



# Acts & Facts

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**Congratulations!**

**Gino D'Andrade Award Unveiled**

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**Oakwood Alumnus Wins South Bend Election**

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Oakwood College Alumni Golf Classic**

**In Other News. . .**

**COMMENCEMENT 2007:** Graduates in the Class of 2007 ranged in age from 19 — Lyle Griffiths, a biology major — to 72 — Samuel Minesinger, Jr., a psychology major in the LEAP program. They, along with 323 others, were approved academically; and 290 actually marched in graduation ceremonies held May 11-12. Commencement speaker Rep. Artur Davis (D-Alabama) encouraged each member of the Class of 2007 to reach back and help someone else, because not everyone is as fortunate as they are.

In addition to the excitement of graduation, the following awards were presented:  
Distinguished Alumnus Award: Dr. Cynthia Powell-Hicks, a tireless supporter of Oakwood College, who has committed to donating \$200,000 for the Auditorium/Chapel in the soon-to-be completed Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center. The Chapel will be named in honor of her father, Chaplain (Col.) Joseph T. Powell, Ret. The Philanthropic Award was given (posthumously) to Burks & Elline Holland, for their

staunch belief in Christian education and sending all of their 16 children to Oakwood College. The Holland Family has made a sacrificial commitment to donate more than \$1 million dollars toward the construction of the new men's residence hall, in honor of their parents. The new men's residence hall will be named in honor of this exemplary couple, Burks and Elline Holland, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new dorm scheduled for Spring 2008. Pastor Paul and Mrs. Martha Mawela were honored with the International Community Service Award (see following story). The President's Award was given to Elder Neal C. Wilson, who has been a friend to, and an advocate for the Black Adventist work, and for the progress of Oakwood College and Regional Conferences. He has been a champion of diversity, equal treatment, and positive and progressive race relations.

**SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONARIES VISIT OAKWOOD:** Oakwood College and Hope for Humanity, through the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, specifically brought retired Pastor Paul and Mrs. Martha Mawela to Oakwood College from South Africa, for the occasion of receiving the International Community Service Award, as well as to participate in a videotape produced by Hope for Humanity, highlighting their dedicated service to families and children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS in the Dwarsloop area of Mpumalanga, South Africa. A segment of Pastor Mawela sharing his testimony was taped on May 9 in the Business & Technology Auditorium. DVDs highlighting the inspiring and dedicated missionary work of the Mawelas were given to those in attendance.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO HONDA CAMPUS ALL-STAR TEAM:** The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) is the 18-year-old academic competition between students at America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), open to all 4-year, degree-granting HBCUs in the continental U.S. Each year, 64 schools qualify to attend the National Championship Tournament (NCT). Competition was held April 12-16 in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Rennae Elliott, Chair of the Communications Department, serves as coach to the Oakwood team, who participated in the challenge before or after the Sabbath hours. American Honda honored the 2007 "Sweet 16" teams and the institutions they represented – including Oakwood -- with a double-spread ad in the May 4, 2007, issue of *USA Today*. <http://hcasc.com/USATodayAd.pdf>.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** Rachel Williams of the Communication Department successfully defended her dissertation for her doctorate in Visual Communication from Regent University. Gloria Brooks of the English and Foreign Languages Department has completed all requirements for the MBA in Marketing at the University of Phoenix.

**GINO D'ANDRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD UNVEILED:** Lewis Eakins, CPP, Director, Campus Safety/Transportation, said that the Department felt it necessary to mirror most law enforcement agencies that honor not only their fallen officers but officers who have demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism and commitment to garner special recognition. To give all officers of Oakwood's Security Department a fair chance at receiving the Officer of the Year Award, the Gino

D'Andrade award was unveiled and the qualifications outlined at the Campus Safety Awards Reception on May 6.

Officers will have the opportunity to be evaluated for a whole year, exhibiting the traits of commitment, dedication, knowledge, focus and loyalty. Grateful for its cooperative relationship with the Huntsville Police Department, the following HPD officers were recognized: Kathy Barron, Danny Calvert, Garland Ewing, Carl McDuffie and Eric Newby. For going beyond the call of duty and helping Oakwood in his spare time, UAH Police Officer Justin Patterson was recognized. For her support of the department, VP for Financial Affairs Sabrina Cotton also received recognition. Student of the Year Award: Officer Ronald Louis; Outstanding Public Relations Officer: David Moore; Most Productive Officer – Officer Daniel West; Outstanding Achievement Award – Sergeant David Smith; Outstanding Contribution Award – Sergeant Francis Hughes; Chief's Award – Mr. Alvin Pittman; Chief's Recognition Award – Captains Emanuel Chester and James E. Patterson.

