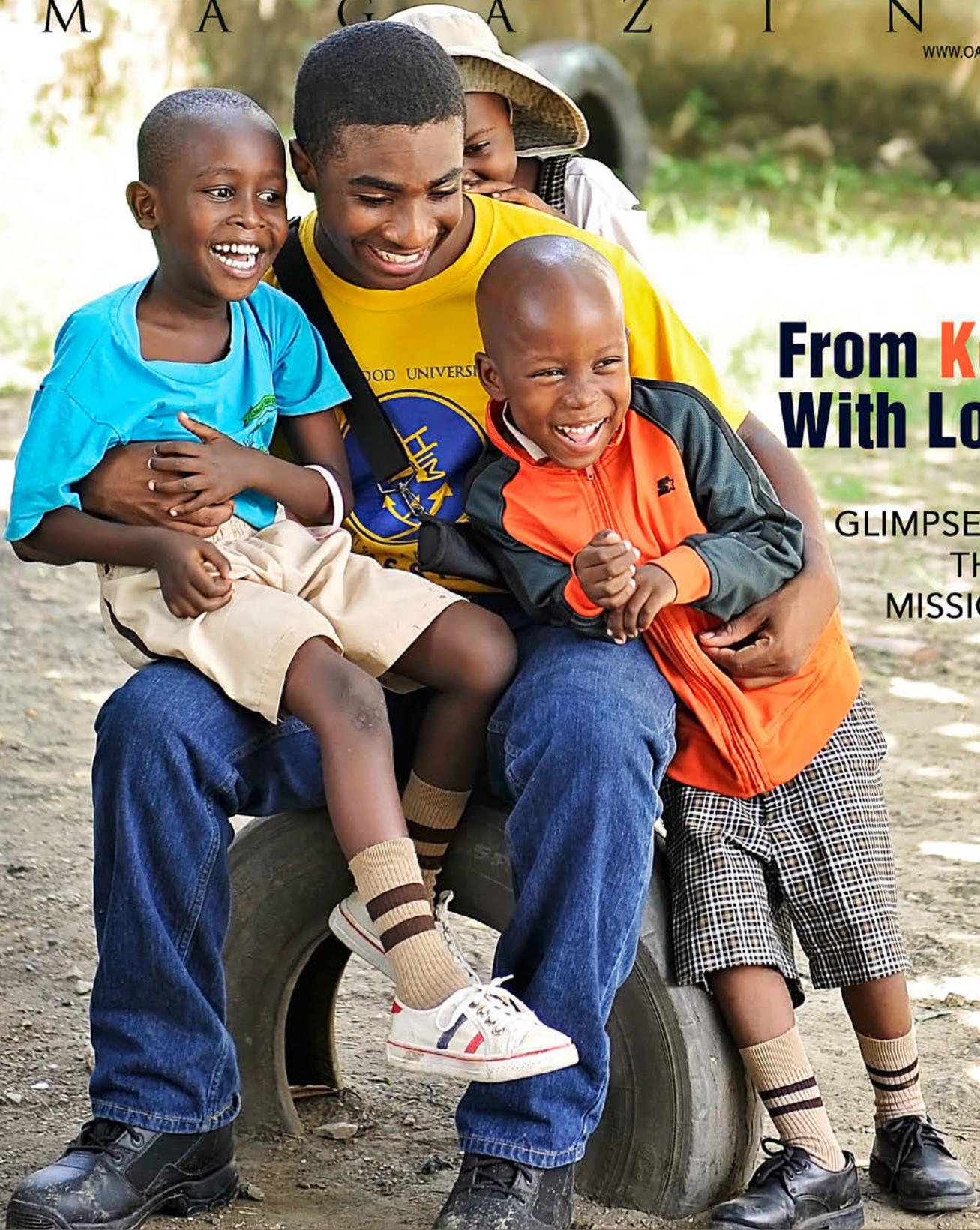


SUMMER 2014

OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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**From Kenya
With Love...**

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OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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Summer 2014.



Each year at the Commencement Exercises, the mace is carried in
by a University administrator. Photo by Richard Gordon.



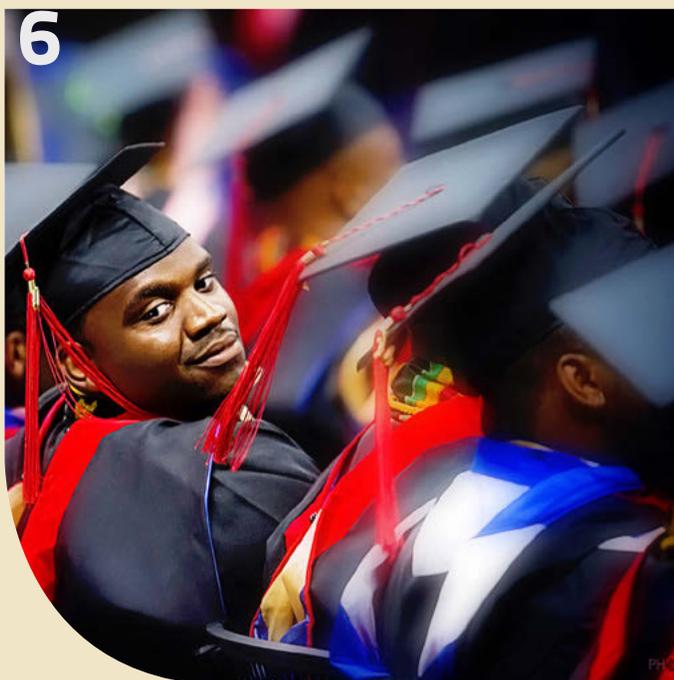
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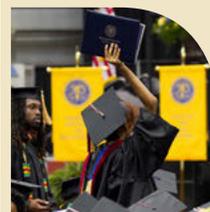


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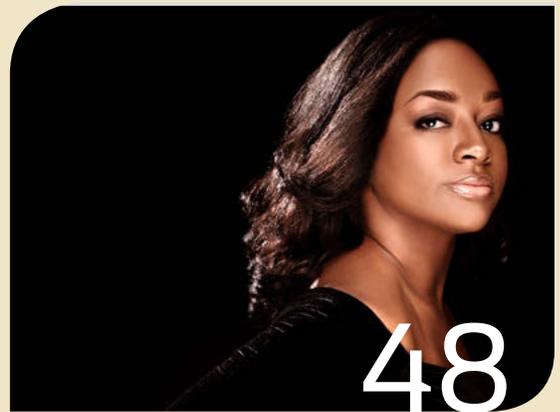
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Learning From Loved Ones

Cover photo: O'Neal Thomas, a sophomore theology and business management major from Ocala, Fla., takes a moment to play with the children of the Canaan Orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya. Photo by Ron Pollard.



EDITORIAL



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our first summer edition of *Oakwood Magazine*. When George Johnson came to Oakwood this past January from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, I knew that he had the reputation for a committed work ethic. So, as he assumed the new role of director of integrated marketing and public relations, we discussed increasing the frequency of *Oakwood Magazine*—from a twice-a-year publication to a quarterly publication. The rationale for more frequent communication from Oakwood is simple—once a year, or even twice a year, is not enough to do justice to all of the great things happening on the Oakwood campus. George accepted the challenge—and voila! This first official summer edition of *Oakwood Magazine* compliments our weekly e-news service, *InsideOakwood*, by providing our alumni, friends, and supporters more detailed information about the exciting progress and innovation taking place at Oakwood University.

For instance, in this edition we feature many of the activities that contribute to forming the Oakwood Man and the Oakwood Woman. These activities create the conditions—spiritual, physical, mental, cultural, social, and psychological—under which Oakwood students choose to reflect the values upon which this institution was founded. The New Beginnings program gives single parents (predominantly single moms) the opportunity to build a productive life for them and their child. We are grateful for your votes which helped us win our second Home Depot Retool Your School competition in which we won \$25,000. At the Faculty and Staff Think Tank—an innovative year-end gathering of faculty and staff, we reviewed the lessons learned from the past academic year and previewed the upcoming school year. We are digitizing *Oakwood Magazine*, so that our Oakwood story becomes globally accessible. These successful activities are the result of the work of many contributors—dedicated staff, diligent faculty, visionary administrators, and committed students. You will also read about the phenomenal breakthroughs happening on the philanthropy front from both individuals and organizations. All of these activities create a set of spiritual conditions under which students will daily choose “God First!”

As you open the pages of this summer edition, if you see something that really speaks to you, please feel free to send a note to me at Presidents office@oakwood.edu and let me know. Or if you wish to become active as a supporter, or promoter of Oakwood University, please send me a personal note. I promise I will read it and respond.

Leslie M. Pollard

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

God First!
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OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

Graduation: By The Numbers

313 Total graduates
115 Male
198 Female

72 Age of the oldest graduate
 (Elaine Willis-McKnight)

20 Age of the youngest graduate



Elaine Willis-McKnight was the oldest graduate in the Class of 2014. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

Top three states with the most graduate candidates:

115 Alabama
3.95 Highest GPA
 (Antonio McInnes)

27 California
23 Florida
13 Masters Graduates



Members of the Class of 2014. Photo by Richard Gordon.

FORTY Adult & Continuing Education (LEAP) Graduates
25 Dietetic Interns

FOUR Graduates with dual degrees
6 Graduates with double degrees

35 Major with highest number of graduates: Biology



President Leslie Pollard challenges the commencement audience to take "selfies" to try to set a "trending" record. Photo by Terrence Bowen.

Note: An additional eight "guests" marched with the class, defined as those who chose not to march at their respective institutions because of Sabbath observance and other scheduling concerns.

2014 GRADUATION RE-CAP



Lennox Brown, Wyatt Phillips, and Dennis Doyley. Photo by Edward Goodman IV.



Husband and wife - Jeffery and Melissa Terry graduate together. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



Deonae Dickinson shows off her creative graduation glasses. Photo by Edward Goodman IV.



Monique Norris is satisfied with her diploma. Photo by Terrence Bowen.

Sydnee Rae Byrd and Dawn Peters take the "selfie challenge" during the commencement exercises. Photo by Terrence Bowen.



Creative caps. Photo by Edward Goodman IV.



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY



Tirzah Hawley helps Manoah Hyppolite put on his graduation cap. Photo by Edward Goodman IV.



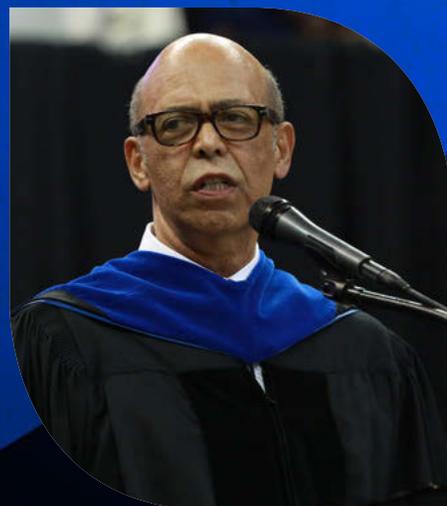
Nurses pinning ceremony. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



GOD FIRST!



Dr. Ron C. Smith, '79, president of the Southern Union, served as the Baccalaureate speaker. Photo by Terrence Bowen.



Dr. Michael Lomax, president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, served as the Commencement address speaker. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

2014 GRADUATION RE-CAP



Top Left: Lauren Easton, Brandon Ramey, and Ariana Gill. Photo by Edward Goodman IV.

Top Right: Oakwood's Social Work graduates present a check to the Social Work Department. Photo by Richard Gordon.

Left: Graduates of the Education Department at the Teacher Dedication. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



ENTER TO LEARN...DEPART TO SERVE



Senior Reception. Photo by Richard Gordon.



