INSIDE:
Reenergized for Continued Service
On the Cover:
In this issue, our cover draws inspiration by key points taken from the Board of Trustees Retreat in Lake Guntersville State Park and Resort last October.

Above wall art is but one of the “real-time” renderings illustrated onsite during sessions from the Board of Trustees Retreat.

Therefore, in what ways does Oakwood University (OU) lead – that is, set a standard and thereby influence its three worlds?

More specifically, you ask: if my family and I fly to Huntsville, Ala., to visit the campus, unannounced, what will we actually see and experience – no PR spin or VIP promotional kit! – that will prove conclusively that Oakwood is leading and influencing whether it is in the world of Seventh-day Adventists (SDA), historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) or even the State of Alabama?

OK, you’re on. Follow me.

You are driving now to the campus, heading east from the Huntsville International Airport, and along Adventist Boulevard (good start?) before approaching Wynn Drive, you glance southward quickly and see the Oakwood Memorial Gardens, the first and only cemetery at an SDA higher education institution.

Next, the manicured and flowered greenways, sculpted bushes and well-kept concrete walkways say in unison, “Welcome to Oakwood University, compliments of the Grounds Department,” the perennial City of Huntsville Beautification Award winner for 13 straight years (p. 20).

Then, courtesy salutes you at the main gate entrance from the Oakwood University Police Department, the safety leader as SDA higher education’s first and only deputized police department in North America (p. 10).

Next, at the Eva B. Dykes Library, you look up at the flagpole displaying the pennant of the ISO: 9001 designation, introducing Oakwood as the business quality control leader and the first and only such awardee among SDA, HBCU or Alabama institutions (p. 7).

As you approach the fork at Regional Way and Campus Drive, you notice a newly constructed pavilion outfitted with outdoor grills and fireplaces, a testament to Oakwood’s winning The Home Depot $50,000 “Retool Your School” HBCU Campus Improvement contest grand prize, besting all 66 other competing HBCUs (p. 17).

Deciding to bear left onto Campus Drive, en route to the Dining Hall – please, no more “the café!” – you spy a steady stream of Alabama-issued Oakwood University license plates, the first and only SDA institution to possess such a promotional and scholarship-funding tool (p. 9).

After parking now at Blake Center, you look opposite and see the Cooper Science Complex and note that the last *EBONY Magazine* rankings (September 2012) featured Oakwood University as one of the nation’s top-ranked HBCU science programs.

Still standing there in the parking lot, you spot cheery yet heavily back-packed coeds, and your wife recalls reading the 2012 *U.S. News & World Report* finding that Oakwood University’s graduation rate ranks it among the nation’s top 10 HBCUs.

A Guided Campus Tour of Oakwood University
You’re approaching the Dining Hall in Blake Center and your two daughters “scope out” a higher-than-usual number of black collegiate males, and then you gleefully remind them that during his 2011 Presidential Inaugural Address here, United Negro College Fund president Dr. Michael Lomax praised Oakwood for having the highest black male enrollment (41%) of all the 39 UNCF schools (which average normally between 30-35%).

At last, you enter the Dining Hall for dinner, and you remember that since 1896, Oakwood University has been the nutrition leader as Alabama’s and HBCU’s first and only meat-free campus (p. 32).

And finally, en route back to your rental car, your baritone-voiced son hears “tiiiiight” eight-part vocal harmonies intoning from the second floor practice room of nearby Peters Hall, and you pinch yourself for you and your family’s good fortune of being on campus to hear rehearsing the Aeolians Choir, the 2012 World Choir Games’ three gold medal-winning World Spiritual Champions and current reigning three-peat national HBCU choral championship winners!

You and your family have just experienced 11 daily examples – 10, plus a bonus! – of leadership, Oakwood University style, the theme of this issue.

In fact, in each division of the university – Academic Administration, Advancement & Development, Financial Administration, Research & Employment Services, Spiritual Life and Student Services (note the several name changes) – Oakwood’s leadership style is presented in ways both familiar and unknown.

When asked, how can Oakwood better friend- and fund-raise? Advancement & Development Executive Director Kisha Norris offered, “You really can’t expect people to support you, when they only see and hear from you once a year – with essentially an alumni weekend magazine?”

You’re now reading our first-ever attempt at producing this publication twice per year. Expect to see the Oakwood Magazine at least twice a year, both in print and online.

In contrast to our “alumni weekend” publication, a fall Oakwood Magazine will allow you to begin the academic year with us – with all of the deliberate spiritual focus, high energy and strategic actions that we embrace with the dawning of a new school year.

Also, by now presenting Oakwood Magazine content through specific editorial departments, we hope to better illustrate to you how we are progressing in key areas of expertise.

Through our advertising, for example, you now have the opportunity to support and access our various offerings from the campus – right in your own homes or workplaces.

OU leadership style is not merely a past or present reality, but also a clear future series of in-the-works “game changers,” that President Leslie Pollard will announce in his “The Last Word” column.

What’s next? Stay tuned, . . . we’re just getting started.

