Greetings From the Desk of Dr. Leslie N. Pollard

This edition of FYI is dedicated to one of the three purposes that I have described for Oakwood University. We are in the business of saving lost students, of educating saved students, and of graduating educated students! “Saving lost students” means that at Oakwood our priority is to lead our students into a transformational relationship with Jesus Christ. For some students who come to Oakwood, this means meeting Him for the first time. For others, this means deepening and strengthening the relationship that they brought to OU. Still for some, it means orienting students through life-mapping and career planning. “Saving” lost students simply means that we will do all in our power to lead every Oakwood student into the life God calls us to lead.

“Educating saved students” speaks to our Oakwood commitment to providing a rigorous, wholistic, education of our students for service to this world and preparation for the life of service in the world to come. “Graduating educated students” speaks to the activities of our May ceremonies. An OU educated student is prepared and ready to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with his/her peers in graduate programs or in local or global workplaces. Enjoy the stories and pictures of this special place that we call Oakwood.—Leslie N. Pollard.

OAKWOOD HOLDS 2011 COMMENCEMENT

Commencement 2011, in many ways, was a testament to the resilience and adaptability of Oakwood’s faculty, staff, and students. Just as the campus was entering the final stages of preparation for this memorable rite of passage which marks the culmination of each school year, disaster struck our community, indeed the entire state of Alabama. A set of tornados killed more than 300 persons and reduced entire neighborhoods to rubble. Though spared, OU went dark as the power feeds from the TVA to the Huntsville/Madison community were wrecked. An entire week was to pass before power to the campus was restored. Along with
the many decisions regarding meeting the crisis was the question, “What about Commencement?”

Originally scheduled for May 7-8, 2011, the Commencement events were just days away and the campus was in a state of unprecedented upheaval. When the decision was made to postpone the Commencement to May 27-28, the earliest date that all components of the event could be brought together, the question was, “Would the students and their families return?”

The answer was, yes! This past Commencement, the first officiated by our new president, was truly a memorable event. Graduation week kicked off with the traditional tree planting ceremony. The future nurses came together in the Moseley Complex for the annual pinning and appreciation. Thursday evening the keywords were “food” and “fun” as the seniors and their families attended the senior reception.

Friday evening the graduates marched into the OU church for Consecration. Pastor Paula Olivier, from the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair and the official clergy representative for the Montclair Community Intervention Alliance (MCIA), directed the graduates’ view heavenward as they faced their new life and challenges. On Sabbath morning the graduates marched again at the Von Braun Center, where they were led in worship by Dr. Deedrick L. Blue, senior pastor of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York City, New York.

That evening at Commencement the graduates joined the faculty at what is the culmination of four years of study, hard work and determination. The speaker, Dr. Heather J. Knight, president of Pacific Union College, and OU alumnus, challenged the students to face the challenges of life with faith in God and willingness to put forth their best efforts. Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, OU president, conferred degrees on more than 300 graduates and sent them forth with the prayers and best wishes for success in life from the entire OU family. Special thanks is extended to the parents, guardians, and supporters of these young people for making OU their educational venue of choice.
MY OAKWOOD EXPERIENCE

The “Oakwood experience” is a common cliché used among Oakwood alumni as they reminisce on the “good ole days,” as well as the Enrollment Management team as they travel around the country recruiting students. However, is the Oakwood experience truly what we say it is?

I embarked upon my Oakwood journey as a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed freshman in the fall of 2007. I had two goals in mind: first, graduate in four years; and second, graduate without owing any loans. Capturing the so-called Oakwood experience was far from my mind. I was really only here for two reasons: to attain a degree of higher education and because my mom said so!

However, four years later I can say without any hesitation that being at Oakwood has forever changed my life. These grounds at Oakwood University are truly blessed by God! The opportunity to attend a university where God is the central focus of the institution is a blessing many don’t have the privilege to experience.

The Oakwood experience is different for everyone who attends, but for me the experience was much more than just making lifetime friends, attending powerful worship services, and gaining a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. The Oakwood experience has taught me to serve. Through the inspiration of many professors I’ve learned that the Lord calls us to die to self daily and serve others.

