What's Good About an MPH?

Check out Oakwood's new Master of Public Health Program

3 Simple Tips for Healthy Eating in 2020

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☆ A picture gallery of Oakwood Legacy Families

Oakwood Commencement 2019
☆ Experience the highlights of graduation, again

To Shine By Night
☆ Joel Kibble reminds us that it’s our job to reflect Jesus’ light

Presidents & Precedents of Oakwood University
☆ Dr. Mervyn Warren reflects on the leaders of Oakwood

Endnotes
☆ All I Have To Give
Every day something exciting happens at Oakwood University!

Every page of this issue shares just a little of the story of accomplishments and events that have advanced the institution over the past few months. God’s blessings are too numerous to tell, so where should we begin?

It was a joy to speak to the inaugural International Summit of Colleges, Universities, and Ministers of Education at the United Nations in September. The purpose of the summit was to create partnerships between institutions committed to “advancing quality education for all persons of African descent.” We shared with them regarding the Consortium of African Adventist Universities and Partners (CAAUP), which has 16 member institutions. Oakwood University founded this organization in 2012 and it has been a blessing to our faculty who have participated in the faculty exchange within the Diaspora.

Oakwood University cannot succeed without the support of our faithful and generous community to help us reach our goal of a $20 million dollar endowment by 2020. Maybe you made your gift on Giving Tuesday, when we exceeded our $25,000 goal—and $31,780 was raised in one day! Or perhaps our alumni and friends who are Federal employees and retirees contributed to support Oakwood through the recent Combined Federal Campaign (#96964). Whatever you have done, we continue to thank you for your support of Oakwood University.

MY GRATITUDE LIST

If you “google” the word gratitude, you see an avalanche of positive research showing the health benefits of living with gratefulness (e.g. greater resilience, healthier optimism, less stress, higher endorphin levels, better relationships, etc). My personal list has over 100 things I’m grateful for, so I’ll share just a few.

In 2019 Oakwood University was ranked among the top 10 HBCUs in the United States. We remain grateful that Oakwood stands out in multiple publics as an outstanding institution of higher education. Praise God!

Our Oakwood Farms Market and farm-to-table Bistro will move from vision to reality when it opens during the first quarter of 2020. I am grateful for this addition to our industry recovery strategy.

We will break ground on our 9000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art Community Health Action Clinic, on our East Campus, in 2020. Huntsville Hospital has partnered with us to develop the clinic on the west wing of the facility, and the service learning operations will be housed on the east wing of the building. I am grateful to the donors who will enable us to bring the vision of this facility to reality.

On a personal note, God has allowed Prudence and me, who met as students at Oakwood University, to celebrate our 40th year of a wonderful marriage. We are grateful every day for the family He has given us. I am grateful that God set a new direction in our histories and is blessing the next generation.

Finally, I am grateful for the spirit of ministry, service, and sacrifice that is embodied in the dedicated and hard-working administrators, faculty, and staff of Oakwood University. I am also deeply grateful for the students, alumni, friends, ministers and members of the Huntsville faith community, and all who work with us in varying capacities in support of the mission of “a place called Oakwood.” In the words of the apostle Paul, “I thank God always when I remember you” (Philippians 1:3).
WHAT’S GOOD ABOUT AN
Public Health?

by Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser

W hat exactly is the practice of Public Health? I’m so glad you asked. Public Health is the beautiful combination of science, research and compassion; using ‘big data’ to address ‘big health issues.’ Public Health is also the powerful intersection of science, health, research and policy with a clear goal to improve populations using quantitative and qualitative data. It’s local, global, measurable and most importantly, meaningful. In essence, Public Health is the science of prevention.

Public Health Defined

“Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases.”

—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation, 2019

“Public Health for the NIH who invests nearly $39.2 billion annually in medical research for the American people, is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.”

—The National Institutes of Health (NIH), 2019

“Public Health investigates the ecology of health and battles against deadly contagious diseases, minimizes the consequences of catastrophic events, and provides the basics of sanitation, safe food, and water.”

—thsisispublichealth.org, 2015

The field of Public Health is vast, weaving together the foundation of five core disciplines: 1) Biostatistics, 2) Epidemiology, 3) Environmental Health Sciences, 4) Health Policy and Management, 5) Social and Behavior Sciences. Plant-based nutrition coupled with lifestyle intervention is one of the many valuable tools within the arsenal of Public Health.

I like to think of public health as the hand of Christ helping make humanity whole. The American Public Health Association (APHA) says it well, the heart of Public Health “saves money, improves our quality of life, helps children thrive and reduces human suffering. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in Public Health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.”

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN PUBLIC HEALTH?

Born in Manhattan while growing up in the suburbs of Long Island, New York, my family commuted weekly to Harlem to worship at the Ephesus SDA Church for over 40 years. During my weekly commute, I saw firsthand the painful disparities in health front and center. At the time, I didn’t realize that God was preparing me for a career in Public Health as an academic, researcher and scholar-servant.

MY PUBLIC HEALTH JOURNEY: A SNAPSHOT

Public Health is both populational and personal. Some of my richest and rewarding public health experiences through the years are inter-connected with cross-cutting disciplines resulting in significant impact promoting health and mitigating disease. Whether my experience was…

…reducing heart disease risk as a doctoral student at the Harvard School of Public Health investigating the effects of the APOAI-CIIS-ATIV gene cluster on acute and long-term cholesterol responses to high saturated fats diets.

…or studying the effects of plant-based proteins on hypertension while training as a post-doc in the development and execution of the OMNIHeart® Study, a multi-center clinical trial at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

…or developing science policies, scientific evaluations, regulations, and enforcement strategies to promote the nation’s health as a Science Fellow with the Federal Government within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), NIH and the Office of the United States Surgeon General.

…the establishment of Morgan State University’s first Community Organic Vegetable Garden, in a 7000 sq. ft. urban plot that is now a thriving community garden and a successful campus-community project that strengthens service learning and community engagement.