Tim Allston, who recently served as the public relations director, is now serving as a marketing and public relations representative with the LEAP and MAPS programs. “We appreciated Tim’s ability to put OU in the forefront of public media and know that the LEAP and MAPS programs will greatly benefit from his communication skills,” said Kisha Norris, Executive Director of Advancement and Development.
ISO 9001 is the most commonly used process standard in industry, institutions, and organizations that build products and provide services to individuals, as well as to companies and to contractors. It provides a comprehensive set of practices that provide repeatable and consistently high quality approaches to project management, engineering solutions, and support activities. ISO 9001 is also valuable to institutions of higher learning because it supplies a quality framework and procedures in the most critical areas of their operation. It is the standard that evolved over the last 85 years that helped make possible interchangeable parts for everything in our lives. Without such standards, everything being manufactured would be unique to that company and the world we know today would not function well at all.

ISO provides an umbrella standard imposed over the entire company, from which all projects large and small benefit, and a universal design and development model that suits all applications. ISO is the least expensive of all process improvement models to implement and maintain, and one of the easiest to learn.

Using these same precepts, institutions have adopted the tenants and basic framework of ISO to build consistently high quality curricula and reduce the variations in teaching, training, and record keeping. The goal of standards is to always provide a level playing field free of biases and perturbations where excellence is everyone’s expectation and reward.

OU Marketplace outfits the whole family.

“Wear it with pride, Mom and Dad!”

Available now at oakwood.bncollege.com
Oakwood Develops Leadership Resource for Faculty and Staff

The Oakwood University Leadership Academy is an outgrowth of President Leslie Pollard’s Vision 2020 in supporting the University’s goal to empower internal leaders and managers. Each month, employees from academic and non-academic areas of the University participate in two-hour sessions that provide mission-focused, skill-based leadership education. These meetings are specifically targeted to the middle and top administrative levels of the University.

Topics delivered since the inauguration of the Academy in September 2012 include “Leading from Your Strengths,” “Results Orientation,” and “Future-Oriented Hiring.”

Each Academy session is assessed to determine its effectiveness in achievement of intended learning. Future plans include monitoring the impact of the Academy on specific elements of the culture of the University, and the extent to which members have the supervisory resources to implement skills developed during the Leadership Academy. Monitoring occurs through analysis of data gathered from surveys deployed by Institutional Effectiveness, performance evaluations conducted by Human Resource Management, and customer service data collected by Customer Care.

Additional plans for the Academy include the development of an online learning support community for members. With virtual support before and after Academy sessions, members will have tools to encourage reflective learning and to implement the learned behaviors into their work environments. Evaluation is an integral part of the successful achievement of the Leadership Academy mission.

For more information about the Oakwood University Leadership Academy, please call (256) 726-7734.
Show your school spirit and support student scholarships at the same time!

Don’t forget to get your Oakwood license plate when you renew your Alabama car tag.

Proceeds from the sale of the license plates will benefit academic scholarship recipients.

The OU license plates are currently available only in Alabama.

Oakwood’s involvement in Alabama’s collegiate license plate program is coordinated by the Advancement & Development Division. Since 2010, more than 50 students have received scholarship assistance through this program.

It’s easy – just visit your nearest Alabama DMV office.

Get yours today!

You can also show pride in your university by purchasing an Oakwood afghan. They make great gifts!

To order, contact the Office of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations:
(256) 726-7202 or pr@oakwood.edu.
Students at Oakwood University, pay the highest compliment to Chief Lewis Eakins when they say to his officers, “You aren’t like other police I’ve encountered.” That is good news to Eakins. “We don’t want to be like other police,” says Eakins. “Even though we are an officially recognized police department, and we treat individuals with dignity and respect, we also want to help a student in difficulty turn their situation around.”

The Lure of a Law Enforcement Career

Eakins once was an Oakwood student himself, having planned to study physical education. He later enrolled in a law enforcement course at a public college, and pursued an associate degree in police science, followed by a bachelor of science in criminal justice/business administration. Eakins also worked as a security officer at Oakwood. While he was a reserve officer on the Huntsville police force, Eakins was offered the job of assistant chief of police at Texas Southern University (TSU). “I was 24 years old and the youngest command level officer in Houston.”

Following his time at TSU, Eakins became bureau commander of patrol operations, support services, and investigations divisions with Houston’s METRO Transit Police. In 1986, Eakins opened a private investigations and security firm. “I’d been in business for 22 years when Oakwood contacted me about a vacancy in the University’s Campus Safety Department,” says Eakins. “The idea of returning to the campus he had once patrolled while a college student intrigued him.

Coming Full Circle

His arrival also brought changes within the department. “We needed to employ a more professional model,” says Eakins. “At that time our non-sworn officers only had first
aid training and nothing else.” With his background, Eakins understood the value a law enforcement status would bring to the University’s Public Safety Department. “We don’t have a crime problem at the University,” he said. “Our move to law enforcement status was proactive.”

In July 2008, the University made the decision to follow Eakins’ recommendation. Eakins was tasked with gathering support from the local police chief, sheriff, and district attorney. The first step in the process was to contact Senator Tom Butler (D) of the Alabama House of Representatives. “Butler sponsored a bill to amend the existing legislation to give Oakwood’s president the authority to ‘employ and appoint police officers’ that have full arrest powers.” The bill passed, the department obtained an agency number, and was officially designated as the Oakwood University Police Department on July 30, 2009, making it the first Seventh-day Adventist institution in the North American Division to have a police department.

“A police force dovetails with emergency operations plans. “This allows us to have an increased level of preparedness and enforcement for events such as fire, earthquake, tornado, active shooter situations, etc.,” says Eakins. “It also gives us the authority to conduct search and seizures, make arrests, and protect the campus from external forces.”