Members of the Class of 2014 at the Tree Planting Ceremony. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

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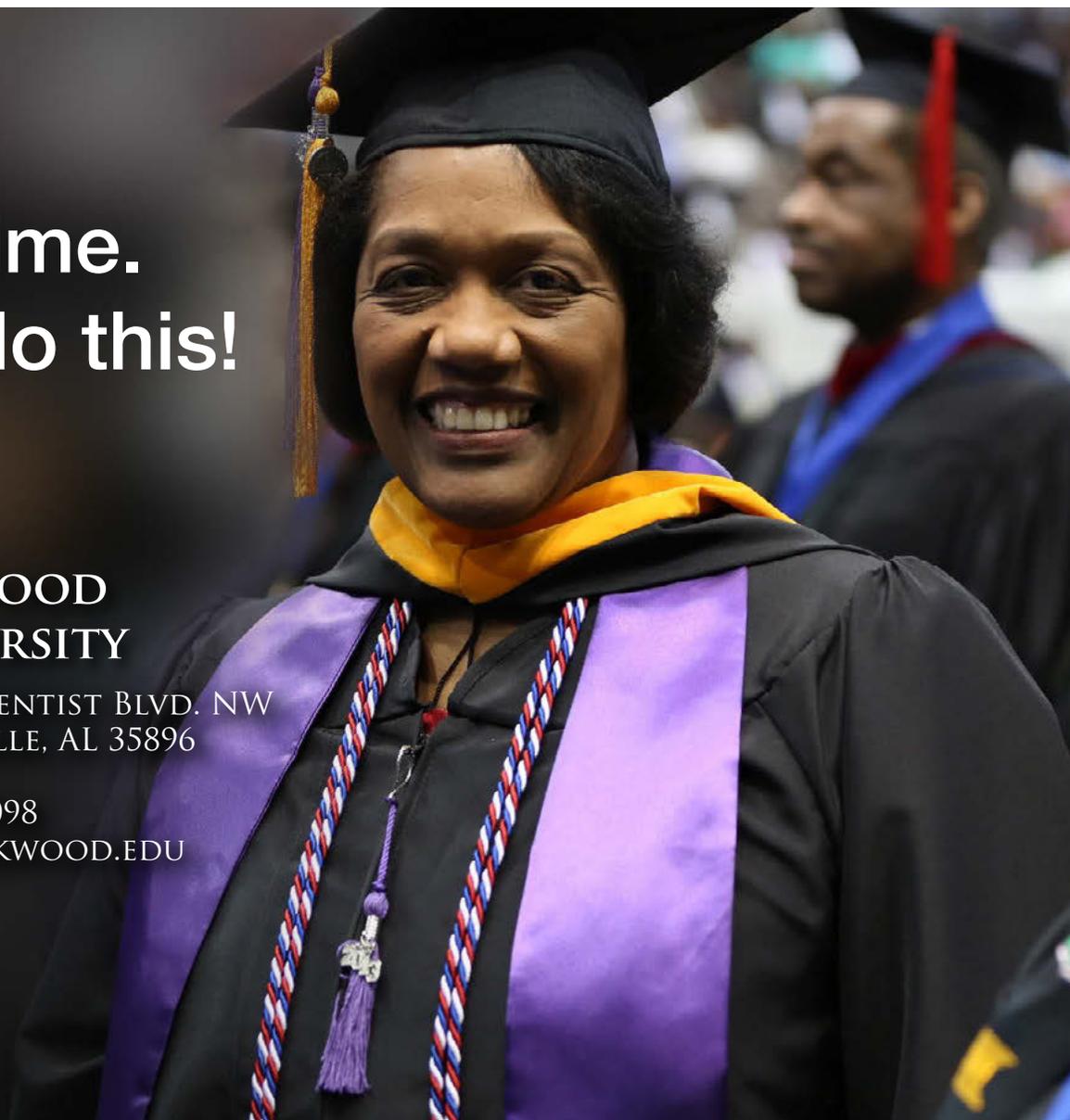
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2014

ALUMNI WEEKEND

a Success

by Jennifer Mosley Stone, '78, DDS, president, OUA



Photo by Anthony Chornes II

More than 10,000 alumni and friends gathered on April 10-13 for Oakwood's Homecoming Weekend for a fun and spirit-filled time. It was a grand sight! The theme for the 47th Homecoming weekend was "Oakwoodite for Life." Honor classes got together and reminisced about the old times and made new commitments to "keep in touch." The speakers, Dr. Mark McCleary and Pastors Paul and Patrick Graham preached end-time messages for a present day people. I couldn't forget the Sunday market place. Everyone enjoyed the food, rare finds and fellowship. Plan now to attend Homecoming 2015. Check our website at oakwoodalumni.org for more details.

Enjoy some of the moments captured from the 2014 Alumni Weekend festivities.

The Youth Mentoring Task Force (YMTF) program is designed to bring to predominantly minority colleges and universities informed, dedicated, and successful professionals from every walk of life. Pictured here are Ricky Allen, '91, a clinical information specialist from McKesson Corporation, and Lynn Davis, '76, sign language interpreter, presenting to a classroom full of Oakwood students concerning their careers.

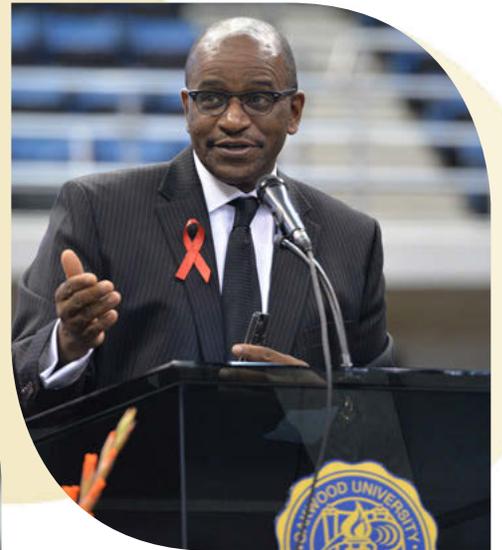
Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



Jeffery White (pictured in green) at the Lynn Ross Golf Tournament. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



Dr. Leslie Pollard gives greetings during the Sabbath service. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.



OUAA President Jennifer Mosley Stone, '78, DDS. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

Opera Diva, Angela Brown, '91, sings with the Aeolians during the Saturday night benefit concert. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.





2014

ALUMNI WEEKEND



5K Race. Photo by Timothy Privette.



Basketball Tournament. Photo by Timothy Privette.



DP Concert. Photo by Timothy Privette.



Bell Tower Ministries Reunion. Photo by Timothy Privette.

Congratulations to our National and Regional Honorees:

National Honorees

Alumnus of the Year

Pastor Herman L. Davis Sr., '69
Greater Orlando Chapter, Southeastern Conference
Pastor Herman L. Davis Sr. was ordained into Seventh-day Adventist Church ministry in 1974 and has served the church for 44 years. Currently, he serves as the pastor of the Mt. Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church in Orlando, Fla.

Alumna of the Year

Patricia McBean Pates, '83
Greater Orlando Chapter, Southeastern Conference
Patricia McBean Pates is retired but is currently working on her Ph.D. She worked for 16 years as director of research, grants and evaluation at the University of Central Florida. She is very active in her church and community.

Family of the Year

Harry & Daisy Swinton Sr. Family
D. B. Reid Chapter (Alabama), South Central Conference
Harry and Daisy Swinton are the parents of five adult children, and grandparents of seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Mr. Swinton transferred to Oakwood in 1955 and Mrs. Swinton attended Alabama A&M College and Calhoun Community College. Mr. Swinton began working for Oakwood in 1957 in the cafeteria and continued working through the years as executive of the College Store, Snack Bar and Bakery. They are both retired after spending 40 years in the workforce.

Certificate of Merit

Cassandra Philogene
Greater Orlando Chapter, Southeastern Conference
Cassandra E. Philogene has organized several successful events with local municipalities in the Central Florida region such as the 2012 Winter Park Community Health Fair where Celebrity Chef Charles Mattocks did several presentations on eating healthier. She is currently an assistant dean at Adventist University of Health Sciences.

Regional Conference Honorees

Family of the Year – Northeastern Conference
The James & Delva Brown Family
A. Samuel Rashford Chapter

Family of the Year – Allegheny East Conference
The Ronnie & Janice Vanderhorst Family
Greater Washington DC Chapter

Family of the Year – Southeastern Conference
The Dr. Roscoe & Osceola Howard, III Family
Greater Orlando Chapter

Alumna of the Year – Northeastern Conference
Dr. Alicia Massop-Flowers
A. Samuel Rashford Chapter

Alumnus of the Year – South Central Conference
Danny Chandler
Anna Knight/Mississippi Chapter

Certificate of Merit – South Central Conference
Carol Thomas
D.B. Reid Chapter

- Information supplied from the Oakwood University Alumni Association.

Colloquium 2014:

Preparing for the New Academic School Year

by Dr. Tim McDonald



Dr. Paul Brantley



Pastor Debleaire Snell



Dr. Ivory Toldson

As we move toward the start of the new year, with its anticipated challenges and blessings, our President Dr. Leslie Pollard provides assurance to the entire constituency of parents, alumni, faculty, staff, and students, including potential students that the state of the University is spiritually strong, financially viable, and that placing God first insures that our “plans and programs are destined to fail except for Divine intervention.”

“Start strong and finish strong” are challenging words many professors have used for years to motivate their students to educational excellence. Well, the tables were flipped when faculty and staff from the University were challenged with similar words during the school’s Colloquium (August 4-7) focused on the theme “Sustaining our Mission in Challenging Times.” Colloquium is a time when the faculty and staff come together to start the new school year. Guest speakers were invited to make inspirational and professional presentations during the gathering focused on the selected theme. The intention, according to President Pollard, was not only to review and understand the challenges of our day, but to stay focused on the premise of “motivating our faculty and staff to remain true to the mission of Adventist higher education and Oakwood which is to transform students through biblically based education for leadership service to God and humanity.”

This year’s guest list for Colloquium 2014 included Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala., who focused on the continuing need for Adventist higher education and Oakwood’s focus on training the heart. With his unique presentation style, Pastor Snell inspired attendees to rely on the Bible, the teachings of the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Holy Spirit to support the mission of Oakwood University.

Also Dr. Paul Brantley, vice president for the North American Division, focused his presentation around the continuing

need for Adventist higher education and our focus on training the heart, head and hand. Brantley also presented statistical information focused on Adventist academy graduation rates providing a base for expected enrollment trends.

Also, Dr. Ivory Toldson of the White House Initiative on HBCUs provided a broader view of some of the challenges facing HBCUs nationally and how Oakwood may plan and strategize now in order to avoid many of these same issues within the near future. Another session by Dr. Colwick Wilson of Loma Linda University dealt with the topic “Integrating Theory with Analysis.”

Other reports and presentations on specific direction and targeted purposes for the new year were presented by the president, deans and vice presidents.

Particular attention highlighted aspects of the newly developed Strategic Action Plan, updates on infusing Biblical Foundations in the curriculum and progress on implementing critical thinking across the curriculum as specified in the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

- Dr. Timothy McDonald is provost and senior vice president of Oakwood University.

the PRIVILEGE of HELPING

by George Johnson Jr.

Leroy and Lois Peters (center) present the \$1.2M donation check to Kisha Norris, executive director for Advancement & Development and President Leslie Pollard.



Before Leroy and Lois Peters met, their parents, through God, instilled in them the practice of philanthropy... Living in one of the Boston, Mass., urban housing projects, Leroy remembers his family always helping others. One day he heard a knock on the front door. Instead of turning the person away, Leroy's mom cooked for the man and he left. Suspicious, Leroy and his two brothers followed the stranger until they lost sight of him. Perplexed, they returned home to tell their mother. Her response centered on Hebrews 13:2 about entertaining angels.

Lois grew up in Jamaica and in the late 1960s, she and her family moved to Boston. Like Leroy, she remembers stories of her family helping others. While growing up, her family gave whatever they had and people were always moving in and out of their home. "I grew up seeing people taking care of others with whatever they had," she said.

Who knew that they would end up together in philanthropic happiness? God knew...

In 1970, Leroy had just returned home from serving in the military. Having a close relationship with his mother, he spoke to her about getting married. The two of them went into a spare room and Leroy prayed for a wife. The following Sabbath, Leroy and Lois met at a choir rehearsal at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church in Boston. Three years later, they were married. Seven years into their marriage, Lois heard that story for the first time. "I realized that nothing could come between us because God had a plan for our lives and plans for keeping us together," she said.

And keeping them together He has done! God blessed them to raise three adult children: LaKeisha, LeRoy, and Prentiss. Among many other things, He has blessed them to be able to purchase and manage several assisted living facilities in Maryland. These facilities provide care for the elderly in a safe and supportive home-like environment.

At the 2014 Alumni Weekend program of Oakwood University, it was announced that the Media Center being constructed on campus would be named after Leroy and Lois Peters. Their gift of \$1.2M would help to finish the construction project.

Many are wondering how they are able to do this project, especially since they just had another building named after them at another Seventh-day Adventist university.

George: What compels you to have a heart of giving?

Leroy: Everything we think we own isn't ours. We are put on this earth to give and share. We need to have faith in God and trust that He has and He does work everything out. We have to get rid of self first.

Lois: It is a privilege to be used by God. God does things in His own time and He chooses us saying, "Stand still. I'm going to use you. I'm going to do something through you." I feel selected and blessed to be in favor with God. We couldn't have worked hard enough to live the lives that we live. How does this all happen? God does things in His own time and He chooses us.

George: When Oakwood approached you about the possibility of giving, what was going through your mind?

Lois: I believe that when the leaders approached us about giving, it was God through them asking us to give. Oakwood has millions of people that could do this. During that time, we were in the midst of another project with another university. We prayed and prayed. God provided us with more business that allowed us to do this.

George: What encouraging words would you share with others who are hesitant to give or feel that they aren't able to give?

Leroy: Trust in God. When Jesus was on this earth, the first thing He did was pray to the Father. Pray, "This is Your will – not mine." Tell Him that you are working for Him. "This is what You gave me. Show me how to use it."

Lois: If you are asked to give, that means God selected you to do the giving and He will give you what you need to give.

The Peters are committed to helping students continue their academic journey. They believe that the work they do will help others continue their calling in life. "God put us here to be stewards to help others," said Leroy. Lois added, "Giving generates more than just your name on a building; it generates the privilege of helping."

THINK Tank

Helps Faculty and Staff to Focus on Future of the University
by George Johnson Jr.

“Come to this Think Tank with a sense of urgency for the mission of Oakwood University. I hope that you will embrace that sense of urgency and that you will throw yourself into offering your best and brightest insights into our discussions,” said Dr. Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood at the beginning of the Faculty Staff Think Tank. The annual event, themed this year “Framing Our Future,” took place May 13-15 and 19-22. This focus of these meetings was to regroup and reflect on what has happened throughout the past school year.

While addressing attendees in the opening session, Pollard stated that the organization grounded in “opportunistic behavior guided by the moment, or reactionary behavior based on what others do” will not contribute to the development of Oakwood University. Therefore he, and the administration, centered the Think Tank sessions around the strategic direction of the University in the areas of: university mission and culture, educational effectiveness, learning supportive environments, research and employee development, advancement and development of the University, responsible management in long term stability, and operational and technological leadership. “I want Oakwood University to be the premier institution of higher education in North America. But we only get there by being intentional about our desired future,” said Pollard.

President Pollard also envisioned a robust future of growth for the University: increasing enrollment to 3,000 students in 2015-2016 academic year and by intentionally growing online delivery. “I believe the stakes have never been higher for Oakwood University. That urgency is what drives us to discuss how we can be the best that we can be,” he said.