WHILE growing up in Brooklyn, New York at the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA), every year a gentleman would come to visit during the Adventist youth society hour (back then, it was referred to as Missionary Volunteers) and talk about the dangers of smoking. His presentation was different than all the other programs. He brought a mannequin that smoked, appropriately named Smoking Sam. This annual presentation influenced me in two specific ways. The first, I was convinced to never touch a cigarette. The second, is that he was able to use visual aids to teach about the dangers of smoking. I always wondered, how do you teach like that?

Years later, I attended Oakwood University where I was exposed to a class by Howard Shaw in my first semester. He spoke about diet, exercise, and the daily lifestyle. I embraced the lectures and was committed as it left a lasting impression on me.

As a life long Seventh-day Adventist I absorbed the message of health and temperance, highlighted with the famous acronym “NEWSFAST” (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust in God). Research shows that Adventists live seven years longer than the average American, and I am thrilled to learn that Loma Linda University is in a certified “blue zone.” The health message has always been “the right hand of the gospel” and a strong catalyst for evangelism.

Temperance and health are now being married to Public Health, giving us the boost needed to take the gospel through the world. One of the most popular graduate degrees achieved by Oakwood Alumni is in the Masters of Public Health (MPH). Unfortunately, most of us had to go to another institution and make our mark in the Public Health arena. The MPH has allowed our alumni to become CEOs, research scientists, authors, consultants, television and radio personalities.

My interest in Public Health came from being an SDA, while navigating the hip hop hustle of NYC, by doing health presentations. My mentor thought it was a natural progression as a Christian to take the message to the world. I was referred to as Missionary Volunteers) by Garry Graham, Sr. while growing up. A gentleman would come to visit during the Adventist youth society hour (back then, it was referred to as Missionary Volunteers) and talk about the dangers of smoking. His presentation was different than all the other programs. He brought a mannequin that smoked, appropriately named Smoking Sam. This annual presentation influenced me in two specific ways. The first, I was convinced to never touch a cigarette. The second, is that he was able to use visual aids to teach about the dangers of smoking. I always wondered, how do you teach like that?

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ment for improved health, nutrition, and the environment.

...or working in the field of Nutritional Neuroscience, Behavior Health, Food Deserts and Violence Prevention as faculty/Chair at Andrews University in a partnership with colleagues at the Massachusetts Institutes of Technology (MIT), NIH, and Lakeland Hospital. These experiences are all Public Health. **WHY SHOULD SOMEONE CHOOSE A CAREER IN PUBLIC HEALTH?**

The employment outlook in Public Health is strong. The job market for Public Health researchers, practitioners, educators, and community workers is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities are expected to grow by 37% from 2010-2020, faster than the average for all occupations.

**Popular areas of Public Health Employment:**
- Health Care Agencies, Biotecnology, Hospitals, Government (local, regional, national), Relief Organizations (i.e., ADRA, Red Cross), Research Institutes, Colleges/Universities, Consulting, Corporate Wellness, NGOs & Nonprofits, United Nations, Think Tanks, Religious/Church Organizations, Professional Associations, Foundations, or the Public Sector.

**HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR NEW ROLE AT OU?**

As the new Department Chair and Professor of Oakwood University’s Nutrition and Dietetics Department—home to the new MPH Program—it’s an awesome opportunity to be serving this capacity. It’s ‘full circle’ for me since Oakwood College is my alma mater. Receiving my PhD from Harvard University with the schools of Public Health, Division of Medical Sciences and Graduate School has prepared me for such a time as this.

Collard is a traditional Macaroni & Cheese! Collaborative-Leadership has been the prevailing theme as I have worked closely with great colleagues at Oakwood such as Dr. Earl Henry (Interim MPH Program Director), Dr. Joycelyn Peterson, Dr. John Anderson, Dr. Joyce Johnson, Dr. Karen Benn-Marshall, Dr. Colwick Wilson and Dr. Prudence Pollard in developing the vision, direction and management of the MPH program. Having an excellent office manager, Mrs. Janelle Flint, has been a blessing.

Oakwood University is perfectly positioned to meet the public health need with our new Master of Public Health degree program in Nutrition & Wellness. This past fall semester 2019, we celebrated the start of our first MPH student cohort.

**TELL US ABOUT HOW AN OU MPH PREPARES STUDENTS**

Oakwood University’s Master of Public Health in Nutrition and Wellness is the next step for students who have completed undergraduate health-related degrees and want to continue their studies at the next level. With a focus on advocating plant-based diets, students will learn how to assess the health needs of diverse community groups. They will use their findings to create personalized health plans, programs and policies. In 24 to 22 months, the MPH degree also prepares graduates to meet the new standards passed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration for entry-level registered dietitians.

**MPH Program goals are:**

1. **Knowledge:** Prepare graduate health professionals who are able to provide innovative evidence-based nutrition education to diverse communities.
2. **Cultural Competence:** Prepare students to develop, implement, and assess programs to promote the health of a diverse population group, while simultaneously providing the knowledge and skills to create and implement research-based community programs in preventive health and wellness.
3. **Application:** Facilitate sustainable collaborations between faculty, students, and faith-based and non-profit organizations in service to communities.

The MPH is key to effective, research-based, health promotion and disease prevention out-
By all accounts, the Alumni 360 events during Alumni Weekend 2019 were a success! Over 12 professions and departments were represented, at 12 venues across the campus. Over 300 Oakwood alums and students participated.

Alumni 360 is one of the Big 4 initiatives from the Office of Alumni Relations launched this year, where Oakwood alumni circle back on campus to network for their career and profession, and also help our current students by providing mentoring, internships or shadowing experiences. The goal is to ensure every student who attends and/or graduates from Oakwood will have had at least one internship or shadowing experience before leaving Oakwood.

