

OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

“Whatever we do, or whatever our alums accomplish, character is the only possession that we can take to the kingdom”.

120

FACES OF OAKWOOD

Welcome Home Alumni!



OAKWOOD MAGAZINE

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OAKWOOD MAGAZINE is published by the Office of Integrated Marketing & Public Relations, Oakwood University.

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www.oakwoodmagazine.com

OAKWOOD MAGAZINE is the official journal of Oakwood University.

www.oakwood.edu

Printing & distribution: **College Press**
4981 Industrial Dr, Collegedale, TN 37315
(423) 396-2164 | www.cplitho.com



SPECIAL THANKS

The spirit of service, ministry and collaboration is evident on this campus every day, through the dedicated staff who make things happen. For this issue of Oakwood Magazine, special thanks go to the editorial team in the Division of Advancement & Development: Debbe Millet, Ron J. Pride, Kisha Norris, Kenn Dixon, Richard Hodnett, and Anthony Chornes II, and to Odalys Miranda in the Archives, and Paulette McLean Johnson, at the Eva B. Dykes Library, who have helped us present "120 Faces of Oakwood."

A Message:



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA

120 Faces of Oakwood

Something good is always happening at Oakwood University.

When I think of all the favor that has been showered on our institution, any number of initiatives or breakthroughs or blessings could be reported. We could have used this issue to tell you about the rebirth of Oakwood Farms, or the exciting new plans for the Office of Spiritual Life and Missions. We could have shared reports about the fascinating research in which our faculty are engaged. We could have featured the growth in our grants and contracts area or how God has blessed “our dear Oakwood” with the unusually dedicated student body revealed in our LifeCore research, or that the Aeolians were accepted into the rarefied and distinguished Llangollen International Eisteddfod Choral Festival and will be traveling to Wales in the summer of 2017 to compete in the “Choir of the World” competition. I could even tell you about my recent visit to the White House, and what it was like to stand in the Oval Office in the effort to secure resources for Oakwood University. All or any of these would make great stories for this issue.

However, thousands of graduates and alumni mean that Oakwood appears in thousands of places in thousands of faces. Thus, the editors and I decided to take this opportunity to pause and recognize the influence that our fellow Oakwoodites exerted while they were here on campus, or the impact they made in the world after leaving our institution. Our motto, “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve” reminds us of the calling and purpose of an Oakwood education. Since our founding, our graduates have radiated influence over and across so many spaces and places that the list of contributions by our alums would be inexhaustible. This current list of 120 is in honor of our 120 years of service. There will be more editions to follow of what I am calling “Impact 120.”

All of the nominees personify the second half of Oakwood’s motto, “Depart to Serve.”

Our guiding challenge at Oakwood is that “We will make plans that are destined to fail, except God intervene.” Of the thousands of students and employees who have blessed Oakwood over its first



120 years of existence, you have submitted the names included in this inaugural edition of our “Impact 120.” We realize that the list could have gone on and on, because there are so many Oakwoodites to choose from—in all fields of endeavor: ministry, medicine, judiciary, the arts, sports, community service. All of the nominees personify the second half of Oakwood’s motto, “Depart to Serve.”

The most influential Person any one of us could encounter at Oakwood, however, is Jesus Christ. In fact, that is our mission—to introduce our students to Him, and model His example.

Edward R Murrow once said, “To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; to be credible we must be truthful.” Mr. Murrow is speaking to the issue of character. And the foundation of our Oakwood education is character. Whatever we do, or whatever our alums accomplish, character is the only possession that we can take to the kingdom. Be inspired as you survey these 120 faces of Oakwood! 🙏

Yours in Service,





CYNTHIA C. ADAMS – In January, 2017, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal appointed the Honorable Cynthia C. Adams as Superior Court Judge of the Douglas Judicial Circuit. She earned a bachelor's degree from Oakwood College and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. Adams and her husband have two children and reside in Douglasville.



KENNETH ANDERSON is a nationally certified mental health counselor, and is president of Maximum Life Enhancement, a business management and educational consulting firm specializing in leadership and employee development training. He was appointed Multicultural Affairs Officer for the City of Huntsville, and acts as a bridge between the municipal government and the community on issues related to gender, faith, race and ethnicity, disability and more. Since 1990, he has been the host/producer of "2nd Chance," a weekly radio talk show on WJOU 90.1 FM.



BENJAMIN BAKER is nominated for his work in spreading the knowledge of Black Seventh-day Adventist history, through his website blacksdahistory.org, and other publications and projects. He is currently the managing editor of the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists. He is the second son of former Oakwood president Delbert Baker, and graduated from Oakwood in 2001. Benjamin went on to earn a Ph.D. degree in 2010 from Howard University.



DELBERT W. BAKER served as president of Oakwood University, 1996-2010. He completed marathons on every continent to raise more than \$500,000 for Oakwood's scholarship endowment. During his administration, Oakwood was consistently listed as a best college in U.S. News & World Report. Oakwood's land holdings increased, existing buildings were renovated, and construction projects were completed, including the McKee Business and Technology Complex and Holland Hall. The Oakwood Memorial Gardens cemetery was established during his tenure. He currently serves as the vice chancellor at Adventist University of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.



The four years that **NATHAN L. ANDERSON** spent at Oakwood proved to be a personally satisfying journey of academic achievement, spiritual growth, social and professional development, and musical excellence. He was a key band member for Dynamic Praise, and a composer/arranger /accompanist for numerous vocalists. During his nearly 26 years of life, Nathan touched people's lives in positive ways, directly and indirectly, in many different venues. The Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc., was established by his parents in memory of this professional, officer and gentleman.



WARREN BANFIELD, SR., retired minister and civil rights activist, began his career as an intern pastor in the South Atlantic Conference. He was elected president of that conference in 1962, and served in that position until 1971, when he accepted the call to be associate secretary of the Southern Union Conference. From 1975 to 1978, he served as associate director of the Office of Regional Affairs at the General Conference, followed by 11 years of service as director of the North American Division's Office of Human Relations. He retired in 1989.



SETH T. BARDU was born in Monrovia, Liberia, is an ordained minister, and has almost 30 years experience in finance-related denominational service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He began his career in the South Central Conference, and currently serves as treasurer of the Columbia Union Conference. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Oakwood University, and an MBA from Andrews University. Seth wants to do whatever he can to help our church accomplish its mission so we can "finish the work of the gospel and go to our Heavenly home."



Dr. **SYLVIA BARNES**—Professor or preacher? To many Oakwood students in the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Sylvia Barnes probably was a bit of both. In her basement-level classroom in Moran Hall, Dr. Barnes could be heard instructing her students on the finer points of proper English in melodious tones. But when she occasionally stepped into the pulpit of the Oakwood College Church, she would deliver charismatic sermons with dramatic precision. No matter where she was on campus, Dr. Sylvia Barnes was always one of God's trombones.



TIMEKEE D. BATTLE, Ph.D., has made significant contributions in the Washington, D.C., area, advocating for Christian education, hospitality, community service, and charitable giving with young girls and women who seek to understand and experience God's purpose for them. She facilitates the Women of Excellence (WE), a forum to empower, motivate and encourage each other. Another of her projects, WE WORK, is a resource for Christian working women to provide relevant information to enhance their professional development from a spiritual perspective.



JAMES I. BEARDSLEY, president of Oakwood Junior College from 1917 to 1923, was described as “a man with a certain grace with words.” He possessed communication skills which influenced the more comprehensive coverage of the college bulletin. While bulletins of previous years were adequate and well prepared, the Beardsley years produced a caliber of school catalogs that seemed to announce via their new and improved format and material a definite transition from secondary and special training to full-fledged junior college status. Also, the first graduation exercises were held during this era.



