Meet The Class of 2019

I Know What You Did This Summer

Why Oakwood?
Contents

Fall 2015

5 A Message from the President
   ▶ Fall Calls Us Forward!

6 I Know What You Did This Summer

12 Meet The Class of 2019

14 Why Oakwood?

31 Former Miss Oakwood Featured in Ebony Magazine

44 OU101
   ▶ The Oakwood Story, 1896-1904: Education for the Head, Hands, and Heart

47 End Notes
   ▶ Lessons from a Camping Trip

About the Cover
The Class of 2019. Pictures were received as of August 17. Cover photos by Veronica Dennis of True Moment Images.

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Contents

16 Office of the Provost
  ▸ Making Holistic Education a 21st Century Reality: Colloquium 2015
  ▸ OU + NASA (for PSTI training) = Success
  ▸ Oakwood Prepares Biomedical Researchers for the Future

18 Division Update: Financial Administration
  ▸ Oakwood Maintains Place on Huntsville's Honor Roll
  ▸ Oakwood is Affordable

20 Division Update: Student Services
  ▸ Meet Team USM
  ▸ Oakwood Alum Speaks for Student Leadership Conference
  ▸ New Students Move In!

23 OU News Notes
  ▸ Members of Aeolians Sing in Budapest Choral Fest
  ▸ Oakwood Listed in Top 10 for Retention
  ▸ Oakwood Students Accepted into AHS Leadership Development Program
  ▸ CAMROU Grad Writes Thesis on Adventist-Muslim Relations

24 Division Update: Academic Administration
  ▸ Research on the Rise

26 Why Choose Oakwood: Reason Number 97
  ▸ The Revolution for Genuine Change

26 Office of Spiritual Life
  ▸ Summer Mission 2015: Impact San Antonio, General Conference

32 Division Update: Research & Employee Services
  ▸ Meet Oakwood’s Newest Employees
  ▸ Oakwood Faculty Receive Research Fellowships
  ▸ Innovation Produces a Health Transcript
  ▸ Sand, Study, and Summer Vacations

40 Division Update: Advancement & Development
  ▸ Oakwood on the Road – San Antonio
  ▸ Miss UNCF – A Vision Worth Investing In
  ▸ Another UNCF Campaign Year
  ▸ Alumni News
  ▸ OUAA Chapter Spotlights

Write to Us.

We appreciate your comments, critiques, and commendations of Oakwood Magazine. We plan to include letters in upcoming issues. If published, your letter may be edited for content, style or space. Please send your letters of 300 words or less to:

Oakwood University
Attn: Integrated Marketing & Public Relations
7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35896
or email: pr@oakwood.edu

If you receive more than one copy of the Oakwood Magazine, or if your address has changed, please contact us at pr@oakwood.edu

Keep In Touch!

Did you receive an award or a big promotion? Have you recently gotten married? Were you blessed with the birth of a future Oakwoodite? Maybe you’re remembering the life of a passed loved one. Share your experiences with the Oakwood family. We’d like to know news of your travel, career, education, mission work, achievements, retirement, projects, or anything else interesting. Please send a high-resolution digital or print photo with your submission. Thanks for sharing with the OU family.

Mail to: Oakwood University
Attn: Integrated Marketing & Public Relations
7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35896
or email: pr@oakwood.edu (Alumni Notes in subject line)
FROM THE PRESIDENT
Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA

Fall Calls Us Forward!

As I sit in my office, I reflect on and rejoice in what every fall means to the Oakwood University campus. Each fall semester brings a whole new cohort of freshmen, 16- to 19-year-olds, bright with hope. Along with them comes a bevy of transfer students, choosing the Oakwood experience. Fall brings back to campus a reenergized faculty, fresh from their summer research, missions, vacations, conferences and developmental activities. Fall signals the return of our dedicated staff from a busy summer of growth, charged with excitement about the opportunities attending the upcoming school year. Yes, fall heralds the August colloquium, which is when the entire Oakwood workforce meets for spiritual refreshment and orientation toward the tasks, challenges, and blessings of the coming school year. Fall means many things, but no one thing is more important than the two initiatives Oakwood is launching this academic year—and both are historic. Fall calls Oakwood forward!

By the time you receive this fall edition of Oakwood Magazine, our University will have launched Healthy Campus 2020 at our 2015 Faculty and Staff Colloquium, held August 3-6. This initiative is a comprehensive effort to make Oakwood University the healthiest campus in America! Yes, you read it correctly—we plan, by the grace of God, to make Oakwood the healthiest campus in America. We will do this by baselining our incoming freshmen’s health status, educating them regarding healthy lifestyle choices, and providing them a customized Oakwood University Health Transcript™, designed to empower them to take responsibility for their health outcomes. Our program is called “STAND OUT.” In August, we rolled out a completely interactive Colloquium, which introduced the University’s companion text and workbook, called STAND OUT: 8 Secrets to Unlocking Your Potential. (I will spare you my excitement over how our students entered into a naming contest and came up with the acronym STAND OUT to encapsulate the eight health laws that form the foundation of our health message. I will tell that story in another piece). This text, written by Oakwood University scholars, is unique in that it captures the latest in preventive medicine’s research science regarding those eight laws of health. Go to our website to learn more.

The second historic launch is the planning and fundraising for the construction of our Oakwood University Health and Wellness Center. This $20M facility will meet a long-standing need on our campus. It will replace the 59 year-old Ashby Auditorium by bringing to our campus a state-of-the-art facility through which our student body and workforce can focus on optimizing holistic health. As this goes to press, we are already planning for this to be a center unlike any other, in that it will be designed to bring our health message within a physical structure.

At Oakwood, we constantly ask God for bigger dreams, and wider hopes. Our Oakwood University leadership pledge says the following, “We will launch plans that are destined to fail, except God intervene.” Thank you for your prayers and financial support as we move Oakwood forward under God’s guidance! Enjoy the fall issue of Oakwood Magazine.
At Oakwood University, the summer break lasts for a little over three months. This breaks down to approximately 107 days, or 2,568 hours, or 154,080 minutes.

During this time, many students take a much-needed break from their studies to explore different parts of the world by expanding their horizons with vacation time. Others put aside their vacation desires and buckle down to gain work experience with paid or volunteer internships.

Take a look at what these Oakwood students did during this past summer break.

Ashley Thornhill
Senior, Biology Major

I was blessed with the opportunity to conduct scientific research at Loma Linda University. I aspire to become a medical scientist, specializing in neonatology. Working in Dr. Danilyn Angeles’ lab, I conducted neonatal research. The lab has been studying the biochemical markers of hypoxia in neonates. One of our goals was to determine if painful procedures contribute to oxidative stress in neonates. I worked in both the biochemistry lab and the NICU of the medical center to conduct this research. I would like to thank my professors for recommending me, Loma Linda University for accepting me, and Dr. Danilyn Angeles and Ms. Yayesh Asmerom for welcoming me into the lab.
Daniel Chandler  
**Senior, Political Science Major**

Meharry’s Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) is a program designed to prepare minority students for entrance into medical school. We entered into an intensive six-week course where we learned the ins and outs of the MCAT. We were given study materials and practice tests that were scored like the real MCAT. We had tutors for each subject on the MCAT. The program also provided material on how to deal with financial aid in graduate school. In addition, we received tips on how to study and attended workshops on how to effectively write a personal statement. Program Coordinator Sharon Turner-Friley served as our contact person, and the main thing I took away from this experience is that service is a highly important component of being a doctor. Love for mankind is important. That was one thing that Meharry worked hard to instill in each of us, and it just helps that the Oakwood University motto of service is so similar to Meharry’s.

Holly Forbes  
**Sophomore, Dietetics Major**

I completed a one-month internship with the Abundant Life Wellness Institute (ALWI), located in Sawyerville, Alabama, which serves to improve healthcare through health lectures, treatments, such as hydrotherapy and fomentations, daily exercise, and healthful cooking. These remedies are geared to combat diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, arthritis, allergies, etc. The goal of the Institute is to teach people how to follow a natural plan to maintain a healthy lifestyle, without dependence on pharmaceutical drugs.

My job as a kitchen assistant was to prepare nutritionally balanced meals. This included preparing vegetable juices, fruit smoothies, various vegan dishes, salads, and an assortment of vegetables. I also researched the health principles of NEWSTART (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust in Divine Power) and presented a health lecture on water. This internship gave me insight into my career as a dietitian because I was able to experience the process of preparing foods for people with specific ailments, and I was able to see how food can be medicinal to those who are sick, allowing patients to obtain optimal health.

Chanice Thomas  
**Junior, Biomedical Sciences Major**

I had the amazing opportunity of conducting research in the lab of Dr. Marjan Boerma, at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, in Little Rock, Arkansas. My research project focused on the effects of local heart irradiation and the tyrosine kinase inhibitor sunitinib on cardiac mitochondria.

My experience was great, from working in the lab, to adventures around Arkansas. One thing I really liked about my internship was that the idea of a career in research was not forced upon us in any way. Rather, we, the interns, were given the opportunity to form our own thoughts and opinions about research. From my experience, I learned that I have a great interest in biomedical research and would consider obtaining a Ph.D., if that’s the path God wants me to take. I also learned that Arkansas has a lot more to offer than one may think.

Alicia Faria  
**Senior, Nursing Major**

I had the privilege of interning at the University of Alabama in Birmingham Hospital as a patient care tech. I monitored patients’ health status by checking vital signs and by doing hourly rounds. I was able to perform multiple venipunctures and blood sugar checks on diabetic patients. I assembled, prepared, and took electrocardiograms of patients’ hearts to monitor their cardiovascular activity. I provided basic patient care by bathing and grooming unable patients and by assisting postoperative patients with walking. I was also fortunate enough to observe two labors and deliveries and two surgical procedures. I learned that having a smile and taking a little extra time to talk with a patient can make a patient’s day. I also came to realize my purpose of caring for others, which gives me great happiness inside, knowing that I made somebody’s hospital stay better.
**Rosalie Sealey**  
*Sophomore, Nursing Major*

I worked as a certified nursing assistant in an assisted living community called the Villa at Suffield Meadows. An assisted living community is different from a nursing home because it requires patients to be more mobile. This means they have to be able to walk or move on their own or with little assistance. My daily tasks included taking vital signs, like blood pressure, helping with the activities of daily living, such as showering, and assisting in the Alzheimer’s/dementia unit. As a current nursing major, I learned a lot from working under the supervision of the licensed practical nurses. I learned that it’s important to really love what you do. Patients can see through all the pretending, and they will call you out if they think you’re not fit for the job! I learned better techniques for communicating with patients and that it’s important to really pay attention when you’re helping people in the healthcare field. The smallest mistake can harm someone. Also, my knowledge of medications increased as I learned about all the different drugs administered. My summer was beneficial because I learned so much while doing something I enjoyed. Now, I can’t wait to become a registered nurse!