If you would like to participate in our Alumni 360 during Homecoming next year—April 4-12, 2020—join our mentoring program, or if you can provide an internship or shadowing experience for our students, please contact either the Office of Alumni Relations: 256-726-7039, or Career Connections: 256-726-8495, today!
The Look of Legacy

Pictured here are many of our Legacy Families—those families where several generations have attended Oakwood through the decades—siblings, parents, and/or grandparents. The Office of Alumni Relations celebrates with you the handing down of the “Oakwood Experience” to succeeding generations.
Oakwood University hosted its 2019 Commencement Exercises, May 9-11, for 328 of the brightest students in the world who entered to learn, and have now departed to serve. The Commencement speaker was the Honorable Greg Mathis. Honorary doctoral degrees (Doctor of Humane Letters) were awarded to Mrs. Lois Peters and Elder Ed Zinke. An additional four “guest” graduates participated in the Commencement ceremony on Saturday night. Guest graduates are defined as those who chose not to march at their respective institutions because of Sabbath observance and other scheduling concerns.
**2nd Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations, New York City**

by Tristan Johnson, Bruce Lindsey, Sian McCollum, and Kennedy Blye

The United Nations trip was overall a great experience, especially in the sense that we got to network with people from all around the world to discuss the needs of children and how we as social workers can utilize our skills. I really enjoyed hearing the different panel discussions. One story that stood out to me was a lady sharing her experience during the Genocide. Her family was killed and she talked about how she overcame the trauma. It was also good to be able to bond with the group that was there. Overall, I had awesome time! I would definitely go back to the U.N. and I am thankful for this experience.

Submitted by Shalunda Sherrod, DSW, LICSW, PIP, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at Oakwood University.

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**Tristan Johnson, Senior/Social Work major - Worcester, Massachusetts:** This trip to Manhattan was like a business trip and a short vacation combined into one! I learned so much from just a couple of hours attending the different sessions. The United Nations not only stands for addressing global social problems, but it is also extremely active in policy development; passionate about getting various resources for certain countries; helps end discrimination against oppression of certain groups; and plays a significant role in trying to end the practice of sex trafficking, and the list doesn’t stop there. The United Nations is one of the most prestigious organizations I have ever witnessed.

Before this trip, I saw social work as one of the only professions that actively focuses on helping those who need help. However, social work is so much bigger than just helping the average person. The profession is a principle for how people must treat one another. We should uplift our neighbors when they’re down—uplift them and help them find the resources they need to better themselves. With this attitude in mind, the world can and will become a better place. United Nations models this. Through its exemplary competencies, the organization provides a path for all of us to follow. Again, I am very grateful for the opportunity to experience a life-changing event such as this. Thank you.

**Bruce Lindsey, Senior/Social Work major - Baltimore, Maryland:** Our trip to New York was truly an eye opener. The most humbling experience was being at the UN Headquarters. Seeing and meeting some great people along the way made the trip even better. When we attended the conference on Sunday, I’ll never forget the exceptional panel speakers. They were all very different, but their passion for changing the world was shining through. By far the best part of the whole trip was when the panelists opened the floor for questions. Everyone who wanted to ask a question was heard, and given a detailed answer in return. Moments like these are rare and I was glad to be a part of it.

**Sian McCollum, Senior/Social Work major - Buford, Georgia:** It was such a blessing to attend Social Work Day at the United Nations for the second year in a row. I’m so grateful to be a part of a department that creates opportunities that will forever impact our lives as social workers. What stood out to me the most was the student forum that took place before the Social Work Day at the UN. I appreciated that they created a program specifically for students to network with each other, and present their research on various topics. Sitting in on the discussions that at the UN Headquarters, I was able to see the different perspectives of other social workers from around the world.

**Kennedy Blye, Graduated 2019/ Social Work major - Beltsville, Maryland:** The United Nations trip was overall a great experience, especially in the sense that we got to network with people from all around the world to discuss the needs of children and how we as social workers...
OU Literary Guild and its Affiliates Join the Literary Conversation

by Dr. Cecily Daly

Since the inception of our first Literary Affiliates in 1985, this God-given literary treasure holds a mission of assisting young people in discovering their talents they never knew they possessed. The Guild also assists members and friends to integrate faith and learning as they employ our three-age-old rights: "the right to know, the right to read, and the right to write." Everyone connected with the Guild has, to a greater or lesser extent, been encouraged and enabled to "Write the Vision, Make it Plain" and share the Oakwood experience as we uphold the mission of the library as well as the standards of our institution. The scope and sequence of our existence over the last 30 years has been a love affair with our pens. Thus, we guard the Guild as a sacred trust, doing all we can to keep the flame burning, now that we are part and parcel of the larger international community.

The challenge of teaching Developmental Reading classes of unmotivated, underprepared college students was the stimulation which created an academic club within the English Department, which was established in 1986. This was strengthened with help from the Center for Academic Support so that our activities were student-centered and geared toward literary excellence and academic enhancement.

In 2000, we celebrated a national membership as the first and only American Christian Writers’ Association chapter in the State of Alabama. Now we still remain the 27th chapter of this now-expanded national organization. Through God’s help, and the help of dedicated sponsors and marketing expert advisor, Mr. Michael Sales, we’ve kept afloat until now. Since the early days of our existence, with Mrs. Minneola Dixon as our first supporter, Dr. Ramona Hyman, first sponsor, Ms. Sonia Paul, longest serving sponsor, Dr. Dorothy Patterson, effervescent membership card supplier, and Ms. Karen Tucker, encouraging quality control sponsor, we have had many successful writing harvests. Our 500+ authors have written in various publications, including five Insight magazines featuring Oakwood, four collegiate Sabbath School Quarterlies, seven completed books, one documentary video, and one “Caring & Sharing” video, the springboard for our textbook scholarship funds.

We have now established COULA (a Consortium of Oakwood University Literary Affiliates), experienced a global push, and expanded the Guild to a total of 11 Literary Affiliates who keep the goal of maintaining “the Right to Write” with excellence. For more information check our website, under the Eva B. Dykes Library page.

LITERARY AFFILIATES: WHO ARE THEY?

This is the name given to academic groups that have the university home chapter for membership and want to know how to successfully establish and maintain like clubs of literary excellence in their local areas.

MEET SOME AFFILIATES AND CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESS!

