

SPRING 2014

OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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Oakwood Reestablishes Industries

HEART, SPIRIT AND HANDS IN THE MARKETPLACE

OAKWOOD ONLINE UNIVERSITY

12

4HIM MISSION TRIP TO KENYA

26

OU GIVING

37



OAKWOOD

MAGAZINE

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Spring 2014.



05 **A Message from the President**
by Dr. Leslie N. Pollard

06 **Oakwood University in the 21st Century**
A Strategic Plan Overview

10 **Research Tool Helps Oakwood Administration**
Focus on Students' Spirituality
by Dr. Prudence LaBeach Pollard



12 **Introducing: Oakwood Online University**
by Michele Solomon

14 **Oakwood Reestablishes Industries;**
Purchases Popular Franchise
by George Johnson, Jr.



The cover photo is taken from *Oakwood! A Vision Splendid 1896-2010* written by Mervyn A. Warren

SPRING 2014 CONTENTS

Oakwood Magazine | Spring 2014 www.oakwood.edu

18 - 19 Division Update: Financial Administration

- Oakwood University Construction Updates – Keeping You Informed

20 - 21 Division Update: Student Services

- Oakwood’s Alpha Male Conference Represents Reawakening; Rebirth
- The First-Year Experience in Residential Life
- Reside and Abide: Putting Meaning Behind the Residential Life Worship Experience

24 Division Update: Academic Administration

- Oakwood’s Education of the Adult Professional: Celebrating 20 Years of Success with LEAP

26 - 27 Division Update: Office of Spiritual Life

- 4HIM: From the Heart – Personal Testimonies from the Kenya Trip

28 - 30 OU News Notes

- Oakwood Participates in Global Youth Day
- American Airlines Features Oakwood Student
- Oakwood Students Compete in Honda All-Star Challenge
- Senior Education Major Represents Oakwood on Television Broadcast Competitions
- Oakwood University Strives to Stay Fit Through Fitness Classes

- OU Student Named as a 2014 HBCU All-Star
- Congratulations Mr. and Miss Oakwood
- Oakwood Hosts White House-initiative Round Table Discussion
- Oakwood University Hosts International Vaccination Training and Advocacy Program

32 - 35 Division Update: Research and Employee Services

- Welcome to Oakwood’s Newest Employees
- Beyond Research and Development

37 - 43 Division Update: Advancement & Development

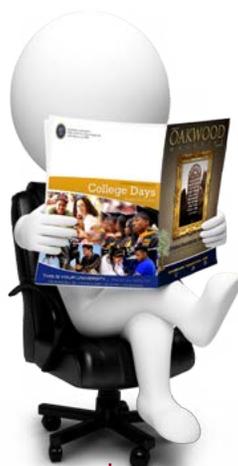
- What if?
- An Interview with Philanthropist Kenneth Anderson
- Social Media @ The Oaks
- Oakwood on the Road
- Alumni News

44 - 45 Flashback

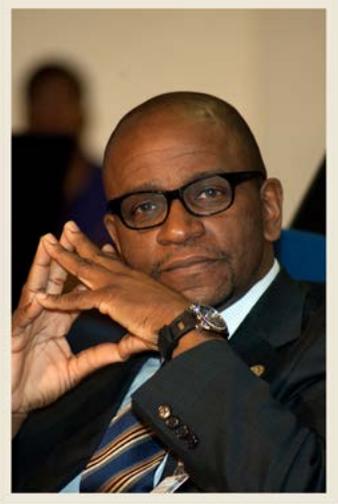
- Happy Birthday WOCG/WIOU

47 Editorial

by George Johnson, Jr.



18 20 21 24 25 27 28 30 32 37 40 43 44



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all of our Oakwood lovers, loyalists, and supporters!

Every day as I walk this campus, I remind myself of how special Oakwood University will always be to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Transforming shattered lives, creating life-long relationships, connecting eager learners, impacting local, national, and international communities—these activities and others arise from the sacred soil of this unforgettable university. We call all of this (and much more) the “Oakwood experience.”

This edition of the *Oakwood Magazine* presents the Oakwood experience as it moves to another level. In this edition, we feature those “game changers” which will move Oakwood up and out beyond its daily educational operations into the stratosphere of global significance. On October 21, 2013, our 37-member Board of Trustees, 11 advisors, and Emeritus Trustees met for a four-day prayer and planning retreat. This historic retreat focused on many of the game-changers featured in this edition:

- The new strategic plan addressing our global educational expansion (pp. 6-8);
- Our ground-breaking LifeCore© Research, research conducted specifically on the spiritual commitments and convictions of our own Oakwood students (pp. 10-11);
- The recovery of twenty-first century industry intended to create non-tuition based revenue (pp. 14-17);
- The millions of dollars invested into construction—including a new 11,700 square foot Oakwood University Media Center (scheduled for opening in the Fall of 2014) and the creation of Oakwood University Broadcast Network (pp. 18-19);
- Two decades of LEAP adult education (p. 25), now going fully online through Oakwood Online University (pp. 12-13);
- Our local, national, and international mission outreach called 4HIM (pp. 26-27);
- Our long-term employee development, the role of research (p. 35), and how to better produce the Oakwood Man and the Oakwood Woman.

May you be as inspired as we are by the new Oakwood University and how we are meeting the new challenges of our new century!

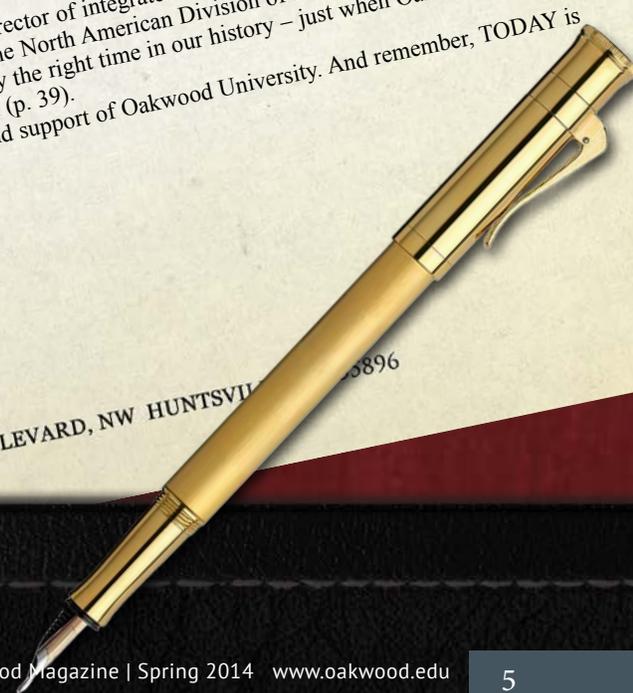
In this issue, we also welcome our new editor and director of integrated marketing and public relations, George Johnson, Jr. (p. 47). George comes to Oakwood from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (where he served as communication director) at exactly the right time in our history – just when Oakwood is maximizing its social media marketing and its global reach (p. 39).

Be blessed, and thank you for your love, loyalty, and support of Oakwood University. And remember, TODAY is a great day to be alive!”

Leslie M. Pollard

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

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A Message from the President
EDITORIAL

Keeping
The
Promise!

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

“Today, approximately 1,900 students from more than 30 countries attend Oakwood. They can select from 47 undergraduate degree programs, as well as a Master of Arts in pastoral studies.”

Since its founding on November 16, 1896, by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Oakwood University has prepared students for service to local, national, and international communities. Standing as one of the historical landmarks in the city of Huntsville, Alabama, Oakwood University enjoys a beautiful natural setting on 1,185 acres of choice real estate. Approximately 105 acres comprise the campus, with another 500 acres under cultivation.

Oakwood University is committed to the spiritual nurture and character development of each student with the goal of developing servant leaders. Beginning with only 16 students, Oakwood originally existed to provide, on the basis of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and worldview, a wholistic Christian education for who were then called “colored students.” Today, Oakwood reflects a diverse geographical, cultural, educational, and socioeconomic environment. And yet, the original purpose continues—Oakwood University specializes in the delivery of transformational Christian education.

Today, approximately 1,900 students from more than 30 countries attend Oakwood. They can select from 47 undergraduate degree programs, as well as a Master of Arts in pastoral studies. The liberal arts curriculum is taught in a Christ-centered learning environment that is designed to prepare students to serve God and humanity in a variety of positions and careers.

A Glimpse of our Future . . .

The Oakwood University Strategic Plan for 2012-2017 reflects our vision of transformational education. The plan includes the input of a wide variety of participants, beginning with the historic Strategic Actioning Session (SAS) of September 19-21, 2012. This planning session brought together a cross-section of Board members, administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community leaders tasked with the mission of recreating Oakwood for the 21st century. The implementation of recommendations from that historic session formed the basis from which we could envision Oakwood’s future. This resulting document includes many of the “game changing” initiatives which will strengthen and expand the mission of the institution. The goal of this plan is to maximize and deepen the famous “Oakwood experience” by making improvements at the University which will enhance, not simply the four years of a student’s Oakwood educational journey, but the 40-plus years of their service life.

Strengths of Oakwood University

Since its founding in 1896, Oakwood University has been blessed with a number of historic strengths that have provided the foundation upon which its mission is built. The University constituency of alumni, churches, conferences, and supporters stand as advocates for and benefactors of Oakwood. Focused on the mis-

sion of our institution, these loyal supporters contribute both faith and finances.

Oakwood’s unique brand of spirituality, with its passion and substance, reflects another strength of the institution. This spirituality is reflected in the spiritual strength of our faculty, staff, and students. The internationally-acclaimed music of Oakwood reflects the “Oakwood experience” which continues to provide a lifelong blessing to our graduates. A growing enrollment, competitively-priced tuition, a diverse student body, a lifelong “family” ambiance, a dedicated alumni, a highly-accomplished faculty, a caring and dedicated staff and a committed Board of Trustees combine to make Oakwood a compelling and attractive place to study. Fiscal stability as well as a growing base of philanthropy provide strengths upon which Oakwood’s “God First” commitment guides the institution.

~ Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A

Mission Statement

The mission of Oakwood University, a historically black, Seventh-day Adventist institution, is to transform students through biblically-based education for service to God and humanity.

Vision

Oakwood University graduates leaders in service to God and humanity.

Aim

God First!

Motto

Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve



Oakwood University commits to the following values ...

Respect

Oakwood esteems others as worthy of human dignity, regard, and service.

Compassion

Oakwood manifests sympathy, empathy, care, and concern in our dealings with others.

Integrity

Oakwood demonstrates honesty, uprightness, moral virtue, and ethical rectitude in every relationship.

Excellence

Oakwood makes the personal and collective decision to perform at our highest capacity and to continually improve in our work and service.

Service

Oakwood chooses to provide assistance, aid, help, caring, outreach and ministry in response to human need.

Innovation

Oakwood will break with precedent in the advancement of institutional mission by embracing new methods and introducing major changes.

Seven Organizational Priorities at Oakwood University

Priority 1: University Mission and Culture. Oakwood University's Office of Spiritual Life will produce students who model the mission of Oakwood University and promote the historic culture of faith and life-long service that defines our institution.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Develop and implement the Spiritual Master Plan.
2. Facilitate and support high-quality residence-hall and campus worship activities.
3. Deliver spiritual care to off-campus students.
4. Provide cross-cultural exposure and global education through participation in local, national and international mission activities.
5. Provide faculty and staff with discipleship training designed to deliver effective ministry to students.
6. Facilitate institutional adoption of biblical foundations for faith and learning across the academic schools, departments, and co-curricular activities to cultivate moral, spiritual and biblical decision-making and critical thinking.
7. Provide needs-based spiritual counseling to individual students, staff, and other employee groups.

Priority 2: Educational Effectiveness. Oakwood University's Academic Division will ensure academic effectiveness in teaching and learning.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Expand traditional delivery by creating an online delivery system for instruction.
2. Develop an academic master plan that takes into consideration changes and advances in the academic and professional climate.
3. Design and implement an Honors Program to attract academically-gifted scholars.
4. Strengthen the freshman advising and retention program.
5. Expand graduate degree program offerings.
6. Enhance degree program in Communication Media with the addition of a TV production/recording studio.
7. Review, evaluate, and update existing programs.

Priority 3: Learning-Supportive Environments. Oakwood University's Division of Student Services will facilitate a nurturing environment that is sensitive to the needs of students and supportive of the academic mission of the institution.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Oakwood University Dining Services will provide the premier dining/food service experience among SDA higher educational institutions in North America.
2. Design, implement, and facilitate the intentional immersion of every Oakwood Man/Woman into the Oakwood experience.
3. Coordinate and implement a Student Leadership Academy.
4. Increase the visibility, viability, and effectiveness of Career Services.
5. Develop and facilitate the delivery of Student Services via D2L and within Oakwood Online University.
6. Design and implement a physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually healthy lifestyle for Oakwood University students.
7. Develop a collaborative and trans disciplinary co-curricular program as a part of the residential life.

Priority 4: Research and Employee Development. The Research and Employee Services Division will facilitate development of our research infrastructure and assure exceptional performance of faculty and staff through the utilization of best-in-class talent acquisition, management and employee development.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Increase grant writing and funding through faculty development and research.
2. Recruit committed and diverse talent to fill vacancies and fulfill the mission of Oakwood University.
3. Establish a completely electronic hiring process.
4. Design and implement a system-wide program of customer care that distinguishes Oakwood University from its competition.
5. Set parameters and guide processes for hiring faculty and staff (internal and external).
6. Design and implement a state-of-the-art excellence-in-employment developmental system.
7. Implement the Quality Enhancement Program, including the 5-year Critical Thinking initiative to develop faculty and improve the critical thinking of students and monitor to ensure continuous improvement and sustainability.