One of the interactive sessions that opened the eyes of the attendees included an “all-hands-on-deck” approach to improving student retention. Led out by George Ashley, Ph.D., acting vice president for academic administration, the reports dealt with the roles of faculty and staff with retention, customer service, and successful practices with enrollment. “Retention is everybody’s business at Oakwood, that means all faculty and staff regardless of where they are positioned,” said Ashley.

According to the retention presentation by Student Enrollment Services, one of the keys to retention depends on how faculty and staff respond to students. The continued expansion of a supportive institutional culture can have a profound influence on how students will behave and the commitment they will make towards achievement of their academic goals. The newly developed retention committee has committed to focusing on two retention factors: academic support and social experiences. For academic support, this means enabling students to have positive experiences in their interactions with faculty, interface with the curriculum, experiences in writing, use of the library resources, and their general involvement in the multi-faced aspects of learning at the collegiate level. In terms of social experiences, it means creating a learning environment that will enable students to have positive interactions with their peers, within their student clubs and organizations, and general social involvement within the University. “For students to succeed we must create an academic ambiance that will foster positive experiences in both of these environments,” said Ashley.

Other sessions included reports from QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan), Industry briefings, Institutional Effectiveness, and Service Learning. The two-week meetings concluded with a year-ending celebration picnic for employees at the Home Depot Pavilion to “jump start” the summer vacation for many employees.



Doctors Martin Hodnett and Cheryl Galley converse during one of the icebreaker activities. Photo by Anthony Chornes II.

Biblical FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM



One of the major components of the 2014 Faculty and Staff Think Tank was the Biblical Foundations Conference sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life. According to **Howard Weems, Ph.D.**, senior chaplain and special assistant to the president for spiritual life, “the Biblical Foundation Symposium was designed to help faculty understand the importance of biblical based teaching and how to insert measurable faith and learning outcomes into course syllabi as well as to teach staff how to disciple and lead students to Jesus.”

Listed below is a synopsis of some of the presentations:

President Leslie Pollard presented a devotional in which he examined the University’s current practices through the rhetorical lenses of a “cosmic metanarrative.” Proceeding with the understanding that metanarratives are inescapable in our understanding of reality, Dr. Pollard proposed that ours is a metanarrative that is shaped by the theme of the Great Controversy. Participants were challenged to “identify and critique the dominant assumptions and assertions of [their] subject matter in the light of Scripture’s perspectives on reality and knowledge.”

Ganoune Diop, Ph.D., associate director in the General Conference’s Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, continued the series with a discussion on a type of discipleship that is shaped by a “biblical worldview.” He asserted that one must first be a disciple if he/she wishes to make disciples in the classroom. In discussing the need for a more egalitarian community, Diop suggested, “our view of human nature determines how we relate to people.”

Francisco Burgos-Suárez, M.Ed., assistant professor in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, shared the results of his doctoral research on “The Impact of the Bible in Teaching and Learning Spanish within a Community of Practice.” Countering theories that African-Americans are academically challenged when learning a second language, Burgos-Suárez shared success in using “familiar texts” as a primary textbook in a foreign language course.

Keith Augustus Burton, Ph.D., director of the Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, presented ideas for delivering the Oakwood University Experience online. After identifying academic, social and spiritual aspects of the on campus experience, he highlighted those elements that could easily be transferred via cyberspace. Through the use of course management systems, video conferencing, and social media, students can receive a virtual Oakwood experience for *mens, corpus and spiritus* (mind, body, and spirit).

After a short break, Diop continued the second part of his discussion on the necessity for Oakwood professors to have a biblical worldview as he called for all to see things from God’s point of view. Referencing the law of extraterritoriality, he shared that all are ambassadors for God’s kingdom. He closed with the charge: “Go with the boldness of the Lord. Transform this campus to be a place where whoever comes will know that this is a place where God can be found.”

- Dr. Keith Burton contributed to this report.



Oakwood Wins

NATIONAL

Runner-up Title in Honda Competition

by Kyna Hinson

Quick!

- What are the capitals of Georgia—the state and the Eastern European country?
- Who is the first woman elected president of an African nation?
- What two natural disasters set off the nuclear reactor meltdowns in Japan in 2011?

You're under pressure, the clock is ticking, and you can't use Google or any other search engine. You have to know!

Welcome to the world of the Oakwood University Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Team (HCASC). They know, and their knowledge is no accident. They learn facts from every field of study and discipline, then give their answers during practice sessions, in rapid-fire succession—complete with lights and buzzers! Honda, the automotive corporation which has sponsored this competition for 25 years, supplies some of the questions. The members devour them, along with thick books of well-known facts, obscure facts and drills. The entire team consists of seven to 10 absolutely dedicated members, and four from this number travel to compete.

The four competitors for 2014 were:

Kenesha R. Bennett, Captain
Greg F. Edouard
Jennifer C. Miller
Antoine A. Southern

Additional members came to practice each week—and the other 2014 team participants who prepared were:

Parris Boles
Sanna Gay Hird
Sesly Huerfano
Jhanel Tam
David Camacho

Their schedule: At the height of preparation for competition, they practiced together three times a week for three hours on Fridays, five hours on Sundays, and three and a half hours on Wednesdays. They met with Coach Rennae Elliott for individual drills one to two hours each week. Yes, that totaled 13.5 hours per person each week—in addition to class work, homework, and sometimes sleep!

In preparing for meets, teams agreed to have Sunday breakfasts at 6 a.m., and then they participated in a full day of drills as nationals drew near. They pared down their lives and diets to the bare essentials, (in the spirit of Daniel, many completely eliminating sugar), in order to cultivate clarity of mind and a razor-sharp focus.

Their reward? In 2014, from a starting field of 48 other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Oakwood University team placed second, bowing only to Fisk University in the final round - earning an institutional grant of \$25,000. This year marked Oakwood's 24th year participating in the competition and its 18th time qualifying for the National Championship Tournament.

Of course, as is the case for all good stories, this story doesn't end there!

Rennae Elliott, who doubles as chair of the Communication Department; who has been absolutely dedicated to this team and to many others, and who has been prepping members in this fashion "for the last 16 years!" was named the HCASC Coach of the Year for 2014.

Elliott noted that "Oakwood has participated [in HCASC] since 1989," the year the competition began. Teresa Allen, a

former Oakwood student activities director, organized teams in the beginning. Sometime later, Keith Burton, (now director of the Center for Adventist Muslim Relations), coached Oakwood teams. Burton enlisted Elliott's help in preparing the team over several cycles. Then after a time, Elliott noticed she was on her own as the coach—"Keith just wasn't there!" she said with a wry smile. It all worked out. They all played their parts in making Oakwood University home to winning teams—year after year.

And by the way, here are those answers:

- Capitals of Georgia: Atlanta and Tbilisi
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia
- Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, both killers



Greg Edouard, Kenesha Bennett, Rennae Elliott, Jennifer Miller, and Antoine Southern

In competition: Edouard, Bennett, and Southern



HCASC - Oakwood University Team Earnings
\$277,000.00+

HCASC - Oakwood University Team Placements

2007 – Round of 16
2008 – Champions
2009 – Champions
2010 – Round of 16
2011 – Finalist
2012 – Finalist
2013 – Semi-Finalist
2014 – Finalist



Oakwood Receives RE-ACCREDITATION

by George Ashley, Ph.D.

Oakwood University has received notice that it has been fully re-accredited through 2018 by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA). Five years is the maximum term of accreditation awarded by AAA. The AAA visit is a comprehensive external review of the University's ability to implement its mission using pre-determined operational standards as well as its adherence to the philosophical beliefs of Adventist education.

The site visitors consisted of a diverse team of Adventist higher education administrators and faculty who were tasked to investigate Oakwood's performance in its execution of a variety of internal and external mission focused areas. Some of the areas examined included Oakwood's current and future academic programs, spirituality, financial solvency, personnel, and facilities.

The committee's report provided a number of commendations on the quality of Oakwood's academic programs. A few notable commendations were:

1. The administration and faculty's thoughtfulness and deliberate approach in providing a quality curriculum that seeks to develop for service and Heaven.
2. The incorporation of a sound, critical-thinking curriculum into the freshman courses that will enable students to build their competencies in their entry level courses and prepare them for greater critical thinking responsibilities as they advance to higher-level courses. The committee also commended the design of the critical thinking curriculum, which supports the Adventist philosophy of Christian education, and prepares students to incorporate these skills as aspiring Christian professionals.
3. The faculty and staff's commitment to service learning as one of the core element of its curriculum.

The next official AAA site visit is scheduled for 2018.



OU's Emergency Operations Plan Keeps Pace

by Stephen Foster

The Oakwood University Police Department (OUPD), the University's public safety and security patrol, is on the cutting edge of emergency management preparedness. Under the leadership of Chief Lewis Eakins, director of OUPD, Oakwood University is in the process of revising its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which includes Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP). The EOP follows the guidelines that have been recently established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to insure that all components of the plan deal with mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.

COOP is also a major disaster preparedness initiative that focuses on continuing or expeditiously resuming and performing critical functions during and after a disaster. Both plans should work in tandem to insure campus resiliency.

Disaster planning not only makes good sense, but it is becoming more of a requirement by government and regulatory agencies. Having a disaster plan is in accordance with The Clery Act—a federal law that requires all United States colleges and universities that participate in federal financial

aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on or near their campuses. Accreditation agencies such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools mandate that adequate written guidelines be in place to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Emergency Operations Plans must stand up to constant testing and revisions so that they will be applicable if and when a disaster strikes. On Oakwood's campus, there are three types of mandate exercises: 1) table-top exercise, in which a scenario or scenarios are detailed in discussion; 2) functional exercise, in which a map of the campus with staging figurines (police cars, firefighters, etc.); and 3) a full exercise with actors involved, which allows for a dress rehearsal. According to Eakins, one of the most recent exercises conducted was a tabletop exercise that dealt with a winter storm during the 2014 spring registration.

Eakins reports that FEMA headquarters is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize FEMA training at Oakwood University for all of FEMA Region 4, which comprises eight states.



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Meet the Officers of the 2014-2015 United Student Movement

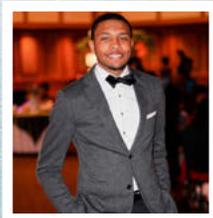
The United Student Movement (USM) is the student government organization of Oakwood University. As stated in its constitution, the USM was established “in order to enhance our spiritual, academic, and social experience” at Oakwood University. Every student enrolled in Oakwood University is a member of the United Student Movement; hence it is the largest student-run organization on campus.

The USM, through its offices, provides many services. These include, but are in no way limited to social, academic, athletic, and religious activities. Some of the highlights of these activities include the spring banquet, University bowl competition, intramural competitions, and tent revival.

Additionally, the USM produces the official Oakwood University newspaper, *The Spreading Oak*, and the official Oakwood University yearbook, *The Acorn*.

The USM also serves as a liaison between the University administration and the student body, addressing problems and needs of the students-at-large. The offices are organized into two main groups – the executive offices and the senate. The executive offices are elected at the end of the previous school year into the positions specified in the constitution. The senate is elected at the beginning of each school year and consists of student representatives from each of the residence halls and the off-campus population. Now is the time to take advantage of the many fulfilling opportunities to serve within the USM, and become an active member of your student government.

-Taken from the Oakwood University Student Handbook, 2012-2015



President

Name: Tahjai Conkerite
Major: Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing
“Observation is good. Questioning is better. However, finding solutions is best. I would love for the students of Oakwood University to develop this mindset.”

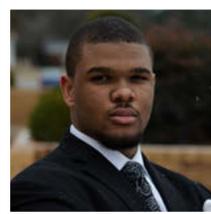
Parliamentarian

Name: Joel C. Branch II
Majors: Computer Science and Finance
“I would like to impact the entire campus by creating a loving, God-fearing, friendly environment that enables us as students to not only impact fellow students lives but the peoples lives we encounter on a day-to-day basis in a positive way.”



Executive Vice President

Name: Kyle Smith
Major: Ministerial Theology
“My goal for USM is to be more accountable to the students, so that together we can make an impact on the campus, while also creating memories through the Oakwood Experience. I want the students to know that I, and the rest of USM are the student’s voice, and we are here to work on their behalf.”



Public Relations Director

Name: RaeChelle English
Majors: Public Relations and Marketing
“The goal of public relations this school year is to tighten the relationship between USM and the student body. Through transparent communication from the offices and consistent feedback from the students, the students should feel like they are a part of USM.”



Financial Vice

Name: Charles E. White III
Majors: Finance and Management Information Systems
“I’d like to distribute funds in a way that will not only benefit the Student Government, but the student body as a whole.”

Marketing Director

Name: Teymi Townsend
Major: Photojournalism
“I want the students of Oakwood to be involved in the different activities that happen and for them to be involved, they need to be informed.”



Academic Vice

Name: Daniel Chandler
Majors: Political Science and Chemistry
“My goal is to upgrade the notion of what academics is at Oakwood University and to set a plan that will help others achieve any and all of their academic goals.”



Director of Production

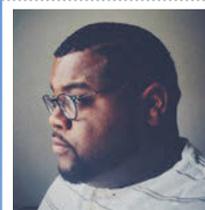
Name: Julian Magloire
Major: Accounting
“As Director of Productions, my objective is to produce quality films to distribute information for each department within U.S.M in a creative, interactive, and informative fashion.”

Social Vice

Name: Keli Wright

Major: Biomedical Sciences

"I would like to enable students to socialize as well as fellowship with one another so that Oakwood is an "experience" and not just a "place" for everyone."