BERNARD BENN spent most of his life teaching, from high school to graduate school. He served as a high school principal, college professor, chairman of the Department of English, Communications, Foreign Languages and Art at Oakwood, and as a college president.



Dr. **BARRY C. BLACK** was elected the 62nd Chaplain of the United States Senate in 2003, the first African American and the first Seventh-day Adventist to hold this office. Prior to Capitol Hill, Chaplain Black served in the U.S. Navy for over 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the Chief of Navy Chaplains. Chaplain Black is an alumnus of Oakwood College, and has earned Master of Arts degrees in Divinity, Counseling, and Management, and he has received a doctoral degree in Ministry and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology. In 2006 he authored his autobiography entitled, *From the Hood to the Hill* and in 2011 *The Blessing of Adversity*.



Dr. **DONALD BLAKE** is a Korean War veteran, and a noted Civil Rights activist. He is credited with integrating Adventist higher education when he accepted the position as a faculty member at Walla Walla College Department of Biological Sciences from 1962 to 1969. He also taught at Oakwood College, University of Rhode Island, Ohio State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Southern Illinois University, University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, and University of Hartford. Blake also held administrative and leadership positions in higher education and corporate America. The Donald Blake Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture at Walla Walla University is named in his honor.



As a baby, **FRANCES ELIZABETH BLAKE** had the distinction of having been held in the arms of Ellen G. White. From 1945 to 1947, Frances taught English and Bible, and served as Dean of Women at Oakwood. After years of service at Pine Forge Academy, she returned to Oakwood and taught English in the inner college program (then called the Center for Academic Advancement). By the time of her retirement in 1973, a number of students lovingly referred to her as “Mom.”



LOTTIE CORNELLA ISABELL BLAKE's zeal to become a missionary nurse led her to Battle Creek, Michigan, where Dr. John Harvey Kellogg encouraged her to pursue the medical course. Her first missionary experience was in the South where she labored as director of the Rock City Sanitarium at Nashville, Tennessee (forerunner of Riverside Hospital & Sanitarium). She was also a practicing physician in Birmingham, Alabama. During this time, she made frequent trips to Huntsville's Oakwood Manual Training School, now Oakwood University, to serve where she was needed.



FRANCIS BLISS joined the faculty at Oakwood College in 1974, and determinedly pursued her Ph.D. in Education. She rose through the ranks to full professor and ultimately Chairperson of the Education Department. She had a passion for Seventh-day Adventist Christian education and continued to work for the success of teachers and schools well past her formal retirement.



MARY INEZ LANG BOOTH arrived at Oakwood Junior College in 1939. Her professional career at Oakwood extended over 44 years in various capacities, including dean of women, teacher, advisor, and chairman of the Music Department for 29 years. Mrs. Booth also served the Oakwood College Church as organist for many years. A mother figure to many, she was also well known for her role in Oakwood's prison ministry, fondly called "jail band," as described in her book *Forty Years Behind Bars*. An honorary doctorate was awarded to Mrs. Booth, during the 2010 Oakwood University Commencement ceremony.



CHARLES E. BRADFORD – fondly known as "Brad" – served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in pastoral ministry and leadership throughout North America. In 1978, the faculty of Andrews University conferred on him the Doctor of Divinity degree. A year later, Brad was elected President of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. In 1992, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and Scholars at Morehouse College. The Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center at Oakwood University is named in his honor.



As a student custodian in Edwards Hall, **TABARI BRANNON** did his job as if he was getting paid a million bucks! While at Oakwood, he was in Voices of Triumph, NAPS, and was a literature evangelist. Now, Brannon is a co-founder of a startup company that helps community members with technology and business. Brannon and his wife Judith live in Bakersfield, California.



After graduating from Oakwood College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Education in 1999, **RONALD BRISÉ** taught at Miami Union Academy for five years. He then went on to earn two MBA degrees in Marketing and Management from American Intercontinental University. Brisé is a faithful member and an elder of the Tabernacle SDA Church, and is a member of several professional and civic organizations. Brisé serves as a Commissioner for the Florida Public Service Commission. He previously served as Florida State Representative of District 108.



As he studied theology at Oakwood College, **CHARLES DECATUR (C.D.) BROOKS** paid his way through school by milking cows at the school's dairy farm. He spearheaded the construction of the Bell Tower, edited the Acorn, and was a member of the class of 1951. He served as Field Secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and as speaker-director of Breath of Life for 23 years. In 2007 in honor of E.E. Cleveland, Charles Bradford, and C.D. Brooks, the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center (BCBLC) was established at Oakwood University.



In 2004, **ANGELA BROWN** emerged from the wings, after years as an understudy in countless productions, to center stage at New York's Metropolitan Opera, transformed the role of Aida into her very own, and instantly won the acclaim of critics and audiences alike. While opera is the main catalyst for her career, Angela's performance experience includes everything from star hostess on stage to producer and creator of "Opera... from a Sistah's Point of View," a show that brings opera to the masses in the form of an edgy, yet educational, concert presentation. Brown received her Bachelor of Music degree in voice from Oakwood University, where she studied with Ginger Beazley.



GINA SPIVEY BROWN, Ph.D., currently serves as the Dean of the School of Nursing at Howard University. In her short tenure there, she has led the faculty in restoring the program to much of its former glory. When she chaired the nursing program at Columbia Union College, it had some of its greatest success in terms of students passing the state board exams. She has traveled the world consulting with nursing educators on how to strengthen programs, and she is always willing to assist.



MILTON BROWN, Ph.D., MD, is the Director of the Drug Development Program for the Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is a tenured faculty member in at least eight departments and several of these are endowed. He has published more than 150 scientific articles in respected scientific journals and given more than 200 presentations all over the world. In 2015, he was awarded the Percy Julian award in chemistry for his work.



Dr. **JANICE JOHNSON BROWNE** is a graduate of Oakwood University with a B.S. in Psychology and Sociology; Alabama A & M University with a M.S. in Clinical Psychology; and Andrews University with a Ph.D. in Leadership. Janice is an international speaker who shares the good news of Jesus Christ, and presents workshops on a variety of topics. She is a vocal soloist, poet, author, clinical therapist, a university educator, and a general civil mediator approved by the Supreme Court of Tennessee. She is Founder and CEO of a charity for displaced Ethiopian women and children.



The 1953 Acorn was dedicated to "one through her friendly manners, high standards, charm of personality, understanding, and sincere devotion has won an irreplaceable spot in the hearts of all." Miss **NATELLKA E. BURRELL** rendered untiring services to the cause of learning at Oakwood College. The lives of her students were enriched and inspired by the profoundness of her instruction and the warmth of her friendship and love. Students were led into deep recesses of knowledge and led into a closer relationship with their Maker. Burrell Hall is named in her honor.



Dr. **CARLTON P. BYRD** has been tremendously blessed because of his dedication to God's purpose, his love for God's people, his unstoppable work ethic and passion for excellence during his 23 years of pastoral leadership. His relationship with God compels him to dream big. While at Oakwood, he served as the USM Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and President, obtained dual bachelor degrees in theology and business, and graduated *summa cum laude* in 1994. Currently, he serves as the Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church and the Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Ministry. He also annually conducts two evangelistic meetings outside of his home church, and teaches part-time in Oakwood's Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership program.



BESSIE WILLIE CORDELIA CARTER served as a dietitian for Oakwood College. She and her husband committed themselves to helping students obtain their education. Their spirit of generosity helped many students attend Oakwood. Bessie Carter Hall is named in her honor.



