

OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E



Oakwood or Bust:

The Start
of a New
School Year



A CALL FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

8

**OAKWOOD RESPONDS TO NATIONAL
EVENTS**

10-14

ATLANTA EVENT RAISES FUNDS

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OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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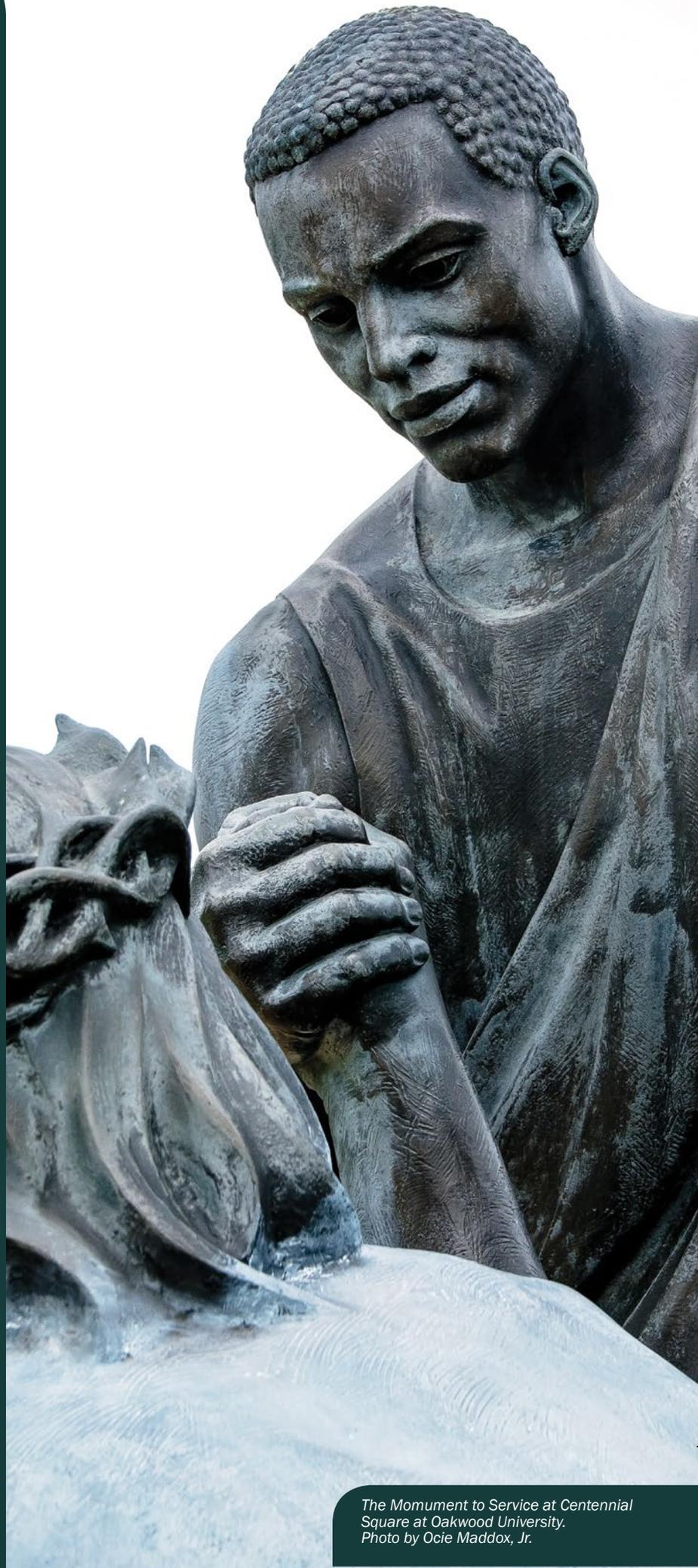
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FALL 2014



*The Monument to Service at Centennial
Square at Oakwood University.
Photo by Ocie Maddox, Jr.*



Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



Photo by Roland Scott.

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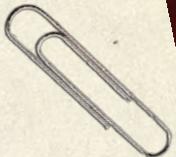
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OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The 2014-2015 school year has begun and we are ready! We inaugurated the school year with our First Chapel Service, in which our entire Oakwood University academic community gathered to seek God's blessing on our school year. Here are some excerpts from that message titled I Press.



Note: The title comes from the Apostle Paul's exclamation in Philippians 3:10-12. In a ministry where he frequently met hardship and resistance, Paul, the most evangelistic apostle in the New Testament, declared that he met resistance with persistence – I press.

- We press when we see that 21% of blacks do not attend high school long enough to get a diploma compared to 11% of whites.
- We press when we see that only 30% of blacks ages 18-24 attend an institution of higher learning.
- We press when we see that only 17% of the 30% who attend will earn a four-year degree.
- We press when we see that in 2011 on average, blacks ages 30-34 who graduated with a high-school diploma earned \$638 per week.
- We press when we see that their peers with bachelor's degrees earned \$1,053 a week. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the difference adds up to more than \$500,000 in personal earnings over the course of a lifetime. We press!

We press with the message that education is a key to financial liberation. In Ferguson, Mo., a whole town today percolates with anger at the shooting of the unarmed Mike Brown by a police officer. This shooting and its aftermath is one more of many calls to our nation that the work embodied by Dr. King is not finished, and our nation is haunted by his words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We are reminded that in some communities to be a man of color can still be dangerous in America.

Oakwood University has committed to pressing toward the high calling of the prize in Christ Jesus. When my single mother, making \$2.74 an hour, deposited me on the steps of Cunningham Hall in 1974 and handed me 500 \$1 dollar bills, it was not because she could afford it, but because she believed that God would provide. I recently polled the seven members of President's Council, and asked them a question, "When you went to an Adventist university, could you afford it?" Not one raised their hand. No one in President's Council had the resources and could afford it. In the words of our Senior Pastor, Dr. Carlton Byrd, "if you have the vision, God has the provision. For faith is the key in the hand of faith that unlocks Heaven's storehouse."

It was faith that led three leaders from the Seventh-day Adventist Church down to a 360-acre slave plantation in Huntsville, Ala., in 1896, with \$8,000 to found Oakwood Industrial School. Sixty-five oak trees and 16 students later, Oakwood was born. And thousands of graduates later, the story of faith and God's provision declares that "If God be for us, who can be against us."

From the east to the west, from the north to the south, from Canada, New Guinea, from Vietnam, to Korea, from Trinidad to Bahamas, from Malawi to Kenya, and all countries in between, Oakwood is the place where we write new endings every day. Faculty and staff, students and parents, administrators and board members are all in the transformation ministry. So students, press! Stop obsessing in the rearview mirror. All of us would like to have done some things differently in our past. But Carl Bard said it correctly: "No one can go back and make a brand new start. But anyone can start now and make a brand new ending." By pressing forward today and everyday, you will write a brand new ending. That's why your Haitian grandmother gave you that little piece of money she had been holding—because she saw in you a brand new ending. That's why your daddy pulled out that credit card at registration and swiped onto it a debt that he still doesn't know how he will pay—because he saw in you a brand new ending. That's why your local church sent you that care package or three-way scholarship—because they saw in you a brand new ending. That's why your local church sent Oakwood University family, press on, lean in, straight ahead, forward march! Meet resistance with persistence. And in the end, God will smile on the work of our hands and our ending will be 10 times better than our beginning.

Leslie M. Pollard
Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA
President, Oakwood University

7000 ADVENTIST BOULEVARD, NW HUNTSVILLE, AL 35894
God First!



A Message from the President
EDITORIAL

THE START *of* A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

by George Johnson, Jr.

The Oakwood University campus has come alive again. New students have driven miles to begin their new lives while returning students have come back from summer breaks with a renewed sense of commitment in their academic pursuits. Some parents have reclaimed their sofas and refrigerators and are even changing rooms into offices and woman/mancaves. Other parents are experiencing the ever-so-common “empty nest syndrome” and wondering what to do with this new “lifestyle” they have acquired. “I’m going to rest,” said Lisa Hall, who brought her daughter, a sophomore transferring to Oakwood from a junior college in Dallas, Texas. “I want to travel, and maybe get involved in some things in town, so I’m kind of looking forward to that,” said Hall.

In an effort to create a better experience with new students, the Orientation Design Committee began planning the programming for the Orientation Week prior to the 2014 Alumni Weekend festivities. Under the direction of Dr. George Ashley, acting vice president of Academic Administration and Regina Jacob, director of Freshman Advising and Retention, the team organized focus groups with students to find out what improvements were needed for the event. Changes were then added which included features to the programming that allowed for more interactivity.

Speakers for the orientation week themed “Get Connected!” included Andy Masters and Marcus Creighton who introduced success and leadership concepts. Masters is an award-winning author and speaker who has presented College Success & Career preparation programs for more than 250 colleges. Creighton, a senior advisor with MetLife in St. Louis, Mo., conducts financial literacy workshops for college students and community organizations.



**2014-2015
Enrollment
By The
Numbers!**



Freshmen class: 374
Transfer students: 80
Returning students: 1,186
Former students: 71
LEAP: 125
Employees: 8
Dietetic interns: 29
COOP: 8
Studying abroad: 13
Special/transient: 2
UAHE Program: 13
Graduate students: 15
Total students: 1,924

Family members hug at the “Parting Ceremony” before students begin their academic journey at Oakwood University. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

OU FACULTY MEMBER

Reflects

ON FALL MOVE-IN DAY
2014

by Ifeoma Kwesi

During this summer's Faculty/Staff Colloquium, Ryan Smith, assistant vice president for Student Services, asked for volunteers to assist the new students as they moved their belongings into their assigned residence halls. I felt impressed to respond but initially resisted because of my physical limitations due to current health challenges. Then I realized that there was more than one way to help the students and families during this oft-times traumatic transition and that was to pray with them. So I explained my situation, my proposed alternative and signed up to welcome the new residents of Wade Hall.

Generally, I would begin by saying, "Welcome to Oakwood University" and introducing myself. Then I asked their names, where they were from, their intended major/career aspirations, if other members of the family had attended or were currently attending Oakwood, and if there were any questions or concerns I could help with. At first it felt as though I was just making small talk but it turned out to be the basis for the specific and personalized prayers that would follow. I would then hug the new Oakwoodite and her family and remind them that regardless of her major, I was available to assist throughout her time here, indicating the location of my office.

It was after I was officially "off the clock" and had left the building that I had the defining experience. A woman tapped on the passenger-side window of my car as I was about to pull off. She simply said, "You didn't pray with us." It was true because, for whatever reason, after her daughter got her room assignment, she went back out the door through which she had just entered. And when she returned I was with another family and never saw her or her family again.

So I asked what had become the standard questions and her daughter indicated that she wanted to study biology (or biochemistry) and Spanish in preparation for matriculation at a good school of dentistry so that she could eventually open dental clinics in Third World, Spanish-speaking countries. I congratulated her for such an awesome vision but was blown away, immediately reflecting on my freshmen year and its lack of focus.

I truly look forward to engaging new students in this way in the years to come, as I believe that I was blessed even more than they were by having this opportunity to say "Welcome to Oakwood University" and mean it.

- Ifeoma Kwesi is an assistant professor in the Religion & Theology Department.



Hernandy Ulsaint (who is not the subject of this feature story) is happy about the "move-in day" in one of the resident halls.

