

# OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

Oakwood Student  
Named as HBCU  
All-Star

Oakwood  
Celebrates  
**FOUNDER'S DAY**

Oakwood Selected for  
\$2.75M Grant from UNCF

IN CASE  
YOU MISSED

OAKWOOD  
**LIVE!**



# OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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### ABOUT THE COVER

This commemorative photo, of students, employees, and several alumni, was taken following Chapel on November 10, 2016.

Photo by Richard Hodnett & Anthony Chornes, II





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PHOTOS BY ROLAND SCOTT

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# 120 and Going Strong!

**F**or the first five years of my formal education, I walked six blocks every day to a small neighborhood public school, McDonough 27. On my way to and from school, I passed many neighbors who knew me and my family. My teachers, who were also our neighbors, were respected community fixtures. To this day they, who are still with us, are honored in the old neighborhood. If you were to ask me about them in the middle of the night, I could recall their names and the order in which they taught me. While our neighborhood school didn't have many of the modern technological devices that were then popular, it did offer the most robust and important element of the educational process—a rich, deep, caring, and intimate connection to the devoted teachers who shaped me.


Seven years later, after the '60s and '70s journey to distant schools because of legally-mandated integration, I found the same deep, intimate and caring connection to devoted teachers, but this time on the college level—at Oakwood. Here I found a new generation of warm and cherished relationships with teachers, with names such as Reaves, Moseley, Richards Barnes, Davis, Winslow, Gooding, Lacy, and a constellation of others.

On many days while I am walking the campus, visiting Moran Hall, standing in Cunningham Hall, or teaching in the Moseley Complex, I can still feel the rich and ever-present embrace of their godly influence and teaching. My fondest prayer is that I can pass on to today's students the same love and richness that my Oakwood teachers poured into me—a love that lasted not simply four years, but throughout 40 years.

I didn't know it at the time, but Oakwood was God's recruiting center for Christ's mission. The value of service to the Lord and the world were inextricably tied to the mission of my Oakwood education. *If* the most important issue in the last days is the great controversy, and *if* we are truly living in the final days of world history, and *if*

the most important issue in life is whether our young adults are actively deciding their allegiance to one of the two contending powers in the universe, then the most significant experience we can provide for our children is an increasing immersion into the mission of God's remnant church.

This edition of the *Oakwood Magazine* stands on 120 years of the rewarding influence of the many men and women who built this institution into what it is today. Administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, retirees—many have “rested from their labors,” but “their works follow them.” From 1896 to now, Oakwood University continues its ministry of transforming lives and equipping students for successful service through their chosen careers.

In this edition we provide you an overview of some of the modern initiatives which will define Oakwood for today's generation. We share our first ever Founder's Day Celebration, where we gratefully reflected on our 120 year journey. We also present our annual Agape Day, during which our student body annually delivers an outpouring of service to the Huntsville community. We tell you about today's version of what you may know as College Days—but retooled for the millennial generation as an interactive and immersive experience called Oakwood Live! Speaking of millennials, we are very intentional in preparing them for the 21st century workforce through our 2.75 million dollar Career Pathways Initiative. These are just a few illustrations that “our dear Oakwood” is 120 years old and going strong. 



*“I didn't know it at the time, but Oakwood was God's recruiting center for Christ's mission.”*