Dr. **EDWARD C. CARTWRIGHT**, the first Oakwood graduate to attend an Ivy League medical school, has made an immeasurable impact as a trailblazer at Yale University's School of Medicine and later as a teaching physician. In private practice in Southeast Washington, DC, he often provided free medical care to hundreds of people. At Kaiser Permanente, he set the foundation in not only training young doctors, but establishing high standards for his interns, and has won numerous professional awards. He is now retired and resides with his wife and family in Hyattsville, Maryland.



During the 27 years that **ROENGSACK CARTWRIGHT** served Oakwood University's Information Technology Department, significant accomplishments included a strategic five-year plan for IT initiatives, an Enterprise Resource Planning management system migration, virtual desktop implementation, Microsoft Office 365 deployment, and a campus-wide fiber optics backbone installation. Roengsak's many achievements, arising from his dedication to excellence and collaboration with others, led Oakwood University to initiate the Roengsak Cartwright Student Technician Award to be given annually in honor of his legacy of service.



Scores of Oakwood students over the decades recognize Mrs. **BOONTANG CARTWRIGHT**, a quiet woman at the cash register at either the College Market, or the Student Dining Hall in Blake Center, as an “institution within the institution” of Oakwood University. She and her family arrived in Huntsville in 1973. Mrs. Cartwright always encouraged students and employees with her smile, her hugs for her “angels” and her prayers. Also, with the help of students’ nickels, dimes and quarters collected at jars near her register, she funded several building projects in the country of Thailand where she was born.



DANNY R. CHANDLER has tirelessly committed to raising funds for students from Mississippi to attend Oakwood. Since the early 2000s numerous students have benefitted from his efforts, and more are graduating every year. Partnering with Oakwood's Division of Advancement & Development, he has created a foundation and has been instrumental in the remodeling the Math Department and the Child Development Lab. He continues to raise funds for the University's projects and encourages countless alumni to give back to Oakwood.



CHARLES L. CHEATHAM, a third generation Seventh-day Adventist employee, is a product of Christian education, having attended Baltimore Jr. Academy, Pine Forge Academy, Oakwood College and Andrews University. He has been a pastor/evangelist, served as Public Relations and Development Director at Pine Forge Academy, secretary and president of the Allegheny East Conference. Elder Cheatham has traveled extensively conducting team evangelistic meetings.



EDWARD EARL CLEVELAND's connection with Oakwood dated from the 1950s, when he began visiting the campus to conduct short seminars in evangelistic methods. This long association became the inspiration for the Evangelism Council, begun in 1981. This weekend of seminars has grown to become the Pastoral and Evangelism Leadership Conference (PELC). Many honors came in his later years, but the greatest possibly was the establishment of the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center at Oakwood University. Here, along with these other two giants of the church, Earl and what he lived for will be preserved for future church leaders.



EMERSON A. COOPER, interim president, Oakwood College - 8/85-12/85 -- Over the course of his decades-long and fruitful career of service to Oakwood, Dr. Cooper was blessed to receive many awards and accolades, including Oakwood University's naming the Cooper Science Complex in his honor. Primarily because of his visionary leadership and outstanding contributions across the entire educational spectrum at Oakwood, the institution has, since the 1980s, ranked among the top 10 to 20 colleges and universities in the nation in sending Black students to medical and dental school.



H. SHERMAN COX came to Oakwood College in 1985 to direct the financial development office, served as the College Chaplain, and as Director of the Office of Alumni Affairs, admirably coordinated the annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend from 1987 to 1991. Dr. Cox also served in the Division of Advancement and Development, helping to raise funds for student scholarships. His knowledge, sense of humor, energy, perseverance and his warm smile will always be fondly cherished. The Sherman Cox Scholarship Endowment has been established in his honor of his leadership, professionalism, integrity, and love of young people.



CARMELA MONK CRAWFORD was the president of the class of 1987. She now edits *Message Magazine*, believed to be world's oldest continually published religious magazine aimed primarily at the African-American audience. She juggles leadership at the magazine with being the mother of three, a member of the Oakwood Board of Trustees, and being active in her church. She believes that God is guiding this process. She said that the magazine brings together two of her passions: helping people nurture the life God has planned for them and also spreading the good news of God's love in the world.



Arriving at Oakwood Manual Training School in 1912 with the intent to take a two-year Bible course, Mother **EUGENIA ISABEL CARTWRIGHT CUNNINGHAM** served Oakwood for the next 50 years in various capacities, including matron in the dining room, superintendent of the orphanage, dean of women, dean of men, manager of the college laundry and of the college store. She also taught Bible and domestic science from 1915 to 1934, and was an inspiration to generations of Oakwood students. Originally built as a women's residence hall, Cunningham Hall is named in her honor.



EDNA SIMS DAILEY began working at Oakwood in 1972. She has worked in the Food Service Department as a server, cashier and assistant cook, and moved on to become Oakwood's first full-time Switchboard Operator, becoming the "voice" of Oakwood. In 1988, she became the Telecommunications Supervisor and the PBX Programmer.



The name **GINO D'ANDRADE** is forever linked with "Security" on the campus of Oakwood University, as he served as Chief of Security from 1971 until 2005. The plaque unveiled in the Public Safety Headquarters Building that bears his name proclaims that "he served with professionalism, excellence and distinction, and will remain a part of the Oakwood College legacy."



Dr. **RUTH FAYE DAVIS** was a stellar individual, who always stood for what was right no matter what. She loved her students, and taught and trained them to live according to God's will. She never bent on what she felt God wanted for her and all those who were under her tutelage. She loved deeply and gave generously to many in need. She was a force to reckon with, but whatever she did, she did in love and service to God



OMERROR DAWSON well may be the trailblazing pioneer responsible for combining the contemporary sounds of the 1970s to the High-Church precision of traditional black Adventism. Ms. Dawson was an influential pianist, organist and arranger who has been praised by Mervyn E. Warren and other Oakwood music legends such as gospel vocalist Shelia McNeil. In fact, without her contributions, Oakwood's musical legacy and "the Oakwood sound," a sophisticated fusion of traditional sacred music, gospel and jazz, wouldn't be what it is.



MINNEOLA DIXON served in several capacities during the 38.42 years she was employed at Oakwood. Under her leadership, the archives grew from one small room to an eight-room resource center. She interviewed pioneers; catalogued periodicals, books and pictures; reorganized the museum; conducted tours; and brought nationwide attention to the campus. Dixon also helped research the history of Dred Scott's relationship to the campus, and coordinated the efforts to identify and mark the Historic Slave Cemetery. Many will remember her five-minute radio program, "Oakwood Heritage Moments."



JACKSON DOGGETTE, SR. enrolled at Oakwood after his church congregation had taken up an offering to help pay for his collegiate expenses to become a preacher. He played a major part in the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis, Tennessee, and has served as president of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In 1954, Pastor Doggette wed the love of his life, Edythe M. Young. This union blessed him with five children, 18 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Doggette is also known for having two sons and one grandson in pastoral ministry.



Dr. **TY-RON M. O. DOUGLAS** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri. Douglas has captivated audiences with a unique combination of depth, wit, and practicality. His latest book, *Border Crossing Brothas: Black Males Navigating Race, Place and Complex Space*, investigates the diverse identity-forming experiences of Black males in educative and athletic spaces, like sports clubs and neighborhoods. Douglas has also initiated and co-developed the BRIDGE to MizzouEd program in partnership with Oakwood University to provide juniors and seniors with exposure to graduate school.



After graduating from Oakwood, **CHARLES E. DUDLEY, SR.**, served in Seventh-day Adventist pastoral ministry for 15 years in the South Central and Southwest Region Conferences. In 1962 he was elected president of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. His serving for 31.5 years in the same position earned the distinction of having the longest tenure of anyone in administration in the history of the World Church. Included in the list of awards he received over the course of his ministry is an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 1992.