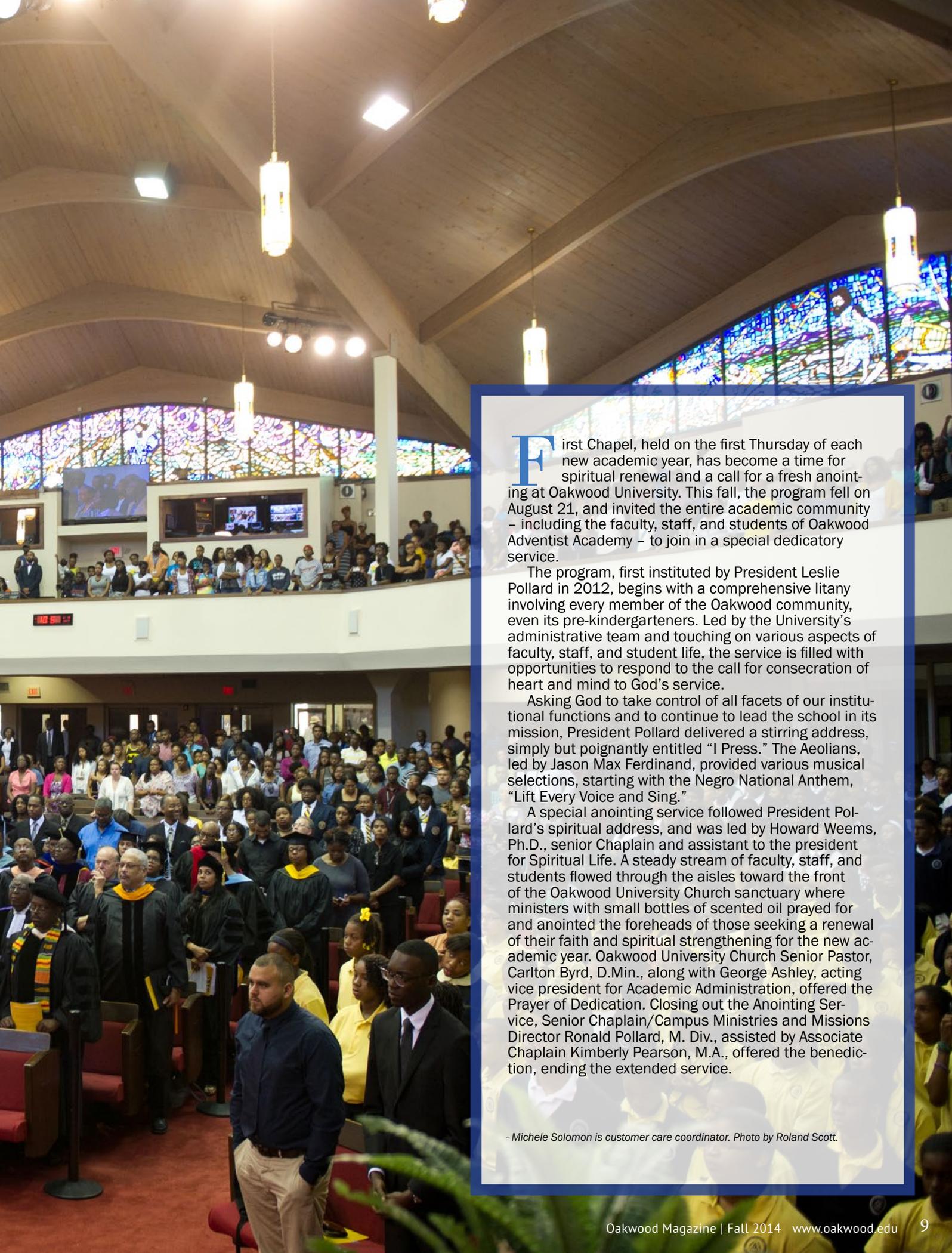
First

A Call for Spiritual Renewal;
Fresh Anointing

by Michele Solomon

Chapel





First Chapel, held on the first Thursday of each new academic year, has become a time for spiritual renewal and a call for a fresh anointing at Oakwood University. This fall, the program fell on August 21, and invited the entire academic community – including the faculty, staff, and students of Oakwood Adventist Academy – to join in a special dedicatory service.

The program, first instituted by President Leslie Pollard in 2012, begins with a comprehensive litany involving every member of the Oakwood community, even its pre-kindergarteners. Led by the University's administrative team and touching on various aspects of faculty, staff, and student life, the service is filled with opportunities to respond to the call for consecration of heart and mind to God's service.

Asking God to take control of all facets of our institutional functions and to continue to lead the school in its mission, President Pollard delivered a stirring address, simply but poignantly entitled "I Press." The Aeolians, led by Jason Max Ferdinand, provided various musical selections, starting with the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

A special anointing service followed President Pollard's spiritual address, and was led by Howard Weems, Ph.D., senior Chaplain and assistant to the president for Spiritual Life. A steady stream of faculty, staff, and students flowed through the aisles toward the front of the Oakwood University Church sanctuary where ministers with small bottles of scented oil prayed for and anointed the foreheads of those seeking a renewal of their faith and spiritual strengthening for the new academic year. Oakwood University Church Senior Pastor, Carlton Byrd, D.Min., along with George Ashley, acting vice president for Academic Administration, offered the Prayer of Dedication. Closing out the Anointing Service, Senior Chaplain/Campus Ministries and Missions Director Ronald Pollard, M. Div., assisted by Associate Chaplain Kimberly Pearson, M.A., offered the benediction, ending the extended service.

- Michele Solomon is customer care coordinator. Photo by Roland Scott.

The Power of a CHALLENGE

by Reginald Mattison, Jr. student writer

Close your eyes and imagine how your life would be if you had Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Imagine sitting in a chair and the only voluntary muscle movement comes from your eyes. You cannot move, scratch your head, fix your clothes, or even shift your weight in your chair. Imagine every morning having to depend on your mom, dad, sister, or even a dean to bathe, dress, and take care of your personal hygiene needs without being able to move the slightest muscle to assist in the process.

Individuals who are diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis diagnosis experience what is described above. ALS is a progressive disease that destroys the cells in the spinal cord and the brain. ALS affects the motor neurons, which are responsible for the movement of muscle. Normally, ALS begins to affect the lower limbs of the body then moves to affect the upper limbs and organs of the body. It is rare, however, for ALS to affect the upper limbs of the body and then move to the lower limbs.

This summer, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has brought awareness as well as raise funding* for scientific research to find a cure for ALS. The Challenge consists of a person pouring ice-cold water (with ice cubes) on him or herself. After the Challenge is complete, the person then donates money to the ALS Foundation.

Pamela Alleyne, projects specialist for Student Accounts, is pleased of the awareness that the Challenge is bringing. "Because ALS is not as prevalent as cancers or a sexually transmitted disease, there's a lack of public attention," she said. Alleyne knows deeply the affects of this disease as she lost her husband to it in 2002.

The Ice Bucket Challenge has been a major source of awareness for the disease on the Oakwood campus. Following First Chapel on August 21, Dr. Leslie Pollard and USM President Tahjai Conkerite accepted the Ice Bucket Challenge from Dr. Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University; and Dr. Tricia Pennicooke, dean of the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University. Other entities that have completed the challenge include Student Services, Holland Hall, and OUBN just to name a few.

**At the time of publication, more than \$88 million has been raised because of the Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS research. For more information, please visit www.alsa.org*

Dean David Knight, vice president of Student Services, also accepted the Ice Bucket Challenge. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



Photo by Roland Scott





Moment of Silence/Justice for

MIKE BROWN

by Camille Moore and Zhari Clay, student writers



Oakwood University students display the “don’t shoot” gesture during the moment of silence on August 14. Photos by Anthony Chornes II.

Emotions are running high in Ferguson, Mo., after the fatal shooting of Mike Brown on August 9. No one would have known that warm sunny day would end so badly. At 11:51 p.m., Brown crossed paths with a police officer and by 12:01 a.m. he was lying lifeless in the street. His death sparked outrage in his small town.

Out of solidarity for the family and supporters of Brown, Oakwood University participated in a national moment of silence. In the midst of a busy orientation week, the decision was made to support other peaceful protestors. The new class of 2018 gathered to remember a student who would have been attending orientation at another campus that same week. USM President Tahjai Conkerite shared, “It could have literally been me or any student at Oakwood University’ If we are not more aware of the world around us than it could happen to us just as easily.”

Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard was also in attendance. He explained the frustrations of the young black community and how to move on in the future. He said, “The death of Mike Brown has sent a shock wave through the young adult community—it has been a wake-up call. In my conversations with this generation, one thing surfaces consistently in our discussions of the Mike Brown killing. His death has reawakened their underlying fear that, in spite of all hopes to the contrary, America may not be post-racial. Progress may seem like a fleeting effort in our society, but it is imperative to have a voice and reject indifference. Of all the significant quotes, one stands out. Martin Luther King, Jr. said ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’”



Dr. Leslie Pollard was interviewed by a local television news reporter concerning the Mike Brown situation.



Students gathered at the Monument to Service for a rally before the moment of silence.

A Report from Student Enrollment Services

Student Enrollment Services (SES) was established to create a one-stop-shop environment in order to better serve the needs of our students. This one-stop-shop concept focuses on service built into a single location as well as online. This concept has assisted us in providing improved student satisfaction and will ultimately improve our retention and graduation rates. The Student Enrollment Services area is a collaborative effort between three major student support services departments: Admissions and Recruitment, the Center for Academic Success, and Financial Aid. This collaborative effort enables students to complete paperwork, conduct online business, and obtain access to information in a more timely and efficient manner. The fact that students no longer have to wait in long lines to be serviced saves them time to do more important things such as studying and engaging in extracurricular activities. “Our goal,” said Monica Sudeall-Hawkins, executive director for Student Enrollment Services, “is to eliminate the runaround and to give students 24/7 access to pertinent information.” Fewer customer service complaints and better streamlined services have resulted from this initiative. Student Enrollment Services is committed to each student’s success and we work conscientiously to ensure students receive the highest level of customer service.

In the spring of 2013, Nikki Lawson joined the Enrollment Management Office as its director. The focus for recruiting has now become a campus wide initiative, and at the heart of this transformation is the Office of Enrollment Management. Enrollment Management ensures students and institutional success by providing the highest standards of excellence in strategic enrollment planning; through actively targeting, recruiting and enrolling qualified Adventist students and those seeking a Christian education. Enrollment Management also works collaboratively with campus programs and services to identify and implement processes to meet university goals.

The current implementation of a new recruitment management system will assist in ensuring that all prospective applicants are contacted and a continual flow of information about Oakwood will be shared with them. This was a major undertaking for the Enrollment team. We are confident that this new system will be a game-changer in the way we recruit students.

The Student Enrollment Services team is committed to putting God First. In doing this, Oakwood University will continue to be a place where young lives are transformed everyday.

Canadian Oakwood Recruitment Team Makes a Difference

For generations, Canadian Seventh-day Adventist churches have been adamant supporters of Oakwood University. Since the 1960s, hundreds of Canadian students have travelled to the “deep south” to attend Oakwood University. The province of Ontario, has consistently led the way in Canadian graduates that have attended Oakwood University. Recently President Pollard established a Canadian recruitment contingent to assist with recruitment efforts in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), which boasts perhaps the largest Seventh-day Adventist population in any major city within North America, estimated at about 35,000. The dynamic team consists of Pauline Christian (President of the Black Business Association of Canada and parent of two Oakwood graduates), Leo Campbell (Oakwood alumnus), Opal McKenzie (parent of Oakwood graduates), Topaz McKenzie (Oakwood alumnus) and Jodi-leigh Nemhart. The GTA team works with the Enrollment Management Department at Oakwood University to provide ongoing support and continuity, which enables the team to remain current and connected to the University. With the multiple citywide youth events that are frequently occurring in a city this size, the Canadian team has become instrumental in providing a consistent Oakwood presence in the GTA.