**Kamesha Laurry**  
*Senior, Pre-law with Concentration in Political Science Major*

I was fortunate to be granted acceptance into the Walton-UNCF Education Reform Fellowship Program. Upon acceptance, I had the opportunity to attend a student leadership conference on professional development, participate in an education reform case competition, and intern with a non-profit organization. The non-profit organization, Leadership for Education Equity (LEE), focuses on achieving education equity for all K-12 children. I assisted LEE’s Elected Leadership team by leading their venue location research project, communicating with stakeholders around the nation, providing a strategic cost analysis and negotiating contracts. This allowed me the opportunity to develop strategies to efficiently analyze data within political campaigns and electoral systems. As a UNCF fellow, I was exposed to many flaws in the education system. I have discovered that there are discrepancies within our nation due to biases, based on socioeconomic status, race, culture and gender. It is inevitable that our education system will be in jeopardy unless we elect candidates who are unbiased and willing to implement policies that promote education equity for all children. This fellowship has advanced my interest in advocacy work and education reform.

**Rachel Frazier**  
*Junior, Biochemistry Major*

I was granted an internship with CFD Research Corporation (CFDRC) where I researched “green” technology in the form of enzymatic fuel cells and discovering the interactions between different enzymes, substrates, and electrodes. Enzymatic fuel cells are devices that extract energy from energy dense fuels by utilizing enzymes as bioelectrocatalysts. In the future, biofuel cells will take the place of inorganic batteries in low power electronic devices replacing them with fully biological components that are non-toxic and environmentally friendly. Most of these can be powered by fuels varying from beverages with high glucose content and atmospheric oxygen, all the way to bodily fluids, such as CSF (cerebrospinal fluid) in the brain. Using this technology as a neurostimulator is one way that this technology can be implemented into our daily lives. The fuel cell would be placed into the brain of a person who is suffering from PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). The device can stimulate certain neurons in the brain and cause nonfunctional areas to become active again and enable proper function, thus allowing patients to cope better with the side-effects of traumatic experiences.

**Tino Mkorombindo**  
*Junior, Biology Major*

I am on the pre-medical track, with plans of becoming a physician, specializing in adult medicine as well as sports medicine. Through the IMARI (Increasing Minority Admission into Research Institutions) program in Oakwood’s biology department, I was able to complete a 10-week research internship in the Physiology department at the University of Cincinnati. We manipulated magnesium metal for use in tissue engineering.

**Kaylah Joseph**  
*Junior, Social Work Major*

My life’s goal is to use the opportunities and privileges I have had to help others. This past summer, the invaluable experience I had at the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) in Hong Kong, China, gave me the platform to
Kaylah

Most of my contracts were with UHC in Houston, Texas. Mostly, I was going out to the actual offices and meeting with administrators. My favorite part of the internship was going on the power management system that controls all the power gathered by the solar panels. The best thing that happened at work was meeting Michael Foreman, an actual astronaut, and talking with him about the complexities of living in zero gravity. Working at Boeing was an exciting opportunity. The people I met taught me a lot about what it takes to be a software engineer.

Aja Gaskin Berry
Senior, Health Administration Major

I served as Healthcare Operations Intern for United Healthcare (UHC) in Houston, Texas. Mostly, I worked on contract negotiations between the insurance company and hospitals/doctors’ offices. My favorite part of the internship was going out to the actual offices and meeting with administrators. Most of my contracts were with Medicare/Medicaid, but I was able to work on multi-million-dollar commercial contracts, as well. Learning the ins and outs of how healthcare is funded was awesome! UHC is a great company because it offers several opportunities for employee enrichment. I enjoyed being a part of their corporate culture.

Tiffany Saunders
Junior, Nursing Major

I was blessed with a job as a Rehab Care Tech at MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C. I can truly say that I experienced nothing but greatness. As a nursing major, experience in the hospital setting is crucial. Working as a Rehab Care Tech afforded me the opportunity to work one-on-one with rehab patients, assist staff with procedures, and patients with activities of daily living. The experience I gained on the hospital floors in brain injury, cardiac rehabilitation, orthopedics, spinal cord injury, and stroke rehabilitation was invaluable. The knowledge gained in wound care and pressure ulcers, ostomies, bladder scanning, EKGs, autonomic dysreflexia, and male and female intermittent catheterization was priceless and will be something I can hold onto as I continue my nursing studies. This experience has given me the confidence I need to be a successful nurse and the assurance that I was called to this profession.

Gideon Ochako
Junior, Computer Science Major

I was blessed with a contract with Boeing at the Marshall Space Flight Center as a software engineer for the international space station (ISS). I got to work with software engineers who manage the code that runs the space station. During the internship, I worked with the software that recycles the oxygen in the space station as well as worked on the power management system that controls all the power gathered by the solar panels. The best thing that happened at work was meeting Michael Foreman, an actual astronaut, and talking with him about the complexities of living in zero gravity. Working at Boeing was an exciting opportunity. The people I met taught me a lot about what it takes to be a software engineer.

Kristen McLean
Senior, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Major

I participated in my third NASA internship and was stationed at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. While there, I tested Aquaporin membranes in a pressure driven water recycling system to determine the effectiveness at removing contaminants. The membranes incorporate aquaporin proteins found in the kidney to draw water and reject unwanted contaminants. My work contributed to NASA’s initiatives to reduce the cost of water sent to space for astronauts and to develop a new system for missions to Mars and beyond.

David Camacho
Junior, Biomedical Sciences Major

Apnea in newborn infants is an occurrence that happens too often and, in a majority of cases,
results in death. How this potential fatal condition manifests itself is not yet understood, but through research like the one that I partook in this summer, we are making significant strides towards the answer. The lab in which I worked utilized 10-12-day-old rat pups to model the reactions of neonatal infants. The rat pups were injected with an endotoxin in their trachea to stimulate an infection, eliciting the inflammatory response. After the death of the rat pups, their brain tissue was removed and key respiratory centers were isolated and stained for further analysis. I worked in the lab of Dr. Christopher Wilson, a neurophysiologist who specializes in perinatal respiratory function at the Loma Linda University Medical Center. I was exposed to techniques used for preparing tissue for viewing under a microscope, as well as different ways to count cells and molecules. I learned more about the manner in which the brain communicates with the body and the fascinating natural mechanisms that are in place to protect the body against harm.

**Lemuel Hackshaw**  
**Senior, Biology Major**

Through the mentorship and help of Dr. Rand and the Increasing Minority Admissions into Research Institutes program, this summer I was accepted into the Duke University summer program. Duke University presented me with many resources for gaining success as an undergraduate performing research. I conducted research on identifying the role of Ubiquitin Specific Peptidase 20 on Inhibitor of kappa B degradation in the Tumor Necrosis Factor receptor dependent Nuclear Factor kappa B signaling pathway in order to counteract atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. My prior research experience allowed me to quickly become a thinker in the lab. Outside of working on my project, I was able to attend professional development workshops, scientific presentations, and weekly research seminars. I was also able to begin work on a poster to be presented at the end of the summer symposium and in Seattle, Washington, at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. During my time in the lab, I reviewed articles and built on different lab techniques while extending my scientific knowledge.

**Kristen Sharp**  
**Senior, Accounting Major**

This summer I worked as a finance intern for Adventist Health Systems, in Orlando, Florida. I was assigned to the Internal audit department, where I performed various financial audits on Florida Hospital’s campuses. Tests performed during these audits proved that all the financials were in keeping with the rules and regulations of the state. Over the course of the summer, I learned several things, including how to adapt to an unfamiliar environment, time and money management skills, build relationships with coworkers, and increase my knowledge of the field. I also had the opportunity to meet the CEO, CFO, COO, and many other administrators of Florida Hospital and Adventist Health Systems. The most valuable thing that I took away from this summer was developing the courage to seize every opportunity.

If I hadn’t taken a leap of faith, I wouldn’t have had such an impactful summer.

**Krystal George**  
**Junior, Dietetics Major**

I worked at a Company called Wafels & Dinges, owned by Thomas DeGeest, in New York City. Wafels & Dinges is famous for their delicious Belgian waffles. Their recipe has helped the company win several awards, such as: Best Dessert Truck in America (2014, by the Daily Meal); “Best Belgian Waffle in NYC (2013); Most Popular Food Truck in the USA (2013); 25 Most Fantastic Food Trucks in the USA (2011, by Forbes); Best Food Truck in NYC (2010, by ZAGAT); NYC VENDY Awards; and Throwdown (with Bobby Flay on the Food Network). I have catered for this company at numerous film sets, including Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Half Shell, Gotham, and at Steiner Studios. I also worked at ICE-Intercontinental Exchange of the U.S. Stock Market. I am just in awe at where God has taken me. My dream is to become a registered dietitian, chef, and author of a cookbook. This summer job blessed me extremely with culinary experience, not only for school, but for the future.

**Christina Miles**  
**Junior, Psychology and Spanish Major**

Traditionally, psychology has been characterized by counseling and therapy sessions; however this summer taught me that there is so much more to the study of the human mind. I am a Psychology and Spanish double major, with a minor in Biology, and I believe that there is a natural closeness between psychology and biology.
that is epitomized in neuroscience. I was deeply honored to spend this summer working in the acclaimed nutritional neuroscience laboratory of Dr. Johnny Figueroa at Loma Linda University. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Figueroa and his team, exploring the effect of a high-fat diet in adolescence on lifelong stress responses. We sought to determine how a high-fat diet augments anxiety-like behaviors by studying the diet-gene interactions. Our exciting results suggest that consumption of high-fat diets during adolescence alters the cellular and molecular landscape while impairing dopamine neurotransmission in brain areas associated with motivation and reward. These findings have the potential to advance the understanding of nutrition as it pertains to mental health.

This summer was such an enriching experience as I learned the molecular underpinnings of anxiety disorders with passionate and dedicated scientists. I now have first-hand knowledge of how studying the brain can lead to remarkable health advancements. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity.

Claudjia Goulding
Senior, Mechanical Engineering Major

I am a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering student in the dual degree program with Oakwood University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. This summer, I worked with the Special Test Equipment Design Branch at the NASA Marshall Space and Flight Center. This branch is responsible for the design of special equipment that is used by the center to run tests on components that aid in aerospace travel. The Special Test Equipment Design Branch produces structural steel designs, piping system and pressure vessel designs, and Stress Analyses used to support Space Launch System (SLS) testing. This specific project was to generate a 3-D CAD drawing, using ProEngineer/Creo 2 from an archived 2-D drawing, which will assist in the redesigning and reconstructing of a test stand, which in turn will be used to support pressure vessel, run line, and fluid flow components of the SLS Main Propulsion System (MPS). This system will perform water flow testing of run line components that will be used on the SLS Vehicle to deliver fuel to the four liquid engines located at the base of the SLS Core Stage.