**STUDENT ELECTED STUDENT PRESIDENT OF STATE ASSOCIATION:** Alecia Webb has been elected as student president of the Professional/Graduate Section for the Alabama Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. A Human Development and Family Studies major who has traveled extensively with NAPS to help children in the United States and other countries, Webb is planning the Leadership Conference with the Oakwood College Family and Consumer Sciences Faculty. Students from several Alabama universities and colleges will attend the Leadership Conference at Oakwood College in October 2007. Conference subjects include Dietetics, Nutrition, Human Development, Interior Design, and Apparel Construction and Design. Webb will also attend the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National Meeting in Reno, Nevada, June 21-24. Dr. Ruth F. Davis and Professor Barbara Warren will also attend the meeting. Congratulations, Alecia, for being elected State President. ~ Ruth F. Davis, Chair, Family and Consumer Sciences.

**OAKWOOD AWARDED UNCF GRANT:** The United Negro College Fund (UNCF), through its Enrollment Management Program (EMP), has awarded Oakwood College a \$615,000 grant to support and enhance the school's enrollment management program. The goal of EMP is to increase student enrollment, with a focus on black males, and to improve retention, with an emphasis on financial aid opportunities. The grant includes \$15,000 for planning, \$450,000 for program implementation and \$150,000 for essential last dollar scholarships, which are used toward unmet educational needs of students. 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.

**OC ALUMNUS MAKES HISTORY AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEMINARY:** On May 6, 2007, Leslie N. Pollard, D.Min., M.Div., MBA, made history at Andrews University's graduation ceremony. Dr. Pollard, an Oakwood College graduate (1978), received the Ph.D. in New Testament Language and Literature from Andrews University, becoming

the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from the SDA Seminary at Andrews in this field of study.

Pollard's 500-page dissertation researched every occurrence of the word "remnant" in Revelation. "Never has there been a greater depth or breadth of interest in the 'people of God' in Scripture. ... I thought that I grasped this topic prior to my research. However, I now know that I had not even scratched the theological surface of this important subject," Pollard said. He further stated, "God makes these things possible. Also, I am so grateful for the fine scholarly foundation that I received at Oakwood College. My teachers at Oakwood inspired an 18-year-old young man from New Orleans to acquire a great thirst for learning. In that respect, I am deeply indebted to them."

Dr. Pollard presently serves as Vice-President for Diversity at Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Health Sciences Center. He is former pastor of the Oakwood College Church. His wife, Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., is also a graduate of Oakwood College (1978). She is presently Professor of Management and Human Resources at the LaSierra University School of Business. They have two daughters--Kristin, a third year law student at Mercer University, and Karin, a senior at Oakwood College.

**THREE STUDENTS CONDUCT SUMMER RESEARCH IN AFRICA:** Three students from Oakwood College have been selected as E-MHIRT Scholars in the **2007 Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (E-MHIRT) Program of Elizabeth City State University** (Elizabeth City, NC). **Janiel Bates, Ryan Lang, and Juwanza McIntosh** are three of the ten students who will be engaged in biomedical research in southern Africa for ten weeks during the summer of 2007. Janiel and Juwanza will be studying risk factors for diabetes at the University of Swaziland; Ryan will be engaged in drug discovery research at the University of Zululand in South Africa. This program is funded by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health. The E-MHIRT Program is directed by Dr. Ephraim Gwebu, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, Elizabeth City State University, and former professor of Chemistry and Director of Research at Oakwood College. This program pays all expenses including air tickets, living expenses, tuition and fees, insurance and research expenses. In addition, each scholar receives a \$2,500 stipend for full participation.

**OAKWOOD ALUMNUS WINS SOUTH BEND DISTRICT ELECTION:** Oliver Davis recently won a 6<sup>th</sup> District seat on the South Bend Common Council by only 18 votes, emerging as the winner in a field of six candidates. He is "very thankful to God" for the outcome of the race.

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007705090340>

**THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OAKWOOD COLLEGE ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC** fundraiser will be held on Sunday, June 24, 2007, at the 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 scholarships, the Physical Education Department, and campus enhancement projects at Oakwood College. Alumni and friends from around the country are planning to attend. 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](mailto:ocaagolf@yahoo.com). ~ *Cheri Wilson, Tournament Director and the OC Alumni Golf Classic Committee*

**IN OTHER NEWS . . .** A group of 50 Alabama Officials visited the campus on May 10, hosted by Archivist, Minneola Dixon. . . . Dr. Ciro Sepulveda (Chair, History Department) recently hosted up to 60 members of the Association of Adventist Historians on Oakwood's campus. . . . Members of the National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS) departed for Zimbabwe the week after Commencement. . . . Former Congressman, Dr. Floyd Flake, current President of Wilberforce University and Pastor of the 20,000-member Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral Church of New York, was the Chapel Guest on April 17. . . . The Connector Road to the Historic Slave Cemetery and the OCI Facility has been completed. Appreciation is expressed to County Commissioners Bob Harrison and Dale Strong; and Willie McCrary. . . . George O. Ashley was named Distinguished Teacher of the Year at Commencement on May 12. The name of Oakwood College has been inscribed on a commemorative brick in Huntsville's Bicentennial Park: <http://gismaps.hsvcity.com/brick/Map.aspx?id=1273>

Congratulations to the Class of 2007!  
May the Lord richly bless our graduates.