1. North Dallas Adventist Academy, Richardson, Texas: for their first book - Millennial Voices - written by a class and submitted by their teacher - Catherine Jackson.
2. Oakwood Adventist Academy, Huntsville, Alabama: for their first journal which they named, Depthiniton, written by their affiliate club and submitted by their teacher - Gwen Woods.
3. West Indies College Group of Schools, Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies: for their literary project on Writing with Color, submitted by the principal, Basil Tabannor.
4. Kamagambo High School, Kenya, Africa: a new national champion joins the literary conversation. They tell of the successful results of their students at local, regional and national levels of a recent Drama Festival. Thus, they’ve earned our congratulations by setting a good example for all Affiliates.

Cheers, Affiliates, keep up the good work!

FROM THE OU LITERARY GUILD HOME CHAPTER

The picture is still exciting! “In My Father’s Suitcase,” submitted by member Ezra Okuro, is a series of values-clariﬁcation books designed for 3rd and 4th graders. Three of these books will help the children to clarify and hold onto the values they have been taught (e.g., kindness, cheerfulness, love, caring, safety, etc). The fourth book of the set offers activities for the children about those values. These books are written in English and in Swahili, the national language of Kenya.

Dr. Earl Henry, chair of the Allied Health Department, and Professor Michael Williams, sponsors of the Allied Health club, took a group of Allied Health students to Andrews University November 8-11, 2019, for the University’s Graduate Preview. The visit gave the students an opportunity to visit the Allied Health-related graduate programs offered at Andrews. The weekend included a ‘meet and greet’ with faculty and current students, and dedicated sessions in departments and programs of interest. Those planning to pursue Physical Therapy were hosted to a session in the cadaver lab manned by the first year PPT students. Those interested in other graduate programs were hosted in the respective departments. Our students were able to make valuable networking connections and new friends.

In addition to the academic information received, we were treated to pizza and ice cream when we visited Silver Beach. The visit was a very informative and rewarding one for our students, many of whom are considering Andrews University for graduate school.

Members of the Home Chapter have worked hard with the production. Thanks to Drs. Gilbert Ojwang and Onesimus Otieno for tirelessly working on this project. Also, thanks to Mr. Joel Arama for connecting with Kamagambo for a verbal report of that Affiliate. Although many years have slipped by, OULG still remains grounded on a foundational “Right to Write” yet continues to encourage all members to “Write the vision and make it plain… ” Hab. 2:2

Cecily Daly, Ed.D. is the sponsor of the OU Literary Guild.
Oakwood University Hosts the Adventist English Association Conference

by Dr. Maquisha Mullins

For the first time since the organization was established in 1968, the Adventist English Association (AEA) met on the campus of Oakwood University on June 21, 2019. The Department of English and Foreign Languages welcomed the international members of the AEA. Approximately 70 percent of the attendees were first-time visitors to the campus. Jenny Nogales from Adventista de Bolivia said that “It is warm here, we were treated very kind.”

The conference location rotates through the Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities around the world and convenes only once every three years. This year’s AEA was unique because it was hosted jointly on both the campuses of Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University.

Monique Pittman, professor of English at Andrews University, a first-time visitor to Oakwood, commented, “I feel so welcomed and am eager to learn more about the history of the university.” She went on to mention how interested she was in the powerful role OU has, “… in taking the pain of the past and using it for inspiration.”

The morning began in the Moseley Chapel where President Pollard offered opening words that emphasized and celebrated the complexities of the English language. Dr. Ramona Hyman, chair of Oakwood’s Department of English & Foreign Languages, initiated the celebration of the spoken word by sharing her work and encouraging OU professors and other attendees to share their favorite, or original poetry. The day also included a walking tour around campus, a visit to the Clara Peterson-Rock Museum in the Eva B. Dykes Library, lunch and afternoon sessions in the Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center. The concluding moments on Oakwood’s campus, before departing for Southern Adventist University, were spent in reflection at the historic slave cemetery.

Conference goers enjoyed the time spent on the sunshine-soaked campus of Oakwood University and look forward to another opportunity to return. The next AEA conference is scheduled for June 2022, and will be held in Peru.

Maquisha Mullins, Ph.D., is the interim director of Integrated Marketing & Public Relations.
Inspiration to live by. Motivation to give by.

EXCELLENCE IS NOT A SKILL. IT IS AN ATTITUDE.

The Oakwood University Annual Fund Campaign supports the basics for our students. From student aid to academic department support, your gift makes a difference for the future of Oakwood. Don’t delay—make your gift today!

Make a secure gift online at: give.oakwood.edu, or call us at: 256-726-7201, to speak to a development associate.
“An Army, Rightly Trained” and On the Move
by Marcya Burden, Preston Foster and Amanda Ringer

Hat began in 1919, known then as simply “the History Department,” under the leadership of Dr. O.B. Edwards, the Department of History and Political Science celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. Subsequent leaders have been Dr. Clarence Barnes, Dr. Emmanuel Saunders, and Dr. Ciro Sepulveda. The current chair is Dr. Samuel London.

The department has grown from having only History majors to now having four degree programs: History, International Studies, Pre-Law, and Public Policy (formerly “Political Science”). The major in history has been revamped and now includes a greater variety of classes, and concentrations in Civil Rights History and Religious History have been added. Our students have been chartering new territory in the areas of legal advocacy, local government, policy research and public service, at the local and national levels.

On April 21, 2019, the Department held its Centennial Fundraiser Brunch, attended by current students and faculty, and alumni from around the world. During the occasion, Dr. Nigel Barham (faculty member for over 50 years), Dr. Giro Sepulveda (former Department Chair), and alumna Wayne Caines were honored as distinguished faculty and alumni.

The Public Policy program prepares students to enter the arena of policy, law, and advocacy as both effective practitioners and productive intellectuals. Students receive a framework for analyzing history and current events, exercising adaptive leadership, and interpreting the Adventist prophetic narrative. Through immersion in internships and engagement with Oakwood alumni from around the world, students gain knowledge of conscience and communicate the importance of the 3 angels’ messages in the halls of Congress and state-houses.

“We are training an army to defend our liberty of conscience and to advance our prophetic belief in the separation of church and state in the places where policy is made and interpreted,” says Preston Foster, Assistant Professor and Public Policy Program Director. “At each stop during a trip to Washington, D.C., we were met by Oakwood graduates who are currently in the law and policy arena, building a pipeline for other Oakwood graduates. We believe that, in contrast to other faith-based schools that advocate for the integration of church and state and put the rights of religious minorities (i.e., SDAs) at-risk, Oakwood trained attorneys, public servants, and history scholars must make the case for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience.”