Courtney Buchanan
Junior, Communication/Public Relations Major

I spent my summer working in healthcare for Kettering Healthcare Network—one of the five Adventist healthcare networks in America. I was able to participate in various projects throughout the summer. These included creating a framework for a diversity council, creating the perfect formula for a great patient experience, logging staff evaluations, taking part in executive meetings, collecting data, creating fliers, and much more.

Gabriel Carter
Junior, English Major

I’ve had the amazing opportunity of being able to intern under Congressman John Lewis. In that office, I was able to experience things of which I could only have dreamed. Among other things, I met Malala Yousafzai and Judy Smith (of the TV show, Scandal), and had the chance to observe a ways-and-means committee hearing on Capitol Hill—one of the most revered, admired, and prestigious committees on the Hill. This internship was made possible through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF). The CBCF is single-handedly the most phenomenal congressional internship programs there is, in my opinion. They take the time to ensure that all their interns are prepared for the road ahead.

Gregory Roper
Senior, Applied Mathematics & Electrical Engineering double-Major

I had the opportunity to intern for SAIC/NICS as an assistant network engineer. The NASA Integrated Communications Services (NICS) provides IT communications infrastructure services across all NASA centers and facilities. It was my job to facilitate a number of disconnects in the WAN infrastructure. Along with the hands-on technical experience, this opportunity allowed me to be engaged in an engineering work environment. Networking with the engineers at NICS was stellar. They were friendly, informative, had a great sense of humor, and gave valuable advice. As an aspiring engineer, it is important to obtain as many undergraduate internships as possible.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30}
Meet The

TOP 5 MAJORS DECLARED
• Biology
• Psychology
• Nursing
• Pre-Physical Therapy
• Applied Mathematics
These young adults are ready for a new experience—the beginning of college life here at Oakwood University. Many things are new to them: choosing a major, sharing a room, later curfews, etc. Memories and friendships made here will last a lifetime.

So we now introduce to you—the freshman class—the Class of 2019.

TOP FIVE PLACES OF ORIGIN
- United States of America
- Canada
- Bahamas
- Bermuda
- Zimbabwe

TOP FIVE COMMON LAST NAMES
- Williams
- Johnson
- Jones
- Moore
- Henry
It is true that students have options in the university they attend for their higher education experience. The reasons vary for why they may have decided to attend a specific university. Some reasons may be because of a particular academic discipline or maybe to get as far away from their parents as they can. Whatever the reason, the faculty and staff at Oakwood University are here to help students through the beginning of their young adult lives.

Meet a few members of the newest academic class—the Class of 2019—to see why they chose Oakwood!

**Madeline Gustave**
Valedictorian, Miami Union Academy

I’d gone through a lot towards the end of my junior year of high school. During this time, I learned that God was really the only person I could wholeheartedly depend on and not have to worry about Him not following through. So, I guess it was no surprise that when I found myself hopelessly confused about what college to attend, I turned to Him. I hadn’t really taken a moment to think about whether or not He had a specific college in mind for me, until things weren’t lining up the way I expected. Then, I figured I couldn’t go wrong if I consulted God, so I asked Him.

After months of fasting and searching for my answer, I finally got it. It was Oakwood. I was all for it because I knew that God was up to something awesome. However, shortly after that, I’d received a few unfavorable responses from some people, two of whom were my parents. They wanted me to stay close to home for financial reasons. At first, I didn’t mind, not because I was being rebellious, but because I figured if God planned for me to go there, obviously He would have a plan for me to be able to stay there. However, they were able to get me to consider other schools closer to home. I wasn’t happy, but they were, so I guess I could have learned to be happy. I literally researched every reason I could to convince myself that I would be happy at the school closer to home. Then, one day I was talking with my parents about my plans and they mentioned that I should find a school even closer to home. That was my light bulb moment. It wasn’t about money. My parents simply wanted me to stay home. While I sympathized with them, I couldn’t help but realize that the entire time, God was showing me glimpses of His reasoning behind sending me to Oakwood. So, I told my parents that I was once again choosing to go to Oakwood and explained the whole process of how I came to that choice. They weren’t ecstatic, but they couldn’t deny the fact that things were starting...
to line up and point to Oakwood, as well. It was a long journey, trying to figure out where to attend college, and I’m sure there will still be a few bumps in the road throughout my college life, but I don’t doubt for a second that my experience at Oakwood will be worth it all.

Hydia Lee
Valedictorian, Louisville Adventist Academy

Oakwood has been a part of my life since I was a little girl. My father was the associate pastor, my mother and other family members both worked and attended the college, and I even attended the elementary school at one point in time. You would see me in every Camp Meeting, Alumni Weekend, and any other event Oakwood would have. I even participated in the swimming lessons, basketball, and media camps they had. I know a few of the teachers and students there as well.

You would think that since Oakwood was such a big part of my life, it would’ve been my first choice for college, but it wasn’t. It was actually nowhere on my list of choices. I wanted to branch out and experience something new, but something always kept me coming back to Oakwood. I even visited different colleges, but none of them felt right. I knew Oakwood would be home when I attended the 2015 Alumni Weekend event. Not only were the services, block party, and meeting Brian McKnight great, but being there with all the students, teachers, and alumni made it feel like home. Everyone was so welcoming and loving. I do not regret choosing Oakwood University, and I look forward to learning, both in the classroom and in life.

Savannah Mays
Valedictorian, Northeastern Academy

For as long as I can remember, enrollment in Oakwood University was encouraged in my home, my high school, and my local church. Since it was my desire to remain in the Adventist educational system, Oakwood was on a short list of possible institutions. While attending College Days, I met with several students and friends who were very positive about their collegiate lives and the academic curriculum. Their experiences were invaluable to me because I am planning to pursue a degree in Biomedical Sciences, with the goal of entering into the field of medicine (like my father who is a very proud 1985 alumnus). I now consider Oakwood University to be the ideal institution to fulfill my dreams and to develop friendships that will last a lifetime. Therefore, I am excited to have chosen Oakwood University as the institution for my undergraduate studies.

Justin F. Thornton
Salutatorian, Pine Forge Academy

I chose to go to Oakwood because I believe in excellence in everything that we do. Oakwood shows these traits, as far as I can see.
Making Holistic Education a 21st Century Reality: Colloquium 2015

The annual Faculty and Staff Colloquium 2015 was held on August 3-6, in the McKee Business & Technology Complex. The theme was “Making Holistic Education a 21st Century Reality.” Colloquium highlights included morning spiritual messages by Pastor Debleaire Snell, ’98, a faculty/staff commitment service, and a fellowship picnic.

The Healthy Campus 2020 subtheme was threaded throughout the program, from start to finish. Healthy Campus 2020 targets our university students, to help ensure that they are taught health principles that will be beneficial to them in this life and prepare them for eternity. In addition, President Leslie Pollard made a commitment to make Oakwood University the “healthiest campus in America.” The model used to frame this project is taken from the eight laws of health as taught in Ministry of Healing, by Ellen G. White: “Pure air, sunlight, abstinence, rest, exercise, proper diet, and the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies.” (p. 37/127 MH).

Initially developed as a potential research study, as of June 2015, a retrospective research study will be considered after implementation, as data becomes available. Drs. Prudence Pollard, Tricia Penniecook, Howard Shaw, Havovi Patel, and Shirna Gullo came together as the Health Principles Committee, to evaluate the current Health Principles curriculum, syllabus, and student learning outcomes. It determined that all elements were in place to ensure that students were being taught basic health principles.

The committee agreed that students should be involved in developing this new program as well as an acronym that would represent the overall framework. A competition was held to create a mnemonic device that would become the mantra for the program. All elements integrated well under the acronym “STAND OUT,” submitted by Shaella Freeman. This representation of the eight laws of health also allows us to reach out to others, using this slogan as a marketing tool for conveying this health message to anyone.

Sunlight
Temperance
Adequate rest
Nutrition
Drink water
Outdoors
Use physical activity
Trust in God

An additional goal of this committee was to compile information on each topic, based upon the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and current research. The resulting publication will be utilized as the foundational guide to teach the “STAND OUT” principles to students, faculty, staff, and the community. This primary guide was also used at the 2015 Colloquium. The writers included: Dr. Havovi Patel, Lauren Eaton, Dr. Doug Eaton, Cherah Lindo, Dr. Tricia Penniecook, Dr. Fiona Lewis, Dr. Karen Anderson, Dr. Prudence Pollard, Dr. Howard Shaw, Dr. Leslie Pollard, and Dr. Howard Weems.
OU + NASA (for PSTI training) = Success

The Pre-Service Teacher’s Institute (PSTI) is an annual residential workshop supported by a $100,000 grant from NASA that is designed to increase college students’ skills in teaching mathematics and science, while incorporating technology in an elementary or middle school curriculum.

This is achieved through the development of a problem-based learning (PBL) space exploration theme. Each student is assigned to an Institute Flight Team at Huntsville’s NASA facility. Students develop a lesson that they teach to children from a local school, and will also teach in an elementary/middle school, when they return home.

One major goal is to transfer this experience and acquired knowledge into usable lesson plans for teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This year, a new teaching component was added to the PSTI for summer 2015. Participants to PSTI received training from Olivia Beverly, Ph.D., assistant professor of Education, in integrating technology in the classroom to build student success in teaching and learning. Participants actively engaged in designing mathematics and science interactive activities for the classroom, and learned how to design computer-based lesson plans utilizing state standards for teaching.

Hosted by Oakwood University, the workshop was held during the week of July 26. Enrollees included six students from Oakwood University, four students from Fort Valley State (Georgia), and one student from the University of Central Missouri. NASA instructors consistently rate the program conducted with Oakwood as one of the best in the country.

Oakwood Prepares Biomedical Researchers for the Future

Approximately 20 students who participated in the $1.5 million IMARI Grant (from the National Institute of Health) conducted research this summer at institutions across the country.

IMARI stands for Increasing Minority Admissions to Research Institutions. The focus of the grant is to increase the pool of competitive minority students electing to pursue advanced biomedical research careers, and better prepare a new cadre of young scientists for biomedical research careers. IMARI provides early academic excellence intervention, advising, mentoring, and increased research participation and competence.

From the departments of Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Psychology, 20 students in the second grant year were matched with the intensive research institutions listed, for research training in their areas of interest.