The status also allows the department to apply for various state and federal grants for funding purposes, as well as enhancing the professional training of officers with mandated police academy training.

“We can now share and receive information with other law enforcement agencies,” says Eakins. “When the General Conference held the Spring Council meeting on our campus, our department was able to determine whether there were any credible threats of which we needed to be aware. We worked with the FBI, Alabama state troopers, and the City of Huntsville police.”

We Take Care of Our Own

The emotional health of his officers is important to Eakins also. “I understand the need to have a chaplain on staff,” says Eakins. This allows the officers to have someone whom they can talk to confidentially.” Chief Eakins works closely with his officers, mentoring them to fill administrative roles.

As Eakins walks the 1,100 acres on Oakwood’s campus, he reflects on his career in law enforcement and his current role at Oakwood. “It’s amazing to me to be back here at Oakwood, where my interest in law enforcement first took hold. I understand the culture of Oakwood, and this helps me as the chief of the department,” says Eakins. “My officers are here to not only protect the students and faculty, they are here to make a difference in individual lives.”

“I was 24 years old and the youngest command level officer in Houston.”

– Lewis Eakins
USM Presidents: Do You Know Where They Are Now?

Each year since at least 1950, Oakwood students have been led by a popularly-elected peer, the United Student Movement (USM) president.

He or she led the student body politically, topically and spiritually; served as its spokesperson for its issues and concerns to constituent groups; and served as its primary negotiator to senior administration.

What ever became of your elected leaders?

More specifically, how did each “Depart to Serve”?

Feedback questions for former USM presidents and/or family members (deadline March 1, 2014): Where are they now and, if still living, in what ways are they leading? Respond at ps@oakwood.edu.

Your responses will be published in a future issue of the Oakwood magazine. If at all possible, please send an updated, high-resolution photograph of the former USM president, to accompany your responses. Thank you.
1950-1951: Harold Cleveland, Sr.
1952: W.E. Conway
1953: Joseph Hinson
1954: Malcolm Dean
1955: Herbert Davis
1956: Robert Williams
1957: David Taylor
1958: Charles Bridges
1959: Garland F. Millet
1960: Richard Hutchinson
1961: Paul Monk
1962: Dewitt Williams
1963: Oster H. Paul
1964: Henry Wright, Sr.
1965: James Winston
1966: Auldwin Humphreys
1967: William Frazier
1968: William A. Niles
1969: Pierre Hunt
1970-1971: No information available
1971-1972: Yonnie Hunt
1972-1973: No information available
1973-1974: Augustus Ogiste
1974-1975: No information available
1975-1976: George Valentine
1977: Preston Foster
1977-1978: William Talafarro
1979: Benson Mugemancuro
1979-1980: Randy Skeete
1980-1981: Marcellus P. Howard
1981-1982: Nathaniel Walesha
1982-1983: Mark Washington
1983-1984: Ryan Chandler
1984-1985: Kingsley Palmer
1985-1986: Antwoyn Mells
1986-1987: Neil Reed
1987-1988: No information available
1988-1989: No information available
1989-1990: Aleta Barnes
1990-1991: Carla Byrd
1993-1994: Carlton P. Byrd
1994-1995: Kesslyn Brade
1995-1996: Kelby McCortry
1996-1997: C. Wesley Knight
1997-1999: Debraire Snell
1999-2000: Cynthia Gordon
2000-2001: Lee Bulgin
2001-2002: Marlon Reid
2002-2003: Ricardo Daphnis
2003-2004: John T. Boston
2004-2005: Andrew Patterson
2005-2006: Mark Howard
2006-2007: Kasha Robinson
2009-2011: Toson Antwon Knight
2011-2012: Nelson Pugh
2012-2013: James B. Kelly

Compiled by Briana Figueroux, editor, The Spreading Oak newspaper, and Raymond King, director, Office of Student Activities.
The Oakwood University Annual Fund Campaign supports the basics for our students. From student aid to academic department support, your gift makes a difference for the future of Oakwood. Don’t delay! Make your gift today!

Make a secure gift online at www.ougiving.com, or call us at 256-726-7201, to speak to a development officer.

Invest in Future Leaders

Get Inspired. Make a gift. See the difference.

Oakwood University

www.oakwood.edu
Summer 2013 OU4HHIM Missions Initiatives: A Briefing

Three outreach ministries from the Office of Spiritual Life (OSL) stretched out to global hotspots, in need of additional grassroots evangelism.

Established in 2012, and acronymed “OU4HHIM” (Oakwood University for His Hand In Ministry), this international missions program dispatched OSL Chaplains Howard Weems, Ronald Pollard and Kimberly Pearson and trained students to Madagascar (June 7-26, 2013), Nairobi, Mombasa, Kenya (June 11-July 3, 2013) and Queens, New York (July 1-22, 2013), respectively.

To appreciate the full breadth of their three initiatives – e.g., the specific goals, participants, services rendered and the God-blessed results! – read the full reports and see the photographs, by visiting www.oakwood.edu.