From observing professors, such as Dr. Wayne Bucknor, I’ve learned to always stay humble and thank the Lord for your success. I’ve learned from Dr. Anthony Paul to share Christ with others by meeting their essential needs. I’ve learned from Professor Ruth Gunn to never be afraid to toil for what is right. From Professor Jason Max Ferdinand I’ve learned that worship is not about what you can receive, but rather what you can give. I’ve learned from Professor Gary Jouett that even though as business majors we seek good fortune, there’s nothing greater than receiving and sharing Christ’s everlasting love!

So now as a proud Oakwood University graduate, I shall never forget the words of Dr. Leslie Pollard on Commencement day when he said, “Any young person who taps into the power of listening is creating avenues and bridges of success that cannot be numbered.” I came to Oakwood to learn, and now I embark upon a new journey to listen, learn, and serve.—David Conkellite II.

LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Dear Dr. Pollard: The National Science Foundation (NSF) thanks Oakwood University for participation in our Higher Education Research and Development Survey. The information your institution provided for FY 2010 will become part of our longitudinal statistics on R&D expenditures in 36 fields. For almost 40 years, NSF has provided information from our survey responses to federal, state, and academic decision makers. In addition, data from our surveys become part of the institutional statistics that compare the overall research activity of the United States and other nations.

I would especially like to recognize Marcia Burnette, assistant vice president for Ad-
vancement and Development and director of sponsored programs, who provided this year’s survey response for Oakwood University. The efforts of your staff involved a significant amount of extra work this year to provide the new information requested on the redesigned survey. We appreciate these contributions to NSF’s measurement of academic R&D within the United States.

Sincerely, Lynda T. Carlson, Ph.D., director, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

LETTER FROM DR. MICHAEL LOMAX

Dear Leslie and Prudence: The family of Almena Lomax thanks OU for their prayers and kind words. It was wonderful to be with you in Huntsville, and thank you for your lovely letter of sympathy and support. Friends have made this transition a very moving one for me and my family: full of consolation and support.—Michael Lomax.

APPRECIATION FOR THE OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

Dear Dr. Pollard: The on-campus bookstore has always provided Oakwood University students’ with the latest textbook additions, snacks and paraphernalia. I have always received excellent service from the manager, Mark Taylor, and his staff. They have always been aware of the Oakwood University students’ needs. This was evident after the major tornado crisis when Mark Taylor decided to extend his book return policy throughout the entire summer. This allowed students to receive cash for books to use to buy plane tickets to get home, put gas in their cars, buy food, etc. I used my book return money for gas to return home to Georgia. Dr. Pollard, I am very thankful that employees like Mark Taylor share the same interests as you—to help the Oakwood University students in any way they can. I wanted to speak on behalf of other students who have similar stories like mine, and I wanted to make it known that the on-campus bookstore is one of a kind!

—Gladys Maressa Gill

DR. ANDREW RICARDO HAREWOOD PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL

LTC Andrew R. Harewood first entered military service as an enlisted soldier in 1990. Following five years of service as a chaplain assistant, LTC Harewood completed both master’s and doctoral degrees at Howard University, in Washington, D.C. (1994 and 1996 respectively), and was the Howard University 1995 recipient of the Henry G. Maynard Scholastic Award. Prior to his commission, he served with the 92nd Field Hospital, and 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment. LTC Harewood was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in 1996, while assigned to the 310th Theater Area Army Command. His subsequent assignments include the
323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland; the 109th Detachment Team at Willow Grove Naval Air Station, responsible for providing Religious Area Coverage to the soldiers of the 656th ASG, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; the 453rd Finance Group, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; and the 413th Adjutants General Company, Bristol, Pennsylvania. LTC Harewood has deployed to Central America (1994), Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003), and to Combined Forces Command Afghanistan (2006). LTC Harewood was assigned to the Pentagon in 2007 to the Office of the Chief of Chaplains as the force management integration action officer, and in 2008 was assigned as the deputy Pentagon chaplain until September 2010. Presently, LTC Harewood is the new logistics, information and resources manager for the United States Army Reserve Command Chaplains Office – Forward (USARC).