Yearbook Co-Editor

Name: Chad Lupoe

Majors: Business Administration and Marketing

"As Co-Editor, I plan to help produce a yearbook publication that will not only catch the eye of current students, but will capture the hearts of those to come."



Athletic Vice President

Name: James Thomas Fields

Major: Fitness & Wellness

"I'd like to help unite the student body through positive, physical-social activities to promote better health and living."

Yearbook Co-Editor

Name: Edliv R. Noël

Major: Biomedical Sciences

As Yearbook Editor, in collaboration with my co-editor, I plan to help with Oakwood's cause by publishing a book that embodies the vivaciousness of the student body, and the experiences of the school year.

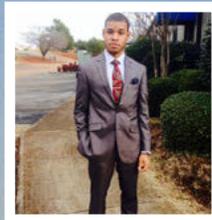


Special Events Coordinator

Name: Chelsea Cobb

Major: Accounting Major

"I want to make sure whatever events are planned really reflect what the student body wants. I hope to really to bring back school spirit and leave the student body wanting more."



Newspaper Editor

Name: Jyremy Reid

Majors: Print Journalism and Commercial Art

"My primary goal is keep the people of Oakwood University up-to-date with the top stories."



Music Coordinator

Name: Kalen Banks

Major: Composition and Recording Arts

"I'd like to help to raise the standard of music at Oakwood by bringing new approaches, new ideas, and an all-new CD with bonus features."

Executive Secretary

Name: Alexandria Carrington

Major: Pre-law and Political Science

"I would like to make sure that Oakwood communicates better with each other, not just in USM but the entire student body."



Religious Vice

Name: Jordan Houston

Major: Theology

"I want to create an atmosphere where students are continually growing and experiencing Christ through each others gifts and talents."



Senate Secretary

Name: Chelsea Browne

Majors: Social Work and Spanish

"I would like to help the cause of Oakwood by sharing what I've learned spiritually, physically, me and socially at this institution."

New Beginnings Re-awarded Grant

by Geraldine M. Thompson, MSW, program coordinator/counselor, New Beginnings

The New Beginnings Single Parent Resource Center of Oakwood University is a program that offers support and assistance to single parent students attending institutions of higher education in the North Alabama area. The program has served students from Oakwood University, Alabama A&M University, Calhoun Community College, Drake Technical College and University of Alabama in Huntsville. Some of the services provided include part-time childcare assistance, tuition/textbook scholarships and support groups. These services are largely funded by grants and donations.

In December of 2013, a proposal was submitted to the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, an organization known for its philanthropic efforts. For several years, New Beginnings had requested funds from his foundation and has been awarded each time. Most recently, a request was made to the Daniel Foundation for funding. The primary needs identified in the proposal were to increase tuition/textbook scholarships, expand child-care assistance and to continue running the on-site food pantry.

New Beginnings was notified this past February that the Daniel Foundation of Alabama had decided to award the program \$10,000. These funds will be utilized over the course of the 2014-15 school year to assist single parent students not only remain in school, but graduate with their degree.

If you'd like more information concerning New Beginnings, please call (256) 726-7801



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Following MAPS to the End-time Destination

by Nadya Scott, student writer



Las Vegas, Nevada Pastor Wayne O'Bannon (OC '74, fourth from right) celebrates his second Oakwood degree, a 2009 master's of arts in pastoral studies, with fellow MAPS classmates. Photo by George Daly

Oakwood's "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve" mantra conveys well its pioneering graduate degree program, MAPS (Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies). Established in 2008, MAPS prepares students to minister and serve beyond even their original careers. Its three targeted audiences for students are:

- People with college degrees, seeking graduate school instruction in religion and theology;
- Lay members already involved in their local churches; and especially
- Women serving in local church leadership roles, who desire advanced pastoral education.

"The MAPS program was developed after we recognized the need for further preparation of students who want to serve as leaders and minister to others," explained MAPS coordinator and associate religion professor, Dr. Trevor Fraser. "We seek to teach individuals in the program to use their spiritual gifts and abilities, in a leadership position. The program prepares participants to be spiritual leaders who can effectively teach, minister, and serve."

A 1974 Oakwood graduate in business, Wayne O'Bannon decided to return to Oakwood after being called to minister as an associate pastor in Nevada. As a lay leader, O'Bannon felt the need to expand his leadership and spiritual abilities for this offered position. "The MAPS program provided me with all the knowledge I needed to be an effective spiritual leader," he recalled. "It was difficult at times, but it

was well worth it," he said. O'Bannon completed the program in 2009.

Janet Rugless Poles who serves as an Oakwood University financial aid counselor is also an accomplished composer/arranger and choral director. She shares, "I chose MAPS because I was in an established career that allowed me to interact and touch people's lives and I wanted to hone the skills I had, to be a better instrument for God to use."

The MAPS program offers its students a holistic education. It not only molds students into great spiritual leaders but it also enhances students' personal spiritual, lives and prepares them to be leaders in all environments. MAPS is a program of 36 semester hours, with a Church Development concentration.

In order to provide students with the holistic education they need to become qualified leaders, the program offers various teaching formats. Faculty teach through lectures, classroom discussions, group presentations, and onsite visits.

Fraser says, "The program helps students to identify spiritual gifts they may not have known they possessed. Our program helps adult learners identify and develop their gifts, as well as how to use them to minister to others."

For more information, contact Carol Boyd, graduate admissions coordinator at (256) 726-8391 or check out www.oakwood.edu/MAPS.

-Tim Allston contributed to this story

Madagascar Mission 2014

by Martin Hodnett, Psy.D., assistant professor,
Department of Psychological Sciences

On June 21, seven ambassadors representing Oakwood University embarked on a mission of goodwill to the beautiful island nation of Madagascar. Located off the south-eastern coast of the continent of Africa, Madagascar has a population of 20 million people of which 117, 648 are Seventh-day Adventists.

While there, the Oakwood delegation was blessed to work in Mahajanga, a city on the northwest coast. It also serves as the headquarters for the Mahajanga Regional Mission (MRM) of Seventh-day Adventists. MRM is comprised of 105 churches with a membership of 25,906. While there, 145 people were baptized and another 145 people will be baptized later because of additional evangelistic efforts.

During the 16-day visit, several objectives were accomplished with great success:

Healthcare Expo and Clinic Groundbreaking

Stephanie Weems, Ph.D., a nurse practitioner, and Alexandrine Randriamahefa, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, conducted and orientation for local healthcare personnel to facilitate a Health Expo on June 28. Using NEWSTART as a framework, local Adventist physicians, nurses, masseuses and other healthcare professionals and students volunteered to serve 221 individuals from the community surrounding the MRM office. In preparation for this event, Dr. Randriamahefa, Pastor Rado Albert Andrianiaina, MRM official, and Howard Weems, Ph.D., senior chaplain in the Office of Spiritual Life, were interviewed on local and national television stations, print media and radio to promote the Health Expo and the evangelistic meetings.

On July 4, the delegation participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a community-based healthcare clinic for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They presented the MRM a check made possible by generous donors. The Adventist leadership of MRM was pleased to accept the contributions of Oakwood alumni and friends to fund the construction of their clinic.

Champions for Jesus Children's Program

Lisa James, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Math and Computer Sciences, Dr. Stephanie Weems and Dr. Randriamahefa worked with the local children's ministry leaders to conduct a vacation bible school program for local children at multiple sites. Additionally, the Oakwood delegation donated craft materials and prizes for the 251 children who took part in the program. On Sabbath afternoon of July 5 (the last full day in Mahajanga), 200 items of children's clothing were distributed.

Chaplaincy Training, Week of Prayer and Evangelistic Meetings

Francisco Cross, M.S., '10, conducted three chaplaincy training seminars for clergy and interested laypersons of MRM. Afterwards, Chaplain Cross remarked that he observed "the depth of intelligence of the people of Madagascar and their desire and hunger to learn and to be more for Christ." In addition to Chaplain Cross' nightly evangelistic meetings, he also conducted a week of prayer for the 326 students of

the primary and secondary school (partial recipients of this quarter's 13th Sabbath School offering). Chaplain Cross was joined in conducting eight nightly evangelistic meetings at four separate locations by Dr. Howard Weems, Pastor Ramond Randriamahefa, and Martin Hodnett, Psy.D., assistant psychology professor. God blessed their combined efforts, along with local translators, with 750 interests for follow up and further Bible studies in preparation for baptism.

This mission trip was one of personified by personal effort, God's leading, and ultimately Divine blessing. The ultimate impact and blessing cannot be quantified with figures and tallies. Only eternity will testify to the impact of the love and sacrificial giving by the Oakwood community and alumni.

-Martin Hodnett, Psy.D., was one of the mission trip participants to Madagascar.



Members of the 4HIM delegation present a check for the construction of a community health clinic to Mahajanga Regional Mission administrators.

Administration and members of the Mahajanga Regional Mission thank Oakwood donors for their gift to build a community health clinic.



Madagascar participants included:

Howard Weems, Ph.D.
Senior Chaplain, Special Assistant to the President

Lisa James, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Stephanie Weems, Ph.D.
Nurse Practitioner

Martin Hodnett, Psy.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Alexandrine Randriamahefa, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Biological Science

Francisco Cross, M.S.
Chaplain

Pastor Ramond Randriamahefa
OU Staff, Retired



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From Kenya, with love... Glimpses from the 4HIM Mission Trip

by George Johnson Jr.

MTV's reality television show titled "The Real World," begins each of its episodes with the statement: "This is the true story... of seven strangers... picked to live in a house...work together and have their lives taped... to find out what happens... when people stop being polite... and start getting real...The Real World." While Oakwood's 4HIM International Missions program is in no way a comparison to the ills of pop-culture's *The Real World*, this summer's mission excursion to Kenya (specifically Nairobi and Mombasa) on June 10-July 3 proved to be a "real world" experience for the 2014 delegation. The 21 representatives consisted of students, and staff, and a few non-Oakwood volunteers.

The Vision

More than 15 years ago, Ronald Pollard, then youth director for the Southern California Conference, began Heritage Missions, a ministry that exposed Adventist teens and youth to various areas in Zimbabwe – focusing on compassion, commitment in community service, and orphanage support. His vision sought to make the participants aware of the dire needs of the Kenyan people – since more than three-fourths of the population lives under the poverty level. After leading more than 400 participants on these trips, Pollard, now the missions and campus ministries director for Oakwood University, continues to see this as an opportunity to assist young people into a life-changing process. "These are not just mission trips, these are movements," said Pollard. This is the second year an Oakwood delegation has visited Kenya.

Because it is nearly impossible to plan every detail for an international mission trip from the United States, Pollard has relied on the expertise of Millicent Odhiambo, an Adventist and community activist who is also an employee of the Mombasa and Coast Tourist Association. Odhiambo's connection with Pollard and now Oakwood is an endearing one. "Working with Oakwood gives me a chance to experience and understand the challenges we have here in Kenya. It's not easy here, but we are alive in Christ," she said.

Odhiambo has seen many mission groups come through but sees some-

thing special in the Oakwood group. "You easily bend and don't build boundaries. This is what makes the Oakwood mission group different from all other mission groups," she said.

The Projects

4HIM 2014 participated in six projects:

Motherly Care Orphanage

Founded in 2003 with the ability to service just 10 children, Motherly Care is now home to 130 children ranging in age from two to 17 years old. Not only is the orphanage a home to the residents, it also serves as an educational institution. While at the Motherly Care, 4HIM volunteers sang songs and donated food items, toiletries and toys. "I would have to have hope that there is life beyond what my eyes can see," said Caleb Miles, a senior psychology major as he reflected on his experience at Motherly Care.

Canaan Orphanage and School

With the motto "Every child has a right to a good life," Canaan provides childcare and support to approximately 30 orphans. While at the orphanage, 4HIM volunteers painted the outside of the building, prepared lunch, washed clothes, bathed younger children, read stories and played games with the orphans, and donated food items, toiletries and toys. "If I lived in an orphanage, I would have a dire need for love like none before. Love is so important to have and to feel," said Alyce Hendricks, a junior nursing major.

Kibera Slums

Kibera is the largest slum in Nairobi with a population of 1.5 million people. Kibera is divided into villages including Kianda, Soweto East, Gatwekera, Kisumu Ndogo, Lindi, Laini Saba, Siranga, Makina and Mashimoni. The conditions in Kibera are extremely poor, and most residents lack access to basic necessities such as electricity and running water. While in Kibera, 4HIM volunteers conducted a clothing distribution in Soweto East. "The things that we gave to them represented hope. That's why we do what we do," said Pollard. "Giving clothes is an expression of love in Kenya because you are giving of something that you owned," said Odhiambo.

Tchuda Slums

Tchuda is a slum located in Mombasa with a population of 50,000 people. While in Tchuda, 4HIM volunteers visited various homes in the community to pray with people including a woman who had a large abscess on her foot, which needed urgent medical attention. Volunteers also conducted a clothing distribution for the community. "These people are living with nothing while we in America are dying with everything," said Tunisha Butler, a dean at Mount Vernon Academy.

Corner Chani SDA Clinic

Some of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in Kenya include HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, pneumonia, respiratory tract infections, gastroenteritis, and diabetes. Local community members living near the SDA clinic in Mombasa were able to receive free medical consultation and medication from a licensed doctor. Four 4HIM volunteers assisted the doctor by recording blood pressure and weight information as well as providing STD and TB prevention brochures to the clinic attendees. "Being able to help people make lifestyle changes was simply amazing because of the joy they had received from our knowledge," said Pecolia Dismuke, junior nursing major.