Priority 5: Advancement and Development of the University.

The Division of Advancement and Development will secure the University through increased philanthropy, contracting, and fund development. Oakwood University's Division of Advancement and Development will raise financial resources from alumni and non-alumni sources to fund the educational and capital needs of the institution.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Federal contracting will increase each year. This means that Oakwood will leverage its ISO 9001 certification to become prime or sub-prime contractor on major contracts.
2. Cultivate relationships with alumni, board, and external partners to identify projects, secure re-investment in the institution, and increase fundraising and endowment outcomes.
3. Increase and enhance pre-alumni activities.
4. Create a new operational model that enhances the relationship between the University and the Alumni Association.
5. Coordinate donor recognition activities (e.g., giving clubs, donor wall).
6. Utilize the "Oakwood experience" for more effective marketing of the University.
7. Develop and implement marketing standards (e.g. email signature, graphic standards manual, announcements) designed to enhance the institutional brand.

Priority 6: Fiscal Growth, Responsible Management, and our Long-term Stability.

The Division of Financial Administration will secure the fiscal health of Oakwood University by the creation of

non-tuition revenue, by managing internal financial resources in harmony with the strategic mission of the institution, and by decreasing dependence on governmental sources of income through the recovery of industries appropriate for the 21st century.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Increase revenue and decrease tuition-dependence through the creation and/or procurement of mission and values-compatible businesses.
2. Increase student employment opportunities.
3. Create an industry development endowment.
4. Develop and manage a Default Prevention Program/Financial Literacy & Accountability Program to ensure the University default rate stays at least 2% below the national averages.
5. Repurpose and renovate facilities for new uses and coordinate planning for the development of new and needed facilities.
6. Develop and implement an Energy Management Plan to reduce inflation-adjusted energy costs.
7. Identify cost-efficient ways to reduce the annual operating budget per student FTE by 2% adjusted for inflation.

Priority 7: Operational and Technological Leadership.

The Office of the Provost will facilitate the use of technology to improve operational efficiency and to create a seamless infrastructure capable of expanding educational and service opportunities. The Office will communicate the Oakwood mission and message to local, national, and international markets and constituencies through broadcast and online media. These actions will advance the efficiency and reach of Oakwood University.

Goals across the next 5 years . . .

1. Monitor and report the execution of the University strategic plan.
2. Deliver high quality and reliable technology services that support the learning needs of faculty, staff, and students.
3. Facilitate the creation and growth of Oakwood University Broadcast Network to share the message and mission of Oakwood around the world.
4. Support and facilitate continuous staff training in technology systems.
5. Increase the number of wireless outdoor access points across campus at specific locations.
6. Implement a campus-wide life safety and security system.
7. Provide technologically innovative support for the delivery of institutional services.

Oakwood University embraces plans that are destined to fail, except for Divine intervention! Thank you for your prayers and your support of Oakwood University.



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READY FOR THEM?

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FROM THE PEACE OF MIND
THAT YOU DESERVE!*

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OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
TRUST SERVICES & PLANNED GIVING

Research Tool Helps Oakwood Administration Focus on Students' Spirituality

by Prudence L. Pollard, Ph.D., MPH, RD, SPHR



Fortifying the spiritual mission and culture of Oakwood University is the highest priority of President Pollard and his administrative team. At the beginning of his administration, President Pollard outlined the case for immediately engaging in an unprecedented research study of Oakwood students' spiritual commitments and beliefs. As part of his "Vision 2020" address, he articulated that "OU's original LifeCore© research on youth spirituality will provide annual data for targeted planning of the University's mission activities."

LifeCore© is a collaborative effort between the Office of the President, the Division of Student Services, the Office of Spiritual Life, and the United Student Movement (USM). The research task was assigned to Dr. Prudence Pollard, first lady and accomplished applied statistician. She and the USM officers mobilized the student body, faculty, and staff to produce a direct and extensive study of spirituality on the OU campus.

The LifeCore© family of surveys was developed to assess the spiritual needs of the University's student body and represents a comprehensive assessment of those needs. LifeCore© consists of teams of students, faculty and staff who review the survey, promote it through media campaigns and unique buzz marketing efforts, analyze the data, report the data to the student body, and work to encourage use of LifeCore© data to enhance Oakwood's spiritual culture.

Another University priority is to facilitate the development of our research infrastructure and increase grant writing and funding through research. The LifeCore© initiative fosters students' desires and experiences in the research arena,

allowing them to gain valuable research and writing skills to facilitate their careers.

Vision of LifeCore©

The immediate vision of LifeCore is to provide data-based planning and intelligence for creating and guiding the spiritual agenda of the Oakwood University mission. Our ultimate vision is to expand LifeCore's reach across global institutions as a tool to assess and compare University student spiritual commitments around the world.

LifeCore© 2011 was the first survey consisting of 55 questions. In comparison with other studies of spirituality among college students, namely UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) study on Spirituality in Higher Education, the 2011 LifeCore© data suggested that Oakwood students reported higher levels of commitment than that of their peers and other born-again Christians in every category of commitment. We found that the home atmosphere was correlated with a positive faith.

LifeCore© 2013 was a mini survey which assessed the student body in relation to spiritual formation. The 26-question survey examined religious habits of the students, the faith of the students, as well as the significance of demographics, parental influence, peer influence, and personal experiences as it related to the shaping and development of the individual's faith.

LifeCore© 2014 will focus primarily on writing and publishing a paper of the 2011 and 2013 surveys results. This effort is being led by the Student Leadership Team of Caleb Miles, Reginald Mattison and Maya Raphael, all psychology majors, who are very active in the University's research community. Both Mattison

and Raphael work with Faculty Development Grant Program Awardees on their research projects and are a part of the Increasing Minority Admission to Research Institution (IMARI) research grant program, which is designed to increase the pool of competitive minority students electing to pursue advanced biomedical research careers. Both students presented at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Annual Meeting for in March 2014, in Nashville, Tenn.

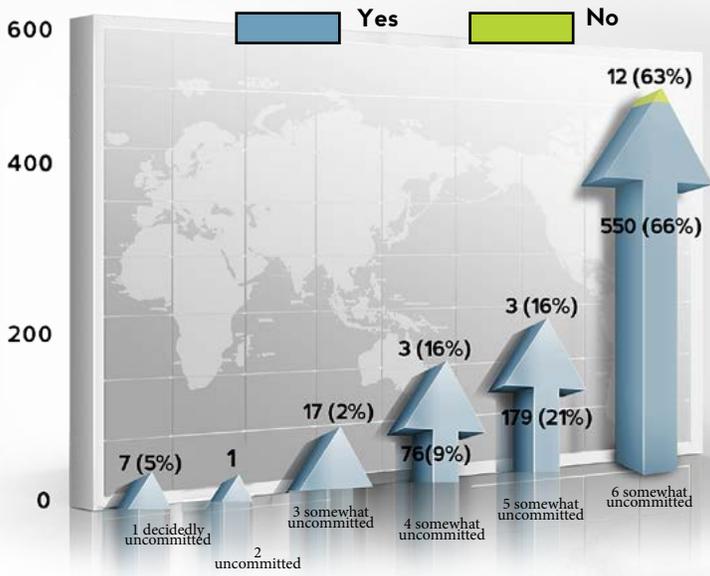
"LifeCore© has taught me to think outside of myself and to contribute to a greater cause. The one area in which LifeCore has helped me improve the most is my leadership skills," says Raphael.



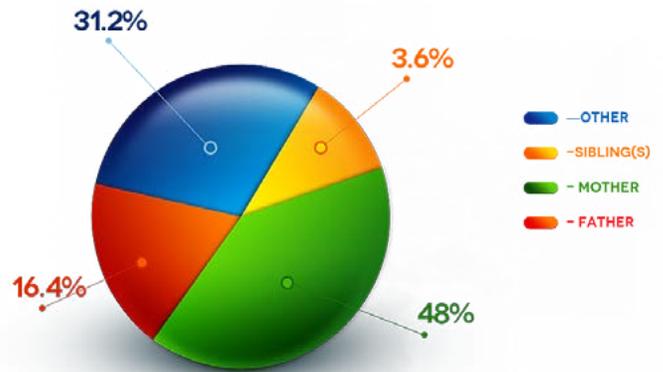
Dr. Prudence L. Pollard serves as the Vice President of Research and Employee Services at Oakwood University.

Findings from LifeCore® Survey

Are you currently enrolled as a student at Oakwood University?



Who has most positively influenced your walk with Christ?



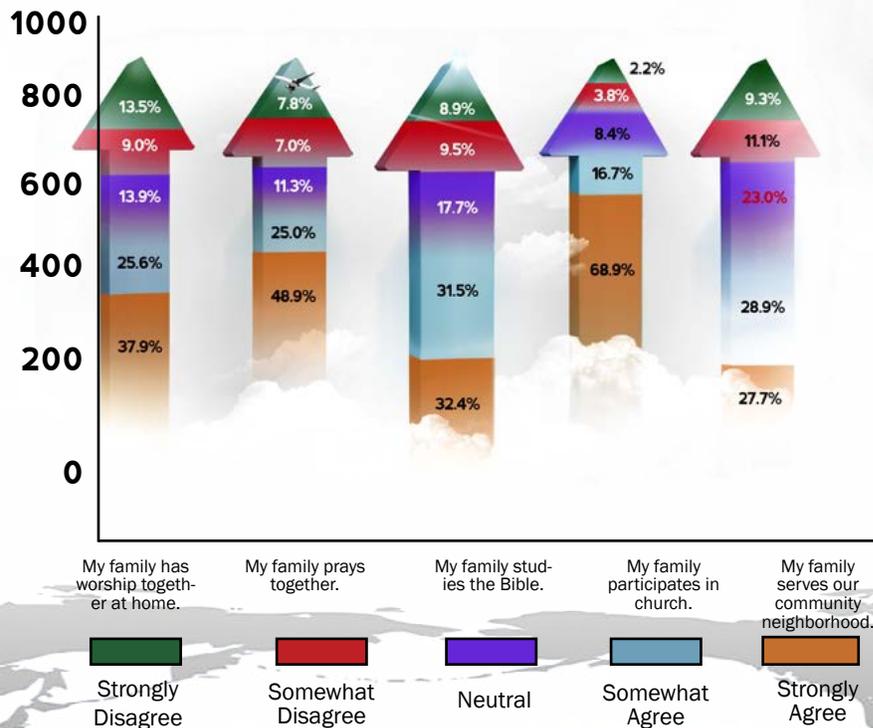
LifeCore® research validates that Seventh-day Adventist mothers played a significant role in the formation of Oakwood University students' faith. Forty-nine percent (49%) of our students pointed to their mothers' faith as positively influencing their walk with Christ.

LifeCore® research validates that Seventh-day Adventist mothers played a significant role in the formation of Oakwood University students' faith. Forty-nine percent (49%) of our students pointed to their mothers' faith as positively influencing their walk with Christ.

Are you currently enrolled as a student at Oakwood University?



Describe the spiritual atmosphere in your home.



More than 90% of the 852 students who completed the 52-item questionnaire indicated that they were committed or strongly committed to the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Introducing: OAKWOOD ONLINE UNIVERSITY

by Michele Solomon

“Oakwood Online University will be a game changer. We will no longer be bounded by local geography, but can make Oakwood University accessible to students around the world.”

The Spring 2014 Semester marked the official rollout of the first fully-online program offered by Oakwood University. Last fall, the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) approved Oakwood’s application to offer the Organizational Management (OM) degree completion program completely online through the LEAP (Leadership Education for the Adult Professional) program, as part of the academic offerings for Oakwood’s School of Business and Adult and Continuing Education.

The SACS decision followed a grueling process involving extensive research and planning to make sure this initiative was properly aligned with the University’s Strategic Plan. For the past year, Hyacinth Burton, dean of the School of Business and Adult and Continuing Education, and chair of the Oakwood Online University Committee, has worked painstakingly with a team of committee members to ensure the successful rollout of Oakwood Online University.

When asked how she thought this

academic goal coming to fruition would impact the school as a whole, Dean Burton responded, “Oakwood Online University will be able to reach adult learners all over the world, who have been wanting to complete a lifelong dream: to finish their college degrees and improve their standards of living and quality of life.”

The University formed a SACS-approved consortium in 2013 with Wiley College (Texas), and other HBCUs to develop and offer online courses. Wiley hosts a Center of Excellence for Distance Learning, through which Oakwood will be able to partner to write grants that will feed Oakwood Online University’s capacity growth. As the online program continues to develop, general education courses that are highly in demand by the traditional campus will be made available to students registering for the 2014-2015 academic year. As part of the outgrowth of the online program, students who would like to complete credits over the summer months will be able to do so,

without the hassle of seeking such courses elsewhere and having to transfer the credits back to Oakwood.

Dr. Garland Dulan, vice president for Academic Administration, was pleased to confirm that online courses will be offered this summer as part of the 2014 summer “mini-mester” schedule. “The launch of online education at Oakwood is an attempt to provide the richness of the Oakwood experience to as many as we can,” he stated. “Oakwood is here to serve and this is another way we can serve those who may not be able to uproot from their current location but who can still benefit from the educational programs Oakwood offers and become solid alumni supporters of our institution.”