**Madagascar**
- **Goals** – Children’s Ministry, Evangelistic/Medical/Orphanage Support and a Faith and Learning Conference Adventist University, Zurcher (AUZ).
- **Quantifiable Results** – 545 adult baptismal candidates, four AUZ Faith and Learning Conference presentations to 300-plus student body, 50% of whom are non-SDAs, 100 children baptismal candidates, 231 orphanage items donated ($972 estimated value) and $2,200 estimated value of donated medical supplies.

**Nairobi, Mombasa, Kenya**
- **Goals** – Evangelism, Mombasa medical camp, orphanage support, clothes distribution.
- **Quantifiable Results** – 650 baptismal candidates, 12 Indian Ocean baptisms, 100+ medical camp patients treated ($604 in donated medical supplies), cleared Canaan Orphanage’s delinquent utility bills ($200 estimated value) and gave 150 families in slums of Tchuda Mombasa and Kibera (“Little Soweto”) “prayers and clothes.”

**Queens, New York** (part of the General Conference’s NY’13 Campaign)
- **Goals** – General and Literature Evangelism, Community Services, Children’s Ministry.
- **Quantifiable Results** – 600+ bilingual tracts distributed, 40+ daily home visitations and 109 Vacation Bible School children (only 30 expected).
On Friday, May 3, 2013, the Home Depot® Retool Your School judges – including 1980s “Cosby Show” child-star Keshia Knight Pulliam – announced the winning results of the more than 2.6 million social media votes cast, with Oakwood University as the $50,000 grand prize winner, with 340,000 votes.

As OU President Dr. Leslie N. Pollard explained, Oakwood University benefited as the only HBCU in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which operates the world’s second largest private school system; thus, Oakwood accessed daily a network of approximately 7,800 institutions, during the two-month campaign.
“OU by the Numbers”
Presented by President Leslie Pollard

0 Describes the tolerance for firearms on the Oakwood University campus

1 Points to the single meat-free campus among the 105 HBCUs

340,000 The number of votes launching Oakwood to first place in the national 2013 Home Depot “Retool Your School” campus improvement contest

3 The consecutive number of years the Oakwood University Aeolians have been named the national Historically Black Colleges and University choir champions

4 The number of chaplains in Office of Spiritual Life each responsible for specific campus groups: administrators, faculty/staff and focus on male and female students, respectively

5 The number of academic schools organized in 2012 Schools of Arts & Sciences, Business & Adult and Continuing Education, Education & Social Sciences, Nursing & Allied Health Professions, and Religion

11,700 The square footage for the newly designed OU Media Center housing the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN)

13 The number of consecutive years Oakwood University has received the City of Huntsville Beautification Award

9,300,000 The dollar goal for our current capital campaign

1,905 The number of students calling Oakwood University their home-away-from-home

As of December, 2013
Leadership from the Grounds Up

by Stephen Foster

Members of the City of Huntsville’s Beautification Board recognize a good thing when they see one.

Such is obviously been the case as one approaches the campus of Oakwood University. The beauty of the campus and tidiness of its grounds are so undeniable that the University has now been recognized by the City of Huntsville with a Beautification Award citation for an amazing 13 consecutive years—by any standard an amazing accomplishment.

This is a feat reminiscent of the great dynastic era of Boston Celtics basketball. The Oakwood grounds crew, formerly led by Willie McCrary, then James Hamer, and for the past three years by Carlos Cole, has established its own OU dynastic empire; including winning the Mayor’s Award in 2011 as the most beautiful of the beautiful. There is only one Mayor’s Award recipient each year.

The city’s Beautification Award recipients are recognized by a conspicuously placed green and gold sign which simply states ‘Beautification AWARD’ above the words ‘City of Huntsville,’ but is indicative of an exacting standard that must be maintained, said Cole. “They can pull your sign at any time,” he warned.

According to The Huntsville Times, “any commercial or public business property in the Huntsville city limits is eligible for nomination.” Many of the now approximately 60 judges are themselves master gardeners, so these awards have become prestigious and coveted. The annual judging takes place in June of each year.
The perennial recognition of the beauty of our campus “is a tradition that’s become an expectation,” says Cole with a measure of team pride.

Clearly, Oakwood is known as “The Place Where Loveliness Keeps House” for good reason! But this doesn’t happen without a concerted, intentional commitment to detail and to excellence.

“It takes creativity and teamwork as well,” says Cole who has been at Oakwood for 21 years, and had previously served as a supervisor for six years prior to becoming grounds crew director in 2010. There is a ten-member crew which is responsible for all the University property. (seven full-time and three part-time employees).

“We get together as a group and pool ideas, and see what works,” Mr. Cole says. “We have our own way of doing things. We like to say there’s a right way, a wrong way, and there’s the Oakwood way,” he smiled.

It is, needless to say, a year-round job, and the crew typically starts its day with prayer and worship prior to getting the riding mower and weed-eaters going, according to Cole.

The spirituality of the campus had a lot to do with Cole’s attraction and attachment to the school he now serves.

He credits the administrations of Drs. Reaves, Baker, and Pollard since his arrival with setting a tone of encouragement and improvement. Cole cites the plans of the current administration particularly in terms of taking “Oakwood where it need to go, and its being allowed to grow, not unlike the flowers.”

“[Vice President for Financial Administration] Sabrina [Cotton] uses us for different projects,” says Cole, who is particularly excited about the new projects coming online and/or have already been completed, like the Home Depot Pavilion and others.

As hard as it may be to believe it appears that as good as it has been, the best is coming!