Jeremic Adventist Academy

Educating approximately 200 children from grades Pre-K to eighth grade, Jeremic Adventist Academy is located in the slums of Kibera in Nairobi. Founded in 1994, its vision is "to be an institution that prides in preparing learners within the slums of Kibera for life's responsibilities, equipping them with a dynamic recipe for current and prospective physical, mental, social and spiritual challenges." While there, 4HIM volunteers sang songs with the students and donated school supplies. "When

little things like a pack of crayons and a few textbooks bring children to tears, it becomes a life-altering experience in giving back. It may have been just a pencil to us Americans, but to them it was an object of hope," said Kimberly Pearson, associate chaplain.

The Churches and Revivals

After the projects were completed each day, the volunteers were divided into various groups for evening revival services at local churches. There, the missionaries participated in preaching (on the theme of "living a transformed life by His grace"), singing, scripture reading and praying. Along with Pollard, preachers for the Kenya excursion included Aisha Allsop, LETC director; Bright Baah, sophomore theology major; Gerard St. Hilaire, second-year 4HIM missionary; Kimberly Pearson, associate chaplain; and O'Neal Thomas, sophomore theology and business management major. "This was not just a trip. It was an experience I needed," said Baah.

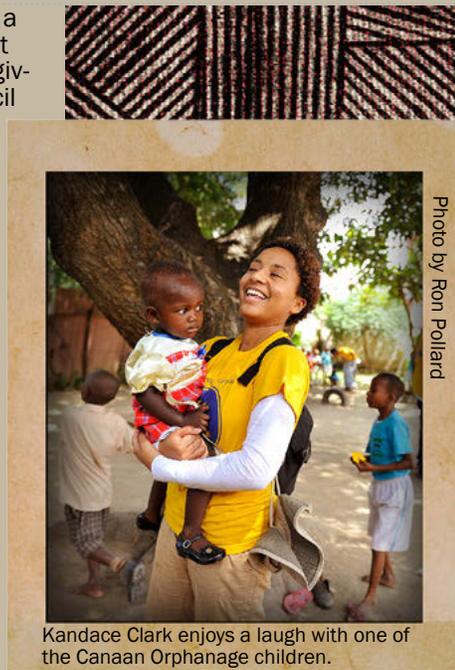
Life Transformations

Members of the 2014 mission excursion all agree that they left Kenya and returned to their homes a different person. Many of them thought about their faith and how it would or would not be affected if they lived in those conditions. "I feel my faith would be stronger because I would have to rely on God for everything," said Thomas. "My faith would be real and raw and not so much commercialized or entertainment-based because the churches here have so little that they are forced to be authentic," said Kandace Clark, sophomore marketing major.

All the volunteers gave of themselves – whether it was a monetary donation for food and supplies or hugs, tears, and prayers for their fellow man/woman/child. Janet Barnhill of California has taken this trip for five consecutive years. She sees the trip as an "investment in the kingdom" and the "dividends are eternal life." "I enjoy speaking with and praying for the people of Kenya," she exclaimed.

To help support 4HIM Missions, please visit www.ougiving.com or call (256) 726-7108.

- George Johnson Jr., director of integrated marketing and public relations was one of the 21 participants on the mission trip.



Kandace Clark enjoys a laugh with one of the Canaan Orphanage children.

Photo by Ron Pollard



Photo by Ron Pollard

Tori Allen reads to the children at Canaan Orphanage.



George Johnson takes a moment to read a story to an interested group of children. Photo by Ron Pollard.

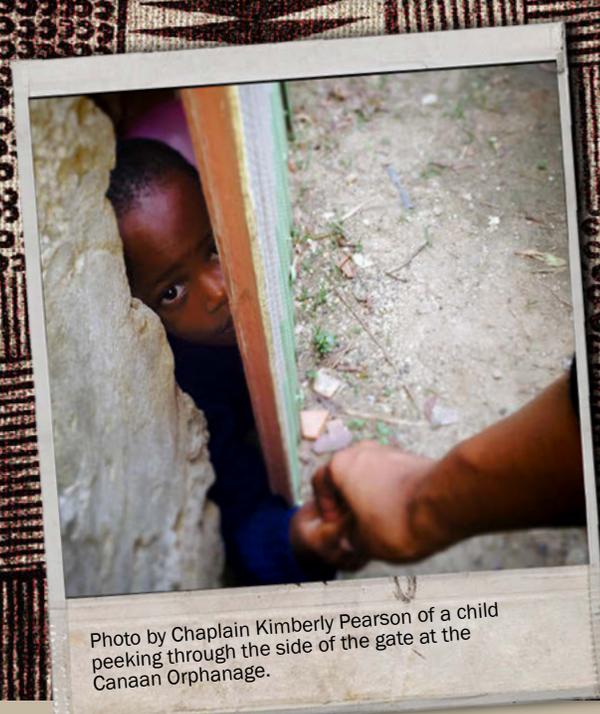


Photo by Chaplain Kimberly Pearson of a child peeking through the side of the gate at the Canaan Orphanage.



Photo by Ron Pollard

Pecolia Dismuke reads to the children at Canaan Orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya.



Photo by Ron Pollard

Gerard St. Hilaire, Celine Sylvester, and Janet Barnhill assist in washing clothes.



Caleb Miles helps to carry clothes to the clothing distribution in Tchuda Slums. Photo by Ron Pollard.

2014 4HIM Missionary Group

Ronald Pollard
OU Missions and Campus Ministries
Director

Tori Allen
OU sophomore political science major
Atlanta, GA

Aisha Allsop
OU LETC Director

Bright Baah
OU sophomore theology major
London, England

Janet Barnhill
5th-year attendee
Palos Verdes, CA

Tunisha Buttler
Dean at Mount Vernon Academy
Mount Vernon, OH

Kandace Clark
OU sophomore marketing major
Nashville, TN

Pecolia Dismuke
OU senior nursing major
Benton Harbor, MI

Nitisha Dunlap
OU junior elementary education major
North Carolina

Alyce Hendricks
OU junior nursing major
Knoxville, TN

Gerard St. Hilaire
2nd-year attendee
Orlando, FL

George Johnson Jr.
OU Integrated Marketing and Public
Relations Director

Trena Lawrence
2014 Graduating High School Student
Madison, AL

Caleb Miles
OU senior psychology major
Tucson, AZ

Joshua Moffit
2014 Graduating High School Student
Central Piscataway, NJ

Kimberly Pearson
OU Assistant Chaplain

Cerron Pollard
2014 Graduating High School Student
Madison, AL

Natalie Recasner
2014 Graduating High School Student
Atlanta, GA

Celine Sylvester
11th grade student
Pine Forge Academy

Marc Sylvester
9th Grade Student
Oakwood Adventist Academy

O'Neal Thomas
OU sophomore theology and business
administration major
Ocala, FL



OAKWOOD NEWS NOTES

Oakwood Magazine Goes Digital

You can access *Oakwood Magazine* in several ways depending on what device you have: For Apple iOS/OSX devices (iPad, iPad Mini, iPhone, iPod Touch, and Mac computers) simply search for Oakwood Magazine on iTunes. Be sure you have the iBooks app installed on your device for the best experience.

For those who use Kindles or the Kindle Reader App (available on every platform) you can access the file simply by searching for *Oakwood Magazine* on Amazon.com.

For Android device users you can find the magazines on the Google Play Book Store simply by searching for “*Oakwood Magazine*.”

The magazine issues are also available for online view on Issuu.com/oakwoodmagazine or you can search for “oakwood magazine” including the quotation marks. The direct links to the *Oakwood Magazine* issues can be found on www.OakwoodMagazine.com.



Oakwood Music Professor Trains Former Student for Opera Role

by Nadya Scott, student writer

This past May, Julie Moore Foster, associate professor in the Music Department, had an opportunity to help Brandie Sutton, '05, prepare for her role as Clara in George Gershwin's “Porgy and Bess” for the Princeton (NJ) Opera Festival. While at Oakwood, Foster served as Sutton's vocal coach and has continued in that role since Sutton graduated from Oakwood. “Brandi's breathtaking vocals, coupled with her



intense training and teachable spirit, have led her to secure multiple main role performances since her graduation,” remarked Foster.

Brandie Sutton practices what she learned from Dr. Foster with Wayne Bucknor, D.M.A., chair of the music department.

Oakwood Inducts 30 Students into Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity

This past April, the Department of History and Political Science inducted 30 students into the Oakwood University Pre-Law Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. Established in 1902, Phi Alpha Delta is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community.

The officers of the organization are: Leandra Joseph, president; Daneal Barnaby, vice president, Briana Penn, secretary, Sesly Huerfano, treasurer; and Alexandria Carrington, chaplain.

Other inductees include: Dominique Amacker, Whitney Andrews, Caleb Briggs, Marcya Burden, Gabriel Carter, Daniel Chandler, Alex Colas, Claudine Delancy, Marcus Desir, Raven-Symone Edwards, Brittany Ellis, Diamond Harris, Safiya Hudson, Brittany Hughes, Urhiel Jordier, Melodie Kukome, Nia Langley, Kamesha Laurry, Brandon Parrish, Rachel Reid, Justine Revelle, Samantha Richardson, Marie Stephenson and Antoine Southern.



Oakwood University Wins \$25,000 Campus Pride Grant

Oakwood University was one of three HBCUs that won a \$25,000 grant in The Home Depot's 2014 RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL Campus Improvement Grant Program. Results were announced in early May on the nationally-syndicated radio program "The Tom Joyner Morning Show."

Oakwood's win in this year's competition will allow the University to re-seed the softball and soccer fields behind the Ashby Gymnasium, as well as install sprinkler systems.

According to the competition rules, Oakwood was selected because of a combination of the social media activity and voting score. The three applicants with the highest votes and most social media activity, as determined by the sponsor during the voting period, was awarded with the Campus Pride Grants.

"We thank everyone who voted, tweeted and posted images on Facebook that allowed us to win this grant," said George Johnson Jr., integrated marketing & public relations director at Oakwood University. "Truly the network that Oakwood has developed helped us to win. We wouldn't have been able to do this alone with just the amount of people we have here on our campus," he said.

In addition to the three campus pride grants, Home Depot also awarded one \$50,000 grant and 13 \$10,000 grants in this year's competition, totaling \$250,000 to HBCUs for campus and facility improvements.



Oakwood Establishes Chapter of NOBCChE

by Jyremy Reid, student writer/photographer

On March 30, the OU Chemistry Department hosted the NOBCChE Chapter Induction Ceremony, in the Cooper Complex Auditorium. NOBCChE is the acronym for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. The primary goal of this organization is to launch and support local, regional, national, and global programs that help African Americans in understanding their potential in the chemistry field and related academics. They also inspire college students to pursue graduate degrees in the science and mathematics fields.

Talitha Hampton-Mayo, '03, executive vice president of NOBCChE, was the main speaker for the ceremony. She said that each person is responsible for promoting his or her own personal brand when working in the corporate world. "By having a special brand in one's back pocket, the competition will become nervous," she explained. Hampton-Mayo also mentioned the importance of first impressions and how they can enhance your personal brand. "It's not about what you know, it's who you know," she said. This is a statement that all upcoming students should remember; especially in today's workplace, as the competition can be quite gruesome. Nevertheless, Hampton-Mayo reassured the students that if they take all their concerns to the Lord in prayer, everything will work out.

Hampton-Mayo said, "As vice president of NOBCChE, I am truly proud to make this a reality because Oakwood is my alma mater. I treasure my experience that I had in the Oakwood Chemistry Department and I believe that NOBCChE can help to increase opportunities and broaden experiences of the students involved."



Jordaan Houston, 2014-15 USM religious vice president, leads the OU Chapter of NOBCChE in prayer during the induction ceremony.

Summer Institute for Digital Scholarship

Paulette Johnson, director of the Eva B. Dykes Library and Heather Rodriguez-James, University archivist, were among the 20 successful applicants to participate in the first collaborative effort between Emory University's Center for Digital Scholarship (ECDS) and the HBCU Library Alliance. The Institute convened June 16-20, and equipped librarians with training in WordPress, Omeka and Emory's mobile tour app, to develop digital projects on their campuses.

Participants also listened to presentations on the principles of digital scholarship, intellectual property, metadata, and data storage. Librarians created or began designing online exhibits, blogs, and institutional tours. Johnson's project,

From the Cotton Fields to the Mission Fields, profiled the life and service of Anna Knight, pioneer missionary and educator. Rodriguez-James' digital exhibit, *Introducing Oakwood*, was based on the chapters on Oakwood's history from the *OU 101* course textbook. Both exhibits are intended to showcase various aspects of Oakwood University's rich heritage and archival collections to a wider audience.

The exhibits will be made public at the start of the new academic year and additional projects are also planned. The Emory Center for Digital Scholarship/Historically Black Colleges and Universities Summer Institute for Digital Scholarship was supported by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Oakwood Hosts PSTI Week

Pre-Service Teacher Institute (PSTI), a cooperative agreement grant between Oakwood University and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, held its 13th session for one week, July 6-11, with 26 attendees from HBCU institutions in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. The program is designed to instruct college students' skills in teaching elementary and secondary students in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), through innovative methods and approaches to help students grasp math and science concepts. All expenses were paid for the attendees by the grant from NASA. The next PSTI week will be held December 14-19, 2014.