Left to Right, Pauline Christian, Henry Hawkins, and Leo Campbell at the 2014 Ontario Conference Camp Meeting



Opal McKenzie working with interested students at the 2014 Ontario Conference Camp Meeting



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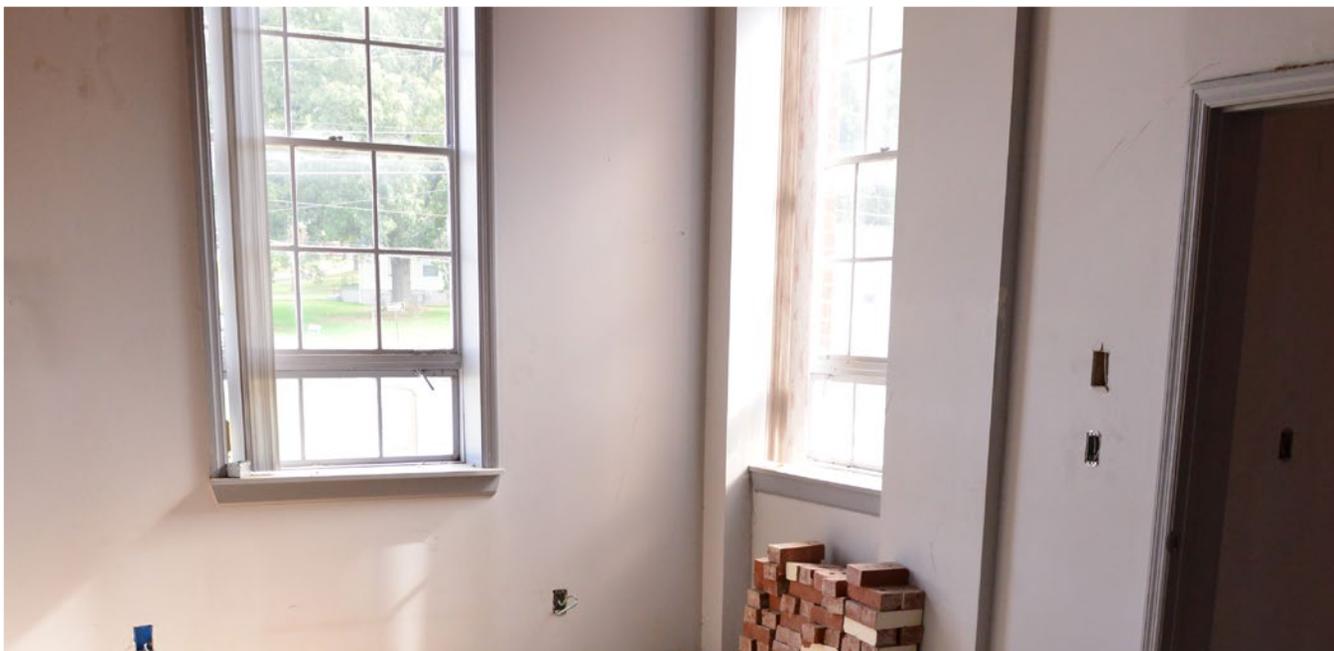
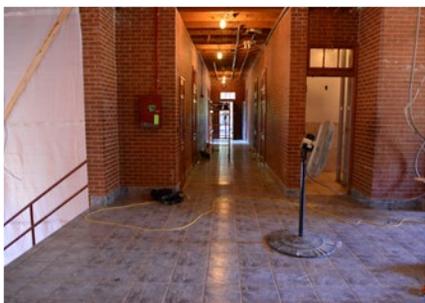
Construction



Peters Media Center

The Peters Media Center is being built to enrich the academic lives of our students and the personal lives of our constituents by providing an interdisciplinary environment where art and technology merge. Not only will the Media Center be a learning environment for the Communication students, but it will also house the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network.

Update



Ford Hall

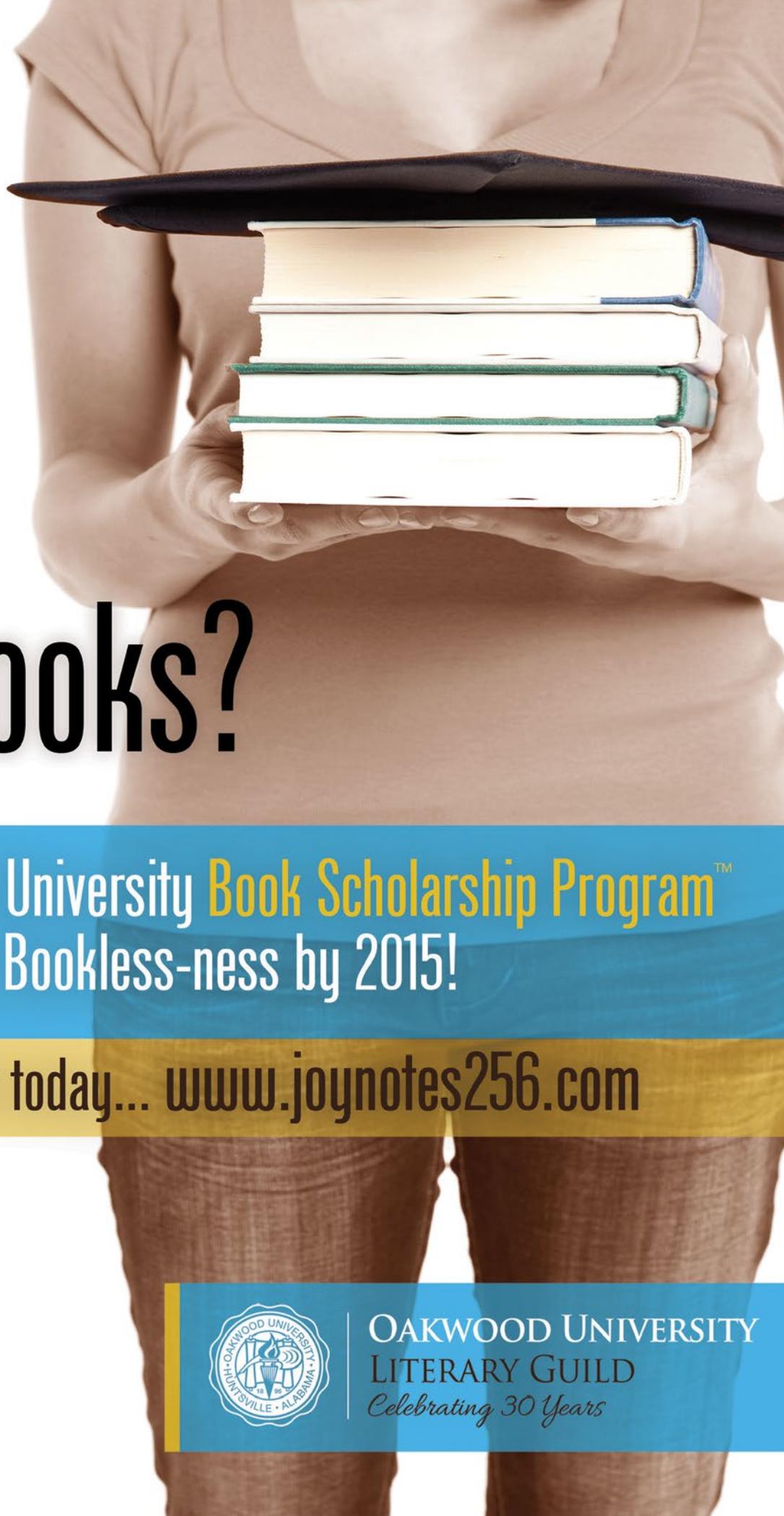
H.E. Ford Science Hall was built in 1954 under the administration of President F. L. Peterson. The building was dedicated for the teaching of natural sciences and mathematics. The building is now slated to house the Communication Department, which will entail classrooms, faculty offices, computer lab, and faculty lounge.

Construction Update



Carter Hall

Bessie Carter Hall was built in 1966. At the time of its building, Carter Hall was a very modernly equipped residence hall that needed to be built to house the growing female population in the late 1970s.



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OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
LITERARY GUILD
Celebrating 30 Years

Student Services Hosts Training for 2014-2015 School Year

by Ryan Smith, assistant vice president, Student Services; director, Residential Life

Each year the Division of Student Services is tasked with providing leadership training for student leaders including resident assistants, night assistants, and United Student Movement (USM) leaders. These student leaders come back to campus early during the Fall semester to be trained, engaged, and prepared for the upcoming school year.

This year's theme for Student Leadership Conference (held August 7-12) was "Seeds of Leadership." The main speaker for the conference was Dave Ferguson, director of Undergraduate Leadership Development at Andrews University. During his presentations, students had the opportunity to learn about different leadership styles, leaders, and the importance of what it means to be a Christian leader. Ferguson has a long list of career experiences with young people where he has served as a conference youth director, academy chaplain, and pastor, just to name a few. Students were engaged and they were given the opportunity to openly share about their experiences as leaders and ask pointed questions.

In addition to Ferguson, local pastors provided morning devotionals. Toussaint Williams, associate pastor of Oakwood University Church; Alphonzo Greene, associate pastor of First

Seventh-day Adventist Church; and Gregory Nelson, senior pastor of Madison Mission Seventh-day Adventist Church provided a unique spiritual challenge to the student leaders.



Students take a relaxing moment at Ruby Falls in Chattanooga, Tenn. Photo by Jodiam McLeod.

Oakwood Completes Mental Health First Aid Training

On April 23, Oakwood University completed its first Mental Health First Aid Training USA as a part of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Center for Excellence (HBCU-CFE) in Behavioral Health Mini Grant – a grant spearheaded by the Oakwood University Social Work Department and the Oakwood University Health and Counseling Department. Grace Arnold, MS, LPC, and also a certified mental health first aid USA instructor, provided training for 16 participants comprised of faculty, students, staff, residential hall deans and resident assistants to become mental health first aiders. A certificate was given upon completion of the training.

Participants were taught the Mental Health First Aid USA five-step action plan called "ALGEE" which is a five-step process designed to support someone developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or who is in an emotional crisis. Feedback from the training was extremely positive and many participants noted that all faculty and staff should have the opportunity to participate in the Mental Health First Aid USA training, as it was helpful in understanding mental health issues and the impact it can have on students and employees in terms of retention, academic performance and job performance.

Other components of the mini grant during the 2013/2014 school year included a Mental Health Awareness Day and the implementation of the College Response Pro-

gram online mental health screening located on the Oakwood University website.

It is the hope of the Oakwood University Health and Counseling Department that with ongoing training on campus, using the Mental Health First Aid USA program, that our community will understand the shroud of fear and misjudgment facing individuals and families who experience mental illnesses/ addiction and move more and more people toward recovery.

Student Finds Her Calling in Residential Life

by Camille M. Kibler, Residential Life coordinator, West Oaks Apartments

“Dean, I want to be a dean,” exclaimed Veneshia Gallimore, senior social work major, when she discovered her life’s calling – to be a residential life professional. With that decision, this first-year resident assistant began a carefully calculated journey toward that goal. Choosing to be a resident assistant was the first step. Surely, there are other young people in the world have the same desire.