EVA B. DYKES received her B.A. degree from Howard University; and M.A. and Ph.D. from Radcliffe University. Prior to her joining the faculty of Oakwood College, she served as a member of the faculty at Howard University. She holds the distinction of being one of the first five Negro women in the United States to have received a doctor of philosophy degree. In 1946, she organized the Aeolians. The Eva B. Dykes Library is named in her honor.



JAMES E. DYKES started in communication as the editor-in-chief of Oakwood's first hardcover yearbook, the 1946 Acorn. Thirteen years later, he became editor of *Message Magazine*, the black-oriented magazine published by the SDA church. After serving as Dean of Boys and Head of the English Department at Pine Forge Academy, Elder Dykes returned to Oakwood in 1971 as Assistant Professor of English and Director of Mass Communication. He helped establish WOCG-FM (now WJOU-FM) and the curriculum for what is now the Department of Communication. The Dykes-Rivers Lectureship Series is named in his honor.



GEORGE R. EARLE's love of God, honor and integrity began when he was a young boy. While a freshman at Oakwood, he was drafted into the military during World War II, but returned and graduated in 1948. That same year he joined the ministerial team in the Northeastern Conference, pastoring several churches until he was elected president of the conference in 1967. For almost 18 years, he led the largest and most influential conference in the North American Division.

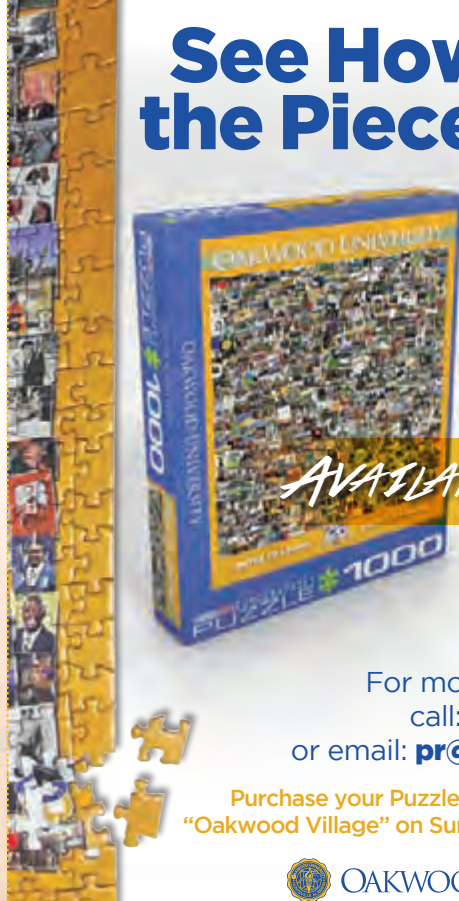


We have **OTIS B. EDWARDS**, who served as dean of the College from 1946 to 1958, to thank for the words to the school song, "Our Dear Oakwood." He was described as noble in spirit, broad in mind, sympathetic in understanding, diligent in business – the chief coordinator of student body and faculty [who carried out] the intricate task of directing the educational program of the institution. Edwards Hall is named in his honor.



The influence of **JAMES L. ENGLISH** is best depicted by his willingness to contribute to the success of others while sharing his leadership skills, Christian values and natural empathy. He invests resources in the development of Oakwood business and nursing students and alumni, facilitating professional and personal development opportunities for them. He is a servant leader, challenging, inspiring, and sharing with those around him. He has vision, adapts yet remains consistent, and is an engaging communicator. James is passionate in the pursuit of a greater future, not just for himself – but for all.

See How All the Pieces Fit




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 **OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY**



During his 43 years of service in pastoral ministry, **PHILIP FLORENCE** led congregations in 27 churches, with his wife, **HELEN LENNEAR FLORENCE** at his side. He retired in 2011, and presently serves as chaplain for the US Air Force Auxiliary. While a student at Oakwood, Helen was an accounting lab assistant for Professor C.E. Galley, and the Treasurer/Bookkeeper for the town of Triana, Alabama. Helen was also a first responder after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, taking hope, food and clothing to the victims in the devastated area of McClellanville, SC.



ALYCE FRAZIER FOLLETTE taught Spanish elementary education courses at Oakwood Junior College, and married Lysle Follette, who later became the Dean of Men. In the historic "Old Sanitarium Building" (now East Hall), she delivered twin sons Lysle, Jr., and Joseph, who later helped with construction on Moran Hall, and a daughter Cynthia Grace. Those twin boys sent their children to Oakwood as well. One of Alyce's five great grandsons, Geoff, is scheduled to graduate from Oakwood this year, and a great granddaughter, Kyara, is completing her sophomore year at Oakwood Adventist Academy.



PRESTON G. FOSTER is one of the driving forces of the History & Political Science Department. Professor Foster has devoted his life to ensuring that every student receives the best education possible and is exposed to all the resources needed to become a successful public policymaker. He encourages his students to aim high and reach for their goals, and to never lose faith in God, or in our nation. Professor Foster is a gem and we love him very much!



WALTER W. FORDHAM determinedly rode his bicycle for 600 miles from his home in Charleston, South Carolina, to Huntsville, to attend Oakwood Junior College. While there, he and several others led out in a student strike for Black advancement and leadership at the school. Although expelled at the time, he later returned and graduated in 1934 with a diploma placed in his hand by Oakwood's first Black president. A dynamic and effective evangelist, "W.W." was a spokesman demanding equality during the Civil Rights Movement.



At the Miracle City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, **DAVID B. FRANKLIN** led a successful rebranding for the church to emphasize a stronger commitment to community engagement and urban ministry. He also created the 100,000 Touches Campaign, challenging church members to personally impact local residents' lives through various initiatives with a church-wide goal of 100,000 Baltimore residents served in 2016. This goal was surpassed in less than 10 months. He is also a co-host of Let's Pray!, a weekly program on the Hope Channel celebrating the power of prayer.



DONALD AND SHIRLEY GREEN were very popular with Oakwood students in the 1980s, partly because they delivered vegetarian subs to the dorms. Their sandwich deliveries became so popular that they opened a sub shop on Jordan Lane called Chub's. Their daughter Donna Green-Goodman lives in Huntsville and has been an adjunct professor at Oakwood. Their grandson Edward Goodman, IV, is also an Oakwood graduate.



FRANK W. HALE was only 39 years old when he was appointed president of Oakwood College. During his administration (1966-1971), he instituted the Office of Student Affairs, Office of Development, the Alumni Homecoming Weekend, and the Oakwood College Advisory Council. There is also a building on the Ohio State University campus named in his honor, The Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center. Dr. Hale also served as Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Vice Provost for the Office of Minority Affairs and Special Assistant to the President at Ohio State University. Dr. Hale's legacy is one of equality and excellence.



MURRAY HARVEY, SR. began his tenure at Oakwood College in 1947 as an associate professor of history. He was known for his quick wit and his dynamic presentation of history in the classroom. It is said that his way of teaching made the experience so enjoyable and the topic so fascinating, that even the most academically challenged had a good chance of passing his classes. Harvey served the Seventh-day Adventist denomination for 36 years.



LLOYD HENRY is a 17-time Ironman triathlete. In 2016, he became the first recorded African American to be named an Ironman Globe Finisher—having completed an Ironman competition on six continents and at the Kona World Championships in Hawaii. Lloyd has literally helped open up this sport to many African Americans, and has used his notoriety and professional networks to inspire and launch the dreams of others. He helped establish several famous races in the Washington, DC area, such as the AKA 5K Race for Education and the Iron Girl Triathlon.

CAMILLE WARREN HILL is a passionate and God-fearing woman, who is dedicated to students, not only in the History & Political Science Department, but in other departments as well. She epitomizes black excellence as an attorney, professor, entrepreneur and business owner. Despite a diagnosis of breast cancer in May of 2016, Professor Warren has encouraged her students to continue to fight and work towards their goals no matter what obstacles are thrown in their path.