Oakwood Hosts Book Signing

On April 15, the Eva B. Dykes Library hosted a book signing and reception for five Oakwood University authors. The three-hour event was attended by more than 100 people, including administrators, faculty, students, staff, and community members. Everyone appreciated talking with the authors, buying books, and relishing the refreshments provided. Names of authors and their publications are listed below:

Burton, Keith (2014). *Laying Down the Law.*

Burton, Keith (2014). *Christ and His Law. Adult Bible Study Guide. 2Q.*

Conwell, Patrice Thomas (2013). *Nobody Ever Told Me I Might Not Get Married! - One Woman's Journey to Acceptance.*

Li, Tarsee (2013). *Greek Indicative Verbs in the Christian Palestinian Aramaic Gospels: Translation Technique and the Aramaic Verbal.*

Ojwang, Gilbert (2013). *The House of Omri: A Sociohistorical study of Israelite Political and Economic Systems.*

Osterman, Eurydice (2013). *Worship: From Praise Him to Praise Hymn.*

Oakwood Hosts Industry Day for Local Businesses

by Ivy Starks, assistant executive director, Advancement & Development

Oakwood's contracts department presented its first "Industry Day" on May 21, for local small businesses. The purpose of the event was to teach small businesses how to conduct business with the University and the federal government, as well as how to secure an International Standards Organization designation for their company which allows a business to secure contracts as a prime and assures that standards have been met in doing business with the federal government and other entities. Speakers included representatives from UAH Small Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Defense System Management Corporation, SAIC, and Technology Management Training Group.

Oakwood President is Featured Speaker at Alabama A&M Founder's Day Celebration

On May 2, President Leslie Pollard was extended the privilege of being the featured speaker at the Annual Alabama A&M Founder's Day Celebration. Alabama A&M was founded in 1873 in Normal, Ala., by Dr. William Hooper Council, a former slave, and member of the AME Church. Dr. Andrew Hugine and First Lady Abigail Hugine led out in the occasion, as Dr. Pollard spoke to the Alabama A&M faculty, staff, and students on the subject "Leadership as a Spiritual Responsibility." The Alabama A&M Gospel Choir provided the music. Dr. Pollard was accompanied by Dr. Tim McDonald, provost and senior vice president, and Dr. Prudence Pollard, vice president for research and employee services.

Oakwood University and Alabama A&M University share a fascinating history, which is documented in Dr. Mervyn Warren's masterpiece titled *Oakwood: A Vision Splendid*. While speaking to the enthusiastic audience, Pollard shared a story of how Alabama A&M founder Dr. William Hooper Council appeared before the 1902 OU Board of Trustees to appeal for mercy toward an Oakwood student who fell into trouble. The audience was amused and intrigued by the story of Dr. Council's pleading for the OU student. Over all, this was an unforgettable moment in the history of two historic institutions.



Dr. Julius Scruggs, president, National Baptist Convention; Dr. J. Homer McCall, senior pastor, St. John's AME Church and former professor of English and French at Alabama A&M University; and Dr. Leslie Pollard.



Alabama A&M University President Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. presents Dr. Pollard with the Founder's Day Award.

OUPD Designated as a "Weather Ready Nation Ambassador"

The Oakwood University Police Department (OUPD) has received notification from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that it has been designated as a "Weather Ready Nation Ambassador" based upon its efforts to improve the "nation's readiness against extreme weather, water, and climate events."

Oakwood University has been active in severe weather preparedness for several years. It was the first institution of higher education in the State of Alabama to earn the National Weather Service (NWS) "Storm Ready

Supporter" designation in 2007. The OUPD has to continue to partner with local government agencies and entities to build a resilient campus community through planning and mitigation efforts in order to maintain the ambassador designation.

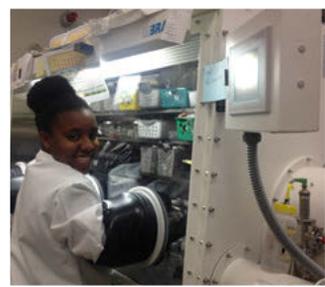
Oakwood Student Admitted to NASA's MUREP Program

by Zawadi Nicholas, student writer



risten Donna Patrice McLean, chemical and engineering major at Oakwood, participated in NASA's Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP) this summer.

Out of 237 applicants nationwide, Kristen was one of 10 undergraduates to receive the competitive MUREP scholarship. This program awards an academic stipend worth as much as \$9,000 per year. This includes \$6,000 for each 10-week summer internship completed at a NASA center. She worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif., for her internship this summer. NASA hopes to increase minority representation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, more commonly known as the STEM



fields. MUREP targets students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs); and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and encourages these universities to utilize teacher preparation programs that improve the quality and diversity of STEM instructors.

Kristen's ultimate goal is to become a chemical engineer. Chemical engineers use a combination of chemistry and engineering to develop economical solutions for using materials and energy. Chemical engineers produce things like medicine and plastics, and many work in food production. Kristen is open to all the possibilities. She says, "I aspire to one day become a chemical engineer developing materials to better our everyday lives. Whether that means making more efficient energy sources or traveling to space, I am excited to go wherever God leads me."

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Celebrating Decades of Service: Recognizing Oakwood University's recent retirees

The Department of Human Resource Management hosted its annual Retirees and Employee Recognition Banquet on April 20 at the conclusion of the 2014 Alumni Weekend festivities. Congratulations to the following individuals who have given many years of service to Oakwood University.



Kathleen Dobbins has a B.A. in Mathematics from Oakwood College and an M.S. in Mathematics from Purdue University. She has completed additional studies at the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University. Dobbins has served as associate professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Lela Gooding began teaching full time at Oakwood in 1972. She earned a Master of Arts in English from Vanderbilt University, spent a post-graduate year at England's Oxford University, and completed Ph.D. studies at Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tenn. While Gooding was chair of the Department of English and Communication from 1992 to 2001, a major in foreign languages was introduced, and the Communication branch grew strong enough to become an independent department. She has also served as professor of English, and coordinated the University's General Education Program.

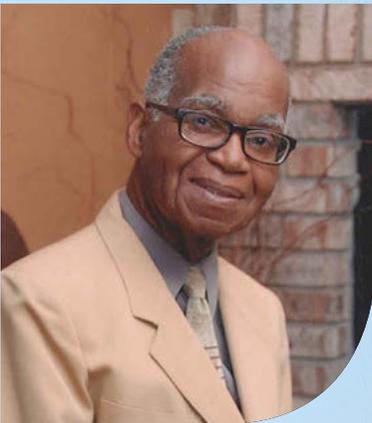


Lucile C. Lacy obtained a Bachelor's degree at Oakwood University, an M.M.E. degree at George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. at the Ohio State University. Lacy has been awarded the Zapara Award for Excellence in Teaching, holds membership in nine professional organizations, and is listed in 10 "Who's Who" publications. Highlights of her 15 years as chairman of Oakwood's Music Department include: the music program maintaining its accreditation status; the Aeolians being guests at the White House in 1998; the Aeolians' participation in Poland's 38th Annual Music Festival in 2002; and the Aeolians' bronze star at The Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 2003.

Division Update: Research and Employee Services



Risë Lowery earned a Bachelors of Science in Biology from Oakwood University. After completing a second Bachelors of Science in Nursing, she completed a Masters in Nursing and earned a Ph.D. in Psychology. In the Nursing Department at Oakwood, Lowery developed and directed the first Nursing Resource Center. She was instrumental in developing Oakwood's Student Disability Program and formulated handicap accessibility plans. She additionally worked as the nurse educator for Oakwood's Teen Pregnancy program: Loving Links. Over her 27 years of service at Oakwood, Lowery has also been a faculty member in the Psychology Department and the Center for Academic Success.



Roy Malcolm earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Ohio State University in guidance, higher education administration and research. He has served Oakwood University with distinction as a faculty member, and in numerous administrative positions including registrar, dean of administration, commencement coordinator, academic vice president, dean of college relations, Aeolians' manager, and editor/publisher. Malcolm's name is synonymous with the bi-annual Festival of Spirituals. Under his leadership, the program was revived in 1996, and has become a highlight of the Huntsville community.

Beverly Preston has served in several departments at Oakwood, including Alumni Affairs and Trust Services. She served as secretary to the chair of the Business & Information Systems Department for 19 years until her retirement. Preston has also served on numerous committees and assisted in the planning and implementation of several major events.



Geraldine B. Pullins has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Memphis. She joined the Oakwood family in the Administrative Computer Services Department and served for a total of 18+ years as computer programmer, systems manager and director of the Computer Center. She has been married to her husband, Fred, for 44 years.



Fred A. Pullins has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakwood College, a Master of Education from the University of Memphis, and the Certified Specialist in Planned Giving designation from California State University, Long Beach. While at Oakwood, Pullins served as the resident dean for Academy young men (1 year), principal of Oakwood Academy (5 years), director of Alumni Relations (11 years), director of Enrollment Management (9 years), and the director of Planned Giving & Trust Services/manager of Oakwood Memorial Gardens (8 years).

Division Update: Research and Employee Services

Ciro Sepulveda graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loma Linda University. He obtained a Ph.D. degree in 1976 from Notre Dame University. During his 12 years as chair of Oakwood's History Department, two new majors were created: Pre Law and Political Science.

Sepulveda is a published author, having written 20 books in both Spanish and English. He was president of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians from 2005 to 2007. He looks forward to farming in Southern Tennessee, growing food for the homeless, and writing.



Rehana K. Whatley received a Master of Arts in English from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and her Doctorate from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada. During her 14 years at Oakwood, she attended and participated in 15 international conferences. Five of Whatley's articles have been published in journals on humanities and education. She studied art, literature and religion during a month-long Fulbright stipend to Thailand and Burma. Her poems have been published in anthologies, and she has also published two volumes of poetry. Her visit to China for the Olympics was an adventure of a lifetime. She recently served as professor in the Department of English.

Note: Also retiring are Carole Booth, James Hutchinson, and Linda Webb.

Oakwood University Welcomes Its Newest Employees



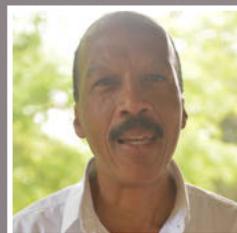
Jimmie Berryhill

Benefits Specialis
Human Resource Management
Favorite Bible verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 -
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and
lean not on your own understanding; in
all your ways submit to him, and He will
make your paths straight.



Ciera Taylor

Operations Supervisor/Edible
Arrangements
Financial Administration
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.



Mark Taylor

Manager/Edible Arrangements
Financial Administration
Favorite bible verse: Philippians 4:13 -
I can do all this through Him who gives
me strength.

All bible verses are from the New International Version.



The School of Education & Social Sciences

- *An Exploratory Study of Perceptions of International Social Work among Social Work Students Attending an HBCU* – Dr. Samson Chama, principal investigator, associate professor of Social Work; and Dr. Octavio Ramirez, professor of Social Work. Student researchers and presenters included Social Work majors: Eric Bell, Chelsea Brown, and Jade Callahan.
- *Factors Influencing Successful/Unsuccessful Matriculation at Oakwood University: Requisite Data for Creating a Mentoring Program* – Dr. Olivia Beverly, assistant professor of Education
- *Young People's Perceptions of a Group Home's Efficacy: A Retrospective Study* – Dr. Octavio Ramirez, principal investigator, professor of Social Work and Dr. Samson Chama, associate professor of Social Work. This study has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Residential Treatment for Children and Youth*, the official journal of the American Association of Children's Residential Centers.

The School of Business & Information Systems

- *Is There a Relationship Between Religious Orientation and Willingness to Use Unethical Business Tactics Among University Students.* – Dr. Faye Brathwaite, principal investigator, associate professor of Business; Dr. Theodore Brown, associate professor of Management; and Dr. Malcolm Cort, associate professor of Sociology, Athens State University

The School of Arts & Sciences

- *The Prevalence of Divorce Among the Parents of Seventh-day Adventist College Students and the Impact on their Future Relationship Formation and Membership in the Church* – Dr. Eva Starner, associate professor of Psychology
- *Integration of Faith & Learning at Oakwood University: A Quantitative Analysis* – Dr. Pauline Sawyers, principal investigator, associate professor of Psychology and the Oakwood University Research Society

With facilitation of a research infrastructure being one of the major priorities of the University, the Faculty Development Grant Program and the Faculty Research Symposium serve as two very valuable programs for accomplishing this goal.