Applying to and being selected to attend STARS College 2014 on the campus of American University in Washington, DC, was step two. STARS College (sponsored by the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International) is a three-day experience for undergraduate students interested in learning about the student affairs and campus housing professions. Veneshia shared, “a career in the housing profession isn’t where my goals were aligned when I entered college. As a social work major I knew I inhabited a special place for helping others. After entering housing/residential life as a resident assistant I fell in love with the profession and decided to cement my future there. It is within this profession where I can skillfully combine my love for others and professionalism within the social work field.”

STARS is a wonderful opportunity to meet students from around the globe, while learning more about a career in housing/residence life and student affairs. STARS College accommodates 40-55 students who must have at least one full year of undergraduate study remaining after the program. They must also demonstrate significant interest in campus housing, residential life, and student affairs through

their involvement or work experience during their time as an undergrad. In addition, each participant must show commitment from an on-campus mentor who will play a vital role in continued mentoring and exposure to the field after STARS College has concluded.



STARS College Class of 2014

USM President Takes Trip to Israel

by Raymond King, director, Student Activities

Tahjai Conkerite, a senior business administration major and the incoming United Student Movement president, traveled to Israel on a 12-day all-expense paid trip this past summer. The trip is designed for pro-Israel political activists and student leaders who are not of Jewish descent. Tahjai was selected from a very competitive pool of candidates who attend Ivy League, State, and Christian schools and also HBCU’s.

The 40 student leaders were exposed to Israel’s most important historical and holy places, as well as top-level briefing and site visits. The participants experienced the land of the Bible, gained a deeper understanding of the strategic and social issues facing Israel today, and examined the challenges and opportunities associated with the United States-Israel alliance. The organization that sponsored this trip is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which is committed to a strong United States-Israel relationship. The trip is paid for by the Milstein Family Foundation, very strong supporters and generous contributors to AIPAC.

Tahjai reflected on his experience saying, “I stood where Jesus and great prophets have stood; I have swam in the Mediterranean sea, the Dead Sea, and the Sea of Galilee. I walked up the Mount of Olives and walked down to the garden of Gethsemane. I was privileged with the opportunity to rededicate my life to Christ by being baptized in the Jordan

River. I have touched and prayed on the 2,000-year western wall of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. I have shared in the traditions of Shabbat and other Jewish customs. I was afforded the opportunity to speak to Generals, American diplomats, Knesset members, Palestinians, Israelis, and Arab-Israelis about what it is going to take to see lasting peace in Israel.



Through this experience my faith has been reaffirmed more than ever before. I think is very important for youth of our church to experience an opportunity such as this, so that relationships with Christ take on new meaning and a deeper connection.”

Tahjai, being an activist for AIPAC, states that it is important to not take any sides in Middle Eastern conflict by being pro-Israeli or being pro-Palestinian, but to be pro-peace as both sides strive to find equal ground and coexistence.

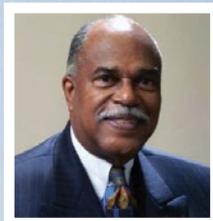
Division Update: Student Services

USM Presidents: Do You Know Where They Are Now?

Compiled by **Debbe Millet**, creative services coordinator, Integrated Marketing & Public Relations

In the Winter 2014 issue, we asked how did your student-elected USM Presidents “Depart to Serve”? Of the responses we received, we found that several former student leaders are have served, or are now serving, in the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) ministry.

- 1957: David Taylor – pastor, University SDA Church, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 1959: Garland F. Millet – retired from 36 years of teaching history at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.
- 1962: Dr. DeWitt Williams – retired, first African American to serve in the Communication Department at the General Conference of SDAs
- 1964: Henry Wright, Sr. – pastor, Takoma Park SDA Church, Takoma Park, Md.
- 1965: James Winston
- 1966: Auldwin Humphrey - Executive Secretary, South Central Conference of SDA, Nashville, Tenn.
- 1968: William A. Niles
- 1970-1971: Cleveland Williams (information supplied by Paula Barnes, '74)
- 1972-1973: John Williams (information supplied by Paula Barnes, '74)
- 1977-1978: Preston Foster – former White House Fellow, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education, and adjunct Professor at Oakwood University
- 1978-1979: William Taliaferro (information supplied by Preston Foster)
- 1987-1988: Marc K. Woodson, executive secretary, Northern California Conference of SDAs, Pleasant Hill, Calif.
- 1988-1989: Christopher Varner (information supplied by Marc Woodson)
- 1992-1993: Furman Fordham, III – pastor, Riverside Chapel SDA Church, Nashville, Tenn.
- 1993-1994: Dr. Carlton P. Byrd – senior pastor, Oakwood University Church of SDAs, Huntsville, Ala.; speaker/director, Breath of Life Ministries
- 1996-1997: Dr. C. Wesley Knight – senior pastor, Mt. Olive SDA Church, East Point, Ga.
- 1997-1998: Debleaire Snell – pastor, First Church of SDA, Huntsville, Ala.
- 1998-1999: Debleaire Snell
- 2002-2003: Fred Warfield, executive pastor, Takoma Park SDA Church, Takoma Park, Md.



D. Taylor



D. Williams



H. Wright



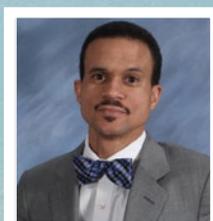
A. Humphrey



P. Foster



M. Woodson



F. Fordham



C. Byrd



C. Knight



D. Snell



F. Warfield

We want to acknowledge the service and lives of five former USM Presidents:

- 1950-1951: Harold Cleveland, Sr. (dec.)
- 1953: Joseph Hinson (dec.)
- 1960: Richard Hutchinson (dec.)
- 1961: Paul Monk (dec.)
- 1967: William Frazier (dec.)



DR. CARLTON P. BYRD
Speaker/Director



PASTOR C.D. BROOKS
Speaker/Director Emeritus



PASTOR WALTER PEARSON
Speaker/Director Emeritus



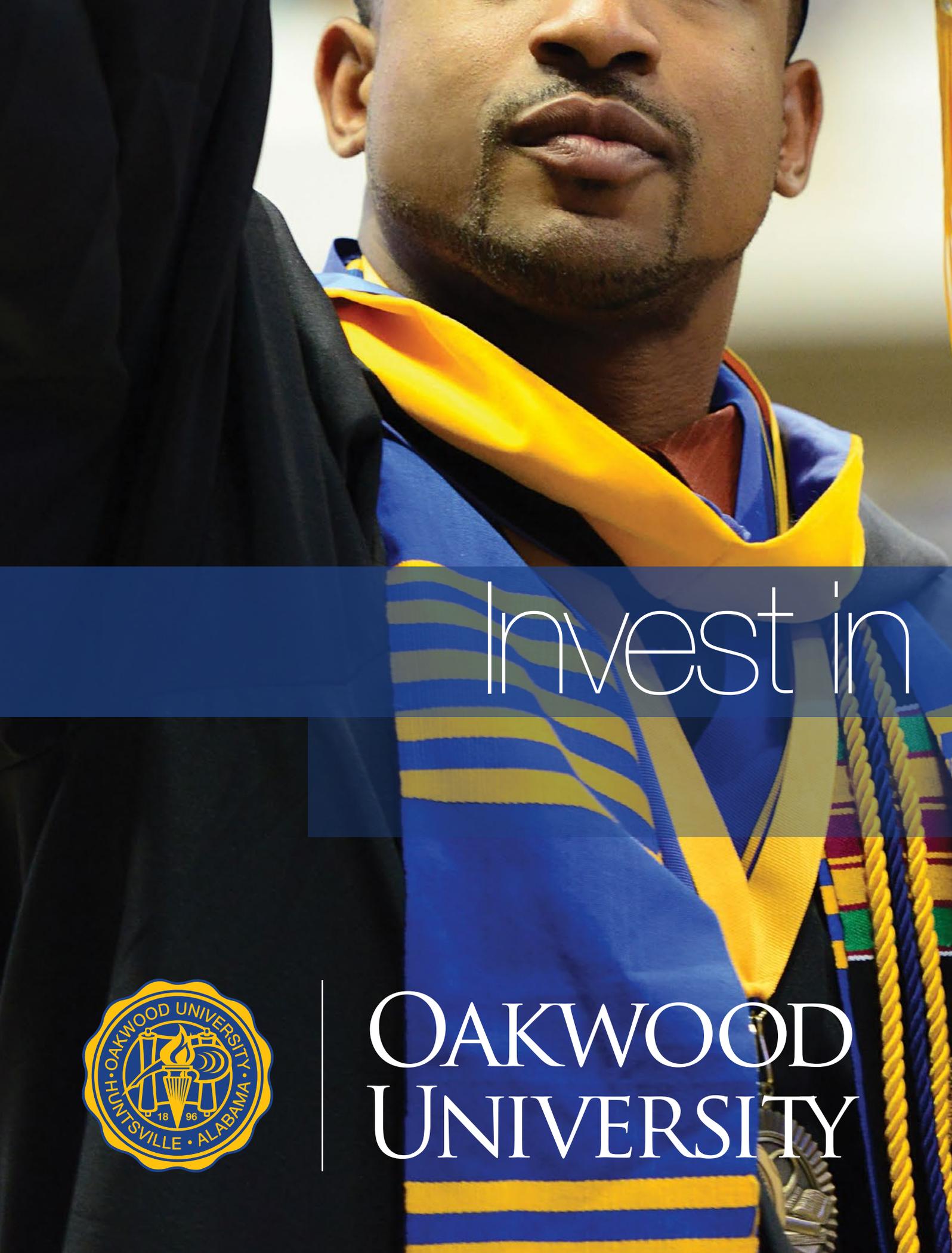
PASTOR WALTER ARTIES
Founder

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- **Friday, November 7th**
Worship Experience at 7:00 pm
- **Sabbath, November 8th**
Sabbath School at 9:15 am
Divine Worship Experience at 11:00 am
Musical Concert and Vespers at 6:00 pm
- **Special Musical Guests include**
Pastor Walter Arties, Pastor Shelton Kilby,
Breath of Life Quartets (Original and Current),
Oakwood University Aeolians, Dynamic Praise, Voices of Triumph,
the Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Choir,
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Division Update: Academic Administration

The Academic Division Prepares For the Future

by George Ashley, Ph.D., acting vice president for Academic Administration

As Oakwood University operates with “God First” as its motto, the Academic Administration Division is trusting in God for direction as departments review the past and make plans for the future. For the first six months of the academic year, the Academic Division engages in an intense program review process that shapes the direction of the future.

The process is intended to do the following:

- Review the current offerings in each department and envisioning how best to position each program for the professional job-markets of the future.
- Provide an organized opportunity for faculty to reflect on best practices within academia, future trends and review the role of their program in the context of the programs offered by the University.
- Support the strategic plan of Oakwood University as articulated in President Pollard’s Vision 20/20. This process

will identify the future undergraduate and graduate programs for Oakwood University for the next three to five years, and the specific steps that programs will engage in to achieve these goals.

This perhaps one of the most exciting periods in Oakwood’s history as faculty in each department prayerfully work together to develop strategic plans that will shape the lives of Oakwood University’s current and future students of the twenty-first century. With the new emphasis on servant leadership through service learning within every academic department, the next three to five years are going to be an exciting time to be a student at Oakwood University.

Please keep the Academic Division in prayer as faculty work together to design programs that will develop students who will reflect God’s image in a diverse and complex world.