Prices for these summer online courses have been reduced to a discounted (sale) rate of \$200 (normally \$249) per credit hour (plus a \$50 technology fee). Registration for the summer courses began March 31.



Oakwood Online University directly supports President Leslie Pollard's strategic initiatives. Shortly after his inauguration, he mentioned the launch of Oakwood Online University as a high-priority goal in his "Vision 2020" speech, delivered at the initial First Chapel service in 2011. Asked how he felt about this goal coming to fruition, he stated, "Oakwood Online University will be a game changer. We will no longer be bounded by local geography, but can make Oakwood University accessible to students around the world."

Mini-mester 2: June 23 - August 1

- SP102** Beginning Spanish
- MA171** Calculus I
- PE211** Health Principles
- AC221** Principles of Accounting II
- MK301** Principles of Marketing
- FN311** Principles of Finance
- IS120** Microcomputer Applications
- BA302** Business Communications
- EC283** Principles of Macroeconomics
- CH100** Chemistry in Society
- MA101** Fundamental Concepts in Math
- HI211** US History I

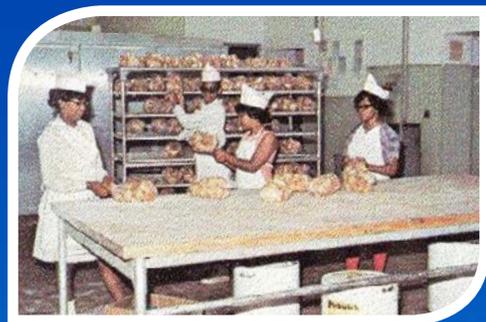


Michele Solomon serves as the director of customer care at Oakwood University.

OAKWOOD REESTABLISHES INDUSTRIES; PURCHASES POPULAR FRANCHISE

A One-on-One Interview with Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard

by George Johnson, Jr.



According to the 2012-2017 strategic plan, the Division of Financial Administration will secure the fiscal health of Oakwood University by the creation of non-tuition revenue by managing internal financial resources in harmony with the strategic mission of the institution, and by decreasing dependence on governmental sources of income through the recovery of industries appropriate for the 21st century.” This priority, proposed by President Leslie Pollard in his first University address on January 25, 2011, challenged the financial reality of Oakwood University’s budget—a budget dependent on 60% tuition and fees.

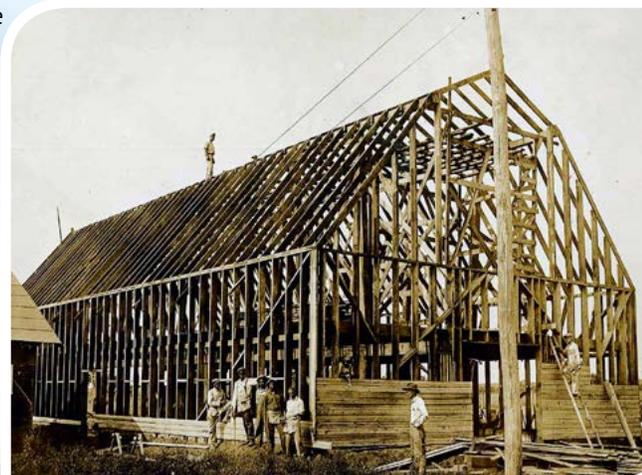
1 George Johnson: In the past, Oakwood has had several industries. What were they, and why were they discontinued?

President Leslie Pollard: Oakwood operated a number of industries across the years. I came to Oakwood in the 1970s and at that time we were operating several industries. We had a laundry that serviced the Huntsville community and the Redstone Arsenal, a dairy with cows that produced milk that the Huntsville community fondly remembers. Oakwood also operated a bakery; whose bread Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle reminds me remains legendary. Earlier, Oakwood participated in horseshoeing and other industries.

When we think about it, Mrs. Ellen G. White believed that education should address the head, the heart and the hand. The part of that triad that we have lost is the “hand” element—the skill-development responsibility of Christian education. By recovering industry, we can teach students those other kinds of skills. Maybe all of those skills will not be manual, but they can have other skills in the marketplace. School of Business students can apprentice to understand how to operate in a society where business daily takes place.

As I study the Oakwood history I really believe that a vast difference exists between the model that we are currently using in the 21st century under Vision 2020 and the model that was originally set up. The difference is that we have no intention in operating a

business on behalf of Oakwood University as a “boutique” business. And by “boutique” I have the image of people running a business which if it makes a profit – good. But if it doesn’t make a profit—then someone somewhere will subsidize it. We have no intention of going back to a subsidized model for Oakwood’s industry.



So what are we doing with this new model? First, we are taking the businesses off campus and locating them where business traffic already exists—in the community, not on the campus. Second, we are intentionally designing the business model in a way that makes sure that the business is profitable.

Remember, Oakwood's core mission is to provide Seventh-day Adventist, Christian education. These other businesses that we are developing must support that. If Oakwood industry doesn't support our mission, we are doing something wrong and we must shed them. Also by rejecting a subsidy-based business model, we are indirectly teaching our students good business stewardship practices.

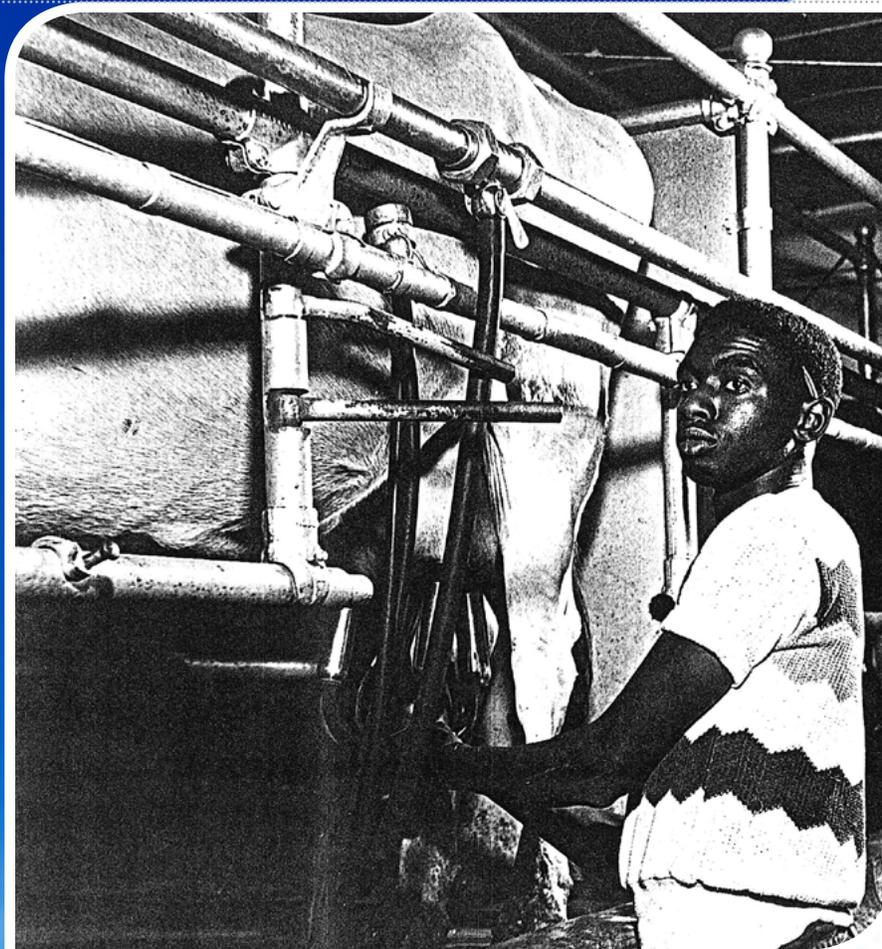


Photo Courtesy of OU Archives

2 GJ: Other than to decrease Oakwood's dependency on tuition or governmental sources, why has the administration decided to seek out other sources of income?

LP: The first reason is that a part of our calling is to build in a base of industry that strengthens the ability of our institution to be self-reliant. When you look at our \$50 million budget, about 60 percent of that budget actually comes from student tuition and fees. The rest comes from other sources of income: subsidies from churches, institutions, some investment income, etc. But it is clear that the lion's share of the budget is based upon student tuition and fees.

The other reason is because Mrs. Ellen G. White always envisioned that our schools would provide a base of industry through which they could also generate self-support in helping students matriculate through the institution. Her original vision was to help students work their way through school. Now back in the day when Mrs. White established this, the

notion of four years as the normative time for graduation almost didn't exist. But still I know some institutions around the world who are working the Spirit of Prophecy model and students are graduating within five to six years. Based on the Department of Education standards, four to six years is an acceptable window to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

Another reason we are doing industry recovery is because of the changing face of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) landscape. We face a number of factors today that make operating HBCUs particularly challenging. Title III funding has been cut across the board. Federal restrictions have been placed on student loans, meaning that credit thresholds are now higher, thus parents need to be more credit-worthy to qualify for student loans.

3 GJ: So can you provide an example of a new business venture that the Oakwood Administration has decided on?

LP: One of the new businesses involves purchasing a retail business that is mission-compatible with Oakwood. Thus, we have been in conversation with the national Edible Arrangements® Corporate Office and have decided to purchase our first Edible Arrangements® franchise. Why? As we looked at the mission of Oakwood, we needed to find a business opportunity that was mission congruent.

In doing our research, we found that the Edible Arrangements® company actually works comfortably with our beliefs and teachings about health.

Edible Arrangements® provides fresh fruit bouquets purchased by customers and delivered to people they care for. When we had our first meeting with the Edible Arrangements® executives back in November of 2013, they were curious about Oakwood wanting to own a franchise because they had only dealt with individuals and not organizations.

One reason we wanted to do it was because Edible Arrangements® is mission compatible with Oakwood University. Oakwood is the only vegetarian campus in the HBCU network and this business proposition excited them. Another reason is because they would have a larger reach to the HBCU network through Oakwood.

Edible Arrangements® is one of most effective and growing franchises in America. We have all the data that shows their rank and rating. In our owning a franchise, we will also use the vast marketing apparatus of the owners of Edible Arrangements®. There is a system in place already that helps to market the business. The business location will be off Airport Road in Huntsville. This location helps our business compete in the Huntsville marketplace.

We will identify other industries as we go along. Edible Arrangements® will be our first business model to follow.



4 GJ: How will the OU administration ensure that Edible Arrangements® stays fiscally responsible?

LP: Our business model will not be a subsidy-based model. It will be a revenue-based model. But there are three decisions that we have already made designed to ensure that the business stays fiscally responsible:

- 1) We will put leadership in place that is dedicated to the operation of that business. The business management team will have the authority to make the one-the-ground decisions that need to be made on a daily basis to keep it fiscally viable.
- 2) We will create a separate business corporation that will report to the University's board of trustees. This separate business corporation will have the authority over personnel to help the business stay viable.
- 3) We will utilize our vast alumni and supporters network to push and support the product.

5 GJ: How many jobs will this create for Oakwood University?

LP: We will have full and part-time opportunities. Because of the flexibility of schedules with this type of business, we will have many opportunities for student employment. I cannot promise a number at this point, but there will be opportunities for students.



6

GJ: How will the newly-generated income help Oakwood University?

LP: The new revenue will be used to grow and support the educational mission of Oakwood University. This includes scholarships for students' matriculation and innovative academic program development.

GJ: Thanks, Dr. Pollard, for the opportunity to sit and talk with you about this exciting venture for Oakwood. We all will be praying for its success.

LP: Thanks, George, and please keep our University in prayer. We are blessed!



George Johnson, Jr., serves as the director of integrated marketing & public relations at Oakwood University.



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Oakwood University: Construction Update



By Chris Readus, '14

Ford Hall

Ford Hall will house the communication department, which services the following areas of learning: art, communication, and communication media. "In the new facility we will have at least 10 editing suites so students will be able to work on their projects without spending the night in the building," joked Rennae Elliott, Ph.D, chair of the communication department. The new studio will be bigger and better, as well. "It will be soundproof. It will be large enough to have different sets, and work through production. The quality is upped," said Elliott. She believes as the quality of opportunities available for students to experience through Oakwood's Communication Department continues to grow, so will the level of students enrolled as communication majors.

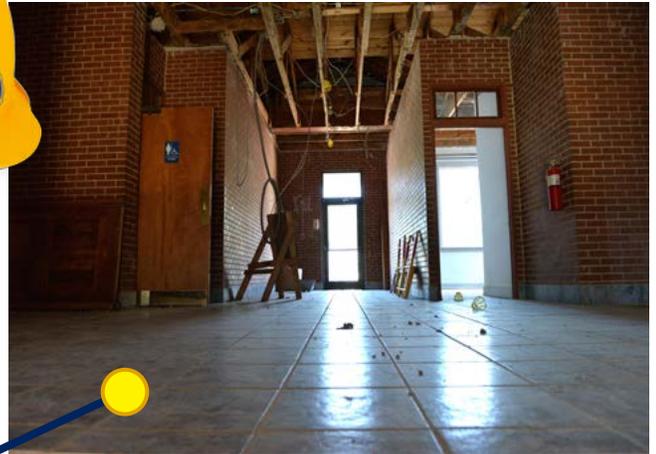
Media Center

Many people are also excited about the new media center being constructed between Ford and Cunningham Halls, but perhaps no one is more excited than Anthony Perkins, director of the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network. "Moving into the new media center will be an excellent opportunity for us to stretch and to grow," he said. Perkins and his staff provide media support for the University. As the production team is currently housed on the bottom level of the McKee Business & Technology Complex, they are excited about the additional space they will have in the media center.