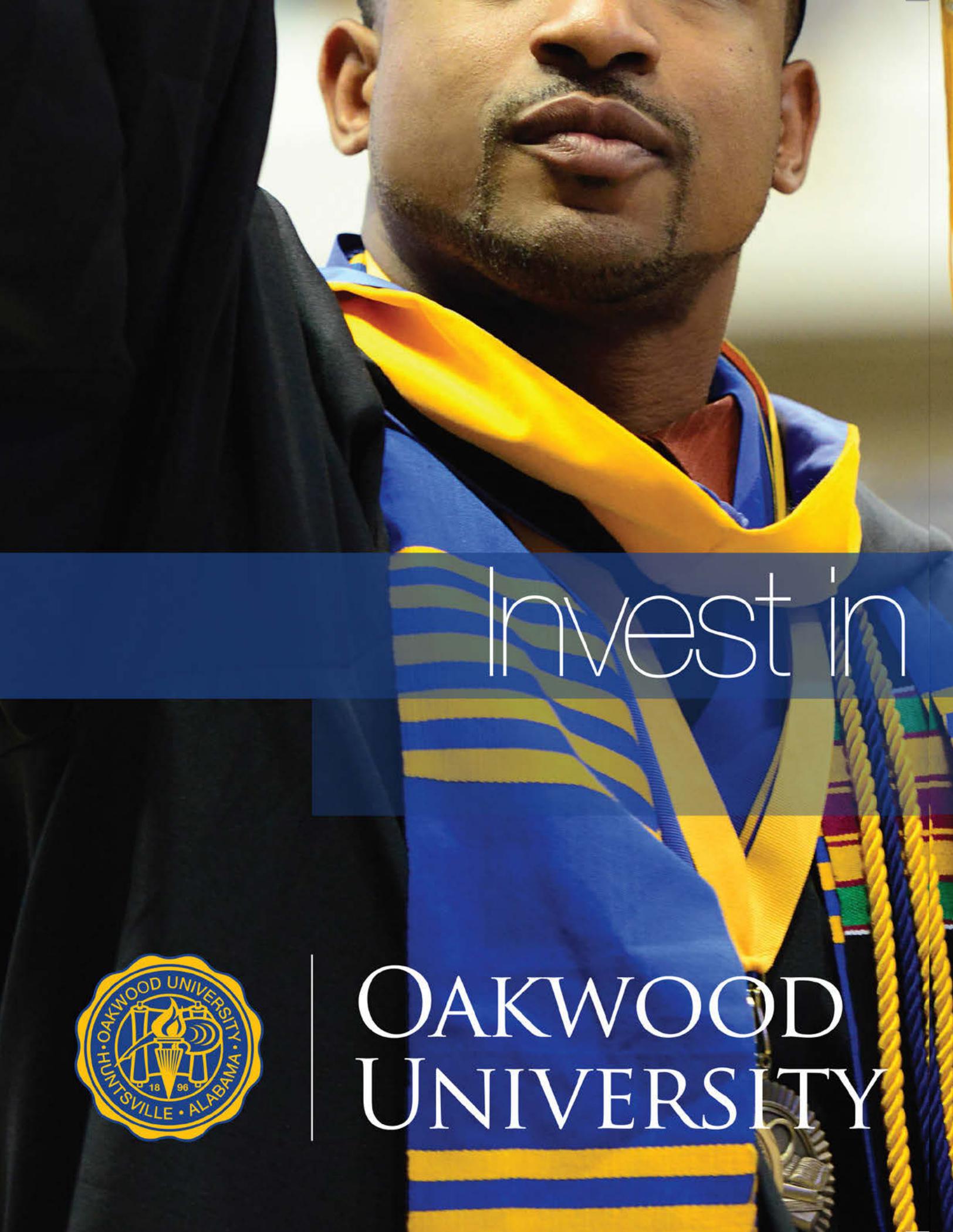
Pictured:
Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser

On April 22, administration, faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Committee of 100 Auditorium of the McKee Business & Technology Building for the annual Faculty Research Symposium sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser, '94, assistant professor in the Nutritional Sciences Program at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md.

This third year of the Symposium was the culmination of the third year of the Faculty Development Grant Program (FDGP), the University's internal grant that provides seed money for research, teaching, and service-related projects. The program is designed to enhance the effectiveness of individual faculty members with its ultimate goal being published research. Student participation in the research projects was strongly encouraged.

Presenters included:

The LifeCore2014 research team led by student coordinators Maya Raphael, Reginald Mattison, and Caleb Miles presented on the dissemination of the results of the 2011 and 2013 LifeCore surveys of spirituality among college students.



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Oakwood Hosts 36th UNCF Gala Event

by Cheri Wilson, director of development

U NCF (United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. UNCF provides operating funds for 37 member historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), scholarships and internships for students at about 900 institutions, and faculty and administrative professional training. For more than 70 years, UNCF has raised more than \$3.6 billion to help more than 400,000 students attend college and graduate from college.

As the only North Alabama UNCF member institution, Oakwood University is grateful and proud to contribute to the concerted effort of raising funds for the mission of the UNCF. Each year, Oakwood hosts the UNCF North Alabama Campaign culminating with our signature event, the Annual UNCF Gala held on Thursday during OU Alumni Weekend.

More than 800 guests attended the 36th Annual UNCF Gala (April 17) that showcased a few of the nearly 100 Oakwood students that received over \$700,000 in UNCF Scholarship funds. Recognition was also given to four local community leaders and sponsors that have contributed to the mission of UNCF with their generous support of this year's campaign.

Oakwood appreciates its supporters for contributing to the ideal expressed in UNCF's motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in."



During the Gala, donors surprised Carlie Aurubin, '14 (second from left), with funds to financially clear or graduation. Pictured with Aurubin are Dr. Leslie Pollard, Kisha Norris, Frank Williams, Landers McLarty, Dwayne Harrison, MD, Walvid King, UNCF area development director. Photo by Anthony Wallen.



Top Left: San Jose Taiko; Liquid Sky; Right: Oakwood's Miss UNCF, Monica Spencer. Photos by Anthony Wallen.



Dear Oakwood Alumni and Friends:

In the short time I have been the executive director for Advancement and Development, I can see why current students, alumni, faculty and staff are so supportive of our school. Oakwood has a rich history, steeped in the tradition of providing students with a well-rounded education that prepares them to meet all of life's challenges in the context of Christian love.

This past January, Oakwood took another step in improving our programming for current and future students by beginning the construction of a new building. Peters Media Center, located next the Cunningham Hall, houses the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN) and instructional space for media production. This 11,700 square-foot structure is being built to enrich the academic lives of our students and the personal lives of our constituents by providing an interdisciplinary environment where art and technology merge. This state-of-the-art facility is a giant step toward preparing our campus to meet the needs of tomorrow's students. It is an exciting move for all those who believe in the mission of Oakwood University. It is, indeed, a celebration of God's continued leading.

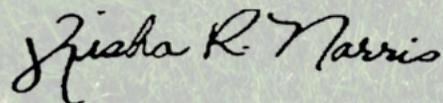
In light of this celebration, Oakwood has constructed a brick sidewalk that leads from Ford Hall and Peters Media Center to the rest of the campus. **The Legacy Walkway**, as this sidewalk is now called, will be paved with bricks. Oakwood University is excited to offer you the opportunity to pave the way into the next 118 years of success by purchasing a brick to be set on campus.

You are invited to create your own personalized brick today.

The Brick Campaign provides an opportunity to leave a legacy and support campus improvement at the same time. **Our Legacy Walkway** features names of donors, loved ones, special remembrances, and favorite sayings. Bricks are a great opportunity to congratulate a recent graduate, celebrate a degree or accomplishment, or honor your loved ones.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to leave more than a memory at Oakwood University. You can leave your own legacy as we continue the Building on the Past Campaign (brick by brick). If you are interested, visit www.bricksrus.com/order/oakwood or call (256) 726-7201.

Sincerely,



Kisha Norris, M.Ed., CFRE
Executive Director, Advancement and Development



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News & Information from Oakwood University



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Appreciation

Thank you for meeting the challenge and raising our giving participation to the Oakwood Annual Fund. When a gift is made to the Annual Fund, it is not only contributing to Oakwood's ability to positively impact the lives of students, but it is also assisting in the preservation of high quality education for future generations. Oakwood University gratefully acknowledges the following alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends for their generous contributions to the Oakwood Annual Fund. Your gifts at any level are valued and appreciated and makes a difference in the advancement of Oakwood and the future of our students.

Ronald Acklin
Marc E. Alexander
Charlton Alexander
Muriel K. Alford
Mark Allen
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Elaine D. Allston
Arthur Ambrose
Tiffany Ambrose
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Janice H. Branch
Charolette Y. Brand
Charisse A. Brandon
Eileen J. Brantley

Faye A. Brathwaite
Jessica M. Brazier
Charles E. Bridges
Gloria C. Brooks
Sandra R. Brown
Sandra A. Brown
Virginia M. Brown
Gwendolyn Y. Brown
Edrita J. Bryant
Wayne A. Bucknor
Marie M. Buissereth
Joyce Buisson
Bullet Therapy
Clifton Burt
Hyacinth L. Burton
James E. Butler
Joni L. Butts
Maya P. Byfiel
Sandra D. Bynum
Freddie Byrd
Gail Y. Caldwell
James L. Caldwell
Leah R. Caldwell
Frances B. Calhoun
Charles Campbell
Aisha E. Campbell
Roxanne Carter
Rose M. Carter
Kermit Carter
John N. Cartwright
Mishelle L. Cartwright
Rudy Castillo
Danny R. Chandler
Norma P. Charles
Laketia N. Chatman
Dianne Cheddar
Dwyane A. Cheddar
Imani Y. Cherry
Deborah A. Claborn
Naomi S. Clark
David A. Clarke
Clara H. Cobb
Earl R. Cole
Carlos D. Cole
Gwyndolyn B. Collins
Renee D. Connell
Alton C. Conwell
Patrice T. Conwell
Jessica Cook
Stanley C. Cooper
David A. Cort

Samuel F. Cort
Lucy A. Cort
Janice Cotton
Sabrina R. Cotton
Brian D. Craig
David Crawford
Edna M. Dailey
Joseph Dailey
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Sanitha M. Douglas
Dudley O. Duberry
C. Garland Dulan
Monica Y. Dulan
Jeannette R. Dulan
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Karen E. Dykes
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Deborah E. Felder
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Roy Fernander
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Sheila Y. Figgins
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Helen Fischle
Nicole K. Fleary
Flora Flood
Bruce Flynn
Claudia S. Follette
Fondren SW SDA Worship
Center
Food Product Development

Resource
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Denise G. Foster
Roy Foster
Julie Moore Foster
Trevor H. Fraser
Lorraine B. Frye
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Lois J. Furman
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Diann L. Giscombe-Rose
Vern E. Gohanna
Lela M. Gooding
Alyson Gordon
Ricardo Graham
Stephen H. Gray
Patricia E. Gray
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Alfonzo Greene
Sandra L. Greenlee
Olivia Greggs
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Safawo Gullo
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Caswall C. Harrigan
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Howard C. Harris
Lottie M. Harris
J. Woodrow Harris
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Bobby R. Harrison
Jason Hawkins
Winsley B. Hector
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Casey E. Henry
Earl S. Henry
Pamela J. Henry
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Natalie Lewis
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Rise Lowery
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Shannan C. Malone
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Lennox S. Marr
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Woodrow Vaughn
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LaSha Wade
Carole Y. Wagner
Clara Annise Wagner
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CONGRATULATIONS! *For the second consecutive year...*

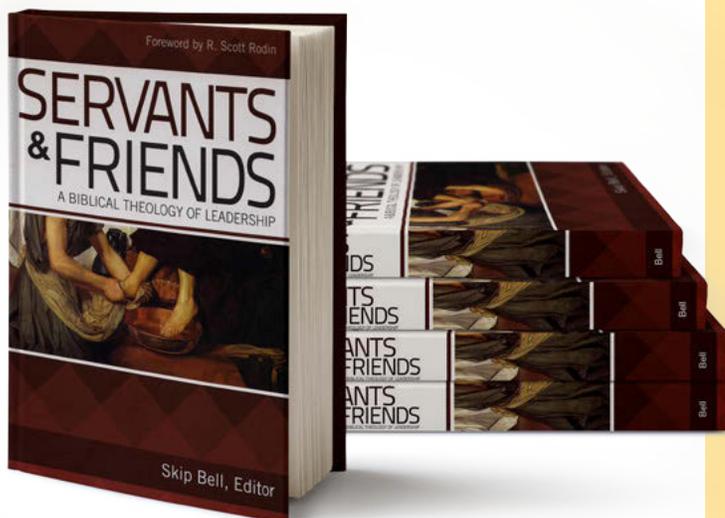
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NEW BOOK



Servants & Friends: A Biblical Theology of Leadership is a compilation of research on servant leadership. **Dr. Leslie Pollard, '78**, is the author of chapter 17 which is titled *Paul: Principles for Leadership and Contextualization*. The book is available through Andrews University Press.

WEDDINGS

Dr. Jonathan Robinson, '90, and Kelly Crosby were married in Corona, Calif., on July 6.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Raymond Saunders II, '74
April 14, 2014

Thelma Johnson Dean Anderson, '54
May 7, 2014

Joseph Follette, Sr. '54
May 29, 2014

Arnold Green, Jr., '06
June 18, 2014

Robert Henry Hines, (Former food service director)
July 3, 2014

Ricky L. Robins, '94
July 4, 2014

ALUMNI NOTES

1970s

Isaiah J. Ashe, '72, was elected to a third term as Madison County Team Captain of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation (ACCRF). This grassroots, non-partisan, non-profit, and volunteer organization of laity and professionals aims to rewrite Alabama's 1901 Constitution through a citizen's convention.

Wintley Phipps, '76, pastor of the Palm Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church in Palm Bay, Fla., was honored at the Human Symphony Foundation's Living Legends Award Ceremony. Phipps was given the Living Legend Award for his "service to humanity" through the work of the U.S. Dream Academy.

1980s

Margo (Cooper) Bagley, '85, international patent law expert and co-editor of *Patent Law in Global Perspective*, attended the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore Talks in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Larry Black, '88, is the author of *Contentment: A Journey of Healing*, a one-of-a-kind, non-fiction book that helps the reader create positive changes and overcome any unhealthy upbringing.

Seattle attorney, **Andrew O. Carrington, '87**, was appointed Chairman of the Disciplinary Board of the Washington State Bar Association by the Washington State Supreme Court. The Disciplinary Board conducts hearings and provides intermediate appellate review of lawyer discipline and misconduct cases in the state of Washington.

Dr. Timothy Nixon, '82, was elected as executive secretary of the Lake Region Conference this past May by delegates in a regular constituency meeting.

Tara (Best) Taylor '89, was honored by Running USA for her work with the We Run This City Youth Marathon program in Cleveland, Ohio. Her initiative won the Youth Running Program of the Year Award. Taylor is the senior program director at the YMCA of Greater Cleveland.



1990s

Opera diva **Angela Brown, '91**, was listed as the third most popular choice to sing the National Anthem at the Indianapolis 500. "Her powerful soprano voice spans both opera and African American spirituals and she travels the world performing.