CLARENCE HODGES was twice confirmed by the United States Senate for senior executive government positions as he served at the highest levels of two presidential administrations. Hodges served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as president of Christian Record Services, a Vice President of the North American Division, and as director of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty. In 2004, he relocated to Huntsville, where he served on the staff at Oakwood College, and provided leadership for the Bradford Cleveland Institute.



While at Oakwood College, **SHELDON L. HOLDER**, MD, Ph.D., served as USM President, and graduated summa cum laude. Currently, he is a Medical Oncologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and a Consultant Oncologist at King Edward Hospital in Bermuda. Specializing in kidney, bladder, prostate cancer, he is a member of the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium's Genitourinary Clinical Trial Working Group. Holder's exemplary lay leadership in his church has a positive influence on young adults there.



Under the leadership of **LAWRENCE JACOBS, SR.**, the Oakwood farm and dairy became known as a "Grade A" industry which supplied milk to the Oakwood College campus, the Huntsville community, and the local Meadow Gold dairy. Jacobs served as a member of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Home Administration under President Carter, enabling him to assist farmers in acquiring farm equipment, land and homes. His farming legacy was recognized by Oakwood's naming the Lawrence Jacobs, Sr. Memorial Silos Plaza in his honor.



In 2015, **CLIFTON R. JESSUP, JR.** was sworn in as a judge in the Northern Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama, based in nearby Decatur, Alabama. He was also a member of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees. A staunch supporter of Christian education, Jessup and his wife, Venita, have not only sent their own two children through Oakwood, but they also freely and regularly give of their means to personally ensure that other young people have the opportunity to benefit from "the Oakwood experience."

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CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON not only dedicated his time at Oakwood to pursuing his degree, but was also an encouraging force in the History & Political Science Department. Christopher interned for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and after graduating from Oakwood, interned at the Democratic National Convention, and became a Field Organizer of the Hillary Clinton campaign in Cleveland, Ohio. After the election, Chris devoted his time to mentoring the youth in his community in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Dr. **WASHINGTON JOHNSON II** is an ordained minister, former editor of *Message Magazine*, church historian, and adjunct professor/advisor in the Doctor of Ministry program at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Johnson has pastored in the South Central and Northern California Conferences, acquiring leadership experience, including involvement in community affairs. He has received numerous citations and recognition from several organizations for his pastoral and chaplaincy leadership skills. He and his wife, Joyce Johnson, Ph.D., have one son Washington Johnson III, a student at Oakwood University.

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BENJAMIN A. JONES, JR., has been a servant leader for over 40 years in the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He holds a B.A. in Religion from Oakwood College, and an M.A. in Religion from Southern Adventist University. He served for 15 years as the senior pastor of the First SDA Church in Huntsville, and from there he served as Ministerial Director of the South Central Conference, pastoring the pastors. Currently he is the President of the South Central Conference. Pastor Jones loves the Lord, loves his family, and loves God's people everywhere.



Dean **RITA R. JONES** accepted the invitation of President Calvin Rock to be the dean of freshmen women from 1972 to 1978. She was responsible for supervision and administration of programming for the women of Carter Hall. She was called to Andrews University in 1978 as associate dean of women until 1986, when she returned to Oakwood and again served as dean of women until her retirement. Dean Jones believes that it was God who led her in the work of a dean and that He gave her the wherewithal to do it.



W. C. JONES completed his bachelors in theology at Oakwood College. He was enthusiastic about his family, church work, and his beloved Dallas Cowboys. Jones' pastoral ministry took him to several districts in the Northeastern, Southwest Region, and South Central Conferences. He also served as the president of the Southwest Region Conference for ten years. As Vice President of the Southwestern Union, he was responsible for securing \$60,000,000 in trust funds. Impressed by his natural ability raise funds, Oakwood College called him to the Office of Development where he helped increase the financial portfolio. His influential, unforgettable battle cry still rings in our ears, "Amen, and Amen Again!"



While many consider **T. MARSHALL KELLY** an artist, instead, he calls himself "a minister who likes to sing." As a theology major at Oakwood, he was only asked to sing, because he had a terrible stutter that only stopped when he sang. After decades in pastoral ministry and teaching at Oakwood Academy, he was called to be the interim chaplain at Oakwood College, where he served for two years. He is grateful to Oakwood for the opportunities he's had to teach and encourage.



ANNA KNIGHT taught herself how to read, and was later trained as a nurse at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. She was a God-fearing, courageous and determined woman, well-known for her contributions to education, including many years of service to Oakwood. Knight was president of the National Colored Teachers Association of Seventh-day Adventists for nearly 50 years, and received the Education Medallion from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 1971. Oakwood's School of Education is housed in Anna Knight Hall, and the Anna Knight Center for Women's Leadership opened in 2016.



The words “innovator” and “visionary” come to mind when describing Dr. **MICHAEL G. KNIGHT**, a physician and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania. He has become one of the most influential and widely known young African-American physicians in the medical community. Serving as a leader in many of the country’s most prominent medical organizations, and as founder and President of the Renewing Health Foundation, he continues to lead efforts to eliminate healthcare disparities and empower communities of color to live their best lives.



Dr. **JANNITH LEWIS** was called to teach English and Speech at Oakwood College in 1953. Two years later, she became the Librarian for Oakwood College. In 1982, she became the first Seventh-day Adventist female to earn a doctoral degree in library science in the United States. Friends, faculty and former administrators gathered to recognize and celebrate her commendable record of 50 years of service to Oakwood when she retired in 2003.



Dr. **ROY E. MALCOLM** has served Oakwood University with distinction, as a faculty member, registrar, dean of administration, commencement coordinator, academic vice president, dean of college relations, Aeolians' manager, and editor/publisher. Dr. Malcolm has served the Huntsville community as chairperson for Huntsville's annual city-wide American Education Week celebration. His name is synonymous with the bi-annual Festival of Spirituals, because he resurrected the program in 1996, and it became a highlight of the Huntsville musical community calendar. In his spare time, Dr. Malcolm is a skillful musician, who plays the guitar, organ and piano.



Dr. **KENNETH L. MANDERS**, President of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, exchanged dreadlocks for the gospel when he was converted during an evangelistic campaign in Bermuda. His passion as a literature evangelist led him to pursue a BA in Theology at Oakwood from 1988-1992. He received the distinguished Moseley-Warren Homiletic Award, then an MDiv and Doctor of Ministry in Leadership from Andrews University. He is the only conference president in the North American Division who simultaneously pastors a church, and he is the first Oakwoodite to become president of the Bermuda Conference.



After graduating from Oakwood College in 1965, **JOSEPH W. MCCOY** began his pastoral ministry that has spanned three conferences, six states and 15 cities. He has also served in church administration in the South Central Conference. Currently, he serves as the Executive Director for the Regional Conference Retirement Plan in Huntsville. In 2000, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers and Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

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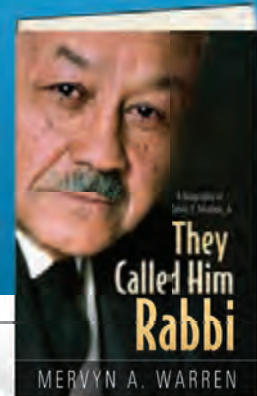
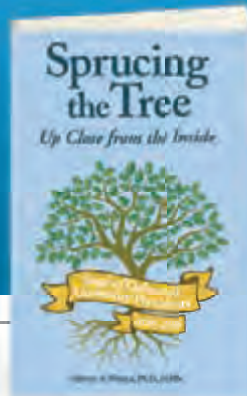
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During **GARLAND J. MILLET**'s presidency of Oakwood College, 1954-1963, several buildings were constructed including Peterson Hall, the Ashby Auditorium, and the original market/bakery facility. The annual Faculty Colloquium was introduced, along with the student Honors Convocation and the Three-Way Scholarship Plan. Under his leadership, accreditation as a senior college was granted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Additionally, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visited the campus and addressed the community in 1962. The Millet Activity Center is named in his honor.