LTC Harewood is a graduate of the United States Army Non-Commissioned Officers Academy Primary Leadership Development Course (1995), the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School Officer’s Basic Course (2000), the Resource Manager Course (2001), Advanced Career Course (2003), The Army Force Management Staff College (2007), and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (2009). LTC Harewood holds certifications in theology, counseling psychology and clinical pastoral education. In addition, trauma counselor, crisis management intervention, and mental health counseling are components of his comprehensive training. LTC Harewood is a certified trainer of Living Works Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), and trainer of the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP).

LTC Harewood’s military awards and decorations include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the NATO Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and citations from the White House, the Pennsylvania Senate, and various other civic and denominational awards. LTC Harewood’s hobbies include reading, distance running, billiards, scuba diving, and devising creative and educational methods of comprehensive leadership. Chaplain Harewood’s Life Motto is, “Don’t tell me, show me!”

**LETTER OF THANKS**

Dr. Pollard: It was truly my honor to receive this year’s Community Service Award from you and Oakwood University! I am humbled by your generous recognition! I will proudly display the glass trophy, and thank you also for the great gift basket. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the fantastic Oakwood students, staff, and faculty.

—Michael A. Cox director of missile defense for TASC.

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTER HOLDS OAKWOOD DAY AT KANSAS AVENUE**

The California Chapter of the OU Alumni Association honored four “mothers in Israel” on June 11, 2011, at their annual Oakwood Day at the Kansas Avenue SDA Church in Riverside, California. Dr. Jesse Wilson, on the faculty of Oakwood’s Religion and Theology Department, was the guest speaker for the day. The honorees (listed left-to-right in the photo) are: Norma Ferguson Montgomery, who first attended Oakwood College Academy in 1950. After graduating from the academy in 1952, Norma moved to Cunningham Hall, the college
girls’ dormitory. Among her most cherish memories is that “Mother” Eugenia Cunningham trusted Norma with her house key while she was away from the campus. Her professional career spans 30 years teaching students from kindergarten through college. Norma has traveled extensively, teaching in Germany; Pennsylvania, Texas, Maryland, Colorado, Georgia, Washington State, Washington, D.C., and California. She and her husband, Raymond Montgomery, are the proud parents of seven children. Mrs. Montgomery is deeply grateful to God for providing her with God-fearing parents and for “the opportunity to associate with honorable people of color who taught me to believe that all things are possible through His guidance; it is truly a magnificent gift from the Lord.”

Eldora (Gloria) James Eaton, who graduated from Oakwood College in 1950 and continued her education in social work and education. Over the years, she has had the blessed privilege of serving as a Bible worker, chaplain, teacher, social worker, and dean of women at Atlantic Union College, Columbia Union College, and Oakwood College. Mrs. Eaton’s sincerest desire is to continue to embrace and teach the truth of God’s Word, and be a faithful servant of God to mankind as she looks forward to the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Alice Pettiford Powell, who determined early in her life that she would attend Oakwood College and first attended in 1945 as a freshman. It was a revelation to her as for the first time she saw black professors and many black students, which was contrary to what she had experienced growing up in her hometown. In 1961, she graduated from North Carolina University in Durham, North Carolina, with a B.A. degree in Library Science and Sociology. She later graduated from Rutgers University with an M.A. degree in Information Science. Her first job was teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Millsboro, Delaware. She also taught adult education in Karlshue, Germany. Much of her career has been in the field of her major—Library Science and Information Science. Mrs. Powell is the mother of OU Board member Dr. Cynthia Powell-Hicks and grandmother to two Oakwood University graduates, Allycin Powell-Hicks (class of 2005) and Shelby Powell-Hicks (class of 2011).

Gwendolyn Burton-Ward, who with her husband, the late Pastor Eric Calvin Ward, sent five of their six children (two sons and four daughters) to Oakwood College, and graduated twice from Oakwood—in 1975 and 1979. Mrs. Ward assisted her husband as secretary for the Oakwood campus church for several years while simultaneously studying for a master’s degree in business education at Alabama A&M University. She has taught in both public and private schools in the states of California, Georgia, and Alabama. Mrs. Ward completed her Ph.D. degree Education from LSU. Dr. Ward is quite an accomplished woman, mother of six, grandmother of 17, and great-grandmother of five. She has made the most of every opportunity presented to her.
LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear Dr. Pollard: This is a short note to thank you for the courtesy that the Oakwood staff showed my wife and me when we visited the university on May 31. For the purposes of some research, I very much wanted to see the gymnasium where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke in 1962. Officer Charles Mayes of your security services led us there, opened the gym, and waited while we looked around. After that, he took us to the library, where Paulette Johnson gave us a most marvelous tour of the museum. And then Mr. Mayes took us to the Slave Cemetery and left us to reflect on what we had seen. We were most taken by the courtesy shown by everyone.