Carter Hall

When Ryan Smith, assistant vice president of student services and director of residential life, was asked how he feels about the opening of the renovated Carter Hall, he said "Carter Hall will be one of the premiere living facilities on campus. This new facility will not just be a place where students sleep, but a place where minds are transformed and lives are changed. Those lucky young ladies will have an awesome opportunity to be able to have such a state-of-the-art facility to help fulfill the mission of Oakwood University. Also, the amenities will have those living there thinking that they are staying in the Ritz Carlton Hotel. We hope students enjoy their home away from home."

KEEPING



Photos by Anthony Chornes, II

YOU INFORMED



Oakwood's Alpha Male Conference Represents Reawakening; Rebirth

by James Caldwell, assistant residential life coordinator, Holland Hall

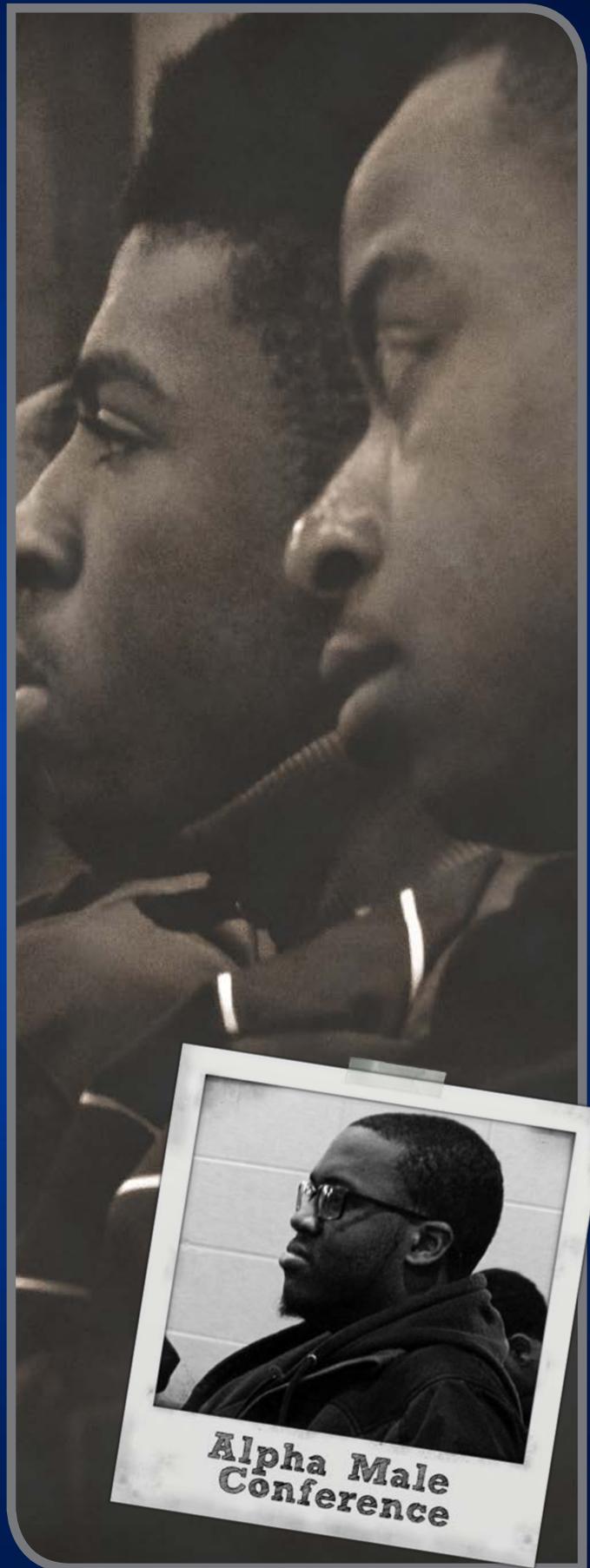
The second annual Alpha Male Conference was held on January 27-29. The sole purpose of this conference was to mark the transition from boyhood to manhood. This conference has helped young men to understand and establish their own identity, achieve manhood, accelerate in academics and in career-related goals. It has also been known as a reawakening and a rebirth.

The dynamic, Spirit-led ministry of Debleaire Snell, '99, senior pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala., challenged the Oakwood men to be men of integrity, faith, and men of God. "I was very excited to see the foresight in planning this conference. Our young men need very direct ministry to help them face the challenges of our time," said Pastor Snell.

Other seminars relating to growth and maturity included Men and Their Money, by Lamont Dupree, youth leader of First Church; Men as Leaders, by Kenneth Anderson, '83, multicultural affairs director for the City of Huntsville; Men and Their Women, by Benjamin Jones, '71, ministerial director of the South Central Conference; Men as Men, by Russell Patterson, residential life coordinator of Holland Hall; and Men and God, by James Caldwell, '03, assistant residential life coordinator of Holland Hall.

Those who attended stated that the conference added to their overall growth, was helpful, and needed. "It is always good to know that there are individuals out there who care about the development of young black men," said Jajuan Sanders, freshman theology major. Junior social work major Eric Bell was impressed with the quality of program presented at this conference. "It was an honor to be a part of this ceremony the first time, and this [year] was no different. Seeing young African American men strive to rise above the level of an average statistic was God-inspired."

The conference continues on a smaller scale throughout the semesters with sessions like Grooming, Walking in Confidence, Dress for Success, Interview and Resume Preparation, and Conflict and Anger Management, just to name a few. These and more are used as a co-curriculum to enhance the education of the "Oakwood Man."



The First Year Experience in Residential Life

by Ryan E. Smith, assistant vice president, student services; director, residential life

Students spend most of their time in college engaged in co-curricular activities outside of the classroom. Residential life is tasked with assisting students with transitioning from high school to college. The residence hall staff strives to make a positive impact on the lives of students in a tangible way.

TEACH LIFE is a framework that helps students develop as young men and women of God. This model addresses relationships, school transitions, college experiences (social, academic, and spiritual integration), handling difficult situations, navigating the university, sex, alcohol and drugs, and choosing positive influences.

The acronym TEACH LIFE stands for:

- T** - **Time with God.** Highlights and the importance of a relationship with God and how to be intentional with developing it.
- E** - **Engaging the University community.** Promotes active involvement with clubs, organizations, and other campus programs.
- A** - **Academic success.** Supports academic success through collaboration with freshmen studies and other academic entities.
- C** - **Challenges of young adult transitions.** Assists students with the adjustment from high school to college.
- H** - **Healing past hurts.** Collaborates with health and counseling services to assist students with addressing personal issues that could interfere with their success.
- L** - **Living away from home.** Assists students through homesickness and helping them integrate fully into the Oakwood experience.
- I** - **Identity exploration.** Develops students' identity through the lenses of SDA beliefs.
- F** - **Freedom and citizenship.** Provides support with decision-making and the implications that choices have on the lives of students.
- E** - **Eternal accountability.** Provides guidance through programs and in reach regarding salvation and spiritual development.

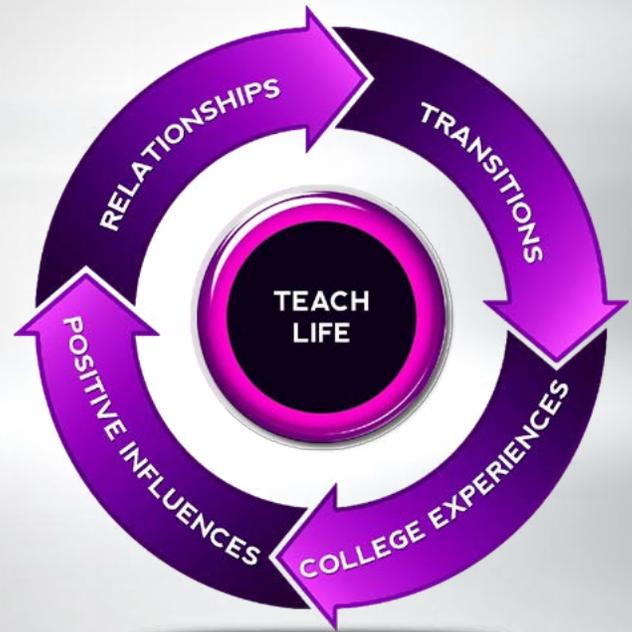


Photo by Ariana Gill

In Fall 2014, this model will be implemented with a series of programs addressing these concepts. Stay tuned for more to come!

Reside and Abide: Putting Meaning Behind the Residential Life Worship Experience

by Linda R. Anderson, residential life coordinator

One of the greatest objectives of the Oakwood University's Residential Life program is to create meaningful worship experiences for students in this Christian educational setting. It may seem ironic, but, oddly enough, this can be quite challenging, even in a University whose mission is to put God first. Why? A delicate balance has to be found between over-saturation and under-emphasis.

Because God is at the forefront of our mission, and prayer is incorporated into all that we do, including classroom teaching, presenting worship in a way that will maintain the focus and attention of students pulled in different directions at times requires a miracle of biblical proportions. For this reason, each residence hall prepares a yearlong worship program tailor-made for the specific residents of their area, as well other residence halls. Worship committees, inclusive of students, are formed to develop weekly worship programming, in hopes that these moments set aside to fellowship with Christ will do more than just pass the time and provide the elusive worship credit.

We offer enlightenment with speakers who bring knowledge about sexuality and choices, enrichment with students sharing their personal testimonies, empowerment with health and counseling, and even some humor incorporated into religious teaching. After all, a merry heart does good like a medicine (Proverbs 17:22).

But the most valuable outcome is a young person who experiences the abiding presence of God in their lives and in the place where they reside. John 15:7 says, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Success in every other area of a student's life can be accomplished through abiding in Christ. Employing worship, residential life not only gives the student the key to a room, but the spiritual key to success.

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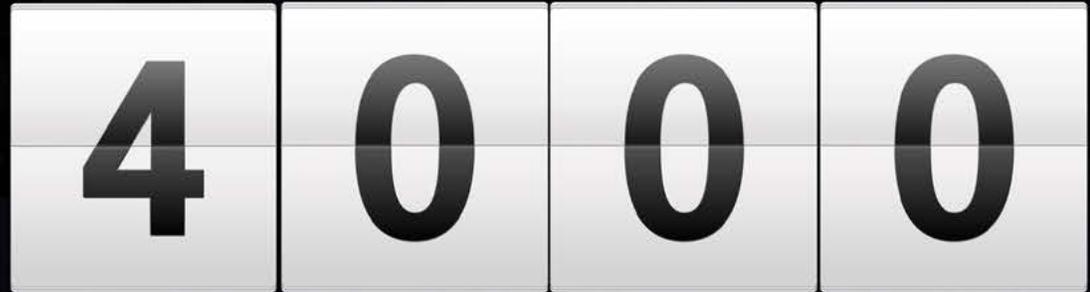
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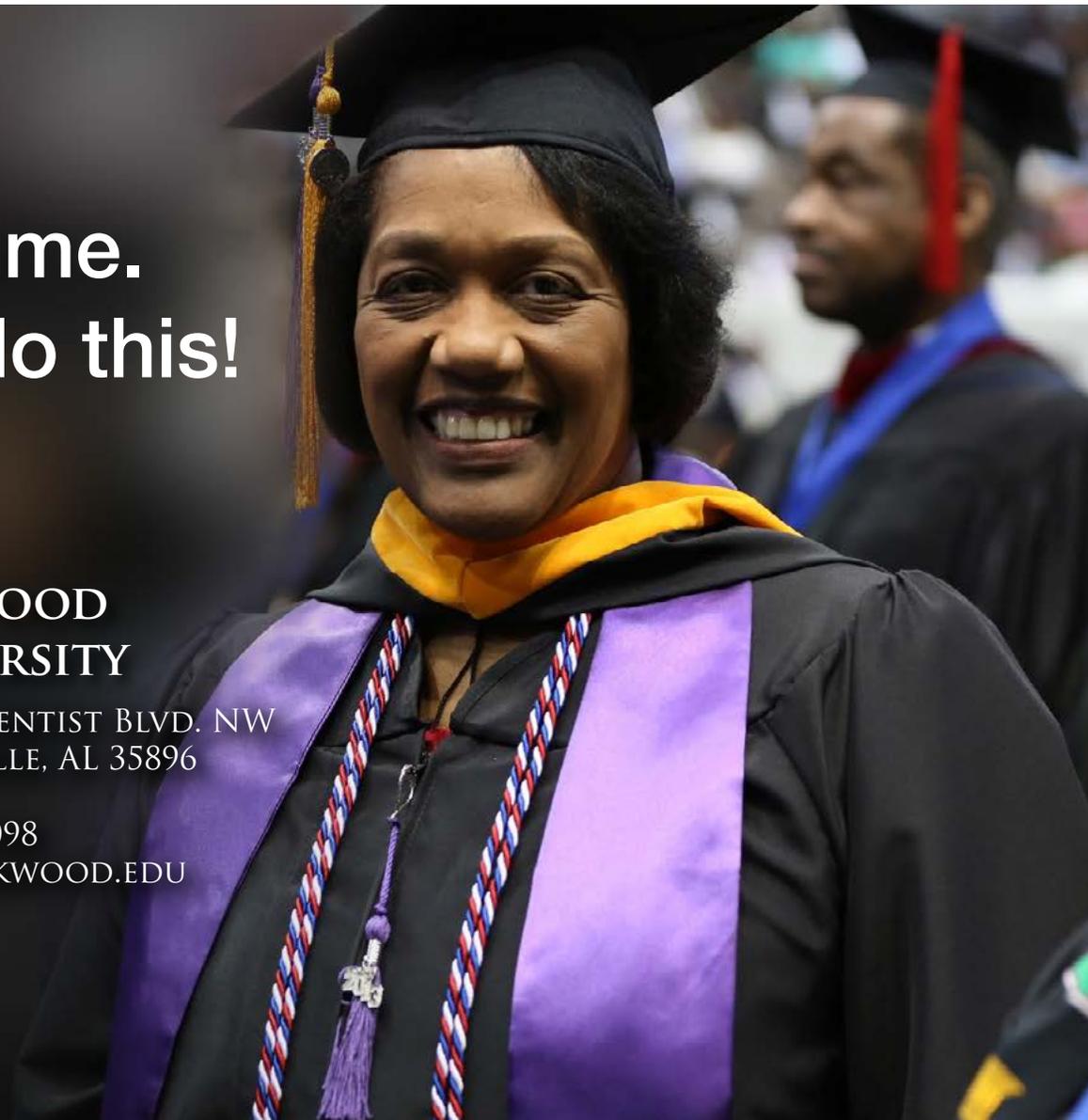
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Oakwood's Education of the Adult Professional: Celebrating 20 Years of Success with LEAP

by Tim Allston, Abigail Ambrose, Chris Readus and Nadya Scott

In 1994, President Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves established Oakwood's adult degree completion program – **LEAP (Leadership Education for the Adult Professional)**. For working adults 25 years or older with two or more years of college credits, it promises learning in a Christian atmosphere, experienced/competent faculty, relevant coursework and the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in approximately 18 months.