For **J. PAUL MONK**, Oakwood College became a proving ground for his leadership abilities. He was blessed with a vivid style of expository preaching, and the gift of presenting colorful stories and powerful lessons. His engaging presentations were always bolstered with scriptural support and scholarly research. Monk's 30-year career in the ministry involved him in a variety of responsibilities from pastor to church administrator, to editor of *Message Magazine*.



After graduating from Oakwood in 1985, **ERIC MOORE**, attended the University of Georgia School of Medicine. He had a practice for a number of years serving many of the low income citizens in the region. Later he became the medical director for Hospice of the Comforter for a number of years. Moore is now back in private practice. Dr. Moore is a faithful member of the Greater Orlando Chapter of the Oakwood University Alumni Association and continues to serve the area with distinction.



JAMES L. MORAN was the first black president of Oakwood Junior College from 1932 to 1945. He was most widely known as "Professor Moran" because of his contributions to elementary, secondary and college education. With his first registration approaching in the fall of 1932 and classrooms in disrepair, Moran donned his overalls, improvised a scaffold, scraped, patched, and led students and staff in the painting and renovation of facilities. During his administration, the first baccalaureate degree was awarded. He also helped establish Pine Forge Institute, and served as principal of Northeastern Academy.



George Washington Carver invited **CALVIN E. MOSELEY, JR.**, to Bible classes at Tuskegee. From these Moseley converted to Christianity and became known as the “father of preachers.” He first came to Oakwood in the 1920s to teach in the religion department, and also conducted the “Alabama Singers” male chorus. Moseley served as the first black pastor of the Oakwood College Church, before becoming a General Conference field secretary in 1951, until he retired in 1971. Following his retirement, Moseley taught part-time until 1980. The Moseley Complex, which houses the School of Religion, is named in his honor.



After attending Hunter College in New York, **JOHN NIXON, SR.**, transferred to Oakwood and graduated in 1976 with a bachelor’s degree in theology. He has pastored churches in the Northeastern, Southern California, South Central and Georgia Cumberland Conferences. Several of these pastorates have been on a collegiate campus (including Oakwood), where Nixon has lectured on Biblical preaching and homiletics. Nixon currently serves as the Secretary of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Since 1986, **DAVID PERSON** has been working as a broadcaster, journalist, documentary director, and media consultant. His work has been featured on NPR, Tom Joyner’s BlackAmericaWeb website and public radio stations across the nation. Currently, David writes columns for *USA TODAY*, the Ministry Matters website, and writes news features for *Message Magazine*. As the owner of DavidPersonMedia, LLC, he provides media consulting services to various organizations and individuals across the nation.



GEORGE EDWARD PETERS was a pioneering Black Seventh-day Adventist administrator, educator, writer, and editor. He attended Oakwood College and began his church ministry in Alabama in 1908. Peters courageously fought for racial equality within the church, the expansion of educational opportunities for Black Americans, and the right of Black Adventists to have their own conferences. He assisted in naming the Allegheny Conference, was co-founder of Riverside Hospital, and was the first editor of the *North American Informant*, between 1946 and 1954. The Peters Fine Arts building is named in his honor.



FRANK L. PETERSON, President of Oakwood College, 1945-1954, was the first “man of color” to graduate from Pacific Union College in 1916. He served for nine years as a faculty member at Oakwood, and as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Secretary for the North American Negro Department at the General Conference. During his presidency of Oakwood, he promoted the largest grouping of industrial training programs that included the broom factory and dairy. Peterson Hall, which was initially a men’s residence hall, was named in his honor.



JANNA PETERSON-WADDELL attended Oakwood between 2005 and 2010, and created a non profit, 57 North Hampton, to teach children confidence to combat bullying. She also started an event that received national recognition for inspiring individuals to love themselves, called the Love Hunt.



WINTLEY AUGUSTUS PHIPPS is a spirit-filled preacher, world-renowned vocal artist, and the founder of U.S. Dream Academy, Inc. This non-profit organization is dedicated to empowering and mentoring at risk children of incarcerated parents. Phipps has been the featured speaker and performer at many notable occasions worldwide. He has recorded a number of original, inspirational compositions. Phipps was the first recipient of an honorary doctorate from Oakwood University.



During **ADDISON V. PINKNEY**’s presidency of Oakwood College, 1963 to 1966, the institution became a member of the United Negro College Fund. Also under his leadership, G.E. Peters Hall (Fine Arts building) and Bessie Carter Hall (women’s dormitory) were constructed.



VIOLIN G. PLUMMER taught in the Education Department, and also served as assistant librarian for Oakwood College, as well as librarian for the academy. Prior to arriving at Oakwood, in the military “Doc Plummer” had learned cooking skills that served him well as one of the principal bakers at the Oakwood Bakery during its thriving days. He also involved students in church plantings and missionary endeavor in rural areas, in such places as Florence and Hartselle, Alabama, and Fayetteville, Tennessee.



LESLIE N. POLLARD has led Oakwood in several initiatives since taking office in 2011: unprecedented research of Oakwood students’ spiritual commitments; purchase of two nationally-franchised business in Huntsville; full reaccreditation through 2018 by the AAA*; renovations to Carter Hall and Ford Hall, and construction of the Peters Media Center; a \$2,000,000 gift for the OU Health and Wellness Center; a campaign for a Community Health Action Clinic; launched Healthy Campus 2020, joined Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA); and led Oakwood to becoming the first North American Division institution of higher education.



Trailblazer Chaplain (Colonel) **JOSEPH T. POWELL**, became the first African American Seventh-day Adventist chaplain in the United States Army. Powell was a man of God, a husband, father and mentor. As a young pastor in Durham, North Carolina, Powell worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., helping to organize lunch counter sit-ins. He retired from the Army in 1975, and entered a new phase of ministry as a chaplain and an assistant professor of religion at Oakwood. Later in his career, he also pastored in Los Angeles, California.



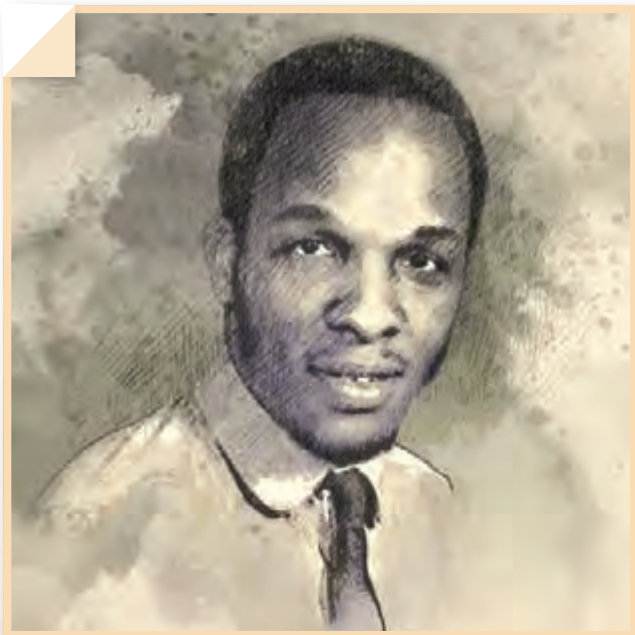
The Honorable **EARDELL J. RASHFORD**, a lifelong member of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York City, has served on Oakwood’s Board of Trustees, and has been a legal advisor to the Northeastern Conference. She has served the A. Samuel Rashford Chapter of the Oakwood Alumni Association, named for her father. Rashford is a founding member of the Association of Black Women Attorneys of New York City. She remains dedicated to God, her church and community, and desires to serve all with God at her side.



