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BACK TO SCHOOL: The 2008-2009 academic year began with Colloquium for the staff and faculty on August 4 and 5. Guest speakers included Dr. Helen McAlpine, president of J. F. Drake State Community College, and cardiologist Dr. Warren Strickland. New faculty were introduced by their vice presidents, and new staff were introduced by Sylvia Germany, director of Human Resources. President Baker and the vice presidents reported improvements throughout the campus, including the opening of Holland Hall. Over 450 freshmen arrived on campus for orientation, and as we go to press, the preliminary headcount of students is 1,733. Pray with and for us as another exciting school year has begun.

NEW SERVANT LEADER IN STUDENT SERVICES: Welcome to Patricia Stewart, who has returned to her alma mater (class of 1978) as Vice President for Student Services. Prior to this post, Patricia served as the Assistant Vice President for Student Life at Andrews University. She brings with her an abundance of knowledge, grace, and fairness. Ms. Stewart began her responsibilities on July 1, 2008.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT MURDERED IN BERMUDA: Dr. Jeffrey Brown, President of the Bermuda Conference and OU Board member, sadly told us that one of our prospective students, Kellon Hill, was murdered just before he was to have traveled to the United States to attend Oakwood University as a freshman. President Delbert Baker attended Kellon's funeral, and took with him a stack of sympathy cards from the young people who would have been Kellon's classmates. Dr. Baker presented to the family one of the medals which is given to Oakwood graduates, indicating that "by faith, we believe that Kellon would have graduated" with the class of 2012. Kellon's name will be etched onto the Student Memorial at Oakwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Our prayers are with the entire family; may the blessed promises of God sustain them at this time. <http://www.royalgazette.com/siftology.royalgazette/Article/article.jsp?articleId=7d88a2f30030005§ionId=60>

DEPARTMENT FEATURED: Oakwood University's Social Work Department, and its legacy of developing Social Work educators within the higher education Adventist system and public systems, were featured in the August 2008 issue of *Southern Tidings*. (<http://www.southernunion.com/tidingspdf/2008/August.pdf>)

RECORDS OFFICE ENHANCES ITS SERVICES: The Records Office will be providing three new services this fall through the Student National Clearinghouse: transcript ordering, DegreeVerify and EnrollmentVerify. Customers will be able to go online at any time to order transcripts, receive confirmation and track transcript status. In addition, employers, insurance companies and other entities will be able to verify enrollment and degree status through this electronic means. The Clearinghouse is presently used to report student enrollment status several times a year to lending agencies. There will be a nominal fee charged for each of these services; however, Shirley Scott, registrar, says the services are well worth the small expense. With the high volume of requests for these services, the new initiative will enhance customer satisfaction and response time.—Shirley P. Scott, Registrar.

EMPLOYEES CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES: Focus on Wellness celebrates three years of success as employees continue to participate in the annual challenge of taking care of their physical and mental health. From one Colloquium to the next, employees are challenged to document evidence that they have taken care of their bodies as required (regular exercise, annual cancer screening, eating properly, drinking adequate water, attending seminars, etc). Employees are given a Focus on Wellness Walking/Exercise Journal to record their activities, and if needed, a pedometer to track their steps/miles walked daily. The point system for the activities are provided in the journal. Winning participants year receive a discount on their health care premiums and the President's Award of a crisp \$100 bill. Winners announced at Colloquium 2008 were: Jan Newborn (three-time winner); Derek Bowe, Sylvia Germany, and Tarsee Li (two-time winners); and Lucile Lacy and Eurydice Osterman (first-time winners). Congratulations to the employees who continue to take up the challenge and to our first time winners!— Sylvia A. Germany, Chairperson, Employee Wellness Program.

OU PUBLIC SAFETY INCREASES COMMUNICATION: Seven Call-24 Wireless Call Boxes have been purchased to provide immediate contact for anyone needing assistance directly to Public Safety officers and dispatchers with the push of a (red) button. They should be used in situations involving emergencies and for general assistance (which may include reporting suspicious persons and crimes in progress), and for requesting assistance for medical problems, escort service, recovered property, motorist assistance, etc. In effect, the call boxes should be used as another means of communicating with Public Safety. The call boxes are tested on a weekly basis.

Each call box displays instructions for its use. Basically, a red button must be pushed to activate the communication link that uses our radio frequency. The dispatcher and officers on duty will hear a prerecorded announcement that a call box has been activated along with the location. The dispatcher will respond to the caller to inquire about their emergency or need for assistance. Officers in the field will be able to listen to the two-way conversation and respond immediately. The call boxes are located (1) in the Annex area on Faculty Rd., (2) between the Library and Blake Center, (3) between Cooper Complex and the Monument to Service, (4) between the tennis courts and running track, (5) West Oaks Apartments, (6) just southeast of East Hall in the Carter Hall plaza, and (7) at the McKee Business and Technology Complex. Additional call boxes will be purchased as funds become available.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY VISITS OU'S CAMPUS: As part of a \$615,000 grant from the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, Colgate University, a small private church-affiliated institution, located in upstate New York, was selected as a peer institution to work cooperatively with Oakwood on the basis of its commitment to student success. The goal of the grant is to provide tools and personnel to create services to students as they inquire about Oakwood. Representatives from Colgate visited the Oakwood University campus from July 15-17. They spent the day engaged in open discussion regarding best practices in the area of enrollment management and recruitment with the offices of Enrollment Management, Center for Academic Success, Financial Aid, Sponsored Programs, Public Relations, and Advancement and Development. Colgate's areas of strength include the shaping and recruitment of its student populations, retention rates, cultural constituent awareness and activities, and top graduation rates. The main focus of the Colgate visit was to partner with OU in identifying strategies for the creation and promotion of cross-functional relationships across departmental boundaries.

CHAMBERS PRESENTS SEMINAR IN LONDON: In this day and time when our world is in turmoil, it is extremely important for our church leaders in the field of music and church members who participate in worship to be in one accord—unity in diversity. With this in mind, Dr. Audley Chambers was invited home to London, England, to present a music seminar entitled: “The Fight for Our Musical Family: How Will Healing Occur?” which was held at the Peckham SDA Church in London on July 5. This seminar was advertised to not only make one aware of the forces that exist that are destroying our musical families, but to give one tools to combat the powers that be and win the fight.

AEOLIANS TO PERFORM AT THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION: On November 21, 2008, at the Calvary Assembly Church, 1199 Clay Street, in Orlando, Florida, the Aeolians, under the direction of Jason Ferdinand, will perform its first major concert for the Florida Hospital, titled, “Florida Hospital Thanksgiving Celebration 2008.” Singing along with the Aeolians will be the musical gospel artists Charles Haugabrooks and Christine Wollmann. For more information, contact the Oakwood University Music Department at (256) 726-7278. (<http://www.oakwood.edu/Music/default.aspx?id=12>)

WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU: If you have attended Oakwood at any time in your life, graduate or non-graduate, and have not been notified by the Office of Advancement and Development recently, it's not because we have forgotten you—we just might not know where you are. Please help us find you. Feel free to call Jeneen Gresham at (256) 232-7316 or (256) 726-7124 at your earliest convenience so that we can update your address in our database.

Acts & Facts is produced by the Office of Public Relations at Oakwood University, in Huntsville, Alabama. To add your name to the mailing list, ask a question, or share a comment, send an e-mail to pr@oakwood.edu or call (256) 726-7202.



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