ON THE MOVE

Oakwood students attend the annual National HBCU Pre-Law Summit, which fosters mentorship between current legal practitioners and future law students from historically black colleges and universities. Legal practitioners help Pre-Law students navigate through “unique issues, concerns and challenges” related to admission into, and matriculation through, law school, and professional life after law school. Students sit in a mock law class, network with students from other schools, and receive one-on-one admissions and preparation counseling.

The annual Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) forum is designed to help students successfully navigate through the law school admissions process. Students attend workshops, meet one-on-one with law school schools of their choice, receive advice on financing a law school education, and answers to their questions about the application process.

Out of the thousands in attendance at the 2019 LSAC Forum, graduating senior Courtney Garrett, Alabama native, veteran of the United States Army, and Pre-Law major at Oakwood, received on-the-spot admission to the University of Richmond School of Law. The admissions officers were highly impressed, and amazed at his professional disposition, knowledge of the law, and respectfulness.

During trips to Washington, D.C. Oakwood students visit with senior researchers at The Brookings Institution – the country’s pre-eminent public policy think tank; meet with OU alumni at Georgetown Law School and Howard Law School; and attend arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court. Students have attended private brieﬁngs with several inﬂuencers, including Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-CA); Senator Kirsten Hannon (Graduated 2018); Senator Kamala Harris; congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA); mentors at the American University School of Public Affairs and the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon; and attorney Asia Buchanan, the first African American SDA graduate of Harvard Law School and Director of the Public Defender’s Office in Washington D.C. Oakwood alumna Kamilah Gicombe Smith offered career opportunities at Deloitte Human Capital Partners.

Our students reap tangible benefits from these trips to the nation’s capital. Oakwood alumna Kamilah Gicombe Smith offered career opportunities at Deloitte Human Capital Partners. Congressman Swalwell offered a Congressional Internship to Anton Dormer, Jr., ‘18, who is attending George Washington University School of Law. The Brookings Institution created a separate channel for summer internships for up to five Oakwood students. Dr. Marcya Burden, Assistant Professor and Pre-Law Program Director, expanded the OU pipelines to Howard, American University, and Georgetown Law Schools. Finally, Deloitte offered internships to qualified students.

“These trips would not be possible without the commitment of Provost Colwick Wilson and Assistant Provost Karen Benn…”
Oakwood's student members of the Alabama SDEC: (l-r) Joseph Dye (junior), Gwinnelly Botá (senior), Olivia McDonald Finley of Madison, Alabama, and community leaders to Oakwood’s campus to foster relationships and to thank them for their service to the Huntsville and Madison County area.

Marshall. Their investment in our students will pay dividends, immediately, and for decades,” said department chair Dr. Samuel London. The Oakwood army is embedded in the nation’s capital and the halls of power and influence, for the glory of God, and we look forward to the many blessings God has in store for our program and our students.

Our students are gaining hands-on experience before graduation. Six Oakwoodites traveled to Montgomery for the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) meeting in November 2019. The SDEC is run by the Democratic National Executive Committee (SDEC) meeting in November 2019. The SDEC is run by the Democratic National Convention. Members of the SDEC play a vital role in Alabama politics, such as writing and approving bylaws, endorsing senate candidates, etc. As of November 1, Oakwoodites occupy six of the 210 member seats of the SDEC.

After submitting their Candidacy for Office forms, each student spoke to the current members of the SDEC Youth Caucus, sharing their contributions to the community and their policy priorities. At the conclusion of several hours of speeches from approximately 80 other competitors, Oakwood’s six candidates, each members of the OU-Founded United Collegiate Black Scholars (UCBS) organization, were voted into office. “This is a prime example of our students going beyond academics and directly into practice—at a very high level—while undergraduate students. Not only do they represent the interests of the Oakwood and larger communities, they also have distinguished themselves as leaders of their generation. They are in the arena,” said Foster, UCBS sponsor.

CLOSE TO HOME

On the local level, Mayor Paul Finley, of nearby Madison, Alabama, recently met with over 60 of Oakwood’s students, and explained the plans for the future of Madison, projecting that in a couple of years, the population of Huntsville will be over 600,000 people. He and Huntsville’s Mayor Tommy Battle are working together to enhance the educational systems of North Alabama.

The Pre-Law Program’s “Legal Practitioners of Huntsville” Mixer welcomes legal practitioners, politicians, non-profit administrators, and community leaders to Oakwood’s campus to foster relationships and to thank them for their service to the Huntsville and Madison County area.

Political Science major Ayo Lewis greets Mayor Paul Finley of Madison, Alabama.

Dr. Marcya Burden is the pre-law program coordinator, and assistant professor, Department of History & Political Science. Preston Foster is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Public Policy Program Director at Oakwood University. Amanda Ringer is Assistant Professor/History Coordinator.

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The Literacy Factory Annual Women’s Conference provides high quality hands-on collaborative experiences to educate, edify, and awaken women to make an eternal difference. In 2018, over 250 attendees participated in workshops ranging from women’s health, emotional intelligence, and how to support learners with special needs. The Literacy Factory aims to support the literacy needs of the community by providing intentional experiences that make an eternal difference.

The concept of the Literacy Factory was birthed from my childhood experience growing up in central Harlem in the ‘80s. I saw that many families needed individualized, intentional literacy support for their children, but were unable to pay a tutor or local educational afterschool support services. Simply embedding the basic tenets of true education makes the eternal difference of the Literacy Factory. We do this with absolutely no funding or financial support. Our resources are trained teacher candidates, retired teachers and volunteers.