While a student at Oakwood, we are told that **BENJAMIN F. REAVES**, is credited with the creation of the Oakwood motto, “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.” As president of Oakwood College from 1986 to 1996, his administration turned around an enrollment decline and established a trend of enrollment increase up to institutional capacity. Other accomplishments during this presidency included elimination of the fund balance deficit that in 1986 had been \$1,700,000; reduction of default rate from 29% in 1987 to 11% in 1994; and launch of the first national “Shields of Gold” capital campaign.



During the three years that **NEIL W. REID** attended Oakwood (1984-87), he served his peers respectively as a senator, the executive vice president, and president of the United Student Movement. Undeterred by a rollover car accident in “Mile Gully” on a visit with his family to Northern Caribbean University in 2003, Neil accepted the call to serve as senior pastor of the University Church. Reid’s passion for selfless pastoral care, visionary leadership, and healthy interpersonal relationships transformed the institution and impacted thousands of lives. Dr. Reid currently serves as the Ministerial Director for Georgia Cumberland Conference of SDA.



THEODORE “TED” RIVERS’ passion for music and media inspired him to create, in the 1970s, an “underground,” closed-circuit campus radio station that was fondly known as WTED. Sometime after graduating in 1979, now “Professor” Ted Rivers, taught a variety of Communication classes and launched a legal, low-power campus radio station from unused storage space in Moran Hall. Professor Rivers also based a grant-funded, satellite-learning program there, along with his self-funded music label and video production company, Precious Memories from Oakwood College, which recorded the music of many Oakwood artists. The Dykes-Rivers Lectureship Series is named in his honor.



After years of service as a Literature Evangelist and Publishing Director, in 1973, **SANDY ROBINSON, JR.**, accepted a call to develop and direct a new industry for Oakwood College: the Student Literature Evangelist Training Center. Through his leadership, student canvassers were able to earn scholarship funds to continue and complete their Christian education. Many of today’s organizational workers, attorneys, physicians, teachers, and a host of graduates in other professions, were mentored and trained by Elder Robinson.



During the presidency of **CALVIN B. ROCK**, between 1971 and 1984, Oakwood experienced an enrollment increase of 132%, international enrollment increased by 66%, faculty membership increased by 85%, and doctoral degrees held by faculty members increased by 184%. Under Rock's leadership, the college also achieved national recognition as one of the premier institutions in the United States. Dr. Rock is also known for his admonition to graduating seniors: "Go on, go on, go on!"



JAMES RODDY's name is synonymous with sports and physical education at Oakwood, that the Ashby Gymnasium has been referred to as "the Roddy Dome." He arrived at Oakwood in 1965 as its first physical education instructor, coach and athletic director. He never imagined "the Oaks" as a place of longevity; however, after 51 years, he can't envision himself having been anywhere else. Over the years, the physical education program has expanded to include seven intercollegiate athletic programs, three men's basketball national championships, and a full-fledged health and exercise science academic department.

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It is reasonable to calculate that, during Dr. **ERNEST E. ROGERS'** more than 50 years of full time service at Oakwood, he was involved with the training of 90% or more of all ministers in the Regional Conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During Oakwood's Founder's Day and 120th anniversary celebration, the E.E. Rogers Biblical Languages & Resource Center was dedicated at the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center, honoring Dr. Rogers' service as Oakwood's first full-time professor of Biblical languages, from 1945 to 1979. The Center fosters the learning and use of Biblical languages, and provides computer-based resources for students.



Dr. **LEIGHCRAFT SHAKES**, was an RA during his years at Oakwood, and was active as a Literature Evangelist. He exemplified Christ and greatly impacted the experience of the students working with him. Dr. Shakes is currently a pharmacist-pharmacotherapy specialist.



Dr. **WALTER SIMMONS** is currently the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the Boler School of Business at John Carroll University, where he was the first African American economics professor, chair of the economics department, and coordinator of the International Business program. He has guided a cultural and academic immersion program in Africa, Europe, China and South America, and continues to mentor and advise minority students. The retention and matriculation of minority students at the university have increased because of this mentoring program.



OWEN SIMONS is one of several students who organized a freshman choir in 1988. That choir's name became Dynamic Praise, and Simons was the first director. He has since been succeeded by Andrew "Benji" Young, Bruce Bean, and current student Bryce Davis. Dynamic Praise has traveled extensively, sharing the stage with such artists as Yolanda Adams and Richard Smallwood, and many more. The choir's alumni roster includes members of Take 6, Virtue, and Committed, Sean Simmonds, Duawne Starling, Carmen Hope and Lee Cort.



Dr. **ALICE PRINCESS MSUMBA SIWUNDHLA** arrived at Oakwood College from Malawi, Africa. She was featured on the pioneering reality TV show "This is Your Life," and recounts her life as an orphan who was later adopted by a Seventh-day Adventist missionary, Mrs. Josephine Cunningham Edwards in her bestselling autobiography "Alice Princess." After Oakwood, Alice Princess earned a Ph.D. from United States International University in San Diego. She stars in the award-winning web series "Alice Princess is Fresh!" which focuses on healthy eating. The series is produced and directed by her daughter, award-winning broadcast journalist and film producer Lena Nozizwe.



While attending Oakwood, **STEPHEN A. SPATES** was president of the Communication Club, a member of the Acorn yearbook staff, PR director for the USM, and a member of the Alpha Chi Honors Society. He graduated with honors in 2009. After Oakwood, Stephen earned the master's degree in 2012 from Western Michigan University, and has almost completed requirements for the Ph.D. degree at University of Tennessee. Spates has made a remarkable impact on his students at Missouri State University.



You've heard the story: in 1980, Claude McKnight started the Gentlemen's Estates Quartet. Mark Kibble heard the group rehearsing in a dorm bathroom, joined the harmonies with a fifth part, and performed on stage that night. Mervyn E. Warren joined shortly afterward. The group signed with Reprise Records/Warner Bros. in 1987 as **TAKE 6**, and the rest is history. They have produced 16 albums, and have won 10 Grammy awards and 10 Dove awards. Their music ministry has influenced thousands around the world.



BRYANT TAYLOR, D.Min., has held pastoral assignments in the Central States, Ohio, and Allegheny west Conference. He is passionate about technology, and is the co-host of Tech Talk, an internet program on technology. Bryant presents workshops on media and technology, and consults with churches on technology and audio-visual ministry. "If it has an on/off button, I either have it, want it, or am on my way to purchase it," he says.



ERIC THOMAS, Ph.D., continues to impact millions of people with his creative style and high-energy messages. Through a significant social media presence and an intense tour schedule, "ET, The Hip Hop Preacher" has become a global phenomenon. Thomas has led his team through the doors of dozens of organizations and Fortune 500 companies, such as General Electric, Quicken Loans, AT&T, and Nike, and to the locker rooms of sports teams within the MLB, NBA, NFL and MLS. Eric's spiritual walk and tenacity make him the epitome of hustle, drive, determination, and success.



As president of Oakwood Junior College from 1923 to 1932, **JOSEPH A. TUCKER** was best known for presenting the best face of Oakwood before the general Adventist constituency through positive public relations. He accomplished this mainly by touring with Oakwood's singing groups, by publishing The Oakwood Bulletin paper on a monthly basis, and by fostering friendly connections with board and conference leadership on all levels, especially the General Conference level. The student newspaper, then called The ACORN, was also first published during his presidency.