**University of Cincinnati**
Lydia Briggs
Tinomudaishe Mkorombindo

**University of Alabama - Birmingham**
Crisol Lopez

**University of Texas - San Antonio**
Simone Brown
Kaiya Flemons
Amara Hendricks

**Loma Linda University**
Consuela Abotsi
Karís Arnold
Christina Miles

**Duke University**
Lemuel Hackshaw

**University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill**
Joy Gullo
Kohrissa Joseph
Ruth Munene

**Cleveland Clinic**
Samantha Harris
Gabriellia McNeil

**Johns Hopkins University**
Olivia Campbell

**Virginia Tech University**
Guidalia Dormeus

**Mayo Clinic**
Ashli Moore
Amal Taylor
Oakwood Maintains Place on Huntsville’s Honor Roll

On July 24, Oakwood University hosted the 41st Annual Awards Program for the City of Huntsville Beautification Board. Celebrating its 50th year anniversary, this Board was created to improve the appearance of Huntsville through ordinances, and by recognizing the efforts of private and public sectors in creating a more healthful and beautiful city.

The work of Oakwood’s Grounds Department has been recognized on the City’s Beautification Honor Roll for more than 14 years. There are 375 properties on the Honor Roll, and Oakwood Grounds Director Carlos Cole was present to receive yet another Honor Roll award. The Grounds Department is responsible for approximately 600 acres of Oakwood’s 1,200-acre campus.
Oakwood is Affordable

by Sabrina Cotton, Vice President for Financial Administration

One often hears the phrase “Christian education doesn’t cost; it pays,” followed by stories of extreme financial hardships that parents and students have gladly endured to participate in and receive the multiple benefits of Christian education. Oakwood University strives to ensure that students and parents can participate in a God First! Christian education, through a process that is balanced, based upon reduced attendance costs, need, hard work, academic success, church assistance, and family contributions. As noted below, Oakwood provides various paths to help students and parents truly enjoy a God First! education that is affordable and will pay dividends—now and forever.

- Oakwood offers tuition that is price competitive with other Seventh-day Adventist universities, HBCUs, other private universities, and selected state-sponsored universities.
- Oakwood offers scholarships based on GPA and SAT/ACT Test Scores, ranging from $10,000 to $40,000 for four years, and provides National Merit Finalists full tuition and room.
- Oakwood provides a $500 scholarship to all students who attend Oakwood Live! (formerly known as College Days).
- Oakwood provides a $1,000 Early Bird Scholarship to new students who complete certain enrollment processes by March 1.
- Oakwood provides a scholarship website, www.oakwood.academicworks.com, which provides links to multiple scholarships, specifically designated for Oakwood students.
- Oakwood is a participant in the US Department of Education Title IV program, and students have received up to $20 million dollars annually in federal student aid.
- Oakwood is a UNCF School, and students have the opportunity to participate in UNCF scholarship programs yielding up to $25,000 on an ongoing annual basis.
- Oakwood is a participant in the following programs for students from the State of Alabama:
  - Alabama Assistance Program – students can receive up to $4,000 annual
  - Alabama State Grant – awards vary
  - Alabama License Plate Scholarship – awards vary
- Oakwood works with industry to provide multiple paid internships and research opportunities for students. These include assignments that pay over $4,000 per summer and the opportunity to work for large corporations and top research institutions including SAIC, Liedos, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic, Loma Linda, and many other organizations.
- Oakwood provides approximately 600 paid, on-campus jobs for students.
- Oakwood is a participant in the Lettie Pate Foundation awards for women from select southern states, through which student can receive up to $1,500+ annually.
- Oakwood is a participant in the Three-way Scholarship Programs with select SDA Conferences/Unions across the United States; students can receive up to $600+ annually.
- Oakwood is supported by a Committee of 100, which provides multiple scholarships annually.
- Oakwood participates in the Redstone Federal Scholarship program, which provides a $2,000 scholarship.
- Oakwood partners with SALT.com, which provides links to thousands of scholarships to current and prospective students.
- Oakwood students are the recipients of scholarships sponsored by the Oakwood University Alumni Association.
- Oakwood offers a monthly payment plan which allows students to spread out 30% of their bill into manageable monthly payments, sponsored by Tuition Management—www.afford.com.

For more examples of Oakwood’s affordability or for additional information on how to take advantage of these opportunities, please contact the Financial Aid office at (256) 726-7210.
Meet Team USM

The Oakwood student body has voted and these are the students that have been elected to serve in the United Student Movement for the 2015-2016 school year:

Kyle Smith
Senior, Ministerial Theology Major
USM President

This year I hope to reengage the Oakwood student body with United Student Movement increasing participation in Oakwood life, redefine our understanding of black excellence and the rich history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, while also reaffirming our love and relationship in Christ, energizing us to defy all odds.

Gabriel E. Carter
Junior, English Major
USM Executive Vice President

This generation of Oakwood students is living off of their parents and grandparents memories of what that good old “Oakwood Experience” was. It is time for us to forge our own new “Oakwood Experience” that brings about a new brand of closeness and memories, akin to those of old. As USM Executive Vice President, I have the privilege of presiding over the branch of government most directly connected with the students: the USM Senate. Our first priority will be to ensure that every student’s voice is heard and acted upon, promising them a rich Oakwood experience.

Terrel Davis
Senior, Accounting Major
Financial Vice President

This year my goal is to manage the USM budget by allocating and maximizing the use of our funding. Also, I plan to teach personal budgeting skills to the students that attend Oakwood University. I am excited and look forward to fulfilling my duties as Oakwood’s Financial Vice President to the best of my abilities.

Compiled by Raymond S. King,
Director of Student Activities

Areisa Peters
Senior, Biology Major
USM Executive Secretary

I hope to contribute to the cohesiveness and eventual effectiveness of USM as a whole. My role is integral in increasing communication between the officers. When everything runs smoothly, we will be able to serve the student body more effectively.

Nia Darville
Sophomore, Elementary Education Major
USM Academic Vice President

This year, as Academic VP, I will strive to create an environment that will foster scholastic growth. By working alongside the VP of Academic Administration, Dr. Penniecook, I hope to establish an honors program that will challenge students to reach their full potential. Additionally, I plan to aid the student body by serving as a liaison between students and administration, ensuring that each student’s academic needs are met.

Sesly Huerfano
Junior, Pre-Law/Political Science Major
USM Parliamentarian

I plan on creating a position that not only keeps order during meetings, but in all of our USM constitutional documents as well. With the help of my fellow Court members, I plan on making noticeable changes regarding parliamentary procedure for this upcoming school year.

Teymi J. Townsend
Senior, Communications Media Major
USM Public Relations Director

In this school year, I want to continue working towards making Oakwood a more informed campus and also a more united student body.

JóPaul Scavella
Junior, Applied Mathematics and Civil Engineering Majors
USM Public Relations

My plan is to get in touch with the student body and to have them integrated into every aspect of USM activities that are happening on and off campus. My goal is to reach as many students as possible and garner their participation while supplying them with knowledge.

Darren Daly
Senior, English/Language Arts Education Major
USM Social Vice President

My main goal is to elevate the connections built through social experiences. I hope to accomplish this goal through interactive environments with collective positive spirit so the social settings for 2015-2016 school year will rise to higher heights. With this hope USM and the social vice committee will make sure Oakwood University is a great social atmosphere for all students.

Jocelyn Woodson
Sophomore, Pre-physical Therapy Major
USM Athletic Vice President

I plan to provide equality for all the sports here on campus by promoting all teams equally and provide enough staff so they can improve. I want to revive school spirit by creating a more fun, enjoyable, and memorable atmosphere for students and student athletes. I also want to increase physical activity for women on campus by providing on campus workout sessions weekly in dorms.

Jordaan Houston
Senior, Theology Major
USM Religious Vice President

This year our focus is discipleship
and personal spiritual growth. We are seeking to revolutionize the way students view spirituality, in that spirituality goes beyond scope of corporate worship but involves the everyday life of an individual. Ways in which we seek to accomplish this is through the implementation of small groups that will encourage spiritual community. In addition, initiatives that will illuminate the ideal of practical disciplines such as prayer, personal devotion, and service to others.

Zakary Nzabalinda
Senior, Psychology Major
USM Special Event Coordinator

I plan to get students excited about our big events and our small events. My main objective is to increase student turn out and plan very exciting special events, such as the banquet. However, I am passionate about increasing turn out to all USM events.

Tyler Brown
Junior, Public Relations Major
Spreading Oak Editor

With my team, I plan to directly impact students by providing them with a quality newspaper. This paper will not only inform students about campus news, but highlight particular students who are excelling in their fields.

Julian Magloire
Senior, Accounting Major
Acorn Yearbook Editor

This year I plan to make this yearbook not just loved by our Oakwood family, but create it in a way that can inspire other people to attend our beloved university through research and updated production technology.

Danielle Clarke
Sophomore, Biomedical Sciences Major
USM Senate Secretary

This year I plan on assisting VP Gabriel Carter in being a voice for the students on Oakwood’s campus. Senate has a good strategy on how to effectively make change happen and we want students to know their opinions matter. With the help of the senators in charge we will take affirmative action to help make a difference.

Tino Mkorombindo
Junior, Biology Major
USM Executive Administrative Assistant

My position entails me assisting the president in various projects, as well as helping with day-to-day administrative and operational tasks. This academic school year, I will work to be of great aid to our USM president and officers. I also want to help students establish a connection with the USM officers and help them understand that they can make a difference on this campus.

Andrew Taylor
Sophomore, Accounting Major
USM Endowment Coordinator

For the school year 2015-2016 I would like to see our USM take on a new height and level of efficiency. One way for that to happen would be to provide scholarships for student directly through our endowment fund. Investing in this fund is an investment for the future!

Oakwood Alum Speaks for Student Leadership Conference

by Ryan Smith, Assistant Vice President, Student Services

This year’s student leadership conference took place on August 5-11 with the theme, “What’s in your Hand?” This year’s theme helped students understand what their gifts and talents are and how they will play an integral part in creating the “Oakwood Experience” for new and returning students. The speaker for the conference was former United Student Movement President Kasha Robinson; a proud graduate of Oakwood University, where she studied English Education and Electronic Media Production. Her graduate and post-graduate studies were completed in the areas of organizational leadership and communication and educational leadership at Belmont University and Nova Southeastern University, respectively. Dr. Robinson transitioned to leadership consulting, as well as personal/professional development training, after working in the fields of media production and education for the first part of her career. She currently serves as the lead consultant and CEO of Front Runner Leadership Consulting, and as a leadership consultant for the State of Tennessee Human Resources Department in the training division (Strategic Learning Solutions).

Participants of this conference included United Student Movement officers, resident assistants, night assistants and, for the first time, navigators. The Division of Student Services included navigators for the very first time, with the intent to have ongoing student leadership development throughout the year. We look forward to another successful year with our student leaders.
The residence halls for freshmen (Carter Hall and Holland Hall) were busy with activity on August 12 as new students moved in. Parents, friends, and staff helped get the new students moved in and settled into their new homes.