According to *The Madison Globe* (May 2, 1996) LEAP's first graduates, part of Oakwood College's Centennial Class of 1996, numbered 29 members – 13 of whom graduated summa cum laude. Now one generation and 509 graduates later, **LEAP** offers:

Five degree-granting programs: Church Leadership, General Studies, Information Technology, Organizational Management and Psychology.

Tuition Amnesty: Based on Deuteronomy 15:1, Oakwood will "forgive" unpaid bills of students who left Oakwood seven years ago with no degree; and, summarily, help busy adult learners.



Advancing careers Juanita Phillips, '96

"**LEAP** was a real key element in my career. I thought, how could I manage going back to school? I worked 60 hours a week . . . had two kids at home." Because of the skills learned and the **LEAP** degree earned, Phillips became HR director at Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation.



Servant-leadership in faith communities Chris Bailey, III, '13

"**LEAP**'s Church Leadership program allowed my wife, Tara, and I to solidify Change Ministry, www.changeministry.org"



Pastor/Evangelist Marquis Johns, '11

"My Church Leadership degree did more than just focus on preaching, but on the psychology and organizational management training needed to run a church, which is really a business. **LEAP**'s flexibility and customized curriculum and evening classes fit my work schedule."



Accommodate busy lifestyles Joey Kibble, '08

"I first came to Oakwood in 1989, and left in 1991, to join Take 6. At my mother's urging, I returned in 2000, to obtain a degree through **LEAP**. I'll never forget Professor Moges Selassie. God used Selassie and his finance class to teach me a valuable lesson."



Fulfill long-deferred dreams Elaine McKnight, '14

"I left Oakwood single in 19xx; returned married with two small children in 1963; and left in 1965, when my ex-husband graduated – but still with no degree. I retired after working 47 years, and relocated to Huntsville in 2007. I was encouraged to give **LEAP** a look. With my mother's 'determination-equals-success' formula motivating me on May 10, 2014 – a historic date, 50 years later – I will receive my degree in Organizational Management. The Lord and I will fulfill my promise to my mother."



The opportunity to give back Dr. Eva Starnier, '01 **LEAP**'S first doctorate alum.

"I always advise my students, 'Read your book; make sure you understand each section, as you will see this information again on the exit exam!'"



Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Jeffery & Melissa Terry, '14

"Fortunately, for adults looking to gain an education without losing a lot of time, **LEAP**'s CPL gives the ability to trade in their prior school and work experience for credit hours, which adds hours toward their total needed for graduation," explained Jeffrey Terry who, with wife Melissa, will be 2014 graduates. In exchange for his work experiences, Terry moved himself 23 credit hours and a year and a semester closer to May 2014 graduation.

4HIM: From the Heart

Personal Testimonies from the Kenya Trip

Note: Below are testimonies from two students who attended the 4HIM Kenya trip on June 10-July 2, 2013.

As told by Chavaughn Brathwaite
Interdisciplinary major in psychology, business management and child development

The first ever Oakwood University international mission trip was set for the country of Kenya in East Africa. With a group of 13 Oakwood students and eight other members, we embarked on a journey that became an experience of a lifetime. The moment our flight touched down the excitement was overflowing and we no longer cared about our two days in the air. There were the smells, the sights, the people, everything was swimming and bustling all around us. We had made it to the motherland to help further the gospel and share it with others.

Once settled in, our work began. The team was comprised mostly of a great group of females. Some of us had never crossed paths before in our lives at Oakwood, while some of us had. The few males were left to be our valiant protectors even though they were far outnumbered. Our group had great chemistry, which is necessary when spending three trying weeks with the same people.

Overall we had time to minister to the people in Nairobi and Mombasa. The people we met were incredible; their love for God was so pure and wholesome. They gave us the warmest welcomes and never wanted us to go. If we could have, many of us would have stayed. For several of us this 4HIM mission has changed our lives for the better. We left thinking that we were going to help the people in Kenya, to make a difference in their lives, but we realized that they were the ones truly helping make a change in us.



As told by Gerard St. Hilaire, Graduate Student in the M.A.P.S. program

What was supposed to be a mission trip turned out to be an experience or journey! I know that the 4HIM mission team went to Kenya to do mission work, but I saw God do an even greater work. He worked on us collectively and individually; which allowed us to see Him for who He truly is so that we could genuinely reflect His character daily. As one of the 4HIM preachers, God showed me that anyone can preach but not everyone can live. In other words, real preaching outflows from the character not the pulpit.

Bringing the love of God to the orphanage, the school for the deaf, and to the slum areas visited was a true humbling experience. Just being able to ameliorate someone's life situation in a matter of minutes was a blessing to those being helped and to me as well; showing me precisely a myriad of things in my life that I take for granted. My outlook now on the gifts that God has given me (which is everything) is that I must treasure them more - especially the finer things in this life such as family, friends, and time.

It was also a voluminous joy and honor just to know that the almighty and loving God of the universe would choose me as He did the other team members to co-labor with Him. I felt as though each team member was truly handpicked by God as the personalities of the individuals came together in a lovely harmony.

I loved being a key played by God on the 4HIM mission piano and would not have traded this experience for any other! I've never had such joy growing and learning so much about God and myself in the time frame.



Photo by Ron Pollard

Mission “Experiences”

Information supplied by Chaplain
Kimberly Pearson and Zawadi Nicholas

Senior Associate Chaplain Ronald Pollard coordinates the **4HIM** mission trips, and guides students through what he calls “a once in a lifetime opportunity.” For many of the students going abroad it will be the first time they fly on a plane and the last time they will see another land. Pollard emphasizes the change in perspective a lot of students experience after returning home. “They come back understanding that they are privileged. They learn that it’s [their life-style here at home] not an entitlement, it really is a privilege. They’ve gone to experience the people who ask them the question, every year almost, ‘Why were you born there and I was born here?’ So they come back with a greater sense of appreciation.”

Megan Stewart describes trying to keep an open mind and still being amazed at what she saw. She expected to see “bad” things and poverty, but she also saw something else. “Those people have a centimeter less than nothing and, yet, they are joyful. They are happy. To have that kind of happiness and joy in their circumstances – it’s just overwhelming to me because I have everything that I could ever ask for and I don’t even feel like that sometimes.” Stewart is reminded that her spirituality is lacking. She even laments the things she took for granted, especially since Jesus created it. “I saw it, but I didn’t see it before and I see it now. That’s the thing I’m the most grateful for.”

“Our desire is that both the students and New Orleans would have been changed for the better as a result of our trip,” said Chaplain Kimberly Pearson, who coordinated a 4HIM mission trip to New Orleans during Spring Break 2014. Students were exposed to a variety of service experiences that would make lasting physical impacts, and eternal spiritual impacts.

Theology major Tyler Buford, who is no stranger to volunteer work, feels that his involvement in mission work at Oakwood has widened his empathy for his fellow man. “As a mission worker it taught me to look beyond myself. It has taught me to care for those around me.” He cites Luke 1:17 as his inspiration for joining the missionary effort.



The 4HIM Kenya Choir

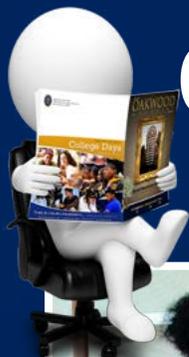


Anthonye Perkins, director of the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network, accompanied the 4HIM volunteers to document the trip through video. Here he takes a moment to play with one of the Kenya children.



“For several of us, this 4HIM mission has changed our lives for the better.”
- Chavaughn Brathwaite

Photos by Ron Pollard



OU NEWS NOTES



Photo by Jyremy Reid

OAKWOOD PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

March 15 marked the second annual Global Youth Day (GYD) sponsored by the General Conference's Youth Department. GYD is dedicated to spending time as the "hands and the feet of Jesus" in serving others. This year, Oakwood University was given the opportunity to report on both its reoccurring community service activities, sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life, and its Global Youth Day activities, during a one-hour broadcast that was one of 22 sites broadcasting LIVE on Hope Church Channel within a 24-hour period.

On that day, more than 300 students participated in clothing and food distribution in three of Huntsville's urban housing communities. "Since its inception, Oakwood has had a culture of helping students understand what it means to serve others," said George Johnson Jr., director of integrated marketing and public relations and executive producer/host of Oakwood's one-hour broadcast. "We were happy to share in this event that allowed us to be a part of a global compassion initiative," said Johnson.

The General Conference Youth Department has planned the next GYD for March 21, 2015.

American Airlines Features Oakwood Student

By Zawadi Nicholas, student writer



Oakwood University student Jefferson Lindor was featured in the Black History issue of *American Way*, a publication by American Airlines. Lindor is a junior management information systems major and he hopes to achieve a successful career in corporate America. "I've always dreamed of being a top leader in a Fortune 500 company, who is very inspiring to my employees. People will respect me because of my integrity, my determination and my work ethic."

It is no surprise that Lindor loves attending Oakwood. "What I like about Oakwood is the spiritual atmosphere and the support of the faculty and staff to the students. I enjoy being at a school that is centered on Christ. It is very important to me, because having a successful career and being wealthy is vain if God is not the main focus in my life."

The article tells about how a United Negro College Fund scholarship helped Lindor to continue his academic journey at Oakwood. Check American Airlines' *American Way* website at hub.aa.com for the entire story.



Photo by Anthony Chornes, II

Oakwood Students Compete in Honda All-Star Challenge



February 16, Oakwood University students competed in and won the trials for the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge in St. Louis, Mo. This automatically qualified OU for the National Championship Tournament to be held in Calif. in April.

Oakwood was a semi-finalist in 2013 and is a two-time national champion.

Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is a knowledge game of quick recall for America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Now in its 25th year, more than \$7 million dollars in grants have been awarded by Honda to participating HBCUs and nearly 100,000 students in 22 states have participated.

Members of OU's Honda All-Star Challenge team are Kenesha Bennett, Parris Boles, Greg Edouard, Jennifer Miller, and Antoine Southern. Coach Rennae Elliott, Ph.D., chairperson of the communication department, said "The students represented God and Oakwood well, and they played well." Those that helped the team practice included Sanna-Gay Hird, Sesly Huerfano, and Jhanel Tam.

More than \$300,000 is at stake this year, with the champion HBCU earning a \$50,000 grant. Oakwood will be one of 48 teams competing for the top prize.

Note: At press time, the Oakwood team was competing at the National Championship Tournament in Torrance, Calif. Good luck, team!



Photo by courtesy of Honda

Senior Education Major Represents Oakwood on Television Broadcast Competition

by Zawadi Nicholas, student writer

M eet Kenesha Bennett. A senior education major at Oakwood University, she recently competed in the Jeopardy! College Championship. What drives Kenesha Bennett? Along with her passion for equal education, she remembers wanting to compete on Jeopardy! from a young age.

"I've always wanted to be on Jeopardy!, like always, always!"

She never imagined that her dream would come true, but it did. After much prayer Kenesha was granted the opportunity to compete with other students on the show and win money for school. She describes the experience as one that "affirms her belief that God can, and will, grant the desire of His children's hearts." Kenesha credits God for helping her achieve one of her life-long dreams.

Kenesha's second dream is to help equalize education in America. She recalls earlier in life being one of the few black students who were placed in the honors class. She observed that her fellow black classmates did not know

as much a she did, though they attended the same school. Her desire to fix this was further encouraged by seeing "Waiting for Superman," a documentary chronicling the educational development of students in Harlem, New York.

"I realized that it was a struggle for parents from all over the country to find quality education for their students," she said.

Kenesha's love for the enrichment of black students is especially reflected in her love for Oakwood University.