“We the society that scorns plumbing because plumbing due to its humble activity, yet tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because philosophy is an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.”  – John Gardner

Stephen Foster is a freelance writer and retired advertising executive from AT&T. He has a degree in History from Oakwood University, with graduate work in communications, journalism and religion at Andrews University. He currently serves as a member of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees. He writes from Huntsville, Ala.
Oakwood University Begins
Academic Year with Anointing Service

Just as one begins a journey or an exam with prayer, the Oakwood University community began its new academic year with a prayer service called First Chapel, on August 29, 2013.

Since his arrival in 2011, President Dr. Leslie N. Pollard as the Chief Spiritual Officer has elevated the annual University Convocation program into a campus-wide consecration service, engaging all campus groups in this program: university as well as Oakwood Adventist Academy & Elementary School administrators, faculty, staff, local ministers and students.

Oakwood University stands within the tradition proclaimed by our founder, Mrs. Ellen G. White, according to the printed program. She wrote, “In regard to this school here in Huntsville, I wish to say that for the past two or three years I have been receiving instruction regarding it...All that is done by those connected with this school, whether they be white or black, is to be done with the realization that this is the Lord’s institution...”

(From a Place called Oakwood p. 3).

The Home Depot representatives presented the Lord’s institution with a ceremonial $50,000 grand prize check, for winning this year’s “Retool Your School” historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) campus improvement contest, besting all other competing HBCUs, with 340,000 votes.

President Pollard gave his annual presidential address entitled, “Standing with the Stone.” Using the anchor passage of Daniel 6:49, he encouraged the attending students to stay strong in their studies and to never become fragile spiritually.

To further heighten Oakwood’s spiritual call-to-arms, The third First Chapel instituted an anointing service. Huntsville area SDA church pastors stationed throughout the packed OU church sanctuary offered specific prayers and applied anointing oil to the foreheads of petitioners waiting in long lines.

OU Capital Campaign Update

Goal: $9 million in 5 years

“Building on the Past: Claiming the Future” Campaign, the current $9 million Oakwood University capital campaign, continues to progress due to the donations and pledges of Oakwood alumni, friends and supporters.

To date:
Ground has been broken for the new $4.25M, 11,700 sq. ft. Media Center, to house both classrooms, offices and the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network studios; this Media Center will become the newest addition to our historic campus, to be erected between Ford Hall and the newly renovated Cunningham Hall on the campus mall.

Complete renovation is now underway for Beassie Carter Hall, built in 1966 to house the growing female population in the late 1970s - a $6.2 million project; during this 12-month restoration freshman women, housed there traditionally, have been relocated to the Wade Hall residence hall, as the university leased out apartments in University Place, adjacent to OU on Wynn Drive, to accommodate the upperclass women normally housed at Wade.

Funding and naming opportunities still remain for these and other capital campaign projects. Interested individuals and families are invited to call the Office of Advancement and Development at (256) 726-7201, for more information.
“CAAUP” means “Consortium of African Universities and Partners.” The organization is a consortium of international Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) institutions of higher learning established by the SDA Church entities inclusive of the General Conference of SDA as part of the educational program of the world-wide Church.

The purpose of CAAUP is to:

1) Facilitate international teaching, research, and service opportunities for faculty within the Consortium

2) Enable global partnerships between member institutions

3) Provide a culturally-competent and comprehensive faculty development experience for participating faculty

Oakwood University President, Dr. Leslie Pollard, initiated the conceptual vision of a global partnership (Consortium) of Adventist higher education institutions. From Dr. Pollard’s vision, in collaboration with Dr. Garland Dulan, vice president of Academic Administration, and Church (Division/Union) and Academic Presidents and Administrators representing institutions from Africa and the Caribbean, the CAAUP organization was established.

The opportunities are endless for the faculty members and institutions who participate in the exchange or visitation to another CAAUP institution. Faculty members are presented with unique opportunities for professional development and personal enrichment to adopt, adapt, propagate, and consolidate the best practices of CAAUP institutions through knowledge sharing and academic collaboration through cultural immersion with international partners and institutions.

The leaders and constituents of CAAUP are looking forward to the full implementation of the Consortium’s global exchange and visitation program between faculty members of CAAUP institutions. This interaction between institutional faculty members will facilitate global research collaboration, enhance teaching and institutional service while promoting continual professional development and growth for faculty in the academic context.
Oakwood University is purposed, designed, and determined—to produce people like Dr. Phil.

Philip McDonald, MD, is from the class of 2001, and he is not to be confused with the well-known mental health professional, Dr. Phil McGraw.

OU’s “Dr. Phil,” a radiologist, is the NBA-TV Medical Analyst who is featured monthly on the NBA TV Fantasy Insider Basketball broadcast during the regular season, providing ‘intel’ on the medical status of injured NBA players. Since October, 2012, he has also served as the Chief of the Musculoskeletal Division for Sunshine Radiology, Orlando, FL, a private group serving the Adventist Health System.

McDonald grew up in the Mt. Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church. “Being up front in church helped to give me the confidence to do just about anything,” Dr. McDonald reflects. This confidence enabled him to take the initiative to send an e-mail to Turner Sports, who responded in three hours, and gave him the opportunity to tape a pilot. “I only needed one take and they hired me on the spot to be the medical analyst for NBA TV,” he said. Dr. Phil was prepared for the opportunity.