You can see more photos at flickr.com/OakwoodUniversity.
Oakwood Students Accepted into AHS Leadership Development Program

This summer, 33 college students and recent graduates were accepted into the 2015 Leadership Development program at Adventist Health System. Members of the group, including Jodel Bernard, Deeana Peter, Kristen Sharp and Jared Winston from Oakwood University, were selected to serve and learn across the organization’s 44 hospital campuses. More than 100 applications were reviewed during the competitive selection process that focused on a combination of quantitative and qualitative factors such as academic performance, community service, leadership potential, and an interest in the health care industry.

“Our main focus for having a leadership development program is to introduce top talent to the organization,” said Norman Miles, AHS’s director of Leadership Development. “We are in the business of developing and preparing servant leaders who will model our mission, vision and values.”

CAMROU Grad Writes Thesis on Adventist-Muslim Relations

Pastor Reynold Hazelwood recently completed a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership Development at Tyndale Seminary. His research project was titled, “Building Bridges: Equipping Seventh-day Adventists in Toronto to Build Relationships with Muslims.” Hazelwood, a graduate of Oakwood University’s School of Religion, pastors the Kingsway Village Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Ontario, Canada. He also holds the distinction of being one of the first four graduates of the Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood University’s (CAMROU) certification program.

The idea for his doctoral thesis was birthed in CAMROU’s year-long certification program. Building on strategies gleaned from the twelve practical modules that comprise the CAMROU certification, Hazelwood was able to garner “buy-in” from his church family, which has enabled meaningful fellowship with Muslims in the surrounding neighborhood.

Oakwood Listed in Top 10 for Retention

According to a report released by EdSmart, Oakwood University has been named in the list of top 10 HBCUs with the highest graduation and retention rates. The report allows students and parents to evaluate colleges, based on important outcome-related measures. “We recognize that graduation and retention rates are areas of concern among institutions of higher learning nationwide. As a result, Oakwood administrators have been intentional in their resolve to ensure all students not only have electronic access to their degree audits, but they have a clear understanding about the track they are on for graduation. Retaining students to graduation is a campus-wide effort at Oakwood University,” said Monica Sudeall-Hawkins, executive director of Student Enrollment Services.

Members of Aeolians Sing in Budapest Choral Fest

From May 23 through 25, members of the Oakwood University Aeolians participated in the Budapest International Choral Celebration. This event gave several hundred amateur singers the chance to perform major oratorical works. According to the website, the choral event featured concerts by domestic and international choirs, as well as workshops and interactive children’s programs. More than 1,000 singers from four continents were able to perform in the auditorium of Múpa. Choirs included Nyíregyháza Conemus Mixed Choir and Children’s Choir (Hungary), Cotton Club Singers (Hungary), Astana Philharmonic Chamber Choir (Kazakhstan), Astrolabium (Poland), Chili Da Mur (Austria), Choeur la Grâce (Congo), Damenes Aften (Norway), Ensemble Thios Omilos, Rajaton (Finland), and Vokalna Akademija Ljubljna Male Choir (Slovenia).
Students in the Department of Psychological Sciences are becoming more and more aware of the importance of scientific research. In addition, they are more actively participating in research opportunities. Both the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degree programs in Psychology include two primary research courses—Principles of Research and Experimental Psychology. These courses give students not only knowledge of the scientific method but hands-on research experience. They are guided in the process of conducting original research projects in each course and in selecting topics that reflect and strengthen their skills in critical thinking. After they have completed the Principles of Research class, many students have been able to apply their skills by working with the LifeCore research initiative under the direction of Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., vice president for Research and Employee Services.

For more than 10 years, Cherryl Galley, Ph.D., associate professor, has been taking students to the annual Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Conference to make poster presentations of their research work. During the 2015 spring semester, Eva Starner, Ph.D., traveled with a group of five students to the conference that was held in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Presenters and topics included:

- **Kohrissa Joseph**—“Analysis of Responses to the Life After Trauma Inventory (LATI-24): Based on Trauma Type”
- **Crisol Lopez**—“Jealousy, Rejection, Sensitivity, and Aggression as a Function of BPD Risk”
- **Paige Reynolds**—“Bullying: A Study of Gender Differences”
- **Eric Sweeting**—“Libraries: Study Room or Playroom?”
- **Jhanel Tam**—“The Effects of Social Networking Sites on Undergraduates’ GPA”

The annual spring Psychology Research Symposium provides an additional forum for psychology majors to make oral presentations of their research. The 2015 event was the 8th Annual Symposium. Graduates from the Department regularly report that they are well equipped to successfully engage in and complete graduate-level research.

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**Change is the precursor to growth. You cannot talk your way into expanding yourself. You must accept and then take action. Do not be afraid of self-reinvention, and do not stay blind to socially accepted obstacles. Life is waiting to be amazing. This is exactly what adult education is about. It is taking a chance on you, making an investment that goes against the status quo, and setting yourself up for a higher level of freedom. Ellengold Goodridge, Oakwood University’s Adult and Continuing Education director states, “Adult Education offers the opportunity to follow a passion, reinvent yourself, or enter a new chapter of self-realization.”

Your freedom is dependent on the expectations you allow to control your life. No one else can determine your love and passion, so why let them determine what you can be.”

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**WHY CHOOSE OAKWOOD?:**

**The Revolution for Genuine Change**

*by Jonathan Polite, Freelance Writer*

Oakwood Magazine | FALL 2015
your path in life? The process of discovering your own purpose is the beginning of happiness.

Abraham Maslow coined the term, “self-actualization,” the main concept being one of self-content and self-acceptance. It is evident that education plays a huge role in the outcome of such a concept. This is why adult learners have been on the rise, and this is why an adult program that is structured for adult lives is so important for the current and future society.

Any adult program that offers degree completion should contain the following for highest efficacy:
1) flexibility; 2) accelerated programs; 3) both online and onsite options; 4) competitive prices per credit hour; 5) credit for work experience; 6) advancement opportunities; and 7) an established, regionally accredited institutional degree.

Many adults face a disconnection between what is focused on and what is wanted. As a result, there arises mental turmoil and undesirable progress. This causes many adults to live in the past, while others are overwhelmed by the future. Life’s secret, however, is found in this very moment. I dare you to embrace it! I dare you to LEAP!

For more information about Oakwood’s adult and continuing education program (also known as LEAP), please visit www.oakwood.edu/leap or call (256) 726-7098.
Summer Mission 2015: Impact San Antonio, General Conference  by Kimberly Mann, Associate Chaplain

On Wednesday, July 1, the Office of Spiritual Life (OSL) 4HIM Mission team set out from Huntsville with bags packed and blue and gold 4Him shirts in tow, to San Antonio, Texas. The 4Him national and international teams combined to form one collaborative mission group. While more than 70,000 people were on their way to the General Conference for the church business sessions, sightseeing, and socializing, a group of young adults were headed to Texas for Impact San Antonio for mission work.

For 10 days, college students and young adults from across the globe convened to focus on local missions that included training in leadership and daily service opportunities to engage the community as the hands, feet, and face of Jesus. After a 19-hour drive, students from Oakwood University attended the from Paris, recognized that some people were having a hard time understanding the sermons and volunteered as an interpreter during the sessions. "It was a great display of using our gifts, even language, to help others understand the Gospel," he said.

Each morning, the 4HIM group began with a powerful worship experience in which the young adults got a chance to see and hear other youth ministry leaders, and young adult pastors. Themes included “Finding your Passion,” “Keeping Hope Alive,” “Perseverance,” and the “Power of God.” The students were challenged each morning to not just listen to the Word, but also apply it through round table, practical applications, confessing their difficulties to and praying for one another. Some mornings they were challenged to defend their Christian world-views on topics such as relationships, ministering to others, and hearing the Holy Spirit. Each morning, beautiful praise and worship music could be heard throughout the Marriott Convention Center, where the sessions were located. The students participated in team building activities and ministry training. The topics varied and included how to witness, how to approach people during outreach, how to start a ministry in your area, and ministry models around the various counties that are working successfully.

While the Impact Mission mornings focused on personal leadership and spiritual development, things really kicked into high gear during the afternoons. There were 13 ministry projects offered each afternoon, ranging from painting Christ-centered murals on buildings and volunteering at Haven for Hope Homeless Shelter and working at an AIDS hospice care center. The 4HIM team delivered physical and spiritual care, working alongside young adults from numerous cultures. At their sites, they received training on volunteering and how the organizations were run. The students performed a variety of tasks, including passing out “free hugs” and bottled water, washing down sleeping mats at the homeless shelter, distributing hygiene items and clean clothes and towels to needy community mem-
During one of the mission days, the 4Him team went out as a unit and participated in the “Sabbath Couch” activity, in which a white couch was placed in the middle of a busy area, and people who were passing by were invited to “take a break/rest.” When they sat down, they were asked what they needed a break from, and then the students shared how they take a break on the Sabbath, what the Sabbath is, and how it is observed. The participants of the “Sabbath Couch” were then challenged to take a 24-hour break the following weekend, so they could experience the Sabbath and see what it was like to take a rest.

The students also prayed with others, shared testimonies, and passed out tracts about their faith. O’neal Thomas, a junior, shared how he initially felt about sharing “free hugs.” He said, “It’s like the Holy Spirit just moved inside of me. Personally, I would never have been comfortable just hugging a stranger in the 90-degree heat, but something overtook me, and it was fun. I saw how much other people needed love, and I knew God put me there to give it. It was amazing!”

Prior to this trip, Chaplain Howard Weems and Chaplain Ronald Pollard had been working on the newly launched missions class. This class helps students to understand what it means to be “mission ready.” The students who attended the San Antonio mission trip modeled remarkable volunteerism, patience in the heat, cultural awareness and a spiritual maturity that really made Oakwood’s 4HIM Missions stand out.

Chelsea Orwa is thankful of the experience. “While in San Antonio, I had a powerful reminder of how graceful and merciful God truly is and how grateful I am,” she said. Indeed, there is nothing like doing mission work to remind us of just how blessed we are.

Najmah Calhoun worked with a community organization that educates parents and kids on healthy food choices and preventing childhood obesity. She is pictured here with a group of girls after passing out bookbags and school supplies at the end of the event.

“There is nothing like doing mission work to remind us of just how blessed we are.”

Chelsea Orwa

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY THE AUTHOR
Get Inspired. Make a Gift. See the Difference.

Invest in Future
The Oakwood University Annual Fund Campaign supports the basics for our students. From student aid to academic department support, your gift makes a difference for the future of Oakwood. Don’t delay—make your gift today!