This program is cooperatively managed to allow literacy program management experience. Student leaders can be creative in developing the program. Evidence based instruction is applied through skills they have learned in their reading courses.

by Dr. Dana Wilchcombe

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CFC Code: #96964
give.oakwood.edu/cfc-campaign/

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Combined Federal Campaign

#96964

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Oakwood University CFC Code: #96964
Oakwoodites Serve in Mission Field: Guatemala

A team of 13 courageous Oakwoodites departed from Huntsville this past May to serve during a 10-day mission trip to Guatemala. Led by Chaplain Andrew Pileggi and Dr. Eva Wheeler, the team included seven OU students and four professionals from local Huntsville churches. The primary focus of this trip was to provide free medical and dental services to residents of rural areas in the region of Petén, Guatemala. Dr. Marcus Moss, ‘08, worked alongside our students providing free tooth extractions. Other students conducted intake screenings, recorded blood pressure measurements, and filled prescriptions. Dr. Elden Lopez, director of God’s Helping Hands, was assisted by Dr. Diaz, who also works with God’s Helping Hands. At the registration table, Chaplain Pileggi and Dr. Wheeler counted an average of 90 patients seen per day. The days were hot, and the lines were long, and the team was amazed by the patience of those they served. The residents never complained about how long they had to wait, they never raised their voices, and were more than understanding when the team had to leave at the end of the day, even though it meant some would not be able to see one of the doctors or the dentist. In addition to providing medical and dental care, the team also visited an orphanage, a senior citizens’ home and a local elementary school. At each location they interacted with the residents by singing, leading art/crafts activities, and sharing short devotional thoughts. One of the more impactful and life-changing activities was giving food out to the homeless. The team distributed 50 meals to the families. Some of the team members were so impacted that they decided to return with more food, clothing and toys for the children. The team traveled to an actual landfill, where families lived in makeshift tents and would scour the trash every day looking for items that could be sold, or food that was still edible. It was a sobering scene: women holding infants, a pungent stench filling the air, mosquitos swarming around each person, trash burning, and entire families scouring piles of trash. The team distributed 50 meals to the families. Some of the team members were so impacted that they decided to return with more food, clothing and toys for the children. The entire team loved the experience and many vowed to return the following year. It was a mission trip that included various opportunities for ministry, service learning, an excursion to the Mayan ruins of Tikal, and plenty of good food and fellowship.

Andrew Pileggi is the Senior Chaplain at Oakwood University.
A Special Thanks for Giving

n behalf of President Leslie N. Pollard, administration, faculty, staff, and friends—thank you! Thank you for supporting Oakwood University and our students by supporting the 2018-2019 Annual Giving Campaign. All fiscal years, the Annual Giving Campaign includes gifts received in the Advance Accounted in the last $1.3 million grant. Because of your sacrificial philanthropy, you gave over $1.3 million gifts at the Annual Giving Campaign, it impacts the lives of students by supporting programs, scholarships, capital projects, and other opportunities for a quality education now and for future generations.

Oakwood University gratefully acknowledges the following alumni, parents, students, employees, and friends for your generous contributions. Your gifts at all levels are valued and deeply appreciated and make a difference in the advancement of Oakwood University. May God continue to bless you, your family and your service for others.

A Special Thanks for Giving

\[ Oakwood Magazine | WINTER 2020 | Oakwood University \]
WALKING NEAR HIS OFFICE in Bermuda earlier this year, Dr. Stanley James, 64, felt the Lord say to him, “Why are you paying money to keep the grass down, when you can pay that money to bring food up?”

James was shown that the plot of grass would become a platform for sharing the message of healing. “When we look at those who are sick in Bermuda, most of that population don’t have the finances to get food that is fresh and nutrient-dense,” he said.

In September, he employed 12 volunteers to till, seed and tend a plot of vegetables to his senior patients. “The idea was literally around the garden at his practice, Premier Health and Wellness Centre,” James said. “It wasn’t me,” says James in response to the buzz collard greens and other vegetables.

“We believe that Dr. James’ serving fresh vegetables into the mix of treating illness is showing his patients ‘how to make healthy choices’,” James said. “I would have my patients ‘show and tell’ about Christ’s method of healing of ‘collard greens’ of the Bible.”

He takes his patients outside and walks them through the garden. They tell him stories of when they used to garden, and how, maybe, they can garden again.

“I have seen patients who have been very grateful. Our core philosophy is not prescriptions and pills and, hopefully, we can give people lifestyle practices that can maintain or reverse diseases,” he said.

“I would have my patients ‘show and tell’ the message of healing. ‘When we look at those who are sick in Bermuda, most of that population don’t have the finances to get food that is fresh and nutrient-dense,’ he said.”

“This wasn’t me,” says James in response to the buzz around the garden at his practice, Premier Health and Wellness Centre, and the initiative of giving free organic vegetables to his senior patients. “The idea was literally God-inspired!”

Food is our first medicine, and nutrition is the foundation of healing. ‘Show and tell’ was Christ’s method of teaching and healing. He takes his patients outside and walks them through the garden. They tell him stories of when they used to garden, and how, maybe, they can garden again.

James sees his patients ‘have been very grateful. Our core philosophy is not prescriptions and pills and, hopefully, we can give people lifestyle practices that can maintain or reverse diseases.’

“I was incredibly satisfying to see the smile on the face of a senior today when I handed him some vegetables,” James said. “When I told her it was free, she looked at me twice and shook her head. She could not believe it.”

“I believe that Dr. James’ serving fresh vegetables to his patients exemplifies the spirit of Beyond the Oaks, an Office of Alumni Relations Engagement Initiative that encourages all Oakwood alumni and friends to serve, as our motto states “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.”

BEYOND THE OAKS

Walking near his office in Bermuda earlier this year, Dr. Stanley James, 64, felt the Lord say to him, “Why are you paying money to keep the grass down, when you can pay that money to bring food up?” James was shown that the plot of grass would become a platform for sharing the message of healing. “When we look at those who are sick in Bermuda, most of that population don’t have the finances to get food that is fresh and nutrient-dense,” he said.

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Food is our first medicine, and nutrition is the foun-
Dr. Lloyd Benjamin Mallory, ’89, is the new choral director and assistant professor of music at Kentucky State University, in Frankfort, Kentucky. He most recently served as director of choral activities and associate professor at Delaware State University. Mallory has also held positions in music at Lincoln University, Pine Forge Academy, Oakwood University, Howard University, Sigo Church, Duke Elliotting School for the Arts and Clark Atlanta University. Mallory earned a doctorate of musical arts at the University of California at Los Angeles, earned postgraduate studies at Morgan State University, Marywood University and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, earned a master’s in music at Morgan State University and a bachelor’s at Oakwood University.