McDonald chose to attend Oakwood [because it] is known for its strong biological sciences program, and is one of the top schools in placing blacks in medical school. When it comes to accolades, McDonald likes to acknowledge the entire Oakwood science faculty. “My teachers were all helpful and straightforward.”

Following his magna cum laude Oakwood experience, McDonald was recruited through the Health Careers Opportunity Program (a full, four-year tuition paid scholarship) to the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, from which he graduated in May, 2006. In 2012, OU’s “Dr. Phil” completed a Musculoskeletal Radiology Fellowship from the Duke University Medical Center, in Durham, NC, in one of only eight positions out of several hundred applicants and one of only three fully paid positions—Praise the Lord!

Oakwood is proud of her Dr. Phil, so whenever we hear of that name let us all henceforth ask, “Which one?”
In early fall semester 2011, Dr. Prudence Pollard, First Lady of the Institution and, at that time, AVP of Faculty Development, asked me: “Cherryl, will you take the lead in establishing a scholarly journal at Oakwood University (OU)?” The meeting melded the two minds in prayer, purpose, and plan.

Resulting from a course of analyses, meetings, and research, the product will be entitled “The ST AR,” Oakwood University’s Journal of Scientific, Technical, and Artistic Research. Although many titles were considered, The ST AR was chosen, given its link to “The Morning Star,” a steamship from which Edson White delivered education to freed Black slaves as the vessel traveled the Mississippi in the 1890s and early 1900s.

The ST AR will serve as a vehicle to expose its readers to the scholarly research activities of Oakwood’s faculty, staff and students, highlighting the scientific expertise across disciplines, inspire scholarly inquiry, and attest to God’s unfailing blessings on Oakwood.

Generating from the Division of Research and Employee Services, the Journal is a component of the Institution’s heightened engagement in scholarly activities that forward critical thinking and research. Each manuscript will be peer reviewed. The Journal will expand the dimensions of professional development and will initiate an electronic database of academic scholarship long overdue for the Institution.

The Journal’s developmental history reflects endorsement by an initial panel of faculty scientists during the fall semester of 2012, its expedient approval from the University’s Faculty Senate in February of 2013, and voted approval by the full faculty in regular session in the spring of 2013. The initiative was announced to the OU Board of Trustees on April 22, and the first Call for Papers was made on May 22, 2013. Design conceptualizations are churning while researchers are critically considering projects that will produce a legendary first edition.

Two minds, one prayer, one goal—two women anticipate the fruit of their labor during spring semester, 2014. Watch for "The ST AR!"
Board members traveled to nearby Lake Guntersville State Park and Resort for a retreat and the annual fall Board meeting (October 18-21, 2013). Under the theme “Keeping the Promise of Mission: Oakwood in the 21st Century,” the retreat provided an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to spend in relaxation, learning and fellowship.

Guests included Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, who educated the Board on its role in Oakwood’s success. Mrs. Leslie Marquard, a consultant with Marble Leadership, the group that conducted the three-day Strategic Actioning Session (September, 2012), helped Trustees envision Oakwood in the 21st Century.

Following the Board Meeting, President Pollard presented an update to all employees regarding the Board’s activities. He presented various topics, the most important of which was the confirmation of the Strategic Plan for the next five years.

Oakwood desires to nurture the minds and spiritual lives of its students, as well as provide them with a safe and comfortable living environment, as well as an efficient...
President Pollard described the two current construction projects. The $5.5 million Carter Hall (freshman female residence hall) renovation project will have a tremendous long-term impact on our young women. The project is scheduled to be completed by spring 2014.

He also discussed the necessity of the transformation of Ford Hall, to consolidate the Communications Department’s offices, studios and classrooms. The projected nine-month construction of the 11,700 sq. ft., $4 million Media Center will provide an environment to blend art and technology. By expanding the Center’s Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN), we will be able to share the story of God’s love to all the corners of the Earth.

The President presented Oakwood University’s revised:

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

**Vision Statement:** Oakwood University graduates leaders in service to God and humanity; and

**Goals** (now referred to as the “Seven Organizational Priorities at Oakwood University,” and within each, seven five-year goals are enumerated).

These revisions are the result of the Strategic Actioning Session, which produced a wide range of recommendations.

Last year, there was a five percent increase to the LEAP tuition, to insure a growing program. This year, a three percent increase will be added across-the-board for all students, and a three percent rebate for those students living off-campus. With all the building projects, employee raises, and the need for a revitalization of campus industries, the three percent will help maintain tuition for the following: on-campus students - $16,000; off-campus students - $16,700; and LEAP students - $10,000.

Oakwood is moving in a very good direction. For example, the establishment of the new Division of Research & Employment Services, led by Dr. Prudence Pollard, voted to commission a grievance policy which will avert any conflict of interest. All of the other campus Divisions gave outstanding reports from the Board of Trustees Retreat. President Pollard then had everyone in the audience read the covenant that the Board signed:

“In fulfilling the mission of Oakwood University, we will pursue dreams that will never materialize, goals that we will never reach, and plans that are destined to fail; except for divine intervention.”

We are all to embrace this same covenant, because this is what God will do through us and our ministry on a daily basis here, as we contribute to the momentum of Oakwood University.
OU Science Students Win Top Accolades in Diabetes Research in South Africa

by Dr. Safawo Gullo and Briana Figuexou

"These science majors have held high the banner of an Oakwood University (science) education, and deserve our highest congratulations for their work."

