Former President and Board Chair Calvin B. Rock saw the Aeolian Ensemble as Oakwood’s “dream team.” Since its founding in 1946, the choir has served as the school’s most dynamic PR medium. On April 16, 2006, the University dedicated its message center to the Aeolians/Directors in recognition of their global music ministry.

Directors 1946-2001
Eva B. Dykes
Joni Mae Pierre-Louis
Harold Anthony
Jon Robertson
Marcus Thompson
Alma Blackmon
John Dennison
Ricky Little
Eurydice Osterman
Lloyd Mallory
Editorial

NOW IS THE TIME!

Prominent among our Retention goals is the need to increase the number of our graduates. While Commencement 2010 seems far away, those who will be in the number marching in are the ones who are diligently following their degree program outline to ensure completion of ALL requirements.

NOW, therefore, is the time for departments to insist on required advisor/advisee conferences. This will enable prospective graduates to pre-register CAREFULLY for the correct classes they will need for the spring without late changes (such as retroactive drop/add, online courses and independent study). Remind students that the records office is not an advising center per se. It operates like the IRS which compares that which is submitted with advisor approval against published requirements, and then issues its findings.

My personal tax advisor is H&R Block; “they never failed me yet.” Although responsibility for meeting degree requirements rests with the student, advisors should feel a burden for the success of their advisees and call them in for consultation. Now is the time, especially for the 2010 prospective graduates.

-Academic Affairs

FESTIVAL OF SPIRITUALS VI MOVES TO VBC

Receives Small State Grant

The Bi-annual Festival of Spirituals scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2010 will be held at South Hall II in the Von Braun Civic Center. A major reason for the change in venue is the need for all participating choirs to be seated inside so they may enjoy the entire program. On the main floor of the University Church, the 500+ choristers would occupy most of the seating needed by the audience who would come to hear them.

The Alabama State Council for the Arts in Montgomery learned about this event and invited us for a FIVE minute presentation before the large committee. Impressed with the contribution of the Festival to the arts, the council approved a request for a small grant and asked that all the advertising and the printed program indicate its support.

At the same time, several other university choirs are planning to participate including Ft. Valley State University, Jacksonville University, Stillman, Tenn. State, Auburn and UA Huntsville. Save the date and bring enough funds to the program to order a DVD. “The Spiritual is a Terrible Thing to Waste!”

FACULTY UPDATE

The annual American Education Week Luncheon which honors teachers of the year was held at the UA Huntsville University Center Nov. 16, 2009. Conducted jointly with the University Education Summit, the event was a major success. Pastor Craig Newborn gave the invocation while Whitney Morrison (OU music major) rendered the special music. Among the 32 honorees which included James Foster, Virginia College President and Helen McAlpine, President of J.F. Drake Tech. College, was our own Dr. Pamelea Cook. The speaker was Dr. Marilyn C. Beck, President of Calhoun Community College.

New Doctorate

Mrs. Karen Anderson recently completed all requirements for the Ph.D. when she successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The title is “An Intervention to Increase Physical Activity Behavior Among Older African American Women.” Dr. Anderson is the daughter of Mrs. Ruth Warren, who served in our nursing dept. for many years, and Adell Warren (deceased), a former business manager of the University. Her husband is John Anderson, Academic V.P.