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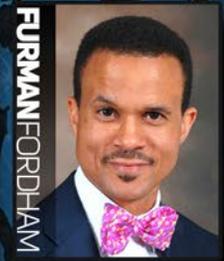
LOLAMOOORE
Maranatha & Emmanuel
PANAMA CITY, FL



DAN JACKSON
North American Division
SILVER SPRING, MD



GENEDONALDSON
Capitol Hill Church
WASHINGTON, DC



FURMAN FORDHAM
Riverside Chapel
NASHVILLE, TN

PRESENTERS INCLUDE

- FREDDIE RUSSELL** - Atlanta Berean SDA Church, Atlanta, GA
- ABRAHAM JULES** - Mt. Vernon SDA Church, Mt. Vernon, NY
- WESLEY KNIGHT** - Mt. Olive SDA Church, Atlanta, GA
- JAPHET DE OLIVEIRA** - Boulder SDA Church, Boulder, CO
- CALVIN WATKINS** - South Atlantic Conference, Atlanta, GA

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DR. JESSE WILSON
PELC Director

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What is LETC?

by Aisha Allsop, LETC director

The Literature Evangelism Training Center (LETC) is an industry that has been a part of Oakwood University's rich history and educational program since 1896. LETC was established to provide opportunity for students to, in a very practical way, engage in mission service while simultaneously supporting their Oakwood education. This missionary-centered program is an excellent means of developing spiritual, mental, physical and social skills, which are the essentials for a holistic Christian character. It also prepares the students for their life's work and leadership roles through a practical experience in organizational dynamics and financial planning.



Chaka Samuel



Student literature evangelists preparing to go out in Huntsville.

LETC's mission, embedded in the gospel commission of Matthew 28:18 "go ye therefore...", is to train, motivate and develop students in the art, psychology and technique of canvassing Christian and health literature to the public and throughout the North American Division with a missional emphasis. The purpose is to provide the means whereby the students can actualize their witness for Christ; share the gospel to souls in need; develop a closer walk with the Lord, and provide a way to support their education through our scholarship program.

Student literature evangelists (LEs) canvass in neighborhoods, communities, and cities sharing the gospel through the selling of books and magazines. Free tracts are also distributed widely. Student LEs meet people in their homes, at places of business, or parking lots. They pray with people, encourage them, and introduce our Christian literature to them. Very often LEs sign up people for bible studies and these individuals become baptized Seventh-day Adventists. The funds earned through canvassing are then appropriated to the LE to support their education.

During both the academic school year and breaks, the students are given the opportunity through a weekly one-hour Wednesday night workshops to become a certified student literature evangelist and canvass on a campaign in any of the cities of the regional conferences within the North American

Division. Upon their return from the campaigns the students are refreshed, revitalized and ready to testify of their encounters with God, financial achievement, friendships formed but most importantly, refocused on the purpose of their educational endeavor.

This summer, students participated in campaigns in Washington, DC, Tampa and Orlando Fla., and South Carolina. Of the group canvassing in Washington, DC, Chaka Samuel, a sophomore religion and theology major testifies: "Canvassing has had a major impact in my life. It has taught me the importance of having a strong faith. Many times I have been discouraged by people who didn't want to hear what I had

to offer and sometimes I felt like I wasn't able to reach my financial goal. By having faith in God during the rough times, He has seen me through by impressing people to buy some books, give a donation, or even kind words of encouragement. Jeremiah 29:11 is a powerful verse that I said to myself. 'For I know the

plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.' This ministry was truly a blessing."

Many who have and who shall canvass will agree with Chaka indeed this ministry is a blessing.



A student literature evangelist canvasses in a local neighborhood.

OU Chaplain and Student Assist in Atlanta Evangelistic Meetings

This past summer (July 11-27), 4HIM Missions, represented by Tori Allen, OU sophomore, and Kimberly Pearson, OU associate chaplain, participated a mission trip to Atlanta, Ga., working with the West End Seventh-day Adventist Church during their summer evangelism meetings. The task was to assist with bible work, community evangelism, community service, and facilitate programming as needed during the nightly evangelistic meetings.

During the mornings, Allen and Pearson worked with the West End community service center serving breakfast and lunch to the summer camp and community children. In addition to serving meals, they facilitated activities, supervised children, and helped with various tasks as needed by the community center director. They also attended the bible worker's meeting in which they learned how to navigate various communities and win souls for Christ.

In the afternoons, they worked in the Deerfield Projects, a neighborhood of approximately 400 apartment homes, located in a low-income area, heavily guarded by armed security guards. Duties included knocking on doors conducting surveys, praying with families, giving out bible studies, providing food and clothing, and also inviting community members to the church. "We canvassed the area for about 4-5 hours every day, reaching almost 300 homes," said Pearson. They also conducted one-on-one visitations with new members and baptismal candidates; visiting about three homes a day - sometimes encountering families with no food, electricity, or diapers for their children.

In the evening, Pearson picked up local community members from various communities and brought them to church. Both she and Allen helped with the worship service by leading out in the welcome and prayer. They also facilitated a children's program. Attendance reached over 30 children.

In total, the bible workers baptized more than 35 within the two weeks. "This summer evangelism experience taught teamwork, endurance, courage, communication skills, urban community service, witnessing and increased biblical knowledge," said Pearson. "It gave a whole new understanding of harvesting souls for the kingdom. It was truly an experience to see those who once knew nothing of God, get baptized," she said.



Calvin Preston, '75, pastor of the West End Church, publicly supports Chaplain Pearson's summer efforts. Photo by Ron Pollard.

By The Numbers

- Visitations: 250**
- Adult Bible studies given: 64**
- Children Bible studies: 30**
- Families and children assisted: 27**



OAKWOOD STUDENT STARTS NARLA CHAPTER ON CAMPUS

Prior to her graduation with honors this past May, Blayre Brown, '14, started a NARLA (North American Religious Liberty Association) student chapter at Oakwood University.

"After two summers of interning at the General Conference, I realized that I had a passion to affect change; however, I had not taken my first personal step in my local community to affect change," Blayre said.

"So I decided that I was going to start Oakwood University's first Religious Liberty Association chapter. I talked to Melissa Reid at the North American Division Public Affairs & Religious Liberty department, and asked if we could be considered as one of NARLA's first college chapters and she agreed."

Blayre's first person account of her passion for human rights and religious liberty, and how it translated into her establishment and leadership of a thriving student advocacy organization can be found at religiousliberty.info.



Photo courtesy of NARLA

Atlanta Event Raises Funds for Science Departments

by Cheri Wilson, CFRE, development director

More than 50 people gathered at the home of Demont and Laura Davis in Atlanta, Ga., this past summer to meet and greet with President and First Lady Pollard and to raise funds for Oakwood University. Guests were met at the door with a warm welcome by the gracious hosts, the aroma of delicious food, and the smooth sounds of guitarist, Roland Gresham.

The fundraising event concept, "OU Atlanta 100" was developed by OU alumni, Sam Bagley, Dr. Laura Davis, and Emile Parker who invited their friends to participate in the initiative that raised over \$100,000 in pledges and donations. "We hope to be the catalyst for more events like this in other cities," said Parker.

Funds raised will be donated to the Biology and Chemistry departments for science lab equipment. According to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, the Science Lab Equipment Re-Tooling Campaign will impact 4,000-6,000 science students in the next 10 years. Thank you OU Atlanta 100 and the Davis family for your generosity and for investing in the students of Oakwood University.

To make a gift to the OU Atlanta 100, you may visit www.ougiving.com. Please select "Departmental Gift" in the Select a Campaign field and write "OU Atlanta 100 Science Lab Equipment Re-Tooling Campaign" in the Comments section.



Photo by Emile Parker

Religion Department Hosts Summer Evangelistic Efforts

by Mervyn A. Warren, Ph.D., DMin.

Anually, Oakwood's Department of Religion partners with the Southern Union's Ministerial Department, to host a student summer evangelism program. Ministerial students are selected and assigned to pastors/evangelists throughout the Southern Union territory. Last year, there were a total of 133 reported baptisms.

This summer's efforts were in the following cities: Avery Blockman in Conway, SC (Pastor Kaggia Scott); Lexius Breny in Pembroke, FL (Pastor Lucious Hall); Tyler Buford and Jonathan Morris in Tampa, FL (Pastor Patrick Vincent); Marcus Clark in Decatur, AL (Pastor Troy Brand); Sean Calliard and William Washington in Orlando, FL (Pastor Dennis Ross); Fred Edouard in Winter Haven, FL (Pastor Byron Wells); Evenson Etienne in Plantation, FL (Pastor David Noel); Gregory Hines and Tresia Lyons in Decatur, GA (Pastor Gregory Saunders); Wilfredo Montalvo in Pembroke, FL (Pastor Lucious Hall); and Patrick Petitmot in Cape Girardeu, MO (Pastor Cory Douglas).

Oakwood Student Witnesses in Tennessee

This summer, Nadege Innocent, a native of Haiti, and a senior at Oakwood University, sold books in Tennessee from the publisher of "The Bible Story," a blue evangelistic book that has been around for years that you may have noticed in doctors' waiting rooms.

Innocent said the most enjoyable part of her experience was meeting people every day and finding people who need to hear about Christ. Even when people declined to buy a book, Innocent offered to pray for them.

After she graduates with a major in psychology and a minor in biology, Innocent hopes to open a sanitorium for physical and spiritual healing.

Oakwood Student Chosen for National Trials program at NYU School of Law

OU Senior Jonte Hunter was one of 20 students that participated in the Advantage Testing Foundation's Training and Recruitment Initiative for Admission to Leading Law Schools (Trials) program this past summer. The Foundation serves as the public service arm of Advantage Testing, a national tutoring service. "It's very rigorous, but it yields great results," Hunter said about the program. His academic interest is in family law. "I'm really passionate about families and I believe that families are the foundations for success. A lot of the successful people that we have today can attribute much of their success to their strong families and the history of their strong families."

Class of 1984 Makes Donation to Capital Campaign

Oakwood University is pleased to announce a recent "naming gift" to the Building on the Past, Claiming the Future Campaign. This campaign has been set up to assist in the funding of three capital projects on the Oakwood University campus: Carter Hall, Ford Hall and the new Peters Media Center.

The Oakwood University Class of 1984 has made a generous donation to the campaign in the amount of \$10,000 to name a conference room in Ford Hall. This conference room is part of the renovation currently underway on the 1954 structure. "More and more we are seeing alumni stepping up to change the future for Oakwood," said Kisha Norris, executive director of Advancement and Development. "It's exciting to see the alumni take such an active role in fundraising for their alma mater."

Oakwood University administration, faculty, staff, and students would like to extend a big thank you to the Class of 1984 for their generous gift to further the mission of the University.

If you or someone you know would like to make a gift to the Building on the Past, Claiming the Future campaign, please feel free to contact the Office of Advancement and Development at (256) 726-7201 or developmentoffice@oakwood.edu.

OUPD Chief Leads Adventist Safety and Security Organization

On July 13 -15, 2014, Professional Adventists for Safety and Security (PASS) had its annual training conference at the General Conference facility in Silver Spring, Md. PASS is an organization that seeks to provide a networking, mentoring, and training platform for security practitioners at Adventist institutions. At this year's conference, more than 50 registrants received training on disaster preparedness resources, faith-based security, hospital safety and security challenges, legal issues, insurance coverage, and lessons learned from an active shooter exercise held at an Adventist university. Adventist hospitals, universities, relief organizations, and boarding academies were in attendance along with representatives from Adventist Risk Management, the North American Division, and the General Conference.

