



Acts & Facts

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KEEPING OUR HOPE ALIVE – 2007 ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND DRAWS THOUSANDS TO HUNTSVILLE: UNCF Gala guest speaker Sheryl Lee Ralph said it: ***“Oakwood College is something to be proud of!”*** During Divine Worship Service, Dr. James Doggette proclaimed that ***Yale and Harvard “can’t out-Oakwood Oakwood.”*** And so they came to Huntsville from the east, the west, the north, the south – alumni and friends of Oakwood College for the 40th Annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Former classmates and friends gathered at Blake Center, at the Ashby Gym, at Stanlieo’s, at the Von Braun and throughout Huntsville between April 5 and 8, enjoying the blessings of friendship, spiritual renewal and shared memories. The Divine Worship Service is available on Churchpond’s website: <http://churchpond.com/cp05/home.htm>

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: Oakwood students Vonda Pettigrew and Makeda Lane were the recipients of the 2006-2007 Siemens Teacher Scholarships. Launched in partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the UNCF, the Siemens Teacher Scholarship program provides \$1,000 to support and encourage minority students enrolled at HBCUs across the nation who are pursuing careers in teaching math, science, and technology. Oakwood College is proud of our future teachers—because “those who can, do; those who can’t, never had a great teacher.”

THE 7TH ANNUAL OAKWOOD COLLEGE ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC fundraiser will be held on Sunday, June 24, 2007 at the beautiful PGA of Southern California Golf Course in Beaumont, California. We are looking forward to a wonderful day of golf, fellowship, and raising funds to support student scholarships, Oakwood’s Physical Education Department, and campus enhancement projects. There will be alumni and friends attending this exciting event from around the country. Your support is requested through the purchase of an ad in the golf tournament banquet booklet, or by entering your foursome for the game. For more information, e-mail ocaagolf@yahoo.com. *Cheri Wilson, Tournament Director and the OC Alumni Golf Classic Committee*



OC LOSES ALMOST 352 POUNDS IN STATEWIDE CHALLENGE: The Alabama Hospital



Association (ALA) issued a weight-loss challenge called ScaleBack Alabama in January, 2007. Alabama citizens were challenged to lose 10 million pounds over a period of eight weeks (January 22 to March 19). Barber Dairies partnered with ALA to give \$1,000 to each team member of the team that lost the most weight (by

percentage). Oakwood College was an official weigh-in site for the 56 employees who participated. Twelve teams (between three and five members each) signed on, coordinated by Sylvia Germany, Director of Human Resources. Weekly educational meetings were held, and a discount at the cafeteria was provided by Sodexo.



Even though none of Oakwood's 12 teams were named among the state's top 100 teams, we celebrated our weight loss with a grand celebration of our own on April 9.

Collectively, the 56 participants on Oakwood's 12 teams lost 351.75 pounds. Our Biggest Loser Team lost 7% weight (91 pounds) followed by second place losers with 5%. Three teams tied for third place with a 3% weight loss. The biggest individual loser lost 34 pounds. Winners received monetary gifts along with a certificate created by one of the participants, Gwendolyn Baker. Ms. Baker also wrote a poem about the Scale Back Alabama Challenge (<http://scalebackalabama.com/poem.htm>).



By popular demand, Oakwood employees are continuing for two more 8-week sessions, now known as the OC Scale Back Challenge. Many other employees, some teaming up by departments, are signing on to participate. Best wishes to all, and heartfelt Congratulations! to all of our teams. Team captains have been invited to present the Devotional at the beginning of the Spring Board Meeting on April 23, concluding with special prayer as the Board moves into conducting the business of the College. *Weigh to go. . .Sylvia Germany*

ALPHA CHI COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETY ANNOUNCES WINNERS: Twenty-six students won or shared cash prizes recently for the best academic presentations at the national convention of Alpha Chi, the national college honor society, held March 15-17, in San Antonio, Texas. Alpha Chi recognizes the top 10 percent of juniors and seniors from all majors. Among the winners was Toni-Ann Wright, a biology student at Oakwood, who presented a paper entitled "DNA Damage Activates the Alternative NF-kB Pathway in Murien Embryonic Fibroblasts." The presentation prizes, endowed by alumni and friends of the society, carried stipends of \$200. Congratulations, Toni-Ann Wright!

OVER \$600,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED: The Office of Sponsored Programs reports the receipt of the following grant awards: 1) Dr. David Sedlacek of the Department of Social Work received **\$10,000** from The Daniel Foundation for funding certain aspects of the "New Beginnings" single parent resource center and support program. 2) The Morehouse School of Medicine Mini-Grant Program awarded **\$4,800** to the Department of Psychology for a Suicide Prevention Training Program. The principal writers Mavis Braxton and Dr. David Sedlacek. 3) Dr. Edith Fraser and Hannah Chambers will conduct a Faculty Teaching & Learning Institute during the summer of 2007, made possible through a grant of **\$29,576** received from the UNCF/Mellon Foundation. 4) The Office of Enrollment Management recently received a grant of **\$600,000** from the UNCF - Institute for Capacity Building to fund a Recruitment and Retention Initiative. The Office of Academic Affairs, and the Center for Academic Success, collaborated with Jason McCracken and Edith Pruitt of the Office of Enrollment Management in the preparation of the proposal. Congratulations to all of these teams!



ONE BOOK...ONE OAKWOOD CAMPUSWIDE READING PROGRAM – In keeping with a national trend that started in Seattle in 1998, Oakwood College established the "One Book. . .One Oakwood" campus-wide reading project in January, 2007. The concept called for faculty, staff and students to all read copies of "one book" and discuss it, either during in-person lunchtime groups or on a blog. The first book selection voted by students and employees was *From the Hood to the Hill: A Story of Overcoming* by U.S. Senate Chaplain (and Oakwood alumnus) Barry C. Black.

Guest speakers for the discussion groups were UAH Professor Beverly Sedlacek, and Sgt. Vern Gohanna. For the final discussion, the author was invited to Huntsville, but Chaplain Black could not be absent while the Senate was in session. "Behind every good man is a good woman," and we were honored to welcome Mrs. Brenda Black to our campus for the final book discussion/reception that was held April 12 in the Marriott Room of the B & T building.



Brenda, as she told the group to call her, shared some of her insights into the 37 years she has been married to Barry C. Black, his book, and his ministry. Brenda, as she told the group to call her, is an alumna of Oakwood College as well as her husband. On Friday the 13th, Mrs. Black also spoke to a number of students from the English Department during a special session in Moran Hall.

The One Book...One Oakwood reading selection for the Fall semester will be *Dreams From My Father* by Barak Obama.

WELCOME BACK: We welcome Dr. and Mrs. Timothy McDonald back to the campus of Oakwood College. Dr. McDonald, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Eastern Africa at Baraton, returned to the U.S. last fall after completing a three-year assignment in Africa. Dr. McDonald is currently on special assignment with the LEAP Adult Degree Completion Program, under the Division of Academic Affairs.