"Oakwood gives you an opportunity to see teachers who have worked hard for their degrees helping young people who are striving to be successful."



Photo courtesy of Jeopardy

Oakwood University Strives to Stay Fit Through Fitness Classes

by George Johnson, Jr.

U.S. News and World Report recently named Alabama as the second most obese state in the nation. It has an obesity rate of 31.2 percent listing it as one of the top 10 most physically inactive states. Oakwood University Alumnus Tyrel Thomas isn't taking this information lightly. He and few friends have taken seriously this health prognosis of the state and have decided to begin close to home to try to make changes.

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:00-7:00 p.m., Tyrel Thomas and Eric Ramey lead out in circuit training classes right on Oakwood's campus to try to help students, faculty and staff understand how they can help Alabama get out of its #2 ranking. "Our classes are centered around metabolic circuit training which includes cardio and calisthenics," said Thomas, who graduated from Oakwood University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pre-physical therapy.

Approximately 50 people participate in Thomas and Ramey's twice-a-week class. "We were happy that one of our own decided to come back and give of himself though this fitness class," said Raymond King, director of student activities at Oakwood University.

Ed Paul-Saint, a senior theology major at Oakwood, has seen a definite change since he has been taking the class. When Paul-Saint began the class he weighed in at 245 pounds. He now weighs 227 and has also noticed that his energy level has increased.

Both Thomas and Ramey are Action Certified Trainers and are currently taking online classes at Vanderbilt University dealing with nutrition. "In our fitness classes, we also make sure that the participants understand that its not just about exercising, its also about making sure you are putting the right things in your body," said Ramey, a Huntsville resident.



Photo by Anthony Charnes, II

OU Student Named as a 2014 HBCU All-Star

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCU) announced in early February its first class of HBCU All-Stars, recognizing 75 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

Antoine Southern, from Houston, Texas, is currently enrolled at Oakwood University, one of the 62 HBCUs from which the 445 All-Star applicants were selected.

“Engaging with the next generation of leaders who will graduate from HBCUs and go on to make meaningful contributions to society is crucial to the success of our community, our country and our global competitiveness,” said George Cooper, executive director of the WHIHBCUs.

“It is a privilege to announce these 75 students who have demonstrated a commitment to both their own academic achievement and making a difference in their communities, and we look forward to working with them as partners in advancing President Obama’s college completion goal.”

Over the course of the next year, the HBCU All-Stars will

serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative by providing outreach and communication with their fellow students about the value of education and the Initiative as a networking resource. Through social media and their relationships with community-based organizations, the All-Stars will share promising and proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential.

In addition, the 45 female and 30 male All-Stars will participate in regional events and web chats with Ivory Toldson, deputy director of the WHIHBCUs, other Initiative staff and professionals from a wide range of disciplines. They will also have opportunities to engage with other scholars to showcase individual and collective talent across the HBCU community.



Southern is pictured here with George Cooper, executive director of the WHIHBCUs. Photo by Anthony Chornes, II.

Note: At press time, it was announced that Antoine Southern was accepted into Harvard Law School.



Mango's
Caribbean Restaurant
Defining Caribbean Dining

Sunday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Monday - Thursday 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
 Friday 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Saturday CLOSED

Lunch Buffet
 Monday - Friday 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

“The service you will receive at Mango's reflects the life and soul of the Caribbean: warmth, relaxation, courtesy and integrity in a welcoming atmosphere...”

-Lauren Herbert, Executive Chef

6421 University Dr. Suite C
 (Next to David's Bridal)
 Huntsville, AL 35806
 Tel: (256) 971-5111
www.mangosofhuntsville.com

Congratulations, Mr. and Miss Oakwood University by Zawadi Nicholas, student writer

Sunday, March, 23, saw the inauguration of Oakwood's 21st Miss Oakwood, Nia Johnson. Nia competed with four other young ladies who exhibited talents such as singing, and instrument playing. She hails from Bowie, Maryland, a former railroad town and one of the fastest growing cities in Maryland. She is a junior international studies major at Oakwood University. Ultimately, she plans to become a professor one day. In her free time she likes to read and skate. She also enjoys photography

Along with Nia, Sunday saw the Inauguration of Oakwood's first Mr. Oakwood, Jordan Harris, in 13 years. He competed with two other gentlemen to win the title. Jordan Harris is from Dayton, Ohio, home of one of America's biggest concentrations of health care industries. He is a nursing major at Oakwood University.

The Mr. and Miss Oakwood Pageant focuses on the intelligence, community involvement and talent of its participants.

The characters of the participants should be spiritual, progressive, strong, vibrant, and independent. They should also be role models in their church, college community

and overall community. Of course, Mr. and Miss Oakwood are not only representatives of Oakwood University, but they are representatives of God. When Nia Johnson and Jordan Harris echo His example, many lives will be changed as they represent Oakwood University.



Photo by Jeremy Reid

Oakwood Hosts White House-Initiative Roundtable Discussion by George Johnson, Jr.

On February 24, a select group of administrators, faculty, and staff participated in a roundtable discussion with two White House-initiative officials regarding how Historically Black Colleges and Universities can partner with non-profit organizations. Dr. George Cooper, executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCU's, addressed the participants about his role in working with federal agencies in providing



Photo by Anthony Chornes, II

grants and financial assistance to the nation's black colleges. The main speaker, David Johns (pictured), executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans, shared "I am intimately acquainted with Oakwood's commitment to service and insuring that no matter what fields of study your students go in, there is an investment into serving and supporting others. I'm eager to take those best practices or lessons learned from here to help other institutions apply them in supporting their students in adopting similar pathways," he said.

Oakwood University Hosts International Vaccination Training and Advocacy Program by George Johnson, Jr.

According to a recent US report from the Kaiser Permanente Colorado Institute for Health Research, 49 percent of children between the ages of 2 and 24 do not receive all of the recommended vaccinations or do not get vaccinated at all.

In late January, Oakwood University hosted a vaccination training and advocacy program for its students, conducted by Shot@Life, which specifically seeks to protect children worldwide by providing much-needed vaccines.

Representatives from the UN Foundation and ADRA International conducted and sponsored this training workshop, which covered details on activities of the two sponsoring organizations, including the provision of tools for community organizing and identifying stakeholders and lobbying congress.

"In training young professionals for service to God and humanity, we believe it is essential that they become agents of change in their communities," said Onesimus Otieno, Ph.D., a biology professor at OU. "Oakwood has also developed initiatives to complement its role as a global partner by leading a consortium of institutions in both Africa and the Caribbean. These are among the factors that made the Shot@Life program a natural fit for Oakwood," he said.

Shot@Life educates, connects and empowers Americans to champion vaccines as one of the most cost-effective ways to save the lives of children in developing countries. A national call to action for a global cause, the campaign rallies the American public, members of Congress, and civil society partners around the fact that together, we can save a child's life every 20 seconds by expanding access to vaccines. By encouraging Americans to learn about, advocate for, and donate to vaccines, Shot@Life aims to decrease vaccine-preventable childhood deaths and give every child a shot at a healthy life.

Division Update: Research and Employee Services

“Welcome” to Oakwood’s Newest Employees



Aisha Allsop

Mission Coordinator

Literature Evangelist Training Center

Favorite bible verse: Romans 8:29, 30
– For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



Kevin Anderson, Ph.D

Assistant Professor

Chemistry Department

Favorite bible verse: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Shirlene Briggs

**Assistant Program Coordinator/
Counselor New Beginnings**

Favorite bible verse: 1 John 4:7 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.



Lenox Brown

Public Safety Officer

Oakwood University Police Department

Favorite bible verse: Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.



Imani Cherry

Development Assistant

Advancement and Development

Favorite bible verse: Zechariah 4:6 - So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.



Brian Craig

Enrollment Specialist

Office of Enrollment Management

Favorite bible verse: Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.



Angel Ewing

Office Manager

Communication Department

Favorite bible verse: Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.



Richard Hodnett

Enrollment Specialist

Office of Enrollment Management

Favorite bible verse: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



George Johnson, Jr.

**Director of Integrated Marketing
& Public Relations**

Advancement & Development

Favorite bible verse: Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Division Update: Research and Employee Services



Kimberly Johnson

Child Care Worker

Child Development Lab

Favorite bible verse: Psalm 116:12 -
What shall I return to the Lord for all his
goodness to me?



Denica King

Assistant Marketing Director

Advancement & Development

Favorite bible verse: Psalm 32:8 - I will
instruct you and teach you in the way you
should go; I will counsel you with my
loving eye on you.



Raymond Leftridge

Evening Supervisor

Eva B. Dykes Library

Favorite bible verse: Philippians 4:13 - I
can do all this through him who gives me
strength.



Marcia Lucombe

Secretary

*Business & Information Systems
Department*

Favorite bible verse: Philippians 4:13 - I
can do all this through him who gives me
strength.



Domonique Mayes-McNish

Office Manager

Student Activities

Favorite bible verse: Galatians 6:9 - Let
us not become weary in doing good, for
at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.



Odalys Miranda

Media Assistant

Eva B. Dykes Library

Favorite bible verse: Psalm 46:1,2 - For
the director of music. Of the Sons of
Korah. According to alamoth. A song. God
is our refuge and strength, an ever-pres-
ent help in trouble. Therefore we will not
fear, though the earth give way and the
mountains fall into the heart of the sea.



Jocelyn Peterson

Director of Dietetics Allied Health

Favorite bible verse: 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.



Jason Rice

Systems Engineer Jr.

Office Sponsored Programs

Favorite bible verse: John 15:13 -
Greater love has no one than this: to lay
down one's life for one's friends.



Kem Roper

Assistant Professor

English Department

Favorite bible verse: Ecclesiastes 9:10
- Whatever your hand finds to do, do it
with all your might, for in the realm of the
dead, where you are going, there is nei-
ther working nor planning nor knowledge
nor wisdom.

Division Update: Research and Employee Services



Lasha Wade

Custodian

Custodial/Warehouse

Favorite bible verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

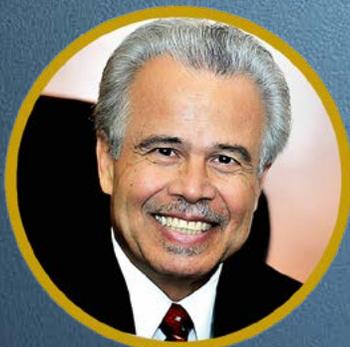


Nell Warren-Lartey

Office Manager

Biology Department

Favorite bible verse: Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.



Doug Simons

Associate Chaplain

Office of Spiritual Life

Favorite bible verse: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Dave West

Lab Coordinator

Chemistry Department

Favorite bible verse: 2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.



Ryan Smith

Assistant Vice President

Student Services

Favorite bible verse: John 16:33 - I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.



Mishael Williams, PT, MHS

Assistant Professor

Allied Health

Favorite bible verse: Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

BEYOND

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Research and Employee Services Division, led by Vice President Dr. Prudence Pollard, facilitates the development of our University's research infrastructure and assures exceptional performance of faculty and staff through the utilization of best-in-class talent acquisition, management, and employee development. Actions within the Division are guided by our commitment to the University's motto of "God First." We seek to deliver on the University's core values of Respect, Compassion, Integrity, Excellence, Service, and Innovation. The Division oversees activities within the LifeCore Research Center, the Faculty Resource Center, and the Leadership Academy. The Division is in preparation to launch Oakwood University's inaugural scholarly journal, which was introduced to readers in the Winter 2014 edition of the *Oakwood Magazine*. Dr. Cheryl Galley, chair of the Department of Psychology, serves as the managing editor of the *Journal of Scientific, Technical, and Artistic Research, the OU STAR*. In addition to the centers and the scholarly journal, eight departments form the structural units of the Division: Customer Care, Human Resource Management, Faculty Development, Student Employment, Academic Technology, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Research, and Grants.

Customer Care

The goal of Oakwood University is to provide our customers with a quality experience that meets or exceeds their expectations. Michele Solomon directs Customer Care and her desire is for each and every encounter with our campus to be unforgettably positive. The goal is for the experience with us to be so pleasant that customers will return and recommend us to others as a Christ-centered institution of higher learning.

The opportunity to serve our customers is our privilege. As faculty, staff, and administrators, one of the greatest rewards that we can experience is a kind and appreciative comment from a parent, student, alumnus, or campus guest. The quality of the experience is proportional to the quality of our customer care efforts. Our relationship with each customer is an integral part of the university's mission of service.

Human Resource Management

The Human Resource Management (HRM) team, including Sylvia Germany, director, and Melonie Gurley, training coordinator, has deployed the training of the entire Oakwood workforce in the use of our new performance management system, aptly named "PERFORM." PERFORM is the first of the three-phase process to create an electronic system to begin the performance feedback conversation between supervisors and employees and is part of the overall Employee Development System (EDS), which will take HRM to a higher level of quality customer service. Watch for the next phase of EDS that will take the University to a paperless environment with the University's new Onboarding program.

Oakwood University Leadership Academy

Another initiative, the OU Leadership Academy, in collaboration with the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks-Leadership Center, resulted in Ghana's Valley View University developing a Leadership Academy at their University. This proposal was further enhanced when Dr. Prudence Pollard responded to an invitation from the General Conference Education Department and presented workshops on Biblical Foundations at Babcock University, Nigeria and Valley View University.

