

# ACTS & FACTS



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**COLLEGE DAYS 2009:** Enrollment Management reported that over 750 potential students and their chaperones visited the campus for the annual College Days program, October 11-13, 2009. Some groups were able to travel by air to Huntsville, but the majority traveled in cars, vans, and buses from all over the United States and Canada. While visiting the campus, our guests met and talked with current Oakwood University students, experienced residential life, received information on scholarships and financial aid, met their future professors, toured the city of Huntsville, and participated in recreational activities. As a result of College Days, 627 applications were received from students hoping to enroll in either the spring or fall semesters of 2010.

**SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT:** AT&T's "Spirit of UNCF" voting sweepstakes gives HBCU students, alumni, and supporters a new way to show their school spirit by voting online, or via text, for their favorite HBCU. The institution with the most votes at the end of the competition wins the right to reign as the Spirit of UNCF. At stake are: a campus-to-community technology education fair powered by AT&T Technology, and an exclusive red carpet campus viewing party, complete with a celebrity host from the 2010 UNCF An Evening of Stars® (AEOS). One lucky voter will also win a complete AT&T Technology makeover and VIP trip for two to the live taping of An Evening of Stars® for next year.

Cast your vote for Oakwood University online at [www.att.com/spirit](http://www.att.com/spirit) or by texting VOTE to 65579. The winning HBCU will be announced November 16, with the individual sweepstakes winner announcement to follow. The on-campus rewards will occur on January 23, 2010, to coincide with the national televised airing of AEOS on ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, and CW affiliates and nationally on BET Networks and WGN.

**AGAPE HUNTSVILLE 2009:** Oakwood Administrators suspended classes on September 17, to enable over 400 students, staff, faculty and administrators to participate in AGAPE Huntsville 2009, a bi-annual event devoted to community service. Oakwood volunteers took the time from their busy office and classroom schedules to lend a helping hand at Huntsville's Burritt Museum, Huntsville Depot, Early Works Museum, Huntsville Library, the Hays Nature Preserve, University Place and Ridgecrest elementary schools, Ditto Landing, and a home for the adult handicapped to repair, clean up, paint, rake leaves, weed, dust, and plant flowers and provide other necessary services. Dr. Susan Baker, Oakwood's First Lady and faculty member in Allied Health, helped Oakwood students do housework at a local adult group home. She stated, "It has got to be the cleanest house in Huntsville!" She enjoyed the spirit of the students wanting to get involved and showing the community that Oakwood cares about them.

To make Agape Day possible, Oakwood partnered with Operation Green Team, an organization which endeavors to make Huntsville a role model for Alabama and the Nation in terms of landscape beauty, cleanliness, and environmental consciousness. Operation Green Team is affiliated

with Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Each participant received an Agape Huntsville 2009 T-shirt to commemorate the special celebration of civic service. The day culminated with a rally in the newly renovated Blake Center Dining Hall at 5:00 p.m., following the return of the Agape Huntsville 2009 participants to Oakwood's campus.

**TEN OAKWOOD STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD:** Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) is a consortium of Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Universities in North America and Australia which operates under the auspices of the Office of Education of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists located at the General Conference. Most international campuses have more than one educational institution on site – “schools within the school.” They might better be called a collection of small institutes. In no case are they organized like a North American college campus, except for the Universidad Adventista del Plata in Argentina, where Oakwood students Kristina Blair, Dara Gbolohan, Nadia Luckett, Terry-Ann Montaque, Erica Pelote, Megan Starks are attending this year. Other Oakwood students studying abroad this year include Frederick Keith, II, who is studying in Italy, and Rachel Carr, Melinda Graves and Royal Williams, who are studying in Spain.

**SPIRITUAL LIFE'S PRAYER ROOM OPENS OCTOBER 30:** Under the direction of Celestine Robinson, Administrative Assistant and Student Missionary Director of the Office of Spiritual Life, and Chaplain Rupert Bushner, Ph.D., Oakwood University students will soon have a comfortable and quiet place in which to pray when the church is closed. The Prayer Room, located in the Office of Spiritual Life, is the first of many planned for OU's campus, and will be available to students, faculty and staff to take advantage of the opportunity to engage in prayer for 15 minutes at a time. The room is designed to be an intimate place where a single person can pray, or a group of four people can pray together. Although prayer is the main focus of the Prayer Room concept, it will also be a place for grieving, and by appointment with Chaplain Bushner, communion. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on October 29.