Newly elected and returning officers for the 2014-2016 term are Lewis Eakins, President – Oakwood University; William Marcisz, Vice President – Florida Hospital; Brian Worden, Treasurer – Review and Herald Publishing; Edwin Monges, Secretary - Washington Adventist University; John Marshall, Sergeant-at-Arms – Loma Linda University; and Paul Muniz, Chaplain – ADRA. Dale Hodges, Andrews University, is the immediate past president.



Newly elected officers of PASS

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Yvonne Goudy-Bermudez

Public Safety Officer
Oakwood University Police
Department
Favorite Bible verse: Philippians 4:13 -
I can do all this through him who gives
me strength.



Courtney Hines

Assistant Lab Coordinator
Biological Sciences Department
Favorite Bible verse: Philippians
4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about
anything, but in every situation, by
prayer and petition, with thanks-
giving, present your requests to
God. And the peace of God, which
transcends all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.



Fiona Lewis

Director, Didactic Program in Dietetics
& Assistant Professor
Department of Nutrition and Dietetics
Favorite Bible verse: Micah 6:8 - He
has shown you, O mortal, what is
good. And what does the Lord require
of you? To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.



Ron Pride

Graphic Designer
Integrated Marketing & Public
Relations
Favorite Bible verse: Joshua 1:9 - Have
I not commanded you? Be strong and
courageous. Do not be afraid; do not
be discouraged, for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever you go.



Jillian Wills

Associate Nursing Professor
Nursing Department
Favorite Bible verse: Isaiah 65:24 -
Before they call I will answer; while
they are still speaking I will hear.



Ramona Hyman

Associate Professor
English Department
Favorite Bible verse: Proverbs 3:6 -
In all your ways submit to him, and
He will make your paths straight.



Ellengold Goodridge

Director
Adult & Continuing Education/LEAP
Favorite Bible verse: Psalm 25:1 - In
you, Lord my God, I put my trust.



Justyn Stepp

Task Force Dean
Holland Hall
Favorite Bible verse: Revelation 12:11
- They triumphed over him by the
blood of the Lamb and by the word of
their testimony; they did not love their
lives so much as to shrink from death

Note: All Bible verses are from the New International Version.

Listed below are publications by Oakwood University faculty. This list was compiled by the Office of the Vice President for Faculty Development and Research.

George Ashley, Ph.D. - Professor

School of Education and Social Sciences, Social Work

(2013). "Attitudes Towards Abstinence Among Black Seventh-day Adventist College Students," with Ramirez, Octavio and Cort, Malcolm. *Christian Higher Education* 12(5). 349-362. doi:10.1080/15363759.2013.824353

(2013, October/September). "The Unemployment Pause," *Message Magazine*. 12.

Faye Brathwaite, Ph.D. – Associate Professor

School of Business and Adult and Continuing Education, Business and Information Systems

(2014). "The Effect of Machiavellian Thinking on Willingness to Use Ethically Questionable Business Tactics Among University Students," with Cort, Malcolm and Brown, Theodore Sr. *Mustang Journals of Business and Ethics* 6. 15-30.

Theodore Brown Sr., Ph.D. – Associate Professor

School of Business and Adult and Continuing Education, Business and Information Systems

(2014). "The Effect of Machiavellian Thinking on Willingness to Use Ethically Questionable Business Tactics Among University Students," with Brathwaite, Faye and Cort, Malcolm. *Mustang Journals of Business and Ethics* 6. 15-30.

Suarez Francisco Burgos, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, English and Foreign Languages

(2014). IFELE SP201 Intermediate Spanish I. Columbus, OH: The Educational Publisher Inc. Biblio Publishing.

(2014). IFELE SP202 Intermediate Spanish II. Columbus, OH: The Educational Publishing Inc. Biblio Publishing.

Samson Chama, Ph.D. – Associate Professor

School of Education and Social Sciences, Social Work

(2014). "Cross Cultural Programming for AIDS Orphans: What we are learning from other contexts" with Mutepa, Raphael. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal* 31. 1-53. doi:10/007/s20560-014-0329-5

(2014). "Young People's Perceptions of a Group Home's Efficacy: A Retrospective Study" with Ramirez, Octavio. *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth* 31. 120-134. doi: 10.1080/0886571X.2014.918442

Patrice Thomas Conwell, MA – Associate Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Communications

(2013). *Nobody Ever Told Me I Might Not Get Married: One Woman's Journey to Acceptance*. Portland, OR: BookBaby

(Summer 2013). "Letters From Dad," *Regional Voice*. 6-8.

(Summer 2013). "Reviving Souls with a Breath of Life," *Regional Voice*. 13.

(Fall 2013). "Need Help? Call H.O.M.E Boy," *Regional Voice*. 44-46.

Maxine Garvey, DPT – Assistant Professor

School of Nursing and Health Professions, Allied Health

(2013). "Closing the gap of health disparities in urban communities: The role of the Seventh-day Adventist church," *Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research* 3(1). Retrieved from <http://jsumurc.org/ojs/index.php?journal=ojrur&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=86>

(2013). "The prevalence of obesity among students at an African American university in the south," with Ashley, George; Sovyanhadi, Marta; Shaw, Howard; and Starner, Eva. *Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research* 3(1). Retrieved from <http://jsumurc.org/ojs/index.php?journal=ojrur&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=67>

Bobby Harrison, MS – Associate Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Communication and Art

(Summer 2013). "Lens on Creation: Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge," *Creation Illustrated Ministries* 20(2). 10-11.

(Summer 2013). "Birding Escapes: Hartwick Pines State Park, Grayling, Michigan," *Living Bird*. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 32(3). 45.

(Fall 2013). "Lens on Creation: In the Shadows of the Rockies" *Creation Illustrated Ministries* 20(3). 12-13.

(Autumn 2013). "Birding Escapes: Gilbert Water Ranch, Gilbert, Arizona," *Living Bird*. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 32(4). 43.

(Winter 2014). "Lens on Creation: Shorebirds of the Bolivar Peninsula," *Creation Illustrated Ministries* 20(4). 10-11.

(Winter 2014). "Birding Escapes: Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Texas," *Living Bird. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology* 33(1). 43.

Tarsee Li, Ph.D. – Professor

School of Religion, Religion and Theology

(2013). Review of Muraoka, T. "A Grammar of Qumran Aramaic," *Bulletin for Biblical Research* (23). 86-88.

(2013). Review of Tropper, Josef. "Ugaritische Grammatik, 2nd Edition," *Bulletin for Biblical Research* (23). 408-410.

Gilbert Okuro Ojwang, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor

School of Religion, Religion and Theology

(2013). *The House of Omri: A Sociohistorical study of Israelite Political and Economic Systems (885-841 BCE)*. Saarbrücken, Germany: Scholars' Press.

Albert John Osei, Ph.D. – Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science

(2013). "The modulated spatial Gausson solution to the Biswas-Milovic equation with log law nonlinearity," with Crutcher, Sihon H. Optix, *International Journal for Light and Electron Optics* 124(20). 4678-4681.

(2013). "Wobbling phenomena with logarithmic law nonlinear Schrödinger equations for incoherent spatial Gaussons," with Crutcher, Simon and Biswas, Anjan. Optix, *International Journal for Light and Electron Optics* 124(21). 4793-4797.

Eurydice Osterman, DMA - Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Music

(2013). *Worship: From Praise Him to Praise Hymn*. Huntsville, AL: AWSAHM Music

Darayas Patel, Ph.D. – Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science

(2013). "Double beam pulsed laser deposition of composite films of poly(methyl methacrylate) and rare earth fluoride upconversion phosphors," with Darwish, Abdalla; Sagapolutele, Michael T; Sarkisov, Sergey; Hui, David; and Koplitz, Brent. *Elsevier Composites: Part B* 55. 139-146.

Adriana Perera, MM – Associate Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Music

(2013, October). "Música de Pasion (Music for Pasion)," *El Centinela* 118(4). 22-24.

(2013). *La Música, un don para Alabar a Dios (Music, a Gift to Praise God)* with Jimenez, Erik and Richard, Daniel. Peru: Universidad Peruana Unión.

Octavio Ramirez, Ph.D. – Associate Professor

School of Education and Social Sciences, Social Work

(2014). "Young People's Perceptions of a Group Home's Efficacy: A Retrospective Study" with Chama, Samson. *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth* 31. 120-134. doi: 10.1080/0886571X.2014.918442

Kem Roper, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor

(Summer 2013). "Schools Going Global," *Huntsville/Madison County 2013 Chamber Guidebook*. 28-32.

(2013, July/August). "The Anatomy of Temptation," *Message Magazine*. 10-11.

(Summer 2013). "PKs Have Their Say," *Regional Voice*. 24-26.

(Summer 2013). "Who Ministers to Pastors," with Sedlacek, David and Sedlacek, Beverly. *Regional Voice*. 30-32.

(Fall 2013). "Hope on Death Row? Prodigal Son: Derek Mason Story," *Regional Voice*. 32-37.

G. Russell Seay, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor

(2013). "A Prophet with Honor?: The Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and the Making of a National Icon," in Lewis V. Baldwin and Rufus Burrow Jr. (Eds.), *The Domestication of Martin Luther King Jr., Clarence B. Jones, Right-Wing Conservatism, and the Manipulation of the King Legacy*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.

Eva Starner, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor

(2013). "The prevalence of obesity among students at an African American university in the south," with Garvey, Maxine; Ashley, George; Sovyanhadi, Marta; and Shaw, Howard. *Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research* 3(1). Retrieved from <http://jsumrc.org/ojs/index.php?journal=ojrur&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=67>

Alexander Volkov, Ph.D. – Professor

School of Arts and Sciences, Chemistry

(2013). "Electrostimulation of *Aloe Vera L.*, *Mimosa Pudica L.* and *Arabidopsis Thaliana*: Propagation and Collision of Electrotonic Potentials," with O'Neal, Lawrence; Volkova-Gugeshashvili, Maia I.; and Markin, Vladislav S. *Journal of Electrochemical Society* 160(7). doi: 10.1149/2.018307jes

(2013). "Morphing structures and signal transduction in *Mimosa pudica L.* induced by localized thermal stress," with O'Neal, Lawrence; Volkova, Maia I.; and Markin, Vladislav S. *Journal of Plant Physiology* 170. 1317-1327.

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Research Highlights at Oakwood University

With a number of prolific researchers/scholars serving the institution and the surrounding community, particularly in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines, research continues to be one of the seven priorities of Oakwood University.

Research prepares faculty to receive both internal and external funding to support the expansion of the research capacity of the university. Three major funding opportunities have been received by Oakwood University totaling over \$1.8 million dollars. The 2013 Henry C. McBay Research Fellowship Award, a fellowship of up to \$12,000 to support research in the field of the recipient's choosing, was awarded to two of our professors in the School of Arts and Sciences: Dr. Elaine Vanterpool and Dr. Don Rufus Ranatunga. The National Institute of Health awarded the Department of a Biological Sciences a 5-year grant of \$1.5 million for the RISE OPTION II: Increasing Minority Admissions to Research Institutions (IMARI) program (PI: Dr. R. Timothy McDonald; Researchers: Dr. Alexandrine Randriamahefa and Dr. Safawo Gullo). One of the primary goals of this project is the attraction of the students to pursuing studies leading to careers in the S.T.E.M. disciplines. Most recently, the Department of Defense awarded the Research and Education Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Service Institutions (HBCU-MI) Equipment/Instrumentation an award of over \$350,000 to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (PI: Dr. Darayas Patel) to fund the acquisition of the research equipment and instrumentation.