Dr. Everton A. Ennis, '99, graduated this past May from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. His doctoral concentration is in the area of Congregational Conflict Resolution Training. Dr. Ennis pastors in the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

As part of Morton Plant Hospital's celebration of National Volunteer Week (April 6-11), **Pastor Mian Hill, '99**, participated in a "blessing of the paws" for the service dogs who comfort the hospital's patients.

Jayne J. (Miller) Johnson, Esq., '99, co-authored an article published in the 2014 Spring Edition of the Seton Hall University School of Law Legislative Law Journal (SHLJ) titled *All Hands On Deck: New Jersey Law Revision Commission Recommends Modified Uniform Laws to Safeguard the Public and Address Disasters and Their Aftermath*. Johnson is counsel for the New Jersey Law Revision Commission.

2000s

Dr. Antoinette Davis, '04, successfully defended her dissertation on April 17. Her topic was "Measuring Student Satisfaction in Online Mathematics Courses at the University of Kentucky." On May 10, she graduated with the Doctor of Education Degree in Instruction/Administration with a specialization in Mathematics Education. She is now an Online Mathematics Lecturer, teaching traditional and online math courses. Davis also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Applied Mathematics from Wayne State University, and is the author of *Lessons on Church Folk, Volumes 1 & 2* and *Life Lessons for Everyday People*.

Melissa (Hedman-Baker) Henley, '02, is the director of field education in the Department of Social Work at Washington Adventist University.

Akunna Iheanacho, '00, graduated from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Physiology on May 22.

The collaborative relationship between UIC and Oakwood University began in 2005, soon after officials at UIC learned of the stellar quality and numbers of undergraduate students interested in the biomedical sciences. Denise Yates, director of the "Bridge to Doctorate" program at UIC, met Oakwood's Dr. Alexandrine Randriamahefa (Dr. Rand), and has traveled to Oakwood every year since, to recruit Oakwood's finest to the doctoral program at UIC. Dr. Rand helped to celebrate the success of two Oakwood alumni on May 9, by participating in the hooding ceremony for **Natalie King, '07**, Ph.D. Neuroscience; and **Thessicar Antoine '09**, Ph.D., Microbiology & Immunology. Also receiving his doctorate this year from UIC was **Emmanuel Ansong, '09**, Ph.D., Pathology.

Stephen Spates, '09, a second year doctoral student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, studying organizational communications, was the recipient of the February 2014 Courage to Climb Award.



Brandie Sutton, '05, starred as Clara in this past June's presentation of George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" at the Princeton (NJ) Opera Festival.

Porsche Vanderhorst, '04, was featured in the *MSEA Dispatch*, the official publication of the Maryland State Education Association. In the article, Vanderhorst, a reading/writing focus teacher and seventh grade English teacher at Benjamin Banneker Middle School in Burtonsville, Md., spoke about her "must-haves" in the classroom. "I value my Anna Knight Hall experience as it truly made a difference in my educational outlook," said Vanderhorst.

Fred Whitlow, '11, family services coordinator at Huntsville Housing Authority, has a show on the CW network (WHDF) called *The No More Dirty TV Show*, which airs every Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. The show features special interviews with organizations and individuals and promotes Christian music artists. According to the CW broadcast coverage area sheet, the show reaches more than 725,000 adults (18+), in 3 states and 11 counties in North Alabama.



Yearbooks Provide a Historical Lens

By Christopher Readus, '14, with information by Dr. Turner C. Battle III, '50

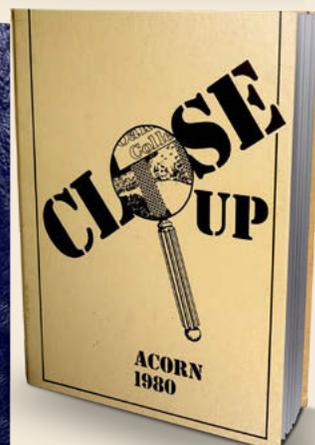
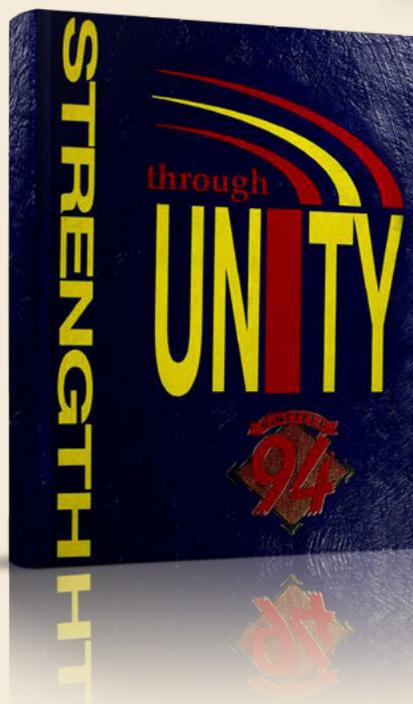
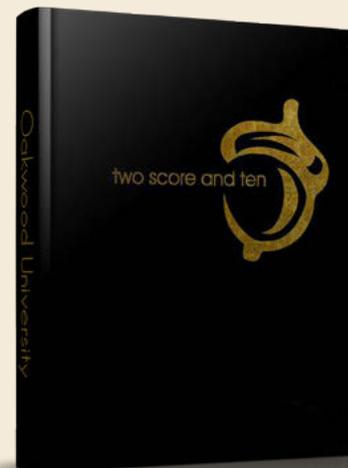
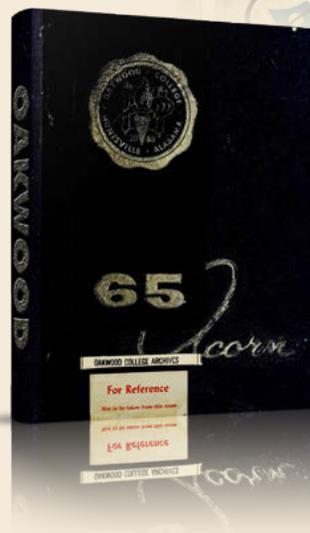
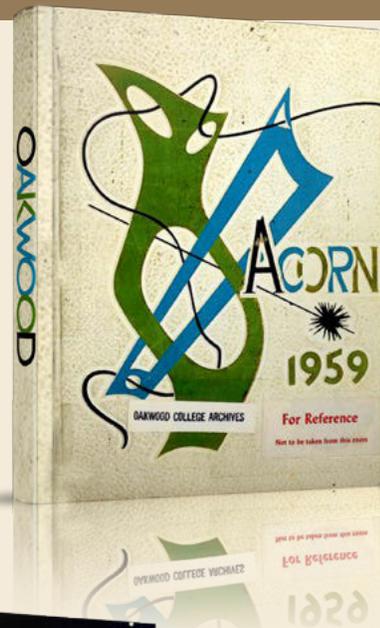
In 1946, Oakwood College President, Frank L. Peterson asked James Dykes and Turner C. Battle to design, write, and publish the first college yearbook. Dykes had an extensive background in writing and Battle had experience in commercial art and served as art editor of the yearbook the year before at Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Mich. They began to work immediately gathering information and photographs for the new college publication - which they named *Acorn*. The College also hired Ray Simons as a photographer. According to Battle, "the three of us worked relentlessly until the 1946 *Acorn* was completed and ready for the press on the scheduled date." Dykes and Battle worked on the yearbook while attending classes.

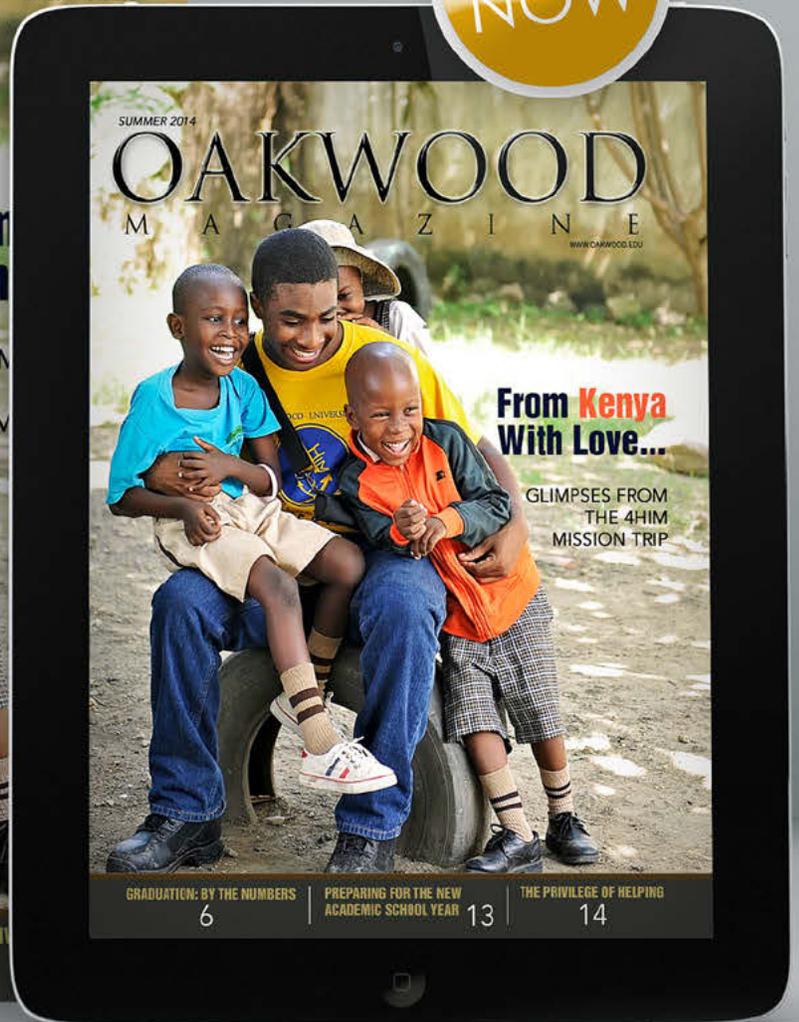
Since 1946, Oakwood University has provided its students with an annual yearbook serving to record, highlight, and commemorate the past year's experiences. The 2013-2014 yearbook, titled *YourBook* was developed by the dynamic duo of Julian Magloire and Chad Lupoe. Magloire captured pictures that accurately depicted campus life while Lupoe created an attractive format that captivated the students' attention.

These yearbook editors take great pride in the work they do and were extremely grateful to provide *YourBook* to the students of Oakwood. "Working with the yearbook team is an opportunity for students directly involved with USM and those who are not to view the school year from beginning to end through academic, spiritual, and social lenses," said Magloire. "A yearbook is important because even though life moves on and some events are forgotten, the yearbook allows those moments to live forever," said Lupoe.



2013-2014 Yearbook Co-editors Chad Lupoe and Julian Magloire. Photo by Kisha Norris.





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Learning from Loved Ones

by George Johnson Jr.



Since our transition to Huntsville, Ala., from Baltimore, Md., my family has experienced two situations of tragedy. In the first three months of being here, we have buried two family members: my first cousin, Billy, and my mother-in-law, Edna. Both were young – Billy, age 35; and Edna, age 62.

Out of the line up of my first cousins on my mother's side, Billy was right after me. Billy and his family didn't grow up in Baltimore with the rest of our immediate family, but we frequently got together for family gatherings. Everyone loved Billy and despite his being mentally challenged, everyone enjoyed being around him.

Billy touched many people's lives. His questions of where you were while being missing from church, random calls to family members, and praise team singing brought people closer together. People smiled when they saw Billy. His infectious personality seemed to rub off on people as soon as they met him.

We learned that Billy had kidney disease a little over a year ago. Seeing my family go through the ups and downs wasn't the greatest feeling. We had family prayer sessions asking for God's healing. Billy's smile never wavered during these times.

This past Christmas was very special to all of us. Billy was his happiest when he was around his family. During that day, we opened gifts, ate lots of food (brunch and dinner), played games, hugged, and took "selfies" with smart phones. Two days later, Billy passed away.

My mother-in-law, Edna, was the person in my wife's family that knew how to throw a family gathering. She loved to entertain and dance and was known for throwing parties. Her extensive music collection which spanned many genres including country, R&B, and most of all latin – would fill her home and warm the hearts of others when they came by. Edna didn't need any reason to throw a party. Her doors were always open to share her home with her friends and family.

My mother-in-law went into the hospital on November 12,

2013 – one day before her 62nd birthday. She went in for a procedure to repair one of her valves. After the procedures, the doctors found out more things concerning her health.

During the four months my mother-in-law was in this New York hospital (in ICU), my wife and brother-in-law spent countless times on the phone with doctors and nurses as well as being by the bedside of their mother. We all prayed together and had others praying also. We even had plans of moving Edna down here to Huntsville with us.

On March 19, my wife, Kim, the boys and I boarded a flight to make our way to New York. We knew the information that the doctors shared with us wasn't good. Kim and her brother, Dale, were able to spend the day with their mom, singing songs, reading scriptures, and making her comfortable as she took her final breath.

At both Billy's and Edna's funerals, I listened to the people who spoke about our loved ones. At both services, people spoke about how much Billy and Edna cherished their family members, loved life, and how they knew how to tell people how they felt – and even if the words were tough – we knew they were given in love.

The writer Charles H. Spurgeon once said "A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not marble." What I learned about my loved ones is that their character was the main thing that influenced the people around them. It wasn't the things that they did at school or at work – it was their character that people reflected on.

I thank both Billy and Edna for the love that they shared with us while here. I will always cherish their memories and lessons learned from their characters. But as believers, we have a hope that we will one day see them again.

Thanks for the memories, Billy and Edna...

-George Johnson Jr. is the director of integrated marketing and public relations for Oakwood University.



Billy Hall
July 14, 1978 - December 28, 2013



Edna Carpenter
November 13, 1951 - March 19, 2014



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