Student Employment

The Office of Student Employment, headed by Joanna Mack, has processed 654 work contracts and 73 I-9(s) to date. Currently, the office is working with all departments to ensure that all available jobs are published on the student employment website. Mack is also working closely with the HRM team in the training of the administration, faculty, and staff toward the implementation of the EDS software.

Academic Technology

The Academic Technology Department (ATD), headed by William Mitchell, provides the resources, technical assistance, and equipment to support Oakwood's faculty, students, and staff in all phases of teaching, learning, and research. Additionally, the ATD is the home of the Desire2Learn (D2L), the Learning Management System (LMS), for creating and facilitating the learning environment on this campus. ATD provides consultative support and training for our students online and in blended courses.

Quality Enhancement: "The Right to Write" Critical Thinking Initiative

The University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), directed by Dr. Jeannette Dulan, is a requirement of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Regional Accrediting Association (SACS) that requires all SACS' member institutions to implement a five-year plan that addresses a well-defined topic pertaining to the enhancement of student learning outcomes. Oakwood's plan equips students with critical thinking skills designed to enhance their educational experience. It is expected that the impact of critical thinking will be especially evident in the quality of written work produced by students. Thus, the QEP's student learning outcomes focus on critical thinking developed through writing. This initiative impacts the entire University in developing faculty, staff and preparing students in thinking about thinking, and the intrinsic value of something exciting happening within each student's mind.

Faculty Development and the Office of Research & Grants

The Office of Research & Grants, newly founded this academic year, is a direct result of the Administration's heightened priority to develop more research and scholarly activity across the University. The major goal of the next five years is to increase grant writing and funding through research. The office is staffed by Lucy Cort and Shannan Moore Malone.

The highlight of the University's research year is the 3rd annual Faculty Research Symposium, scheduled for April 21. Paulette Johnson, director of the Eva B. Dykes Library, serves as the 2014 Chair for the Symposium. This Symposium will focus on the research of the 2013-2014 Faculty Development Grant Program (FDGP) Awardees, the internal research program. The Symposium's keynote presentation will be delivered by Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser, '94, now assistant professor in Nutritional Sciences Program at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md.

OU BLUE & GOLD CHALLENGE

Oakwood University Annual Fund

The Blue and Gold Challenge is designed to channel the dedication and OU pride of alumni, students, parents, employees and friends to give a gift to the Oakwood Annual Fund Campaign. This year's challenge is to significantly increase giving participation by midnight June 30, 2014.

Together we can show our blue and gold pride and invest in the next generation of prOUd graduates for service to God and humanity, and make a difference in the lives of Oakwood students. Join us in the Blue and Gold Challenge today!

You can give your tax-deductible gift at www.ougiving.com
or send your check made payable to:
Oakwood University (Annual Fund)
7000 Adventist Blvd., NW, Huntsville, AL 35896



More more information, contact the Development Office at
256.726.7586, or email developmentoffice@oakwood.edu

WHAT *if?*

by Cheri Wilson

Oakwood University has produced more than 17,000 leaders in service for God and humanity since its founding in 1896. We are proud of you, our alumni, and your service to the local and global community.

What if...more than 17,000 alumni gave a minimum gift of \$100 every year to the Oakwood University Annual Fund? What if, together, we invested \$1,700,000 every year to the preservation of our Oakwood and the future of our students?

What if...our alumni and friends invested one dollar every time they voted for The Home Depot Challenge (347,000 votes in 2013)?

What if ... every alum of every living class committed to give a gift at any level to our alma mater's Annual Fund, every year?

Together, we could...

- Fund more student scholarships
- Strengthen academic programs
- Hire additional distinguished faculty
- Expand undergraduate and graduate programs
- Build the Endowment
- Support spiritual life, Aeolians, and athletics
- Construct and renovate academic and student focused spaces

And, so much more...

If we missed you during the fall Annual Fund Phonathon, there is still time to give your gift to the Oakwood University Annual Fund. Join us in the Blue and Gold End of the Year Challenge by midnight on June 30, to be counted in the challenge! The challenge is to increase our annual



giving participation rate – alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends. Your participation at any level is valued, appreciated, and counted! Annual Fund donors will be listed on the OU Donor Roll in the next *Oakwood Magazine* with the names of each individual as a sign of our appreciation. Let the challenge begin!

For your convenience, you may give online at www.ougiving.com, or you may send a check, payable to Oakwood University (Annual Fund), and mail it in the enclosed return envelope with your pledge card by midnight, June 30. Your commitment, demonstrated through your tax deductible charitable gift, is important to our students, faculty and staff, and the advancement of "our dear Oakwood."

Together, we can make a difference! Thank you for your generosity!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Lewis Jones at 256-726-7586, or email us at development@oakwood.edu.

An Interview With Philanthropist Kenneth Anderson

OU Kenny, what initiated your (new) scholarship for OU?

Anderson: In spite of the cost, my parent's support for my enrollment and subsequent graduation from Oakwood is one of the most significant milestones in my life. Oakwood was my first alma mater, and I thought it would be appropriate to do something for this school that I love.

OU What is it called, and why?

Anderson: "The 25 Scholarship." Often we think that establishing a scholarship takes a large amount of money. However, for me, \$25 is a manageable amount to pledge on a monthly basis as an investment in the future of Oakwood students, so I have committed to making a \$25 donation each month to grow the scholarship.

Also, \$25 is an amount that can easily inspire others to give as well to support the scholarship. This is a living application of the proverb that "it takes a village to raise a child," but I like to add, that it takes some money to help the child go to college.

OU How can one contribute?

Anderson: Anyone who wants to be a part of this effort to provide tangible support for students attending Oakwood University can make a tax deductible contribution to the "25" Scholarship. A suggested contribution is \$25; if someone would like to donate more, that's fine also. Payments can be made directly to the Office of Advancement & Development online at www.ougiving.com or by phone at 256-726-7201.



Kenneth Anderson, '83, is the director of multicultural affairs for the City of Huntsville.

OU Any final comments?

Anderson: I'm proud to be a part of Oakwood's legacy of producing some of the best students in multiple academic disciplines. I'm excited to begin a process of ensuring the Oakwood students have financial resources to complete their education.

SOCIAL MEDIA @ the OAKS

by Zawadi Nicholas, student writer



After Oakwood University's winning of the \$50,000 Tier I grant in The Home Depot Retool Your School competition in 2013, the secret was revealed: Oakwood University students are social media savvy. Of course, students could not have won the competition alone: Oakwood has a worldwide network of alumni, parents and friends. Now, Oakwood is harnessing the power of social media to connect with this network.

Denica King, assistant director of marketing, points to the swiftly shifting trends in the digital world. To reach and keep up with the interest of our students, Oakwood "will utilize the communication portals that they use on a daily basis. Using social media is one of the many ways it can stay up-to-date and connected with its community," King said.

Since Oakwood has officially joined social media, students now have a direct, instantaneous method of communication with the University. Students can receive important information (events, emergency notifications, scholarships, job opportunities and any other announcements from University administration) when they log in, whether from mobile devices or from computers. This will help students to become more involved and informed about what is happening on campus.

Students aren't the only ones who will receive communications from Oakwood University. Parents, prospective students and employees are among the many others that can and should connect with Oakwood University online. "We try to post information for our target audiences, which are current and prospective students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors, to keep everyone connected," elaborated King.

Using social media will update parents of Oakwood students on the latest news, events, and happenings at the University. Parents also receive weekly newsletters, educational and financial information, helping them become enthusiastic supporters of, and smarter investors in, their children's education.

Oakwood's social media outlets will announce and feature most of the on-campus events through photos posted on Flickr and Facebook. Faculty members will also be featured on these social media outlets so that friends and followers can learn more about them, their accomplishments, and their contributions to Oakwood. This is "an exciting prospect," King said. "We have some pretty awesome staff and faculty members!"

When asked if there are any plans to join other forms of social media like Pinterest, or YouTube, King responded, "Yes! Oakwood has just joined Twitter. As time progresses we plan to expand to other social media outlets, including LinkedIn and Instagram."

To follow Oakwood on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com/OakwoodU and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OakwoodUniversity and on Flickr at www.flickr.com/OakwoodUniversity

OAKWOOD ON THE ROAD: HOUSTON



This past February, Oakwood on the Road (OTR) made a stop in the Lone Star State. Houston, Tex., warmly opened its arms to Oakwood students, faculty and administrators at two churches on Sabbath, February 1. World Harvest Outreach, where Dr. Leslie Pollard preached, hosted the melodious voices of the Dynamic Praise gospel choir for the eleven o'clock hour, while Fondren Seventh-day Adventist Church greeted additional Oakwood staff, including Dr. Timothy McDonald, provost, and the speaker, Dr. Jesse Wilson, associate professor of religion.

Fondren hosted the fellowship lunch and the evening activities. You could hear the familiar sounds of laughter and boisterous hugs as Oakwoodites were reunited. "The unending support of Oakwood alumni and friends never ceases to amaze me as we organize these events," said Kisha Norris, executive director of advancement. "The Oakwood bond is forever strong!"

Not only did alumni and friends from Houston attend, but Oakwoodites from Dallas, San Antonio and Austin joined to reunite with their friends and hear about the new and exciting things happening at their alma mater. Additionally, prospective students were able to talk with Oakwood enrollment counselors.

The closing event was a gospel concert from Dynamic Praise choir. "The concert was an amazing experience," remarked Edith Pruitt, alumni relations coordinator. "No matter what generation of Oakwoodite was present, the music bound us together. That's the power of the Oakwood on the Road events – a cross-generational unit gathering to praise God and strengthen the relationships that will last a lifetime."

Oakwood on the Road – a time where you hear about Oakwood and reminisce, where you experience the Oakwood sound in music and preaching, and where you strengthen your bond with Oakwoodites. We can't wait for the fall edition of Oakwood on the Road. Stay tuned so you can join us at a city near you!



Dr. Leslie Pollard addresses the congregation during church service.



Dynamic Praise soloist passionately portrays the feeling of the song during the worship service.



The men of DP.

Photos by Ron Pollard

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



▲ Malachi Paxton Franklin was born to Cynthia W. (Ichoya) Franklin and **David B. Franklin, '03**, on February 17, 2014. He weighed six pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 inches long.



▲ Carissa Adair Byrd was born to **Danielle A. (Mounter) Byrd, '96**, and **Carlton P. Byrd, '94**, on January 7, 2014. She weighed eight pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches long.



▲ Ginneh Michelle Wright was born to **Stacia (Dulan) Wright, '00**, and H. Marcel Wright on February 11, 2014. (Photo by robynepeter.com)



▲ Mandisa Nesia Mduba was born to **Tiffany (Taylor) Mduba, '01**, and Sandile Mduba on September 27, 2013. She weighed five pounds, 13.5 ounces and was 20 inches long.

David Tyler King III was born to **David King, '09**, and **Meghan (Prince) King, '08**, on August 3, 2013. He weighed eight pounds, two ounces and was 21 inches long.

Shannah (Finisterre) Philip, '11, and her husband Kareem Philip, welcomed Dallas Reid Philip into the world on April 3, 2013. He weighed three pounds and 12 ounces.

Sherian (Dulan) Brown, '00, and Wesley Brown welcomed Jasmine Shavon Brown into the world on January 31, 2013.

ENGAGEMENTS



Alexandria Alston, '08, and **Terrell McCoy, Jr. '09**, are engaged to be married on May 25, 2014, in Pine Forge, Pa.



James Rodriguez, '12 proposed to **Kyndall Powell-Hicks, '14**, during the Christmas 2013 holiday.



Denica King, '11, and **Frank Harrell II, '11**, are engaged to be married on August 17, 2014, in Atlanta, Ga.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Etta Mae (Maycock) Dudley, '47
January 25, 2014

Alice (Blake) Brantley, '34
January 1, 2014

Jean Manual Reaves (former professor)
December 17, 2013

Dr. Ward D. Sumpter, '65
November 8, 2013

James Mosely Vines Sr., '55
February 27, 2014

Melissa (Cayton) Wardell, '67
February 13, 2014

ALUMNI NOTES

1960s

Fred A. Pullins, M.Ed., CSPG, '66, is retiring after 33 years of service at Oakwood College/University. He most recently served as the director of planned giving and trust services. He also served as alumni director for 11 years, admissions director for nine years, trust services director eight years, and principal of Oakwood Academy for five years. He retires to travel, spoil grandchildren, and tend his vegetable garden.

1970s

Dr. Paula Barnes, '74, was awarded the coveted E.L. Hamm Distinguished Teaching Award for 2012-2013 at Hampton University, where she currently serves as Chair of the Department of English and Foreign Languages.

Congratulations on receiving the MLK Drum Major for Service Award," wrote President Barack Obama, to Oakwood University Board of Trustees member **Dr. Cynthia Powell-Hicks, '76**, and **Tina Robinson, '63**. President Obama thanked these Oakwood alumnae for their devotion to service to their communities and working with at risk youth. These ladies are both lifetime members of the California Chapter of the Oakwood University Alumni Association, and are OU Alumni Association Living Legends.

1980s

Raynard Allen, '87, serves as a Chaplain in the United States Navy where he was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Mavis Braxton-Newby, MSW, Ph.D., '84, works at California State University East Bay in the Department of Social Work. Dr. Braxton-Newby has several recent publications in peer review journals and has made presentations in many states and Canada in her field. In March 2014 she traveled to Hong Kong, China, with a faculty team for a two-week visit to a university and social services agencies in preparation for a faculty exchange program between the two universities.