The University continues to encourage scholarly work and to build the infrastructure to support the faculty with the following specific and targeted initiatives:

First, the Faculty Development Grant Program (FDGP), funded internally by the institution and awarding over \$15,000 to University faculty, is beginning its fourth year. A number of publications and presentations have taken place as a result of this research, some of which are listed on the previous pages (34-36). Every year, the FDGP culminates with the annual Faculty Research Symposium.

Second, the University has signed Memorandums of Understanding with the following entities: Loma Linda University; the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, signed last year at the Faculty Research Symposium; and the North American Division (NAD) of Seventh-day Adventists. To date, three proposals to conduct scholarly investigations have been submitted to the NAD for funding; two of the three projects were started with funds from the FDGP.

The third, and perhaps, the biggest and most fiscally comprehensive initiative, has been the acquisition of OeRAS [o-rs], Oakwood's Electronic Research Administration Solution, powered by InfoEd Global. This complex implementation, beginning this fall, will move the University from a paper-based system to a modernly efficient and dynamic solution. It gives the researcher the ability to create and manage proposals and protocols in a single system. Reducing administrative effort, it allows the researcher to focus on the fun part, the research.

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LEAVE A LEGACY



Help us celebrate the new Peters Media Center, home of Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN). The sidewalk leading to this state-of-the-art facility, dubbed The **Legacy Walkway**, will be paved with bricks. Oakwood University is excited to offer you the opportunity to pave the way into the next 118 years of success by purchasing a brick to be set on campus. Our **Legacy Walkway** will feature names of donors, loved ones, special remembrances, and favorite sayings. Customized bricks are a great opportunity to congratulate a recent graduate, celebrate a degree or accomplishment, or honor your loved ones.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to leave more than a memory at Oakwood University. You can leave your own legacy as we continue the Building on the Past Campaign.

It's easy to create your own personalized brick today. Visit www.bricksrus.com/order/oakwood or call **256-726-7201**.



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Oakwood University Sponsors UNCF Event

by Cheri Wilson, CFRE, development director

Oakwood University is a proud member of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and thankful to the individuals, churches, and corporations that invest in the mission of the UNCF and our students across North Alabama

The UNCF North Alabama Campaign theme is “Building Bridges to Opportunity.” Join Oakwood University as a “Bridge Builder” by making a gift to the UNCF North Alabama Campaign. All proceeds from the campaign support the 37

UNCF-member colleges and universities and the thousands of students they serve. You may also participate by becoming a sponsor or volunteer at one of Huntsville’s signature events, the Annual UNCF Gala. The 37th Annual UNCF Gala will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. The VIP Reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and the Gala begins at 6:30 p.m.

To contribute to the 2014-2015 UNCF North Alabama Campaign, please visit www.ougiving/uncf.com and always remember the UNCF’s slogan “A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in.”



President Dr. Leslie Pollard and Monica Spencer, Oakwood’s Miss UNCF 2014, cut the ribbon to launch the UNCF North Alabama Campaign on September 9, assisted by staff from the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

and the country. The Development Office coordinates the annual North Alabama Campaign to raise scholarship funds and to bring more awareness to the community about the impactful work of the UNCF, HBCUs, and our phenomenal graduates and students.

Changing the World through Student Philanthropy

By Imani Cherry, development assistant

Oakwood University is now stretching its philanthropic efforts to include current students. The Oakwood University Student Philanthropy (OUSP) Campaign is a brand new initiative intended to procure a tradition of giving and a spirit of philanthropy starting before students leave the campus of Oakwood University. The Campaign provides an opportunity to emphasize the importance of philanthropy and gain a deeper understanding of the impact of philanthropy at Oakwood.

Student philanthropists aim to instill a spirit of giving, and advance the University through philanthropic endeavors, turning philanthropy into meaningful changes. OUSP focuses on serving and advancing local and global communities through volunteerism, fundraising, activism, and education. The

Campaign ultimately seeks to serve the Oakwood community, the Huntsville community, and the global community, which is reflected in its slogan “It’s Our Oakwood, Our Community, Our World.”

Funds raised by the OUSP Campaign contribute to the Oakwood University Annual Fund and is designated for annual philanthropic ventures.

Each year the OUSP Campaign will champion a cause relevant to today. This year’s cause is environmental sustainability through recycling - The Blue & Gold Goes Green Recycling Challenge. This project is a system that seeks to encourage recycling at the University, with hopes to bring awareness to the importance of environmental sustainability in today’s world.



Giving Begins at Home: Oakwood Employee Gives Back

When a gift is made to the Annual Fund, it is not only contributing to Oakwood's ability to positively impact the lives of students, but it is also assisting in the preservation of high quality education for future generations. The Oakwood to Oakwood United Giving Campaign is just one aspect of the Annual Fund. The Oakwood to Oakwood United Giving Fund is the concerted philanthropic effort of Oakwood University employees giving to Oakwood University and its students, the UNCF, and the United Way.

Lewis Jones, assistant development director, is tasked with championing the Oakwood to Oakwood Campaign – of which more than 60% of the Oakwood campus has committed to giving. Jones recently received this information from Shelley Vaughn, assistant director of student accounts. In this note, she tells why she gives to the Oakwood to Oakwood Campaign.

As I work in Student Accounts, I see the challenges of students striving to clear their balances and successfully register each semester. If I can do my part to help students I know that God will multiply my little bit and that's really satisfying to me.

I give to the Oakwood to Oakwood United Giving Campaign because I love Oakwood University and I love its students. Oakwood's mission to transform students through a biblical

conceptual framework aligns with my passion. I consider it a privilege to work at God's school in this season at this time. I came to Oakwood as a student and I've been able to educate my children here. We love the talent, the spiritual energy of Oakwood. It's like no other.

Some people may say that they give by coming to the office every day, however to me that's work and I get a check for that. When I donate through the Oakwood to Oakwood campaign that's my way of giving back. It's an act of love and sacrifice. It increases our participation rate which is important because nobody wants to help those not willing to help their own.

So why do I give to the Oakwood to Oakwood United Giving Campaign? I love Oakwood and I believe in what it stands for as it attempts to help students successfully matriculate.



Shelley Vaughn

GIVING, OFF THE HOOK

It's that time of the year!

Oakwood's Annual PHONATHON

November 16-20, 2014



Get ready to pick up that phone! From November 16 to 20, Oakwood University students will be calling you to share some of the latest news from campus. These students will also invite you to join with others in financially supporting our ongoing commitment to excellent Christian education.

So when one of these students calls, please take some time to pray with them and share memories of your time on campus—then, take the next step and express your confidence in Oakwood's continued development by making a financial gift to support your school.

Your continued Alumni support is vital to our future. Can't wait to give? Call today: **256.726.7586**.



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ALUMNI NOTES

1970s

Olivia D. Beverly, Ph.D., '75, has been appointed the director of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Oakwood University. Prior to this, Dr. Beverly was an assistant professor in the Education Department. She follows Dr. Jeannette Dulan, who is retiring.

The Greenville Utilities Board of Commissioners announced the appointment of **Joel Butler, '75**, to a three-year term. Butler is the chief external affairs officer at Vidant Health, and is the President of Vidant Health and Vidant Medical Center Foundations. He is a member of the Academy of Health Care Executives. Butler has worked in the health care field for 38 years.



Joel Butler

1980s

This summer, The Richardson family (**Stephen, '81, Margie, '82, Marquita, '12, Shelton**, current OU Theology major, and his twin Shelbourne) auditioned for television's *Family Feud*.

CFRE International has announced that **Cheri Wilson, '82**, director of development at Oakwood University, is among its most recent class of Certified Fund Raising Executives (CFREs). Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achievement and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. They have also passed a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive, and have agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights. CFRE International is an independent organization dedicated to upholding the highest standards in ethical philanthropic fundraising through the certification of fundraising executives. The CFRE credential is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

Luther Washington II, '85, retired at the end of the 2013-2014 school year from Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy (GAAA) in Atlanta, Ga., where he served as the musical instructor and director of the GAAA Concert Choir for the past 28 years.

Ronald Pollard, '87, was interviewed by a reporter from Huntsville's WHNT Newschannel 19 to share why Oakwood participates in mission excursions even after all of the current international safety and health concerns of today.

1990s

Researchers have yet to unlock the secrets of legged locomotion that allow animals to walk, run, climb and jump seemingly effortlessly. Advances in high speed video, force plate technology, and neuron probing have recently allowed scientists to "see" more of what goes on as legged animals loco mote. Leading this multi-disciplinary research at the Biomorphic Robotics Lab (BRL) at the University of South Florida is **Dr. Luther R. Palmer, III, '99**. The goal is to unravel the mysteries and replicate the tremendous capabilities of legged animals, which also has applications to human prosthetics.

Debleaire Snell, '99, senior pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala., has been named 2014 Pastor of the Year for the South Central Conference, an area that includes Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Florida panhandle. Snell's recognition came during the closing worship service for the conference camp meeting, which was held on the campus of Oakwood University on June 21.

2000s

Everett Alexander, '00, a digital media specialist, is the founder of TEDxHuntsville a derivative of TED (Technology, Entertainment Design), a nonprofit organization known for online talks on an array of topics. Since 2009, local professionals and residents excited about "ideas worth spreading" have volunteered to bring TED to the Tennessee Valley. Alexander helped to plan the The 6th annual TEDxHuntsville event this past September.

OU ALUMNI: SHARE YOUR NEWS!

AlumniNotes may be submitted online at pr@oakwood.edu or mailed to:

Oakwood University
Office of Integrated Marketing
& Public Relations
7000 Adventist Blvd.
Huntsville, AL 35896

Digital photos should be emailed in jpg, eps, or tif file format. Please make sure that the files are 300 dpi or the largest size possible for print. In addition to your name, please include your year of graduation or attendance. AlumniNotes may be edited.

Shaunda E. Kelly, '01, DMD, MD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation and is also employed with the Birmingham Veteran Administration. She has co-authored several publications on the topics of allogeneic bone graft versus particulate allogeneic bone graft, implant placement, temporomandibular arthroscopy versus mandibular condylectomy and cranio-maxillofacial trauma and reconstruction.

Michael A. Knight, '02, is one of the 31 newly selected scholars for the RWJF (*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*) Clinical Scholars program. Dr. Knight will begin his fellowship, which is supported in part by the Department of Veterans Affairs, at the University of Pennsylvania in the Fall of 2015. Through this prestigious post-residency program, Dr. Knight along with the other physicians will learn to conduct innovative research and work with communities, organizations, practitioners and policy-makers in order to take a leadership role in improving health and health care in the U.S. "For more than 40 years, the Clinical Scholars program has built a legacy of inspiring physicians to challenge the status quo and become leaders of change in the clinic, the community, and beyond," said Desmond K. Runyan, MD, DrPH, national program director.

Larry Wilson, '02, was promoted to managing director for Americas Structured Investments at JP Morgan on May 1.

