating 5 years - The Class of 2017**

**WELCOME ALL ALUMNI, HONOR CLASSES, FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
PLEASE ENJOY THE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED JUST FOR YOU**

Oakwood University  
Office of Alumni  
Relations



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*One Faith. One Future.  
One Oakwood.*





## *Dear Oakwood Alumni and Friends,*

It brings me the greatest joy to welcome you to our annual Alumni Homecoming 2022. Our theme this year is “One Faith, One Future, One Oakwood!” Having experienced the COVID Pandemic and going virtual for the last two years, we determined that it is time for us to come together. The work of our planning team has been infused with the spirit of collaboration between our staff and departments here on campus. Even in the midst of the pandemic, we experienced a network of Oakwood-loving alumni volunteers across the country who have donated hours to working behind the scenes to make this Alumni Homecoming 2022 a success. Our deepest thanks to our Oakwood University Alumni Network and our Office of Alumni Relations. And especially to 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 came with 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 supporting 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 when the weekend was over, we always felt educated, illuminated, and inspired by the work taking place at “our dear OU.”

Alumni Homecoming 2022 is no different. As you walk the campus, you will experience just a few of the “Blessings and Breakthroughs” God provided during the pandemic. Just as He provided to and through Joseph provision during the famine, so He also provided for us. As you hear the reports, and see the success of your classmates and our current students, we trust that you will be inspired at how God is blessing Oakwood University in ways that are remarkable. Enrollment, new academic programs, new construction, co-curricular initiatives, grants, contracts, philanthropy, business and industry recovery, online education, and most of all—student success continue to underscore the vision of Ellen G. White, that “it was in the providence of God that the Huntsville school was established” (EGW address delivered at Oakwood, June 21, 1904).

One of my favorite African proverbs says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together!” As we unite with the Oakwood family around this common mission, we will be amazed at what God can accomplish through us.

Welcome to “One Faith, One Future, One Oakwood!” at Alumni Homecoming 2022 and, most of all, we welcome you home!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie N. Pollard".

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

# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

*Dear Oakwood Family,*

It is with great anticipation and excitement I welcome all our Oakwood alumni and friends to the Alumni Homecoming 2022. Back to this place called Oakwood. We have been missing you!

We can't believe it has been 3 years since we were together in-person due to COVID. Many of us have lost loved ones during our time away. We know these are the last days of earth's history and it is hard to see loved ones, classmates, and friends being laid to rest. The Oakwood University continues to pray for all those families who have lost loved ones, but we have this hope that one day the trumpet shall sound... We look forward to that day.

Thank you for coming to Oakwood Alumni Homecoming 2022. We want you to feel the Oakwood love again. Our hope is every Oakwood alum and friend will experience that sense of warmth and see how God continues to bless Oakwood alums and friend's families despite life's challenges. Oakwood is to "be experienced" and we want you to experience the reconnection to your friends and classmates.

The Homecoming week celebration's theme this year is "One Faith, One Future, One Oakwood." Our oneness based on "God First," aligned with our mission, makes Oakwood one—allowing us to transform lives for 125 Years.

Alumni and friends, your engagement with Oakwood matters. We continue to increase year after year in alumni giving and in overall giving because of everyone's love for Oakwood. Helping Oakwood in student recruitment has been amazing. We want to acknowledge alum families who have entrusted their Oakwood with sending their sons and daughters to attend. We celebrate this act of love as they continue their family's Oakwood Legacy.

As in Homecoming 2019, we will be taking pictures of our Oakwood Legacy families of alums. The Oakwood Legacy studios will be located at the front lobbies of the Von Braun Center, Oakwood University Church, and on Sunday at the Vendor Village Super Expo at Oakwood Farms Market. Professional photographers will be setup to take your family's picture of your generations of Oakwood attendees (many photos taken will be featured in future *Oakwood Magazines*).

As you reconnect and reunite with classmates, family, and friends we would like you to know we have planned an incredible Homecoming for everyone to enjoy and be blessed from the experience. Experience walking the grounds on campus again, find out who our first Oakwood "30 Under 30" are in the *Oakwood Magazine* Spring 2022 edition, see the new and refreshed buildings, visit Alumni 360 events to impact our student's career readiness, and don't miss the fireworks Saturday night! Just know it is all here for you, our fellow Oakwood alums and loving friends.

During this Homecoming we celebrate our historic 125 years of thriving existence. Our prayer is that you feel the embrace of the Holy Spirit and are moved to renew your personal commitment to help continue the amazing mission of our dear Oakwood University.

Again, welcome and please enjoy this special and historic HOMECOMING 2022!

Blessings,



Emile D. Parker, MBA  
Director of Alumni Relations





## Friday Vespers Speaker

**D**r. Kenneth L. E. Manders is the first graduate of Oakwood to serve as President of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventist.

Before assuming administrative responsibilities, Manders served as the senior Pastor of the Hamilton SDA church for 13 years.