With the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, Stanton Reed, ’85, business and accounting professor at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida, has assumed the role of Collegewide Faculty Association president at Valencia.

Perkins will hold the position of superintendent until at least 2022. Eventually rose to the ranks of supervisor of instruction over the district. It’s a mission for me and I enjoy it,” he said. He’s no stranger to Madison County Schools; he was hired as an elementary teacher 17 years ago and has been named the Washoe County School District Certified Employee of the Year. Hall, who has spent the past 17 years teaching physical education and coaching for the past 10 years. A 2010 graduate from Oakwood University with a bachelor’s in Physical Education, Broome has always pursued excellence. During his time in education, he established weight training programs and as a coach, he worked as a personal trainer developing skills and fitness for the sports programs he oversaw. Broome has extensive experience working with different sports camps, working five summers with the Miami Heat, winning four gold medals in the world. From Ferguson and Baltimore, to Australia. He currently serves as a Trial Analyst and a litigator. Brown has distinguished himself as a top trial lawyer. During his time in education, he always pursued excellence. He began his career as an associate public defender in 2005. After more than a decade of handling complex and high-profile criminal and civil cases, he has distinguished himself as a top trial lawyer. Brown has provided legal analysis in numerous televised appearances, and has been called on as a voice of reason to speak on events that have sent shockwaves through the world, from Ferguson and Baltimore, to Australia. He currently serves as a Trial Analyst for the internationally distributed Law Crime Network. Brown was recently recognized during Black History Month 2019 as one of 100 Famous African-Americans and Seventh-day Adventists in Spectrum Magazine.

With all of the notable and distinguished achievements that Attorney Brown has achieved, he’s most proud of being a devoted husband to his wife, Loyota K. Brown, Esq., and a father to their two children, Aria and Andell II.
We invite you to make a difference in the lives of these 17 young men. To finish this semester strong, $77,000 is needed. Invest in this scholarship fund by making a donation today at give.oakwood.edu (select the Carvell Goodlow Caught Up Memorial Scholarship from the dropdown menu).

Carvell Goodlow was part of the Caught Up Mentoring Program established by Toson Knight, ’13, of Detroit, Michigan. Carvell enrolled at Oakwood University as a freshman in 2017, but tragically lost his life on September 16, 2018. Carvell’s words shared at the memorial service held at Oakwood University so touched a donor’s heart that she decided to establish a scholarship in his name, to commemorate his life and continue his legacy. This scholarship will be awarded to Caught Up Alumni who matriculate through Oakwood University. It is the donor’s desire to assist the 17 remaining male students, and future Caught Up Alumni who choose to attend Oakwood, to complete their college degree.

For more information, contact Miriam Battles: 256.726.7500

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TO SHINE BY NIGHT

The other evening, I walked out onto my balcony into the cold of night. I looked up into the crystal-clear sky and took in the beautiful scene. The stars glittered like diamonds against the backdrop of space, and there in the midst of the sky was the brightest object—the moon.

While I gazed, I began to realize that this celestial night-light has often been credited with lighting up the darkness of the evening. In all truth, the moon emits no light of its own. It does not have the power or the resource to generate this type of energy. Quite simply, the moon is a mass of craters and rock covered with dust. Man has touched down on the moon and kicked up the dust that covers the whole landscape. The light we attribute to the moon actually comes from the sun. The sun is that celestial body of solar energy that is responsible for radiating light and heat. There is nothing about the moon that is worthy of any glory.

One of the primary purposes of the moon is its ability to reflect. The light of the moon that is visible to us is directly proportionate to how much of it is exposed to the sun. If the moon is directly exposed to the sun’s light, it shines fully and brightly. If something cuts off any part of that light, only part of the moon is visible. You can witness the effects of this principle during a lunar eclipse. The Earth moves into the path between the sun and the moon, the sun’s light is interrupted and the moon has nothing to reflect. Without exposure to the sun, the moon loses one of its primary functions.

It began to dawn on me that one of our best qualities as humans is our ability to reflect. There is no glory in anything we are or feel we are able to do. The Bible says that all of our righteousness is equivalent to a stack of soiled rags (Isaiah 64:6). The best we feel we can offer is about as worthless as the dust on the moon’s surface. Most importantly, the extent of our effectiveness on this earth is proportionate to our exposure to the character of God in our lives. The more of God’s light we expose ourselves to, the brighter our lives shine in this dark world. Consequently, when we allow some body, some object or some circumstance to eclipse the divine light that shines on us, our true purpose is veiled in the resulting darkness. As long as the Light is interrupted, our purpose remains in the shadows. In fact, when we are fully exposed to God, His glory illuminates our experiences so brightly, that people can mistakenly attribute His light to us.

It is the job of the Son of God to shine. It is our job to reflect His light. When we do what we are called to do, we transfer the greatest glory to the darkest of situations: The moon does its best job at night. It was created for dark situations. We were created to reflect that light in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. So, understand that the circumstance itself doesn’t matter so much as what we are to be in that circumstance...a light; but, your responsibility is not even to generate light. You cannot. That is not in your nature. That is God’s responsibility. All you need is Full exposure, so you can reflect.

Go Deeper: Isaiah 60:19, II Corinthians 4:3-6

what do you do while taking a breathing exercise from teaching and administrative assignments? This past fall semester of 2019-20, I found myself “taking it easy” for the first time in several decades, and set my sail for bon voyage over quiet waters. Dreams of sailing the seven seas did not materialize, but I did do a bit of mental deep-sea diving and reflection about my Oakwood experience and “what hath God wrought!”

On the one hand, the joy of classroom teaching and student interaction occupied my thoughts. On the other, my reflection took more the path of past Oakwood administrative responsibilities and my rare privilege of personal and official connection with the last nine successive presidents of Oakwood—Frank L. Peterson to Leslie N. Pollard. I re-lived our association together and recapitulated their preceding (personalities and patterns, procedures and programs) displayed through their valiant leadership. Running the tape or downloading images of my moments, days, and years spent with these renaissance men gave me the distinct sense of having fertilized a bit of each of them within my soul.