- Dr. Safawo Gullo

Oakwood University science students Jordan Matthews and Amal Taylor both received high accolades and a top prize for their research training in health disparities in South Africa this past summer.

In its first-ever ranking of academic programs at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), EBONY Magazine's September 2012 issue top-ranked Oakwood University's science program.

Funded by the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities/National Institutes of Health, the Elizabeth City State University (NC) Minority Health International Research Training (E-MHIRT) Program provided opportunities for students from minority populations where there are health disparities, to receive training designed to reduce and eliminate those health disparities wherever they occur.

Former Oakwood professor Dr. Ephraim Gwebu, the E-MHIRT Director, reached out to OU by inviting applications through Dr. Safawo Gullo, OU biology department chairman. Oakwood applicants Jordan Matthews and Amal Taylor joined eight other students from HBCUs.

The students left the US in mid-May, 2013, and completed their research training in mid-July, under the tutelage of US and African prominent mentors and facilitators: Ephraim Gwebu, Keratiloe Gwebu, and OU’s adjunct professor Malcolm Cort, who collaborated with researchers at the Walter Sisulu University (WSU) in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, to provide an intensive 10 weeks of research training for the students.

Based in East London, Jordan Matthews focused on developing inexpensive tools for assessing pre-diabetes status for use in South Africa. Jordan’s research activity was to assist in the collection of psycho-social and anthropometric data from sub-samples of persons with and without type 2 diabetes.

His main project was the development of a Diabetes Risk Score (DRS) as a simple tool for identifying pre-diabetes status. He presented his research at the 2013 Annual E-MHIRT Symposium at Walter Sisulu University on July 18, 2013.

He, like his counterparts from the United States, received excellent accolades from the WSU research judges who described the work as, “of a very high standard.”
Amal Taylor was based in Mthatha, in the Chemistry Department, where he was involved in the synthesis of compounds from plant metabolites with therapeutic potential. Under Drs. Adebola Oyedeji and Opeoluwa Oyedeji, Amal was able to extract essential properties from a local plant believed to have some medicinal properties. Amal demonstrated that the plant extracts have hypotensive, anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties. His report earned him not just high accolades, but first prize among his ten counterparts.

"Both Jordan and Amal left the research training more strongly resolved to pursue graduate education in their chosen fields, which was one of the major objectives of the training program," remarked Dr. Gullo. "These science majors have held high the banner of an Oakwood University (science) education, and deserve our highest congratulations for their work.

A special ‘thanks’ to Dr. Ephraim Gwebu, for including OU students in the E-MHIRT Program," he added.

Amal also presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), on November 14, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn., competing with more than 1,700 presents from across the United States.
Hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza are staples in most college cafeterias, but as more Americans explore alternative eating habits, a growing number of colleges and universities nationwide are responding to the call for healthier, non-meat food options.

Oakwood University has long been ahead of the curve. Based in Huntsville, Ala., the historically Black Seventh-day Adventist institution reportedly stands as the only HBCU with a meat-free dining program and is the only vegetarian university in the state.

According to a 2013 report by food service consultant Technomic, only 35 percent of students nationally reported satisfaction with their schools’ dining programs. About half of survey respondents said they were looking for greater flexibility in their dining options.

“A lot of people are becoming more health-conscious,” said David Knight, vice president of student services at Oakwood. Satisfaction with the school’s dining program increased from 17 percent in 2011 to 71 percent, due to input from the student advisory committee. The college is among 7,800 Seventh-day Adventist institutions that feature a vegan bar and a market area where students can feast on a selection of meatless treats on-the-go. “The health message permeates through all Adventist life of home, church and school,” he said.

According to the Adventist Health Study-2 conducted by the Loma Linda University School of Public Health, people who eat a vegetarian diet live longer than those who eat meat. The 96,000 survey respondents reported lower risk of heart disease, several cancers, high blood pressure, arthritis and diabetes than other Americans. Vegetarians and vegans tend to consume less saturated fat and ate more fruits and vegetables, beans, legumes and nuts. An estimated 35 percent of Adventists are milk and egg-using vegetarians, according to Loma Linda.

The study also noted that SDA vegetarian men tend to live three years longer than SDA men who eat meat.

The message of good health should resonate louder in the African-American community where health disparities loom larger, said Knight. African-Americans are at greater risk for illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure and strokes, often because of their diets.

“We are an HBCU, so we must stop killing our brothers and sisters when it comes to salt, fatty foods,” he said. “We talk to people about drinking and drugs, but not about obesity. We become silent killers because we allow certain health messages to get by.”

Since adopting a vegetarian diet four years ago, Oakwood student LaToya Bunting says her health has improved dramatically. Symptoms from her childhood epilepsy seem to have lessened. Her stamina and energy have increased, and her appetite is not as ravenous. “It was a welcome relief not to look at menus and make substitutions,” said Bunting. “You don’t have to pull apart a dish to make it your own.”

Trevor Fraser of Oakwood’s School of Religion (pictured above right) said the Bible serves as guide for all aspects of life, including diet. The initial guidelines for Oakwood’s menu stem from Genesis, when Adam and Eve ate grains and seeds from the ground. After the flood, man was given the option of eating meat, explained Fraser, but only clean meats such as cows, chicken and fish with fins and scales. Still, there is no scripture that states, “Thou shall not eat meat.”