**NSF SPONSORS TUTORIAL PROGRAM:** Oakwood's science departments hosted a Weekend Academy Tutorial Program for the community through funding provided by the National Science Foundation. Eleven tutorial sessions took place on Sunday, September 20, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Cooper Science Complex. Twenty (20) slots were available for 8th and 9th grade students.

The goal of the program was to prepare students to take standardized exams and to be successful in high school, through a series of workshops and seminars. The program tutored in Reading, Mathematics, Study Skills, PSAT/SAT/ACT preparation. Other seminars included Internet Skills/Safety, Financial Management for Teens, and Microsoft Training.

**CHEMISTRY NIGHT:** On Monday, October 26, Oakwood University's Chemistry Department and the North Alabama Mensa Kids Trek Chapter hosted “Chemistry Night,” for children of all ages in the local community. Participants were able to get hands-on experience in the chemistry laboratory, conducting experiments, and have fun while learning.

**FALL WEEK OF PRAYER:** Pastor Ivor Myers, senior pastor of the Templeton Hill SDA Church in Central California, was the guest speaker for the Fall Week of Revival, which was held October 18 -24, 2009. Pastor and Mrs. Myers are the hosts of the 3ABN program, "Battle of Faith." The focus of Pastor Myers' messages was "The Real Oil Crisis," discussing the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**YOUTH MOTIVATION TASK FORCE 2009:** On October 26, the Career Development & Testing Department hosted the 2009 Youth Motivation Task Force (YMTF) workshop, with special guests Dr. Alvin Jackson and Florida State Representative Ronald Brisé. The events began at a "Q&A" dinner in Oakwood's newly remodeled cafeteria, where students, faculty and staff in attendance had the opportunity to talk to both Dr. Jackson and Representative Brisé in an informal setting. Education of today's young people, and current issues such as the H1N1-virus were both topics brought up in the round table discussion session.

Jackson, also known as "Ohio's Doctor," gave his thoughts on motivating the young people of today to get their education. He suggests that Oakwood has provided the environment for them, which is the first step; however, the next step they have to take. Jackson advocates working towards goals, as he did coming from a poor family in Southern Georgia. He also encourages others to get involved with programs such as the Youth Motivation Task Force, because you may never know what seeds you plant. Jackson also spoke at the YMTF Chapel.

Representative Brisé, an Oakwood alumnus (Class of '99), shared his journey to the State House, encouraging students to strive toward their goals. He shared his journey from a struggling college student to the successful man he is today, by setting goals, and making every effort to reach them.

The YMTF events concluded with a luncheon in the McKee Business & Technology building, to recognize individuals who helped make YMTF successful. Attendees included University President Baker, USM President Toson Knight and representatives from the YMTF Community Consultants. Speaker Michael A. Cox concluded that, "Everybody who comes with you, can't go with you," to remind students that events such as YMTF encourage and motivate, but in the end each is accountable for creating his or her own success.

**OPEN YOUR MIND LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES:** Growing up as an only child, Kemba Smith led an advantaged and sheltered childhood. After graduating from high school in 1989, Kemba left the security of her family to continue her education at Hampton University. In an attempt to "fit in," Smith fell in with the wrong crowd and became involved with a drug dealer. He was a major figure in a crack cocaine ring, and drew Smith into the middle of his life with physical, mental and emotional abuse disguised as "love."

After enduring this turbulent four-year relationship, in 1994 Smith was sentenced to 24.5 years in federal prison. After serving 6.5 years of the sentence, Smith regained her freedom after President Clinton granted her clemency in December 2000. Her case drew support from across the nation and the world in a crusade to reverse a disturbing trend in the rise of lengthy sentences for first time non-violent offenders.

Ultimately, Smith hopes to uplift youth and inspire them to become educated about certain injustices within the criminal justice system while continuing the legacy of women leaders in the struggle for the betterment of our communities. Whether it is through grassroots organizing or lobbying on

Capitol Hill to promote action, this, she believes, is her mission.

The mission of the “Open Your Mind Lecture Series” is to support quality education at Oakwood University by providing extracurricular learning opportunities through presentations by individuals who have unique viewpoints, expertise, or life experiences, with the goal of exposing students to broader perspectives of intellectual thought.

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](mailto:pr@oakwood.edu) or call (256) 726-7202.



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