During his 27 years of Pastoral Ministry Dr. Manders led the Bermuda Conference in soulwinning for 16 years, while serving as Youth Director; Personal Ministries Director; and Executive Secretary.

A native of Bermuda, Manders received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakwood College, now University, a Master of Divinity degree, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews Theological Seminary.

He received the Mosley/Warren Homiletic & Preaching Award at Oakwood University in 1992.

Before any formal training for ministry Elder Manders served as a full-time Literature Evangelist in the Bermuda Mission for 4 years.

Dr. Manders enjoys giving Bible studies, listening to music, and watching sports. He is married to Claudette Manders, and they are the proud parents of three sons; Andre, Stephen, and Joseph.



## April 15, 2022 • 6:15 p.m. (Oakwood University Church) Alumni Homecoming Friday Vespers

Praise Team .....	Stephen Manders
Opening Prayer.....	Janice Willis, '77
Welcome .....	Dr. Leslie N. Pollard & Emile Parker
Video Presentation .....	Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN)
Introduction of Speaker.....	Gayle Newton-Taylor, '77
Special Music .....	Stephen Manders & Decree
Spoken Word.....	Dr. Kenneth Manders - "Lest We Forget" Ex. 1:8; John 8:31-33
Video Presentation .....	OUBN
Offering.....	Donald Monroe, '02

## April 15, 2022 • 7:15 p.m. Alumni Homecoming 'Oakwood Honors'

Honorees on next page .....

# 2022 Oakwood Honors Award Honorees

*Hosted by Jonathan Slocumb*

## Oakwood Industries Pioneer

Harry Swinton, Sr.



## Oakwood's 125 Years of Presidential Leadership

Dr. Calvin B. Rock (1971-1984)  
Dr. Benjamin Reaves (1986-1996)  
Dr. Delbert Baker (1996-2010)  
Dr. Mervyn A. Warren (Interim 2010)  
Dr. Leslie N. Pollard (2011- )



## Oakwood's 75 Years of USM Student Leadership

James B. Kelly, Jr. (2012-13)  
Christopher Readus (2013-14)  
Tahjai Conkerite (2014-15)  
Kyle Smith (2015-16)  
Gabriel Carter (2016-17)  
Andrew Taylor (2017-18)  
Justin Thornton (2018-19)  
Alexia Griggs (2019-20)  
Jordain Thompson (2020-21)  
Donovan Williams (2021-22)



## Members of the Singing Group Virtue

Ebony Holland  
Negelle Morris  
Karima Kibble  
Heather Martin  
Shavonne Sampson





## April 16, 2022 • 9:30 a.m (Von Braun Center) Alumni Homecoming Sabbath School

Opening Prayer.....	Joyce Smith, '82
Welcome .....	Robert Edwards, '82
MUSIC.....	Edrene Malcolm, '72
Offering .....	Robert Edwards, '82 / OUBN Video
Sabbath School Lesson Study.....	Margret E. Humprey Richardson, '82
Closing Prayer.....	Joyce Smith, '82
Homecoming - What's Next? .....	Audree Johnson

## April 16, 2022 • 10:45 a.m Alumni Homecoming Divine Worship Service

Mission and Accomplishments .....	Dr. Leslie N. Pollard
Video Presentation .....	OUBN
Salutations .....	Emile Parker - Director of Alumni Relations
Call to Worship.....	Pastor Debleaire Snell, '99 - OUC Senior Pastor
Praise Team .....	Aeolian Alumni Praise Team
Invocation .....	Rosie Sigh-Glover, '52
Welcome .....	Dr. Leslie N. Pollard
Hymn .....	Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand & Aeolians
Student Recognition.....	Marcy Burden • OU Law Students • Latino Student Growth • African Student Growth
Impact Awards.....	Dr. Leslie N. Pollard & Emile Parker Recipients: Dr. Prudence L. Pollard & Dr. Calvin B. Rock
Special Music .....	Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand & Aeolians
Honor Class Roll Call .....	Emile Parker
Offering.....	Emile Parker & Robert Edwards, '82
Scripture .....	Dr. Delbert Baker, Former OU President
Necrology .....	OUBN Video Presentation
Prayer .....	Dr. William Lee, '02
Introduction of Speaker.....	Dana Wallace, '22
Special Music .....	Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand & Aeolians
Spoken Word.....	Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, '81 - "Living in the NOW; Waiting for the NOT YET"
Benediction .....	Pastor Michael Paschal, '17

## Divine Worship Speaker

**D**r. Glenward Alexander Bryant first felt his call to ministry just one year after becoming a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Later, as he observed his pastor preaching the Word with fiery enthusiasm at an evangelistic meeting, he sensed the calling again, and knew exactly what God wanted him to do.

At the age of 19, his love for evangelism and teaching led him to serve as a student missionary in Japan for one year. Experiencing mission service in another country was life-changing, transforming his understanding of other cultures and traditions. Not only did this solidify his desire to go into ministry, but also revealed how God can use anyone whose life is in His hands. In college, his gift of administration flourished, and he started to serve as director of Adventist Youth at Oakwood College and as president of the Black Students Association of the Seminary (BSAS) at Andrews University.