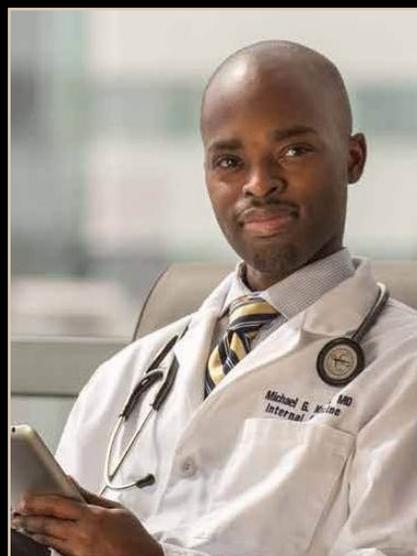
Jermaine Jackson, '04, who has served Adventist Risk Management (ARM) since 2009, most recently as Controller, was elected to be Vice President/Chief Financial Officer for both Adventist Risk Management and Gencon Insurance Company of Vermont (GICV). Jackson will also serve as corporate Treasurer and have the Financial Services including accounting as his administrative assignment. In his new assignment, he will be working across the company, including with the Brazil office, to meet the overall financial needs of ARM and Gencon Insurance Company of Vermont.

Justin McFarland, '04, is the morning and midday anchor for WAAY channel 31, an ABC affiliate. His post began June 9.

Alexandrea Irby, '08, administrative assistant for OU's Academic Administration, was honored at the 2014 Redstone Federal Credit Union (RFCU) Scholarship Recipient Dinner. Ten years ago, Alexandrea received the scholarship while a student at Oakwood University. For the first time in the history of the scholarship, RFCU decided to select an honoree and highlight their accomplishments since the scholarship was received. Irby was recognized in 2013 by United Way as the "Give" award recipient. Because of



Alexandrea Irby



Michael A. Knight

this and her previous work with United Way, RFCU is sending a check to United Way in Irby's name to assist the United Way in their mission and continue Redstone's mission of "People helping people."

Toson A. Knight, '12, was appointed as Deputy District Manager for District 4 of Detroit, Mich., by Mayor Michael E. Duggan this past January. Knight feels that his leadership skills were developed by his having been president of the United Student Movement for two years while at Oakwood.

Charles Hewitt, '14, is now a full-time nutritionist for Oklahoma State University's football team. Last year, Hewitt completed a dietetic internship and certification at Oakwood.



Jermaine Jackson



Toson A. Knight



Larry Wilson

MINNEOLA DIXON]

A Life of Service

Minneola Dixon served Oakwood University for almost 39 years. She passed away on April 1, 2014, and left an awesome legacy to her biological families and work families. This issue's Flashback section is dedicated to the life of Mrs. Dixon in memory and appreciation for what she did for Oakwood College/University.

Excerpts from Minneola Dixon's Obituary

In 1988 Minneola accepted the position as Director of Oakwood College Archives and Museum, but only under certain stipulations. Since she knew nothing about archival work, she asked for and was granted permission to go back to school to be trained. It had been 37 years since she had been in a formal classroom setting as a student. At the age of 59, she began her studies toward a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Attending classes at UA would mean traveling to Tuscaloosa twice a week and spending summers on campus, but she did it. In 1990 she received the degree she needed to successfully embark on the ride of her life.

While studying for the Master's degree, Minneola began to understand and envision what the Oakwood College Archives could become. She began to grasp the possibilities and determined that the Oakwood program would be second to none in the state or even in the nation. She immediately went about updating the catalogues of the holdings already in the archives. She requested and received more space for the archives. With the support of the then college president, Delbert Baker, the archives grew from one small, cramped room on the main floor of the library to a much larger eight-room center on the lower level.

Through her consistent, persistent, and insistent requests to the regional conference workers and to the alumni to send their artifacts to the archives, Minneola saw the archives' holdings quadruple. She saw her new mission as one to provide the college (university) "a method to verify, refute, or modify the recollection of its members and the outside community about the institution's past." On the way to that goal, she discovered that she might also serve the wider community by preserving the history and legacy of Black Adventism. This was large work, but Minneola seldom did things in a small way.

She brought to bear all the business, leadership, public and alumni relations skills she had crafted over the years to this new and big venture. With her right-hand assistant, Joyce Williams, an army of dedicated student workers, and a bevy of interested volunteers, she conducted hundreds of interviews with pioneers, catalogued thousands of periodicals, books, and pictures, planned annual Black History month programs, reorganized the museum, conducted numerous Black history bus tours, and brought nationwide attention to the campus through her public relation efforts.

She also helped get the campus listed in the state registry of historical buildings, researched the history of Dred Scott's relationship to this campus, led out in placing historical markers around the campus, coordinated the efforts to identify and mark the slave cemetery discovered on the campus, and hosted wave after wave of professional and amateur researchers.

In 1991, shortly after being named the Alumnus of the Year by the Alumni Association, Minneola hosted the first "Oakwood Heritage Moments" on the campus station, WOCCG, now WJOU. This daily

five-minute radio program told the compelling Oakwood Story. As if it was not enough to tell the Oakwood Story by radio, in the mid-1990s Minneola also began a weekly column in Huntsville's *Speaking Out News* that would chronicle the past history of this institution which is an integral part of the Huntsville community.

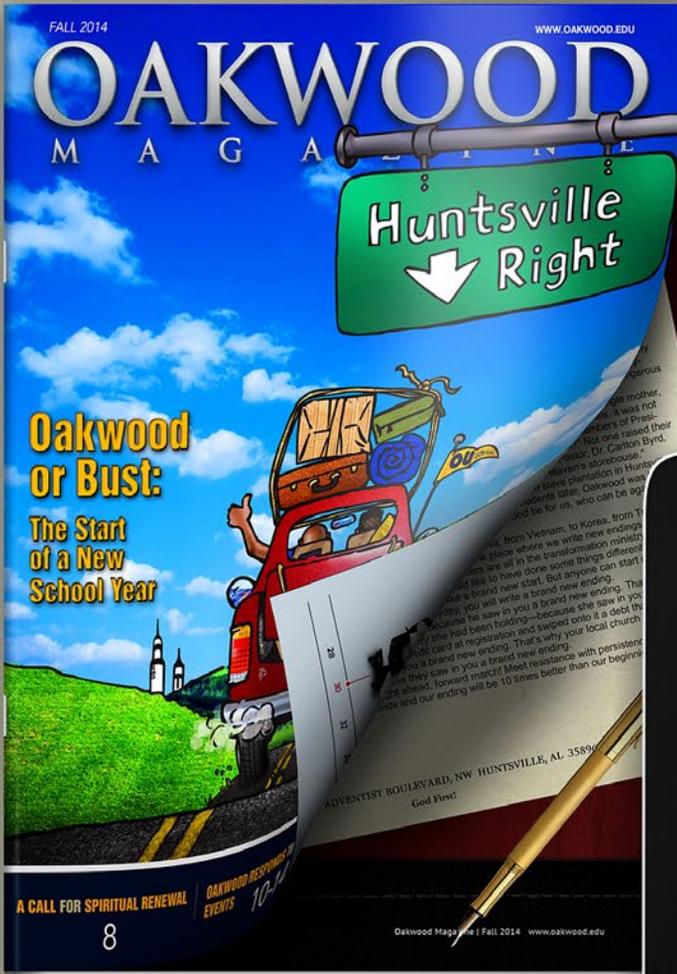
When she finally retired at the age of eighty, Minneola had given 38.42 years of service to her beloved Oakwood University.





MINNEOLA DIXON
July 19, 1929 - April 1, 2014

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Don't Miss the Train

by George Johnson, Jr.



While growing up I went to one of our Seventh-day Adventist schools from kindergarten until tenth grade. Its location was on a busy street in West Baltimore. If you were “lucky” - your parents dropped you off in the morning and picked you up in the afternoon. Now I said lucky because I was being facetious. Most, if not all of the kids in my school used public transportation. During that time, there were two buses that took us to and from school.

By the time I was in the fifth or sixth grade, the city of Baltimore began a major project. Part of the major project of the city was going to happen right outside the windows of our school building. They wanted to expand the way they were carrying people around the city. Our lives as we knew it were going to change. We watched with great anticipation because this project (a new subway system) was going to make our lives easier. It was going to take us to our desired destination with great ease – if we followed the instructions.

Because the project was happening before our eyes and right outside of our classroom windows, I found myself fascinated over the construction. Fascinated so much that I would daydream about the opening day of this new transportation system. I don't know why it was so fascinating, but it was. But I know now that God was going to teach me a lesson through this fascination several years later.

Fast forward many years later. This new transportation system of Baltimore city is now more than 10 years old. I was now an adult and I owned a car and didn't need to take the public transportation. But God in His infinite wisdom one evening placed this transportation system back in my memory during a dream. Why you may ask? Let's find out.

While growing up, we all wanted to ride the subway together as a group. No one wanted to leave the other. We knew the train was coming and that we didn't want to miss it. We didn't want to miss the train so we knew we had to gather our belongings and get to the station in time to catch the train.

Those were our only instructions, and we knew that if we didn't follow those simple instructions, we would miss the train.

In my dream, I was in danger of missing the train. I knew the instructions. I had known the instructions for some time now, but I was still in danger of missing the train.

On this day that I needed to take the train, the weight of the luggage I was carrying with me was weighing me down. The luggage was so big, I couldn't get through the door. No matter which way I tried to squeeze through that door, the luggage wouldn't fit.

I looked in the train and all my friends, who had been preparing all day for this trip, were ready to go and here I was holding up everything because I couldn't or wouldn't let myself through the door. All I needed to do was let go of the baggage and I could be free to go on the trip and not miss the train.

The lesson in this dream was quite clear. God was telling me that I needed to let go of specific things in my life – my earthly goods – to be able to go on this specific train ride. Matthew 16:24-27 says: “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.’”

So what's holding you back? Are you being weighed down by the rewards of this world? Is anything keeping you from a deeper, more purposeful walk with Christ? Don't let the cares of this life cause you to miss the train.

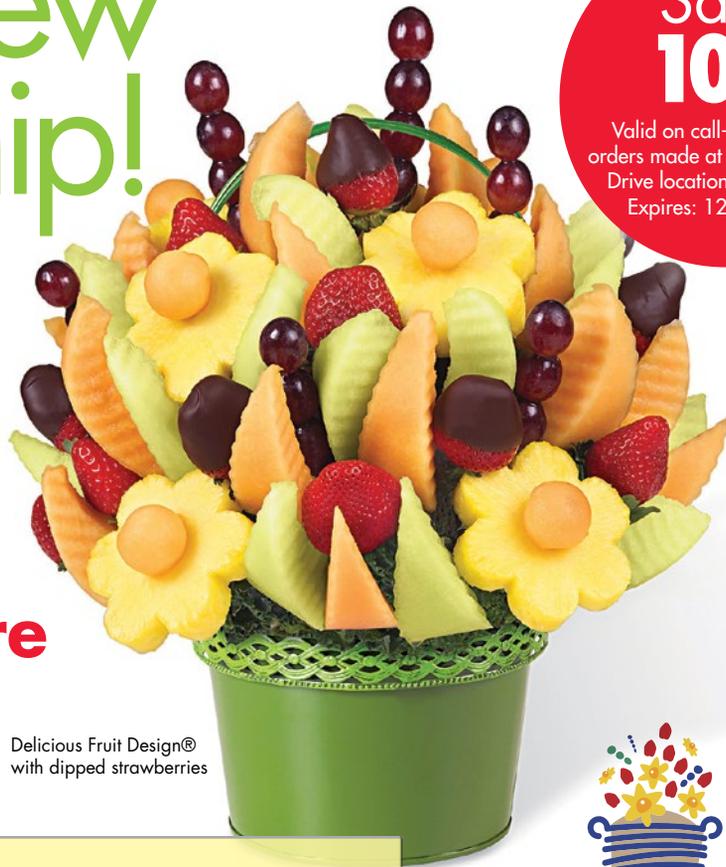
-George Johnson Jr. is the director of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations for Oakwood University.



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