Make a secure gift online at: www.OUgiving.com, or call us at: 256-726-7201, to speak to a development associate.
I encourage all Oakwood students to seek opportunities like this in your field. Begin to seek the opportunities as early as August. Even if an opportunity may not cater to your field, pursue it, anyway. Never sell yourself short of what you can achieve. Your intelligence is your strongest asset.

**Kenisha Malcolm**  
**Junior, Finance Major**

I began my internship experience on June 15, in a minority program at PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the top two accounting firms in the world. Within this internship, 80 interns from various colleges were assigned to different non-client departments—mine happened to be the Business Support Team. As part of that team, I was tasked with helping partners with research for upcoming client meetings. Not only was I assigned that work, but I was also exposed to tax simulations and audit simulations, an abundance of shadowing experience, three different mentors dedicated to helping me, a fantastic opportunity to network, and a vast amount of community service work. This was an invaluable experience with great, like-minded individuals; among them were many Adventists, and even a partner who is a fellow Oakwoodite! I really look forward to continuing my career path and gaining even more experience in PwC’s advanced internship next summer.

**Christopher Johnson**  
**Senior, Pre-Law: Political Science Major**

I was blessed with the opportunity to advance my knowledge of leadership, policy, and service by participating in the Congressional Intership Program in Washington, D.C. Through this program, I gained an in-depth perspective on the importance of representative government and the legislative processes by serving in the office of Congressman Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania’s 2nd District. There, I engaged in a number of legislative and administrative tasks—ranging from answering constituent calls to drafting policy memos—each of which provided deeper insight into the work of our elected officials.

The internship program gathered 42 young black leaders from all across the nation to serve in congressional offices, develop community action plans, enact rolls of Congress, engage in community service, and network with the nation’s most powerful leaders. Together, we developed a powerful bond as colleagues and friends that will last a lifetime.

This experience has been paramount to my personal, professional, and spiritual development. God, through this program, ignited a deeper passion in me to serve as a vessel for His people and He has equipped me with the tools and confidence necessary to see it through.

**Ashley Jacobs**  
**Senior, Nursing Major**

During the summer I had the wonderful opportunity to work on the Redstone Arsenal with the NASA/NICS group. For the duration of the program, I was able to assist with several tasks involving the processes of contracting. While in the first month, I had to become very familiar with the filing system, which was extensive, most of what I was able to do involved entering and updating data, such as warranty dates, into two of the systems used to keep up with contracts. I was also able to meet the CIO of NASA, Larry Sweet, during one of the meetings held on base, which was a great pleasure. Although this internship was not directly applicable to my major, I was able to take some things away from it. No matter what field you find yourself a part of, there is always space to grow beyond any limitations set before you.

**Charles E. White III**  
**Senior, Finance Major**

I had the privilege of interning at SAIC (Science Application International Corporation) in its financial Management and Federal Procurement sector. My internship at SAIC has been an exciting, progressive period of growth enhancing my knowledge as a student of finance and providing practical professional experience. Though this internship has the benefit of being a paid position, the real advantage is the interest the company has taken in my development. I profoundly admire the value of services that this institution offers its customers, which directly and indirectly affect all human beings worldwide, through security of our nation and space adventure. I wholeheartedly thank God, Oakwood University, and SAIC for allowing me the opportunity to intern with such a great organization. It’s been a blessing to spend my summer in an environment that caters to the growth of its employees and integrity of their services.
Former Miss Oakwood Featured in *Ebony* Magazine

by Lauren Eaton, 2015-2016 Miss Oakwood

Former Miss Oakwood University (2014-2015), Nia Johnson, had an outstanding senior year. Graduating this past May with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and a minor in Political Science, she dedicated her final year at Oakwood to implementing her Miss oakwood platform: “Bringing Practical Tools to the Black Community.” She did this by planning and executing a three-day seminar that focused on violence, education, family relations, and money management. “I wanted us, as a community, to stop talking about our issues and really start dealing with our issues,” she said. She also visited a local high school and discussed with students their grades, career goals, and the steps needed to achieve those goals.

One would say that probably the paramount point of Nia’s college career, however, was being featured as one of the top 10 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) queens in *Ebony* Magazine this past September. There are 106 HBCUs in the United States, which includes public and private institutions, community and four-year institutions, medical and law schools. Nia led a vigorous campaign on and off campus that led to her being selected as one of the featured queens. “God blessed my campaign, and I owe all of the glory to Him,” she said.

When asked what the *Ebony* feature means for Oakwood University as an institution, Nia stated, “I think this is a God-ordained recognition. I say this because a lot of times we, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, become content with just being known amongst ourselves. This is something, I believe, that can be a hindrance for us, especially when it comes to ministry and evangelism,” she said. “Oakwood being recognized in such a prominent publication is a way for us to be noticed, not only in a Seventh-day Adventist sphere, but also in a national environment. Oakwood University has so much to offer to the world, spiritually and academically. Why should we keep that to ourselves?”

Nia doesn’t focus on the differences between her and her fellow queens. However, her lack of jewelry, as well as her natural hair, caused her to stand out among the rest of the queens during the *Ebony* photo shoot. “I already knew about half of the other selected *Ebony* queens pretty well, and spoke with them on a regular basis. It almost felt like being with family—they already know that you are different, but you’re family so it’s okay.” This is not Nia’s first time standing out in a crowd. In July of 2014, when Oakwood attended the annual HBCU Royalty Leadership for Queens and The Kings Konnection, for the first time, Nia was nominated as Most Impressive Queen.

Nia is currently continuing her education at the University of Pennsylvania, pursuing a Masters in Bioethics. She credits Oakwood for making her into the person that she is today.
Karen Marshall  Dean, School of Nursing

I love to read, travel, shop, entertain, and spend time with my family. I also enjoy event planning and often get roped into organizing events for family and friends. I love to walk/run in at least one 5k a month (usually with my daughter). I have participated in the Color Run, the Breast Cancer Walk/Run, as well as the Glow Run. One of my dream vacation spots to visit is Aruba.

My favorite Bible text is Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Melissa Simmonds  Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences

I am a native of Jamaica, West Indies. I graduated from Oakwood in 2009 as a Biology major and Music minor. I completed my PhD at Johns Hopkins University in the spring of 2015. I love to travel, create paintings, and design and sew clothes. I have a lot of stories of how God has worked miracles in my life.

My favorite Bible text is John 14:1-3: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Dedrick L. Blue  Dean, School of Religion & Theology

While an Oakwood student missionary, I was kidnapped in Thailand and chased by wild monkeys in Malaysia. I’ve been cursed by, shall we call them, “traditional medicine practitioners,” in Kenya. I’ve even been threatened at gunpoint while in the pulpit. But I count all of these as “small things” for the glory of the Cross.

I believe that God’s hand moved in my decision to return to serve at Oakwood, to assist in the training of the next generation of spiritual leaders. I have served the Church in various ministry capacities for 34 years, as a pastor, teacher and conference administrator, in addition to several years of service at Oakwood as chaplain and then as vice president of Student Services.

My favorite Bible text is Philippians 1:6: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Patrick Ochieng  Assistant Professor, Chemistry

I am a native of Kenya. Before coming to Oakwood University, I was at Michigan State University, where I earned a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. I love singing and was a member of the Lansing Chorale, of Lansing Seventh-day Adventist Church, Michigan. I am married to Lilly, and we have a seven-year-old son, Phillip.

My favorite Bible text is Isaiah 40:31: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Rebecca Brothers  Eva B. Dykes Library, Media/E-Resources Librarian

I graduated from the University of Washington with my Masters in Library and Information Science, and from Walla Walla University with a B.A. in English. While a student at Walla Walla, I served as an English/preschool teacher in Podkowa Le na, Poland, for 10 months. My professional interests include digital privacy, food literacy, and intellectual freedom.

My favorite Bible text is Romans 12:15-18: Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
C. Wesley Knight  
Professor, Religion & Theology
I am “honeymoon happy” to be married to Stephanie Knight and to have a 14 year-old daughter and 11 year-old son. My favorite food is Roti and I love traveling the world preaching and teaching the love of Jesus.

My favorite Bible text is Romans 8:38,39: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Kirk Nugent  
Chief Information Officer, Provost Office
I enjoy singing, videography, and am a fitness enthusiast. I have Jamaican roots and have recently returned from a multi-year assignment overseas in South Africa. My wife, Kanique, and I have two children. I’ve worked for the Adventist Church for eight years, but prior to that with T. Rowe Price and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Isaiah 53 is an inspiration to me, as I attribute every success in my life to my all-encompassing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Kanique Nugent  
Webmaster, Advancement & Development
I was born in Jamaica and left the island when I was eight and moved to Barbados, where I spent five years before moving to the USA. My family is an international one; my brother’s wife is Korean and my sister’s husband is South African. My husband and I served as missionaries in South Africa for the past four years, and it was an adventure of a lifetime. I am a quiet soul at heart, with a love for trying new things and experiencing the world as God leads.

My favorite Bible text is Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Richard Blanco-Topping  
Assistant Professor, Business & Information Systems
My favorite sport is basketball and reading is one of my hobbies.

One of my favorite Bible texts is Proverbs 1:7: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Kadarius McBride  
Public Safety Officer, Public Safety
I’m a 2015 graduate from Oakwood University. I was raised in South Carolina, where I attended the Pageland Seventh-day Adventist Church. The members of my church have been extremely supportive throughout my tenure at the University. I enjoy reading, spending time in nature, and meeting new people.

My favorite Bible text is Psalm 8:1: O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Mark Massey  
passed away on August 9.
A native of Huntsville, Mark graduated from Johnson High School. He was a member of a band called Cosmo. He also enjoyed basketball and collected baseball caps.

Mark was a loyal and committed friend and family man with a warm, contagious spirit that extended to his workplace, community, and his family. He was a dedicated team member of Oakwood University’s Custodial Department. Mark was also a relative of the Massey family who operated Oakwood’s dairy for many years.

Mark leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Tracey; daughter, Keisha Booker; and stepdaughter, Kimberly Patterson.

Charles Wallington, Jr., DPT, ’97, an associate professor in the Allied Health Department, passed away on September 3. Dr. Wallington was a physical therapist that had practiced for 15 years—10 of those years were in private practice. He was a sports fan and enjoyed playing golf and basketball. In 1994, during his freshman year at Oakwood, he was the intramural flag football “Rookie of the Year.”

Having just begun teaching this fall semester, he shared: “I take great pleasure in this opportunity to help guide students in their academics, career, and, ultimately, into the Kingdom of God.”

Dr. Wallington leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Tracey; daughter, Keisha Booker; and stepdaughter, Kimberly Patterson.