“If you want to eat meat, you certainly have reason to do that; it wouldn’t be against the Bible,” said Fraser, a professor and coordinator for Master of Pastoral Studies. “We’re looking at a better approach to spirituality and health … what will produce a greater impact on one’s life.”
Oakwood on the Road
Keeping yOU Connected

by Tim Allston, APR

For the Oakwood Orlando alumni and friends, “10s” meant the $10,000 they contributed to Oakwood in gifts and pledges on that Saturday evening, August 10, 2013.

Russell Bates, Sr. (’51) later reflected, “It was so encouraging to hear the progress taking place at OU,” as he handed Kisha Norris, executive director of Advancement and Development, his personal check toward his capital campaign commitment.

By all accounts “Oakwood on the Road (OOTR),” the series of regional receptions where alumni, friends and prospective students and parents get to see and hear OU senior administrators, is bringing together the campus with its key outlying stakeholders.

Strategically, according to Norris, “these meet-greet-and-eat gatherings are linked to high-profile scheduled events which bring together OU officials with local and area Oakwood supporters - alums, friends and prospective students and their folks.”

For example, the annual White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities conference, invited the Aeolians Choir to perform at the September 26, 2013, luncheon for its annual meeting at the Washington Hilton. “The choir’s acceptance of this performance invitation in the metro DC area propelled us to work with the local alumni and co-host this continuing series of Oakwood on the Road receptions,” Norris said.

To date, OOTRs have occurred in Greater Nashville, during the NAD Teachers’ Convention (August, 2012); Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex (January, 2013); Allegheny West Conference camp meeting (June, 2013); Hamilton, Bermuda (July, 2013); Central Florida/Orlando (August, 2013); the metro Washington, D.C., area (September, 2013).

So far, all of the receptions have been similar in format. Attendees in any given city will:
• Hear President Leslie Pollard’s brief “State of the University” PowerPoint presentation, and ask him a series of questions;
• Submit and/or update their contact information, in order to receive campus print and online publications and weekly updates;
• Win an array of OU paraphernalia as gifts;
• Enjoy a brief vesper thought (if event is on a Saturday night); and
• Tangibly contribute toward the school’s current $9 million capital campaign. For example, in Orlando more than $10,000 in checks and pledged donations was received.

Stay tuned for more OOTR trip reports.
Our third consecutive First Chapel continued the “new tradition” of bringing together Oakwood University’s Pre-K-to-18 educational community. Thursday morning, August 29, 2013, featured a procession of both our University faculty in their distinctive academic regalia, and our Oakwood staff in dignified dark apparel. Consistent with the new emphasis on the creation of a seamless Pre-K to 18 learning community, the Oakwood Adventist Academy and Elementary School students participated in the program, along with our local Seventh-day Adventist Church pastors. This year’s opening convocation program also included a special anointing service, for all attendees who desired to receive this special symbol of consecration in their preparation for the coming school year of 2013-2014.

In that packed campus church program that officially began our school years, Pre-K-18 faculty members, staffs and students reaffirmed us as academic institutions on faith-based, academic missions. In this year’s Annual Presidential Address, “Standing with the Stone” taken from Daniel 2:45, I focused on Oakwood as a monument to Second Advent faith, and our founding, illustrating the character needed to stand with that stone.

While I encourage you to read the full text of “Standing with the Stone,” found on our website, www.oakwood.edu, I have included a few of the highlights from the presentation.

Character is the most important tool in a leader’s arsenal. Former general Norman Schwarzkopf once stated, “Leadership is the potent combination of character and strategy. But if you must be without one, be without strategy.” God continues to bless Oakwood with both faith-based leadership and a strategic focus called “Vision 20/20.”

The preceding Oakwood Magazine pages gave you a glimpse of current OU leadership; “Standing with the Stone,” however, will introduce you now to our “game changers” – those in-the-works activities which fast-forward Oakwood’s trajectory into the year 2020 and beyond. Three of these “game changers” are:

- **The recovery of Oakwood University industry**—This initiative will increase work opportunities for our students; decrease our dependence on both tuition and federal support for our educational enterprise; and move the institution toward greater self reliance.

- **The Oakwood University Media Center**—On October 9, 2013, Oakwood University broke ground on our 11,700 square foot Media Center, the intended home for the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network, where we will produce stories that tell the story of Oakwood University to publics needing to know our testimony; and

- **Oakwood Online University**—On October 10, 2013, we received permission from the regional accreditation agency, to fully deliver our products online. This will make our Oakwood University education accessible to students around the world.

Finally, we still need your philanthropic support for the biblically-based education offered by Oakwood University designed to develop our young and adult scholars in body, mind, and spirit.
Planning your legacy with Oakwood

Build a lasting legacy with a planned gift to Oakwood University. Your gift today will support any student scholarships, capital improvements, academic departments or research for generations to come. Help the students who will change the world.

You’re just one step away from making a dream come true!
Talk with our planned giving team about tax-effective options: establishing a trust, setting up a charitable gift annuity or creating a gift through your estate. Visit www.oakwood.giftlegacy.com or contact the Office of Planned Giving at 256-726-8278 or through email at fpullins@oakwood.edu.