The Grammy, Stellar and Dove Award-nominated trio **VIRTUE** consists of sisters Heather Martin, Karima Kibble, and Ebony Holland. With nearly 20 years in the music industry, they are one of the best-selling Gospel female groups of all-time, known for hits such as "Get Ready," "Put Your War Clothes On," "Walk It Out," "You Are," and more. They released six projects between 1997 and 2006. After a lengthy hiatus, they returned to the industry in 2014.



When Elder **ERIC CALVIN WARD** answered the call to pastor the Oakwood College Church, it included the building of Oakwood's first sanctuary. During his 21 year pastorate, the church membership increased to over 2,000. Pastor Ward also built the Mt. Calvary SDA Church in Huntsville and simultaneously shepherded both congregations. Under his leadership, phase one of the Oakwood Adventist Academy Elementary facility was completed in 1993. Pastor Ward also spread the gospel through radio evangelism and weekly newspaper columns. During his lifetime Pastor Ward baptized more than 5,000 precious souls into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



MERVYN A. WARREN, Ph.D., D.Min., holds the distinction of being the individual who has served Oakwood for the longest period of time: 52.8 years before his retirement. His assignments have ranged from the classroom (English, Religion & Theology) to serving in several capacities as an administrator, including dean of the Religion & Theology Department, general vice president, vice president for Academic Affairs, assistant to the president, and provost. During the fall of 2010, Warren served as interim president of Oakwood University.



MERVYN E. WARREN is an award-winning record producer, songwriter, arranger, pianist and vocalist. He has written, arranged, or produced songs for Barbara Streisand, Whitney Houston, Quincy Jones, the Richard Smallwood Singers, Sandi Patti, and many others. A major milestone was the Grammy award-winning Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration, much of which Warren produced and arranged. This recording captured the attention of executives at Touchstone Pictures, who invited Warren to Los Angeles in 1993, marking the beginning of career in film.



Nothing gave **MARK R. WASHINGTON** more satisfaction than returning to Oakwood in 1996 to serve as the Director of Financial Aid, where he frequently went above call of duty to help the students. Currently, he serves the US Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning, the highest rank a civilian can achieve without being a political appointee. He counsels African-American boys through "My Brother's Keeper." Mark's top volunteer priority is working with the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department.



As an Oakwood student in the late 1970s, **ANTHONY WHIGHAM** formed a group called, "Way Back When." During the summer months working in tent revivals, he realized that music ministry was his true calling. He travelled throughout the U.S., Central America and Canada, in full time music ministry, resulting in the production of six albums, a worldwide concert tour, and an invitation to join the Breath of Life telecast. Whigham has worked with several evangelists in the Seventh day-Adventist Church, and is most proud of having been influential in the baptism of more than 7,000 souls.



Dr. **DEWITT S. WILLIAMS** was an honor student at Oakwood College, served as the editor of the Acorn, as USM president, and sang with the choir. Williams was the first African-American director of the North American Division's Health Ministries; served as the associate director of Communications of the General Conference; served as a missionary in the Congo Union; and was president of the Central African Union. He retired after 46 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He has written or co-authored nine books. Williams served as president of the National Alumni Association from 2006 to 2012.



WOL BOL WOL one of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan, came to America and found his way to Oakwood. He is described as being positive, kind hearted and friendly, always with a kind word or some encouragement, and would never miss an opportunity to minister, pray or even just talk to people. He always demonstrated a real sense of interest, and whatever his reply, it seemed well thought out. Wol is fluent in eight languages, and is finishing a translation of the Bible into the Dinka language.



BRENDA WOOD attended Oakwood University for two years where her mother, Alma Blackmon, taught English and Music. Wood graduated from Loma Linda University with a B.A. degree in Speech Communication and Mass Media. She recently retired after a stellar career in journalism and television news, having worked in Huntsville, Alabama, Nashville, Tennessee and Memphis Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. She has received hundreds of civic, community and professional awards. Wood considers her career a blessing from God and whenever she has the opportunity, she willingly shares her God-directed journey.



Elder **ROBERT L. WOODFORK** felt "called" to the gospel ministry while at Oakwood Academy, and graduated from Oakwood College in 1942. He was later called to Oakwood to become Dean of Men, and during summer vacations, he managed to earn his Master's degree from the Adventist Theological Seminary, then located in Takoma Park, Maryland. He pastored churches in New Orleans, Miami, and Atlanta, served as president of the South Atlantic Conference, and spent ten years in his Master's service at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, retiring around 1990.



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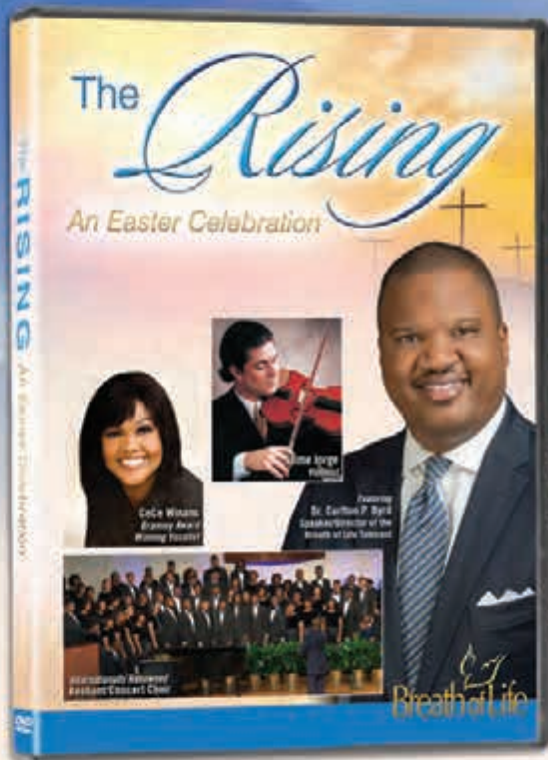


Mrs. **RAMONA BRYANT YOUNG** is remembered for her warm smile and faithful partnership in ministry with her husband, Milton M. Young. It is said that she had a quiet, but fun-loving spirit. As a children's choir leader and pianist, she was firm but kind hearted. She had a lifelong love for Oakwood, and in memory of her husband, established a scholarship in his name at Oakwood. She also traveled with the Aeolians to Russia in 2012.



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How I Met Your Mother

Memories are powerful. They help shape us into who we are. They remind us of our past and bring to mind both positive and negative thoughts. They also have the ability to create the desire to make more memories. I have been asked many times by others, what is my best memory of Oakwood? It is how I met my wife.

Back in the day, Oakwood College, as it was called, had a gymnastics team called the “Acro-Stars.” The year was 1992. We were excited about starting a team that would bring a new dimension to the athletic department on campus. I, a physical education major at the time, was the coach for the team intent on whipping them into shape. She, one of the team captains, came ready to work.

Catherine was a freshman, both beautiful and outgoing. However, despite this, she did not initially catch my eye. It was not until I found myself helping her move back into the dorm after Christmas break that I realized she might be the one. She brought out the best in me. As time passed, we continued to make great memories here at Oakwood, marry and have a family of our own.

Family creation has become a familiar story

and memory for many who have attended “the Oaks,” as it is affectionately called. This, among other things, is what makes coming back to Oakwood so exciting! Many places around campus will trigger a flood of emotions that will cause one to cry, and even laugh upon traveling down memory lane. This is all a part of the “Oakwood experience.” It

provides an opportunity to develop a relationship with God, learn among the best of your peers and, possibly, meet the person of your dreams.

Who knows, maybe your children, just like ours, will share a similar experience here at Oakwood University that will help shape who they will become and who the next generation Oakwoodites will be.

As we reminisce the past, become blessed in the present, let us remain hopeful of the future of our Oakwood University. 🍷



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