As I mentioned to Ms. Johnson, I was born in the Adventist hospital in Loma Linda in 1944. My parents were Episcopalians, so the visit to your campus was my first to an Adventist institution since my mother brought me home. It was a wonderful experience. Enclosed please find a picture of Sally and Mr. Mayes at the Slave Cemetery, and our gift of $500 towards the work of Oakwood University.— Alfred C. Jones

SOCIAL WORKERS: PHAEDRA JONES AND RENEE SAUNDERS JONES

The 2011 Social Work graduating class was unique for Pheadra Jones. Not only was she graduating with a BSW degree, but she had successfully duplicated a similar feat that someone very special to her had accomplished almost thirty years earlier. The person is her mom!

In 1979, Renee Saunders-Jones graduated from Oakwood University as a Psychology major and Social Work minor. She later completed her M.S.W. graduate degree at Eastern Washington University in 1985, where she specialized in children and family studies and substance abuse. Who would guess that years later, her daughter, Phaedra Jones, would follow in her footsteps.

When asked why she chose social work as a career choice and what she would like to do with her life Phaedra stated, “I chose social work because I wanted to make a difference in young people’s lives. I grew up watching my mother work with young people and felt a calling to do the same type of work. I plan to work with clients who have been victims of domestic violence. The program at Oakwood University prepared me for a career in social work by being honest with me about my strengths and weaknesses. The professors truly cared about me as a person; I felt their prayers, and they made coursework really speak to all of us as students. I am thankful and grateful for their professionalism and patience toward me. God blessed me with a full scholarship to the University of Connecticut, where I will earn my master’s degree in Social Work with a concentration in group work beginning this fall [2011].”

—George Ashley, Ph.D.

Phaedra Jones and her mother, Renee Saunders-Jones at the 2011 Commencement.
C. Garland Dulan, Ph.D., is the new vice president for Academic Affairs. He succeeds Dr. John Anderson, who decided to return to full-time teaching after nine productive years leading the Academic Affairs Division. Dr. Anderson also directed the campus during two successful reaccreditation visits.

As an undergraduate student, Garland Dulan attended Pacific Union College, Oakwood College, and Union College. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Union College, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology from the University of California, Riverside. His doctoral specialty areas are in social psychology and in the sociology of education. He has also served as a post-doctoral research fellow at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. In his 38 years of Seventh-day Adventist denominational service, he has served in teaching and/or in administrative positions at Southern Adventist University—six years; Oakwood College/University—11 years (including five years as vice president for Academic Affairs), and at La Sierra University—six years (four years as provost) and two years as chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

In 1999, he left academe to join the General Conference (Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters) as an associate director in the Education Department. His sociology of education background and cross-cultural research assisted him while serving from 1999-2002 as General Conference educational liaison to the West Central Africa, South Pacific, Trans-European, and North American divisions. In this capacity he was responsible for coordinating the accreditation of 34 Seventh-day Adventist higher education institutions.

In 2003, he was elected to serve as General Conference Education director. In this capacity Dr. Dulan served on all six General Conference higher education boards: Andrews University, Loma Linda University, Griggs University, Adventist University of Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines), and Oakwood University.

In July 2010, Dr. Dulan retired, but has since been called back into service for the church as vice president for Academic Affairs at Oakwood University—an institution which he had previously served and one in which he has always supported. Dr. Dulan is married to Dr. Jeannette Rogers Dulan (Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University), recently retired professor of Education at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland. They have three adult children.

Dean David Knight has been working in the area of student services for his entire career. David was born in St. Michaels, Barbados, and spent his formative years in Toronto, Canada. He has a passion for working with young people that spans over 30 years. He has worked in student personnel work at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; Andrews University in Berrien Springs Michigan; Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington; Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and proud to say, Oakwood University in Huntsville Alabama.

David graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education/Health and a master’s degree in School Counseling. David is married to Juliet Knight and is the proud father of two adult children, Jonathan and Jessica. His career took flight when he became assistant dean of boys at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. He knew after his first year that working in student services would become a passion and not just a career. To remain competent and effective in working with young people, Dean Knight has
found it necessary to attend seminars and workshops that deal with current issues young people face today. Kingsway College provided Dean Knight with the opportunity to sharpen his interpersonal skills. He also had the opportunity to develop his communication skills as a result of delivering weekly presentations.

Progressing to the university level as the associate dean of men at Andrews University required him to multi-task management of both the Health Club and Custodial Department of the men’s residence hall. These two areas involved the responsibility of budgeting, programming, and supervision. As the dean of men, at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) Dean Knight and his staff were able to change the climate and culture of the residence halls to meet the directives and mandates of the university’s administration. They were able to positively impact more than 450 men to be responsible, respectable, and accountable. The past positions Dean Knight has held have prepared him to be competent, effective, and productive for his current position as vice president for Student Services.

**DR. MCDONALD APPOINTED PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Dr. R. Timothy McDonald was born and reared in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the oldest of four children born to Ralph and Harriett McDonald. The family joined the Adventist Church as the result of an evangelistic campaign when he was a teenager.

He graduated from Oakwood College with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education; from Atlanta University with a master’s degree in Education and Supervision; and from the University of Miami with a doctorate in Higher Education Administration.

Dr. McDonald has the distinction of having served at all levels of education both within and outside of the Adventist Church. He currently serves as provost and senior vice president at Oakwood University. Previously he worked at Oakwood as director of the Adult and Continuing Education Program (LEAP), and before that, he was vice chancellor at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (UEAB), in Kenya. Other administrative posts included: vice president for Information Technology and Development at Oakwood University, director of development at Morehouse School of Medicine, director of development at Baltimore County Community College, and The Ohio State University. Earlier, he served as director of education for the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and vice president for Academic Affairs at Barber Scotia College. He has also worked as a teacher and principal in several places, including, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, Dupont Park School in Washington, D.C., and the Larchwood SDA school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He also held other teaching positions, including professor of education at Oakwood University, and at Alabama A&M University.

Dr. McDonald has been a speaker for Sabbath School and church worship services, camp meetings, and a panelist on education topics. He has volunteered for UNCF fund raising activities, community activities with the homeless, and education tutoring with high school students. He has also served as consultant for humanitarian and writing activities with universities, schools, churches, and community organizations.

He is married to Beverly McDonald, who is a retired educational administrator in her own right. They have four adult children.
LETTER FROM DR. HELEN MCALPINE

Re: Article on Monical Sudeall: “One can only dream of finding an employee like Ms. Sudeall. I became impressed with her the day I interviewed her for a position here at the college. I did not know her previously but I was amazed at her intellect, her compassion for students, and her dedication to education. Needless to say, I hired her and later promoted her to the position of director of admissions, a unit of the college that has been transformed under her leadership. In her current position she spends most of her time interacting with students with a myriad of scenarios that require a person with Ms. Sudeall’s temperament and skills to calm their fears and assist them in making one of the most important decisions of their lives. She is one to be admired because of her dedication to the students, her staff and to our college. I do not recall a student complaint from any student with regard to Ms. Sudeall. Likewise, she is respected by her peers.

“Her dedication to professional development and lifelong learning moved her to pursue and receive the masters degree and to seek the terminal degree as she is enrolled currently in the doctoral program at Nova Southeastern University; I look forward to calling her ‘Dr. Monica Sudeall’! It fits her perfectly and will signify additionally her devotion to academic excellence. I salute Ms. Sudeall and state without any hesitation that she is an excellent addition to the Drake family, and I am pleased that she is honored for her notable contributions as a graduate of an HBCU and an employee of an HBCU.”

OU’S CHAMPION HONDA ALLSTAR TEAM AT THE 2011 COMPETITION

Patricia Stewart-Daniel, Dr. Rennae Elliott, Nichelle Harren, Antoine Southern, Jamaal Pemberton, Marcus Cooper with Honda officials.

Jamaal Pemberton, Antoine Southern, Marcus Cooper, Nichelle Harren