Revelation 14:13—Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”
Oakwood Faculty Receive Research Fellowships

The Division of Research and Employee Services recently announced that each of the following faculty members have received $15,000 in faculty research fellowship grants from the Henry C. McBay Faculty Research Fellowships, through the United Negro College Fund. This program, open to faculty of UNCF institutions, provides fellowships to support research in a field of the recipient’s choosing.

Darayas Patel, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and computer sciences, is developing a sensor of ammonia in air, based on rare-earth upconversion phosphors with improved characteristics, and will demonstrate its feasibility.

Elaine Vanterpool, Ph.D., associate professor, biological sciences, will study “The Role of Porphyromonas Gingivalis Sialidase in Microbial Host Interactions.” The focus of Dr. Vanterpool’s research examines the mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis (i.e., how pathogens cause disease).

Alexandre G. Volkov, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, has the goal of determining the bioelectrochemical mechanisms of nanophytosensors, signal transduction, and their response to environmental stimuli. His proposal is entitled “Phytosensors.”

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3ABN - Saturdays at 2:00 am, 6:00 am, and 8:00 pm

*All times are Eastern Standard Time.*

For national and regional television broadcast schedules, please visit www.breathoflife.tv.

Dr. Carlton P. Byrd
Speaker/Director
Oakwood University values innovation, which allows students and communities to be transformed. Innovation is one of seven values undergirding Vision 2020. For Oakwood University, we are willing to break with precedent in the advancement of institutional mission by introducing new methods and major changes. The vision of Oakwood University is to graduate leaders in service to God and humanity. Oakwood transforms students by creating a holistic approach to the many health-debilitating behaviors of collegiate men and women.

Healthy Campus 2020™ (HC2020) is an organized health intervention designed to promote and support a high level of wellbeing through proper diet, exercise, stress management and illness prevention. Oakwood University extends its commitment to wellness by addressing the national burden of obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes as components of the Healthy Campus 2020 commitment to provide students with their Health Transcript™.

**Where Will This Information Be Documented?**

Similar to an academic transcript, which reflects the student’s overall academic progress, the invention of a Health Transcript™, will be provided to the student to document and track their health progress. In addition, this information will be in the student’s electronic medical record (EMR). Students will be encouraged to follow up each year, and as needed, to complete a reassessment to evaluate their progress. On-campus activities and a course of study in the eight STAND OUT™ principles of health will provide students with knowledge and encouragement to make healthy choices. Further reinforcement will be provided when students share their knowledge of health at the university’s Community Action Clinic, which is slated for its grand opening in 2016.
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, is paved with bricks. Oakwood University is excited to offer you the opportunity to pave the way into the next 119 years of success by purchasing a brick to be set on campus. Our Legacy Walkway features 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.

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GOD FIRST! WWW.OAKWOOD.EDU
College professors—now, that’s the life. Who wouldn’t want to work only 10 months out of the year with two months reserved for sun and fun? The reality, however, is much different: For professors, summer is a time for self-development. It is time for research, writing, mentoring and other tasks and, perhaps, a one- or two-week vacation.

Here is a snapshot of how some of our faculty members spent those precious months.

Jillian Wills, MSN, RN, CNE
Professor, Nursing Department

The majority of my summer break was spent resting, spending time with family, networking, and preparing for fall classes and responsibilities. First, I had the opportunity to learn how to integrate health principles into the OU nursing curriculum. I also visited two hospitals in the Florida Hospital System and had a meeting with the graduate nurse recruiter, to discuss job placement for OU nursing students after graduation.

I visited family in Columbus, Ohio, attended two graduations, and distributed OU recruiting packets. While in Ohio, I toured Kettering Medical Center near Dayton, to meet with nursing administrators and recruiters. I learned about the Nextern program—a summer program designed for students who have completed their junior level nursing courses. We discussed the benefits of this program to OU nursing students and the requirements necessary for students to be selected for the program.

Fiona Lewis, Dr.P.H., R.D.
Professor, Allied Health Department

“Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest... Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don’t know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both (Eccl. 11: 4-6, NLT).” These verses have always been my motivation for professional and personal growth. This summer I planned several trips and activities to create and support professional and personal relationships.

Early June, after completing self-study modules, passing pre- and post-tests based on the current obesity literature, and attending a three-day workshop in New Orleans, I obtained the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s Level I Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management.

Later that month, I began Phase
I of a two-year fellowship in Jackson, Mississippi. The HBCU PRIDE (Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research) fellowship is sponsored by the National Heart Blood and Lung Institute (NHBLI), one of the 27 institutes within the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

For 10 days our eight-member cohort received classroom training on several topics, which included research methods, scientific writing, grantsmanship, and navigating the NIH.

Kevin Anderson, Ph.D.  
Professor, Chemistry Department

I spent the summer of 2015 writing a study guide on a variety of biochemistry topics. It is designed to prepare students for the American Chemical Society’s Biochemistry Examination.

I also participated in a joint group meeting with my collaborator at the University of Alabama Huntsville, Robert McFeeters, a professor in the Department of Chemistry. We have shared interest in carbohydrate chemistry, biochemistry, and macromolecular interactions between infectious agents and hosts.

Carmiele Wilkerson, Ph.D.  
Professor, English Department

This summer I did something I’ve not done in over a decade: I didn’t leave the country.

For the past 14-15 years, I’ve packed my bags in the month of May and hopped a plane abroad, with promise of return in August. I fancy myself the restless traveler, so often found as narrator in works by St. Lucian born poet, Derek Walcott, who experiences the “bitter sweet pleasures of exile” as one “fortunate enough...to see the world” (Walcott, The Fortunate Traveler).

But this summer, I did not travel the world. Instead, I unpacked boxes and settled into my new digs in Huntsville, Alabama. August 2015 marks one year since I migrated south from the Midwest to take a post at Oakwood University, and it is only now that I have time to properly unpack my world.

This summer I had the wonderful experience of becoming (re)acquainted with Huntsville; these mini-exploratory trips within the progressive city are muse for the theme of my fall 2015 Composition course. I also taught an online class for the first time. Teaching online exposed me to the refined art of pedagogical organization, clarity, and a wealth of open-source intellectual property. On the lighter side, I slept past 9:00 a.m. during the week.

Next summer I will pack my bags and head for parts unknown; it is something that I am drawn to do—leave and return again. ☀️
The 60th General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists brought more than 70,000 individuals from around the world to the Alamodome and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The 10-day conference also provided the backdrop for the fifth installment of “Oakwood on the Road.”

The Grand Hyatt Hotel was the venue for two receptions in San Antonio. At the first event on Saturday night, July 4, alumni and friends had an opportunity to “Meet the Presidents”: Dr. Leslie Pollard (2011-present), along with former presidents Dr. Mervyn Warren (2010-2011), Dr. Delbert Baker (1996-2010), Dr. Benjamin Reaves (1985-1996), and Dr. Calvin Rock (1971-1985). More than 400 Oakwoodites and friends attended the dessert reception, with reconnections, photo taking, university updates and fellowship. The evening was reminiscent of the past, and provided relevant information for the present and forecasts for the future.

The second event occurred on Thursday evening, July 9, with a late afternoon light meal. President Pollard provided updates, and Oakwood administrators and staff fellowshipped with approximately 150 Oakwoodites and friends.

Our next stop for Oakwood on the Road will be in Atlanta, Georgia, scheduled for October 23-24. Please save the date, we look forward to seeing you there.
Miss UNCF – A Vision Worth Investing In

This summer marked the beginning of the Miss National United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Coronation Pageant 2016. Created in 1957, the pageant aims to provide funding for students who are affiliated with the 37 member institutions of the UNCF.

In this competition, female members from the fund’s National Pre-Alumni Council (NPAC) compete to raise the most money for the fund’s annual campaign. Candidates for Miss UNCF are selected on the basis of funds raised at the institutions they represent.

The person chosen as Miss National UNCF shall be the representative of the institution that raises the largest amount of funds, per capita, in odd years, and simply the largest amount raised, regardless of per capita, in even years. The evening of festivities includes a display of talent, award and scholarship presentations for the National Pre-Alumni Council.

Contestants are challenged to raise money from July to December. The person who raises the most money, becomes Miss UNCF. Along with this title, she becomes a UNCF ambassador and attends key UNCF events, such as the masked balls, luncheons, golf tournaments, the UNCF National Dinner, and other local events throughout the year.

This year, Oakwood has six contestants (pictured above, right) competing for the title of Miss UNCF Oakwood 2016.

The Miss Oakwood UNCF coronation will take place December 6, on the campus of Oakwood University. From there, the winner will compete in February 2016, at the annual National Alumni Council (NAC)/National Pre-Alumni Council (NPAC) Annual Leadership Conference, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

You can support any of our contestants online at www.ougiving.com/missuncf, or contact Edith Pruitt at 256-726-7039.

Another UNCF Campaign Year

by Kisha R. Norris, M.Ed., CFRE

Oakwood University is a proud member institution of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Partnering with individuals in the Huntsville community, Oakwood coordinates the annual North Alabama Campaign to raise scholarship funds and to increase awareness about the impactful work of the UNCF, HBCUs, and our phenomenal students and graduates. Our theme this year is “Building Bridges to Opportunity.”

Michael Cox, vice president and Engineering Solutions Sector Manager for Parsons, has agreed to be the 2015-16 chair of UNCF North Alabama Campaign.

During the campaign year, there are four events to raise funds for student scholarships. The first event is the UNCF Campaign Kick-off, which was held on September 15, at the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center. This event is an opportunity for our UNCF scholarship recipients to express their gratitude to our donors.

The second event is the UNCF Golf Classic, scheduled for Monday, October 12, at The Ledges of Huntsville golf course. Alumna Brenda Martin, ’97, will chair the event. Community partner Woody Anderson Ford is the awards sponsor, and Regions Bank is sponsoring a “swing analysis” to help golfers improve their game.

The UNCF Women’s Leadership Tea is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, also at The Ledges of Huntsville. Joy Agee, from sponsoring company ERC, has again agreed to be the chair of this event.

The campaign year culminates with the 38th Annual UNCF Gala, scheduled for the Thursday of Oakwood University Alumni Homecoming Weekend. The event will take place on March 24, 2016, at the Von Braun Center North Hall.

All proceeds from campaign events support the 37 UNCF member colleges and universities and the thousands of students they serve. To contribute to the 2015-2016 UNCF North Alabama Campaign, please visit www.ougiving/uncf.com. Remember the UNCF slogan: “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste, but a Wonderful Thing to Invest In.”