Dr. Bryant earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in theology and business administration from Oakwood College in 1981. He began his pastoral ministry in Springfield, Missouri and in Coffeyville and Independence, Kansas in 1982. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1986 and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 1988. He went on to serve as Temperance director, Youth/Pathfinders/National Service Organization director, and superintendent of Education at the Central States Conference before being elected conference president in 1997.

The General Conference Executive Committee elected Dr. Bryant to serve as executive secretary of the North American Division in October 2008, in Manila, Philippines. He was reelected in Atlanta, Georgia at the 2010 General Conference Session. In December 2011, he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Dr. Bryant currently serves as the fifth president of the North American Division and vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He enjoys studying the word of God, gardening, being out in nature, especially near water, home remodeling and construction, and bike riding.

Dr. Bryant is happily married to the former Desiree Wimbish, current associate director of the NAD Ministerial Association. She formerly served as assistant director of the NAD Education Department, superintendent of Education of the Central States Conference, associate superintendent of Education of the Potomac Conference, and principal of the V. Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist School in Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. and Mrs. Bryant are the proud parents of Travis (Jacquelyn), Traven, and Terrence. They have three granddaughters.



## April 16, 2022 • 5:30 p.m (Oakwood University Church)

Reunion Honors Class Memories Video Program (Classes of 2's and 7's)

## April 16, 2022 • 6:15 p.m

## Alumni Homecoming Sabbath Vespers

Aeolians Alumni Praise Team .....	Aeolian Alumni Praise Team
Opening Prayer.....	Clara Henderson Cobb, '77
Welcome .....	Pastor Debleaire Snell, '99
Scripture (Luke 8:51-54).....	Nicolas Kanion, '17
Introduction of Speaker.....	Monique Johnson, '12
Special Music .....	David Graham, '87

To see the entire  
Alumni Homecoming  
2022 Schedule of  
events and programs,  
please go to:  
[alumni.oakwood.edu](http://alumni.oakwood.edu)



## Sabbath Vespers Speaker

**P**astor Darnisha Thomas has had a passion for ministry since the tender age of 11 and has since been led to share the gospel of Jesus, physically and virtually, in various parts of the United States, Africa, Cuba, Panama, Honduras, and the United Kingdom.

Born and raised in Maryland, Pastor Darnisha is a graduate of Oakwood University and holds a Bachelors in Theology with a concentration in Pastoral/Evangelistic Ministry and a minor in Biblical Languages. She also has a Master's in Divinity from Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Pastor Darnisha Thomas currently serves as Associate Pastor at the Southview Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and is the Children's Ministries Director for the Minnesota Conference. She formerly served as the Pastor for Student Ministries and Volunteering at the New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fulton, Maryland. Pastor Thomas is the first Black pastor for both the New Hope and Southview churches, and the first and only Black woman pastor serving in the Minnesota Conference. She is also the youngest conference Children's Ministries director in the North American Division. Recently, Pastor Darnisha presented for the Children's Pastors Conference, organized by the International Network of Children's Ministry.

Pastor Thomas has published work and has been featured in *Spectrum Magazine*, *Ordained Magazine*, and the *Current Magazine*. She was also featured on the Hope Channel, as a guest on the Cross Connection program and the General Conference Youth Ministries E-week of Prayer.

Pastor Darnisha Thomas currently hosts a podcast called, "The Sister Pastor Speaks", where she shares her insights and experiences on being a woman of color in pastoral ministry, empowering upcoming women clergy to embrace their calling and their own identity in Christ while fostering the atmosphere of sisterhood.

Pastor Darnisha has an unquenchable love for Jesus and wants others to know who He is and learn to love and trust Him. Her birth promise is Philippians 1:6, "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."



Spoken Word.....Pastor Darnisha Thomas, '12 - "When Daddy's Girl Dies"

Introduction to Aeolian Concert.....Pastor Debleaire Snell, '99

## Aeolians Concert • 7:15 p.m

1st Half of Aeolians Concert.....Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, Conductor

Capital Campaign Emphasis.....Dr. Leslie N Pollard—"Enlarging Our Territory: One Faith,  
One Future, One Oakwood"

2nd Half of Aeolians Concert .....Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, Conductor

Closing Prayer.....Aeolians



# OAKWOOD ALUMNI



One Faith,  
One Oak

## 7 WAYS TO GIVE:



### 1. IGNITE 10

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### 3. TXT “Oaks” to 56512



### 4. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

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# HOMECOMING 2022

# One Future, kwood



## 5. MAIL to:

Oakwood University  
Advancement Division  
7000 Adventist Blvd., NW  
Huntsville, AL 35896



## 6. HOMECOMING IN A BOX

**Go to:** [give.oakwood.edu](https://give.oakwood.edu) –  
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## 7. CALL: 256.726.7201

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