INSPIRING LEADERS

I was an inspired student of ♂ Frank L. Peterson in the 1950s, and graduated under ♂ Garland J. Millet, who later invited me back to teach in the Religion Department immediately following Seminary graduation in the early 1960s. I continued teaching during the ♂ Addison V. Pinkney years before taking leave for doctoral studies in the mid-1960s. I returned to teach religion the second time when invited by ♂ Frank W. Hale, Jr., after my three-year leave for PhD studies and church pastoring which included ordination to ministry. He also appointed me chair of the Religion Department. I was called into the ranks of administration in the 1970s by ♂ Calvin B. Rock as General VP (subsuming Academic Affairs and Student Affairs), VP Academic Affairs, and Assistant to the President; continued as Assistant to the President during the interim Presidency of ♂ Emerson A. Cooper; and remained for a period as Assistant to the President for ♂ Benjamin F. Reaves before returning to teach religion in 1985 for the third time and chair the department for the second period. I was called by the Board of Trustees to the new position of Provost and Senior Vice President (2002-2010) during the administration of ♂ Delbert W. Baker. While serving in the position of Interim President between Baker and ♂ Leslie N. Pollard, I was dispatched by the Board of Trustees (as board secretary) to deliver its invitation to Pollard to accept the Oakwood presidency. As the Interim President, I assisted in officially welcoming the Pollards to the campus, introduced him to the faculty, staff, students, and the President’s Council, and spent a period of presidential orientation time, acquainting him with matters of institutional organization, personnel, budget, mission, student enrollment, and the general state of the ship.

Because of extensive and diverse leadership from Oakwood presidents, I once thought of writing a playful caricature book about my presidential associates entitled “The Animal Planet.” Obviously, this lighthearted spoof of each president, unidentified, would similarly suggest the particular animal most nearly reflect his leadership style. (Viz., wise owl, tricky fox, chest thumping gorilla, sly serpent, roaring lion, frugal squirrel, etc.) If I had pursued that path, the animal-leaders would be non-sequential and shuffled about in order to conceal their true identity, thus leaving the reader to guess “who’s who”—all in fun. However, I was unable to convince myself that this parade of animals would not be accepted for the innocent Lambert narrative it intended to be. Instead I wrote a book entitled: Sprucing The Tree (Saga of Oakwood University Presidents: 1896 - 2010), Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2015. Maybe you have seen it.

LEADERSHIP PERSONALITY

Leadership theory claims that institutions take on the personality of their leaders. To whatever degree this is true or not, one thing for sure: the trend of how a president performs duties does paint a portrait of his/her style and maybe even his/her character while also shaping the culture of the institution. On a deeper level, the experience of presiding over an institution can serve the “I” of God for salvific purposes in the personal life of the lead administrator if he/she perceives challenges as instruments of character development. Check out the section on “Leadership” in Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, 494, where Ellen White counsels leaders that “All the difficulties, the backsets, the hardships, and the disappointments which God’s servants will meet in active labor will only strengthen them in the formation of correct characters. By putting their own energies and minds to use, the obstacles they meet will prove to them positive blessings. They will gain mental and spiritual muscle to be used upon important occasions with the very best results.”

While we gladly appreciate variety as a beautiful hallmark of God’s grand creation, science teaches us that exact duplicates do not exist among His originals (no two blades of grass or flakes of snow are exactly alike, not even so-called identical twins). That same principle of unique identity mirrors a truth among Oakwood presidents. Each one embodies a special personality all his own while similarities among them as lead-administrators occasionally appear. What would happen, however, if we could bundle, capsize, or melt these nine (or ten) personalities into one entity that represents their individual specialized precedents, patterns, and profiles? Like the United States’ national motto—e pluribus unum—out of many, one, the distinctive standout leadership quality from each of the stated ten Oakwood presidents contributes to one perceived “prototype” if not idealized picture of what a university leader looks like. Through my lenses, I see a stream of Christian education lead administrators whom I respectfully characterize accordingly: Peterson the Inspire; Millet the Energizer; Pinkney the Conciliator; Hale the Administrator; Rock the Leaders; Cooper the Educator; Reaves the Articulator; Baker the Initiator; Warren the Mediator; and Pollard the Facilitator.

Men and women of destiny (including leaders to come), listen to the wisdom of Divine inspiration: “Press in the right direction, . . . solidly, intelligently. Then circumstances will be your helpers and not your hindrances. Make a beginning. The oak is in the acorn.” (Ellen G. White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 6, p. 145)
I came to Oakwood University with high hopes and great expectations for my college experience. I knew I could go anywhere and do anything with the education afforded me. But in my freshmen year I found myself getting slightly off task during study hours or sleeping in when I had an 8 am class (not uncommon for first year students, but not advised).

Upon my return home for holiday break my grades were there to greet me. It was a sobering moment. What I read did not truly reflect who I was. However, it was a true reflection of my efforts. I hadn't given it my all. I hadn't even given half of what I was capable of, but I then decided that the rest of my journey would be very different. I significantly increased my level of engagement in curricular and co-curricular activities and I never reverted to my old ways (by God’s grace). Upon graduation I was accepted to the country’s #1 school of communications for graduate studies. From that experience I learned my story will only reflect my true contributions.

I learned my story will only reflect my true contributions.

I share with you my conviction that the world should know about the achievements of OU students, employees and my fellow alums. I celebrate each victorious moment when a business is started, awards are won, scholarly articles are published, every graduate school graduation and the birth of a child. Let’s stop sleeping in! We are a community of high achievers, go getters and innovators. There is a community of Oakwoodites anticipating a great report from us. Whatever it is, I encourage you to lay it all out there; knowledge, time, influence, money... dedicate it to God and it will be great. Your contributions inspire and empower others to experience their own personal, academic, or professional victories.

I pray my actions are in-line with God’s will and that each day, in some small way, are moving the university forward and encouraging others. Every evening I exit campus headed home proud I gave all I had to give.

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