Carla C. Braxton, MD, MBA, '87, is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her clinical practice is as a General Surgeon and Surgical Critical Care specialist at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MED-VAMC) in Houston, where she serves as the Director of Perioperative Services. She was recently featured in a Veteran's Administration publication for introducing the intra-operational technique of hormone testing (PTH) for parathyroid surgery in the operating room for minimal-access parathyroid surgery. She is also co-investigator in a funded research project: A multicenter, open-label, randomized study to compare the safety and efficacy of intravenous Ceftolazane/Tazobactam with that of Piperacillin/Tazobactam in ventilator associated pneumonia.

Keith Augustus Burton, '87, is the author of the Adult Bible Study Guide (Sabbath School Lesson) for the second quarter 2014. The theme for the quarterly is "Christ and His Law." He has also authored the companion book titled, *Laying Down the Law* (Review & Herald, 2013).

Valerie (Harvey) Harris, '83, was promoted in 2013 to Chief, Aviation Systems Quality Branch for the US Army Aviation & Missile Research, development & Engineering Center (AMRDEC) at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala.

Kim Cliett Long, Ed.D., '82, is the Director of The Center for Excellence in Distance Learning (CEDL) at Wiley College. The CEDL was created to act as a catalyst for innovative practices and teaching in order to preserve and advance the stellar history and legacy of the education provided by the nation's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The Center provides a nexus for the sharing of technologies, tools, pedagogies and educational resources that enrich student learning. CEDL members pool intellect, best practices, cultural and global enrichments, and capital and human resources. To launch the center, Wiley College partnered with Lumen Learning, and secured preferred pricing and support levels for all CEDL partner institutions. Lumen Learning supports higher education institutions to use open educational resources (OER) effectively to reduce textbook costs

and improve student success. One of the premier members of this collaboration is Oakwood University. OU was supported to launch the first pilot of online courses Spring 2014.

In January 2014, the Gospel Music Association Foundation (GMAF) and the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame Committee compiled a list of individuals who have made a significant impact in Gospel music. We are pleased to let you know that Take 6 has made the final nomination slate in the Gospel category for the upcoming GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame 2014 ballot. **Take 6** members are: Claude McKnight, **Mark Kibble, '86**, **Joel Kibble, '06**, Dave Thomas, **Alvin Chea, '89**, and Khristian Dentley.

Kingsley Palmer, '85, has recently been asked to serve as the African-American Ministries director for the Arizona Conference. He is also the African-American Ministries director for the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Robert L. Yee, '86, is the Chief Executive Officer for Crystal Bakery in Ewarton, Jamaica. Under his leadership, the company has launched a new line of pastry products and is positioning to expand operations for an international market.

1990s

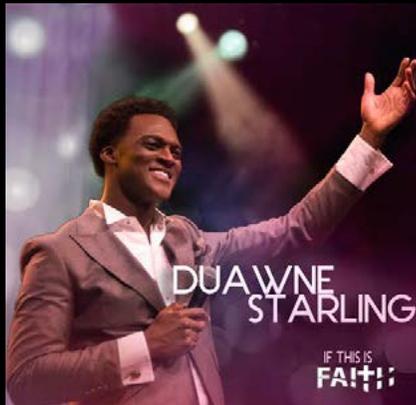
In 2013, **David A. Cort, '99**, received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for exemplary contributions to training in advanced statistics and research methods, and received research grant funding from the Stanford University Center on Poverty and Inequality for studying questions related to poverty, inequality, and residential mobility among Los Angeles' Hispanics. In 2014, he was promoted to associate professor (with tenure) in the Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, made guest scholar appearance on NPR-Minnesota to comment on issues related to documented and undocumented immigration, and made guest scholar appearance on The Daily Show on Comedy Central to comment on issues related to documented and undocumented immigration.

Division Update: Advancement & Development

Trecia Henriques, '98, received her MD from Ross University in March 2013.

Bryant Lennard Johnson, '91, serves as the system director for Trauma Critical Care Nursing division, at a Level I trauma center, in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is a doctoral candidate, Ed.D., '14, from Grand Canyon University. His dissertation topic is on the use of human patient simulation and it's measurable outcomes for graduate registered nurses' self efficacy and critical thinking in the safe management of patients entrusted to their care. Johnson is also the first elected African-American to the office of President & CEO for the Arizona Organization of Nurse Executives (AzONE) 2013-2015. This organization is an affiliate of the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE).

Some of you may remember Duawne Starling (1990-1992) from his days as background singer for Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Donnie McClurkin. Starling's sophomore solo project, "Deeper Faith" debuts spring 2014.



2000s

Sheereen Burton, '12, received her MBA from Webster University in November 2013. In December 2013, she was recognized for completing the Adventist Health Systems Residency for the Leadership Development Program. She currently works as a Project Manager at Adventist Health Systems. One of her projects was featured in the January 2014 edition of AHS Information Services Executive Update.

Dan Daniels, Ph.D., '06, completed a Ph.D. in Information Technology in January 2014 from Capella University. His dissertation was "Assessing the Impact of Security Behavior on the Awareness of Open-Source Intelligence: A Quantitative Study of IT Knowledge Workers."

Nathaniel Drew, '11, and wife **Lillian, '11**, both graduated in December 2013 from Andrews University with a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness, respectively. He is currently the associate pastor of the Ethan Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church.

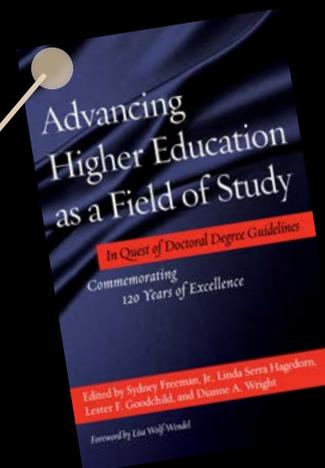


Natalie King

Nathan DeShaun Drew, LGSW, '11, is now employed as a Behavioral Health Specialist and Social Work Health Coach at Evergreen Health Care Center in Greenbelt, Md. In the summer of 2014, he will be sitting for his final state licensure exam to become a Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical.

Natalie King, '07, is the brand ambassador for Johnson Products Gentle Treatment hair care products. She is also a sixth-year Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience, investigating major depression and autism. Her research focuses on taking scientific discoveries and implementing them to enhance human health and wellness.

Sydney Freeman Jr., Ph.D., CFD, '07, was the lead editor of the book titled *Advancing Higher Education as a Field of Study: In Quest of Doctoral Degree Guidelines—Commemorating 120 Years of Excellence*. Freeman is the Co-chair of Doctoral Program Guidelines Ad Hoc Committee, Council for the Advancement of Higher Education Programs, Association for the Study of Higher Education; Director of a Teaching and Learning Center, Tuskegee University; and Adjunct Professor of Adult and Higher Education, Auburn University.



Alexandrea (Frye) Irby, '08, married Juan Irby on March 3, 2013. This couple was noted for their "extreme couponing" abilities in a *Huntsville Times* article.

Kristin (Pollard) Kiel, '05, and Demetrius Kiel, married on August 12, 2012, are expecting their first daughter, Genesis Kiel in June 2014.

Dr. Alicia D. Shelly, '04, just completed her residency and has just started a new position in Stockbridge, Ga.



Happy Birthday WOCG/WJOU Celebrating 35 years as “The Tennessee Valley’s Praise Station”

**Birthdate: Dec. 8, 1979
(first test broadcast: Dec. 8, 1978)**

by Chris Readus, '14 and George Johnson, Jr.



“W

OCG originated from an old factory building which was really a garage off of an old home,” said Victoria Joiner Miller, Ph.D., ‘87, who is an instructor in Oakwood University’s Communication department. She was the general manager of WOCG now called WJOU for twenty plus years. Miller saw a lot of “firsts” at the station, including the first time the station was able to stream the broadcast in the late 90’s. According to Miller, the first stream only reached a maximum of 60 people at that time with clarity.

Miller, also a former WOCG student-worker, reminisces on her college experience at the station. “When Don McPhaul was general manager, he allowed us a lot of latitude. He did not have much help, so we would do a lot of the work putting things together,” said Miller. She and others saw this small building as the means to gain experience through a “hands-on approach.” Students could do things ranging from labeling albums to creating programs. They learned the skills necessary to be successful in radio and broadcast.

“Top 10” WJOU programming

10. Simple Truths for Life with Charles Tapp
9. Sounds of Praise (Oakwood University Church Service)
8. Christian Working Woman
7. Second Chance with Kenneth Anderson
6. Think It Over
5. Sunset To Sunset
4. Sabbath Praise with Victoria Joiner Miller
3. Hour of Power
2. Your Story Hour
1. Adventures in Odyssey

Damneon Malone, ‘03

Program Director/Operations Manager, WJOU 90.1 FM

David Person, ‘85

Talk Show Host, WEUP Radio
Contributor to USA Today and NPR

Carmen (Hope) Thomas, ‘94

Producer/Reporter, Skywatch Traffic

Jamie McGriff, ‘03

Reporter/Anchor, WATN TV

Charita (Weaver) Johnson, ‘84

Vice President, Production Digital Audio-ESPN

Charles “Skip” Cheatham, ‘85

Executive Director for the D. L. Hughley Show
Substitute Host for Tom Joyner Morning Show

Justin McFarland, ‘04

Reporter/Anchor, WZTV TV

Frenita Buddy, ‘99

Production Manager, Hope Channel

Charles Tapp, ‘82

Host, Simple Truths for Life

Brennan Wimbish, ‘01

Production Director/Host, WGTS 91.9 FM

Terry Johnson, ‘93

Host, Breakaway, WGTS 91.9 FM

Ivy Starks, ‘94

Host, The Bread of Life, WJOU 90.1 FM

D. L. McPhaul, ‘91

The Joy of Faith Radio

Elizabeth Anderson, ‘96

Assistant Editor, WTOP News, Washington, DC.

Donna Marie (Moore) Green, ‘85

Goucher College Radio/ Internet

Micah Logan, ‘04

Announcer/Producer, WEUP Radio

Erika Lathon, ‘90

Reporter, WZTV FOX 17

Ernie “Trey Thomas” Murphy, ‘91

Video Producer, The Weather Channel

Hallerin Hilton Hill, ‘90

Talk Show Host, 98.7 WOKI
Host, Anything is Possible, WBIR TV
Author/Speaker, Knoxville, TN

Kymerly (Richardson) Thurman, ‘93

Anchor, WPMT TV

Amanda Pitt, ‘92

Producer, Oakwood University Broadcasting Network

David Franklin, ‘03

Host, Let’s Pray, Hope Channel

Atonte (Ware) Myers, ‘97

Host, Battles of Faith, 3ABN/Dare to Dream TV Networks

Stacia (Dulan) Wright, ‘00

Producer/Host, The Countdown

Alvin Chea, ‘89

CEO, Immerse Gospel Radio

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Why Worry?

by George Johnson, Jr.



Hello, my name is George and I am a worrier. Audible response from the crowd – “Hi George!” I know that there are many of you out there like me. It’s ok to admit it. As I admit it to you right now I am finding it therapeutic.

Most of my worrying tends to deal with things that have happened in my personal life. We are taught as men that we have to have everything planned out; everything must go well. We must have a Plan A! And what happens when we are not able to plan out every aspect of our lives? We worry more.

Now, I know that my worrisome personality hasn’t been classified into any clinical disorders. However, studies show that anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the United States affecting 40 million adults ages 18 and older. That is 18% of U.S. population. People with an anxiety disorder are three to five times more likely to go to the doctor and six times more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric disorders than those who do not suffer from anxiety disorders. And did you know that anxiety disorders develop from a complex set of risk factors, including genetics, brain chemistry, personality, and life events? Knowing these statistics makes me want to stop worrying. But I digress.

The other day, as I was sitting in my office here at Oakwood University, I got a chance to speak to a student about life – what’s his next step career-wise after Oakwood and a few other items. Funny thing, I saw some similarities of myself in this student. He seemed to want to make sure everything was well planned. And because of the similarities, I see nothing wrong with his trait. However, the Lord impressed upon me to share my path of communication ministry with him.

Looking back during my career, I remember at times worrying and trying to secure various employment opportunities. I remember one instance that would have allowed me to work as the public relations director of a well-known hospice facility in Baltimore, Md. I was offered the position, however, didn’t get back to the human resources office in the proper amount of time, which caused me to lose out on the offer. Three months later, the facility went bankrupt and everyone lost his or her job with nothing to fall back on.

Many times during my communication ministry career, I wondered and worried about the future. However, since “hindsight is 20/20,” and you are never looking at or analyzing things correctly until you have gone through them, one always tends to worry a little. I know (without a doubt) that God has blessed me with the work experiences that He has placed me in. I’ve been blessed to work in communication ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 17 years. Anything that I worried about and tried to control never seemed to work out. Everything that He has placed me in has worked out beyond anything that I ever worried about.

Why should we worry? In Jeremiah 29:11, God promises: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

So, maybe I should calm myself down – take a moment and breathe and know that God knows what He has for me. And He didn’t bring me this far to let me starve, let me fail, to be caught up in a tornado, or (fill in the blank).

I have to keep reminding myself that He knows my future and that’s enough for me to calm my worrying down a little.

George Johnson, Jr. is the director of integrated marketing and public relations for Oakwood University. He, and his wife Kimberly and their two sons (George III and Joshua) just moved to Huntsville, Ala., from Baltimore, Md., in January. One of the things that George “worried” about was the production of this magazine.



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