Constance Diane Monplaisir, Business Administration Major —New York, NY
Eunice Nyasani, Biochemistry Major —South Lancaster, MA
Courtney Buckhanon, Communication Major —Franklin, GA
Laquandra Rushing, Nursing Major —Ocala, FL
Kaylah Joseph, Social Work Major —Huntsville, AL
Madison Henry, Business Administration Major —Oakville, Ontario, CAN

Miss UNCF – A Vision Worth Investing In
Alumni News

1980s
Gina S. Brown, Ph.D., RN, ’84, has been appointed as Dean of Howard University’s College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences. She comes to Howard University with over 20 years of senior-level academic administrative experience, with an extensive track record of developing new academic programs, securing grants, and enhancing the accreditation process. Dr. Brown graduated from Oakwood with an undergraduate degree in nursing (1984), and a second bachelor’s degree in biology (1985). She received her Master of Science degree in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University (1989) and her Ph.D. in Administration from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia (1999).

Victor Joseph, DDS, ’85, received a Community Champions Award from Molina Healthcare, for helping the nonprofit organization, Kids Come First, get needed equipment to open a dental clinic. His work as a dentist led to charitable giving and volunteer work. Molina Healthcare’s Community Champions program recognizes people who do good deeds and extraordinary charitable work.

Eric Alan Moore, MD, MBA, ’85, was promoted to Program Medical Director Central Florida at Vitas Healthcare, the nation’s largest hospice provider. The Central Florida Program is Vitas’ third largest program.

Bryant Taylor, D.Min., ’87, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is the new Communication and IT Director for the Southeastern Conference. He has held pastoral assignments in the Central States, Ohio, and Allegheny West conferences. Bryant is passionate about technology, and is the co-host of Tech Talk, an internet program on technology. Bryant presents workshops on media and technology, and consults with churches on technology and audio-visual ministry. “If it has an on/off button, I either have it, want it, or am on my way to purchase it,” he says.

Amy McNeil Thomas, ’03, was awarded Credit Union Professional of the Year, at the National Association of Federal Credit Union Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec. She accepted this award in June of 2015.

Joel Williams, ’05, received a NASA-Marshall Innovation Award for the management of the Engineering Solutions and Prototyping contract to solicit and award a delivery order to develop a commercial process for payload processing and the delivery of payloads to the International Space Station. Williams is pictured here with astronaut Robert “Hoot” Gibson (l) and MSFC Director Scheuermann.

DeShawn Preston, ’11, worked as summer intern for the White House Initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) during 2015. During his time there, he helped in preparing for the HBCU conference and constructed a number of blog posts on how HBCUs can take better advantage of funding opportunities offered by the federal government. DeShawn is now entering his third year of his Ph.D. in Higher Educational Leadership, at Clemson University. During his first year at Clemson, DeShawn was chosen as a Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) doctoral scholar for the state of South Carolina. He currently works as a graduate assistant in the Charles H. Houston Center for the Study of the Black Experience in Education. His research agenda focuses on African-American students in graduate and professional programs. More specifically, his dissertation topic will examine the role/influences HBCUs play in assisting African Americans with enrollment into doctoral programs.

Samantha Moore, ’13 and Dave Daly, Jr., ’13, were married on May 24, in Chicago, Illinois. This was a relationship that blossomed from one simple meeting at the Oakwood ice cream parlor, back in 2011.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Alfred Hampton, Sr., ’69
On June 28, the Texas Chapter of the Oakwood University Alumni Association sponsored its 2nd Annual Talent/Fashion Show, featuring local middle, high school and current Oakwood University students. The event was held at the Lux Boutique and Event Center in Humble, Texas. The featured artist was saxophonist Kermit Faulkner and the featured Oakwood alums were Doctors Jared and Teju Williams (2008 grads). Student talents included, singing, praise dancing, oratory, instruments and modeling.

Each participant was responsible for raising money for the event, and every student had a group of individuals working on their behalf. The organization believes that it is important for scholarship recipients to play an active role in raising money for scholarships. There were 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-place winners, based on the amount of money raised. This year, a total of $16,217 was raised for the 2015 Fall Semester.

—submitted by Peggy Burns, ’83, Texas chapter president

The Greater Orlando Chapter (GOC) assists students financially throughout the school year and provides critical financial assistance to students who are about to graduate from Oakwood University. Every student who receives financial assistance should be willing to assist in services that give back to the Alumni Association and the community. Many of the volunteers who assist in the programs and activities sponsored by the Greater Orlando Chapter are students or former students who have been assisted by the Alumni Association.

The GOC has successfully initiated several activities that have led to greater participant involvement and increased membership, which included reaching out to the Latino community and their alumni who love Oakwood. One annual event has been the Pastors and Chaplains Appreciation Dinner. This was the idea of chapter member Dr. Eric Moore, ’84 (Medical Director for Vitas). Other members of this chapter who have been instrumental in bringing Dr. Moore’s concept to life include Dr. Roscoe Howard (Vice President of Mission and Development for Adventist Health System) and Jeff Williamson, ’84 (spokesperson for the Orange County Sheriff’s Department in Orlando, Florida). This event increased clergy membership and funding for scholarships.

Additional activities and events conducted by the OUAA-GOC throughout the year include the annual Oakwood Celebration Week, in September (featuring a concert, picnic, and 5k run-walk), the annual Christmas Dinner, in December, and a Dinner of Excellence to honor students and friends of Oakwood University, in February 2016. The chapter members and officers are all committed to Oakwood University and Christian education and never hesitate to step up to the plate to volunteer their time or service.

—submitted by Daniel Smith, Greater Orlando Chapter president
Oakwood Industrial School (OIS) was “devoted to the betterment of society.” Its mission was to make the Afro-American “a more helpful servant, a more suitable neighbor, a more prosperous and law abiding citizen, and a more consistent Christian worker” (Eight Annual announcement, 1902-1903, p.1). To this end, OIS provided intellectual development and vocational skills training. The beliefs and practices of the early years formed the foundation on which the current university continues to operate.

ENROLLMENT
OIS was open to males and females, 14 years and older. Each student pledged to conform to all the rules and regulations of the school. The use of profanity, tobacco, alcohol, and immoral behavior were prohibited. Anyone caught violating these policies was sent home. A special contract was signed by those who worked their way through school, and all students were placed on probationary status in their first year. The school year began on the first Wednesday in October and ended on the first Wednesday in May each year. The quarter system was established, and it divided the year into three terms of 10 weeks each, plus the summer. Classes were held in the day and also in the late evening, until night.

CURRICULUM
OIS offered courses in Bible, home training (Christian courtesy, good manners and how to create a cheerful and happy home), four years of practical English, and 12 hours of Industrial Arts (training in agriculture and mechanical work). By the 1902-1903 academic-year, the curriculum had expanded to include four-year programs of study for ministers, teachers and nurses. Special courses such as hygienic cookery, diet reform, dress reform, canvassing, physical culture (how to care for the sick), organ and vocal music, history in Biblical context, an
elementary-level curriculum and a Literary Society were added.

WORK

Work was an essential and distinctive component of school life at OIS. While it was necessary for the majority of students to work, all students who lived on campus were required to work, whether they could afford school expenses or not. Work experience allowed students to develop practical skills and discipline, while earning money for tuition, room and board, and personal expenses.

EXPENSES

The regular price of tuition was $8.00 per month, plus 12 hours of work each week. At least three different financial arrangements were available to students, depending on their status as regular residential day students, residential night students, or commuting local residents. Residential day students with “a good outfit of clothing” paid $60.00 in advance for the year’s tuition and agreed to work 12 hours per week for the school year. Residential night students did not have the funds and contracted with the administration to work during the day, all year, and attend classes in the late evening and night. Local residents who commuted to school did not have to work but were required to pay between $1.50 and $3.00 per month, depending on the courses they took.

Males were paid $8.00, and females were paid $5.00 per month in work credit, for 12 hours of work each week. Students could request $2.00 for purchasing books and other personal items. Any extra money earned was credited to the next year. Female students provided housekeeping services, but the school’s farm was the major source of employment, and its productivity determined whether the school would be self-supporting. The increased emphasis on labor and learning was reflected in the new name, Oakwood Manual Training School, which emerged in 1904.
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Camping is something that I’ve been doing for many years now. My first two camping experiences were huge events in 1984 and 1985—to Shawnee, Pennsylvania, and then Vale, Colorado—with the Berea Tribesmen Pathfinder Club. With every camping adventure, there was something new to learn, and I could always apply what I learned to something in my life.

It was a natural fit for me to continue to go camping, after arriving here in Huntsville. Twice a year, various members of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church participate in a weekend camping adventure. My family and I have had the opportunity to take part in these trips in the spring and fall seasons.

This past spring, the group decided to choose a different location than the norm. This new location didn’t have the same “luxuries” as our usual camping site. However, we went with open minds, with the intent to enjoy a weekend of fellowship with family and friends and, of course, to always learn something new.

After breakfast on Sabbath morning, many of us decided to go on a nature hike. Hikes are always a “must-do” on camping trips. We strapped on our backpacks, loaded with water and snacks, and headed to the trail. Children ranging in age from two to 12 were in tow. This made it challenging at times, helping them up hills and across ditches, but we made it through.

As our journey continued, we began to feel a cool breeze and hear the sounds of water. In the distance was a swinging, wooden-planked bridge that crossed over a river that, at points, had rushing water. From more than 100 feet in the air, this was a beautiful scene. It was the proverbial “icing on the cake” at the end of our hike.

We all stood in line and waited to cross over the water. Daring and anxious as I am, I decided to go first—and, of course—take my family along. With each step, the bridge began to sway. We took our time and eventually made it across. It wasn’t until I was on the other side and looked back at my fellow campers that I began to plainly see the lesson in this camping excursion.

Everyone’s journey across the bridge differed. Some of the journeys were shakier than others, some smoother than others. Each one experienced the shakiness differently. Some yelled as if they were going to shed a tear; a few just quietly forged ahead. Others paid keen attention to everything around them, including the rough waters crashing against the rocks more than 100 feet below us.

Everyone shared one thing in common during the journey. When the crossing got to its roughest point—the swinging of the bridge feeling like it was a little out of control—everyone kept their eyes forward. You could see focus and determination to “get through” and make it to the other side.

As I considered the experience we had getting across that bridge, I remembered the vision by Ellen G. White, called “The Narrow Way,” recorded in Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White. Everyone on the journey heavenward went through challenges and struggles, but they pressed forward and held on to the “rope of faith” that was extended to them. Philippians 3:13-14 also says, “…forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching for those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ.”

In life, we all face obstacles, be it sickness, challenging academic courses, finances, or whatever else that may come our way. When those trails do come, it is important that we fight the tendency to be arrested by the challenges—the swinging of the bridge or the shakiness of the path—and realize that if we’re going to make it across, it’s imperative for us to hold on to God, ask Him to throw us that rope of faith, and keep moving forward.
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