*Leslie N. Pollard*



# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

# FOUNDER'S DAY

NOVEMBER 9-16, 2016

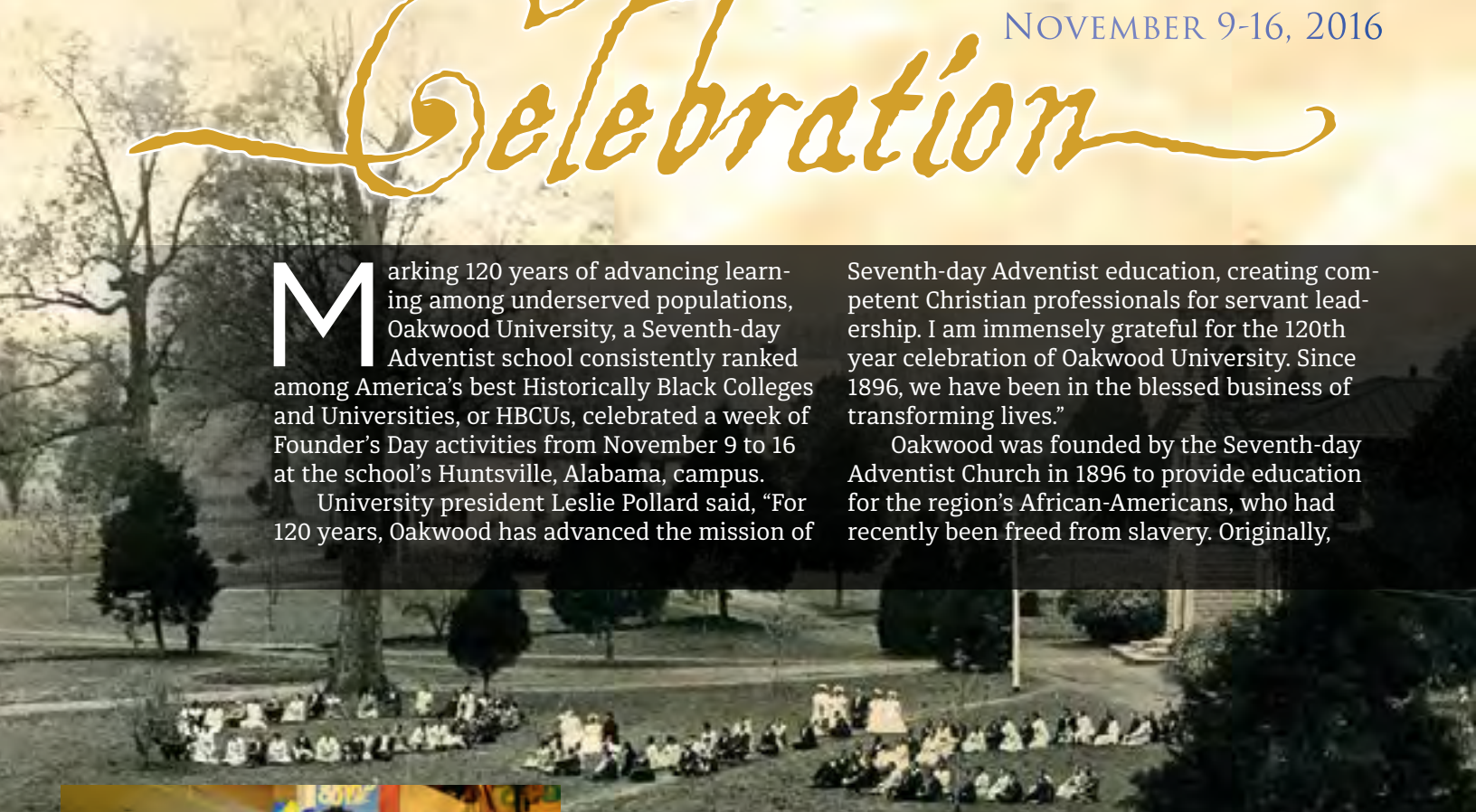
# Celebration

**M**arking 120 years of advancing learning among underserved populations, Oakwood University, a Seventh-day Adventist school consistently ranked among America's best Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs, celebrated a week of Founder's Day activities from November 9 to 16 at the school's Huntsville, Alabama, campus.

University president Leslie Pollard said, "For 120 years, Oakwood has advanced the mission of

Seventh-day Adventist education, creating competent Christian professionals for servant leadership. I am immensely grateful for the 120th year celebration of Oakwood University. Since 1896, we have been in the blessed business of transforming lives."

Oakwood was founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1896 to provide education for the region's African-Americans, who had recently been freed from slavery. Originally,



Students show off their "1896" commemorative t-shirts.



(l to r) USM President Gabriel Carter, President Pollard, Anita and Frank Jacobs—great-grandson of Solon M. Jacobs, Oakwood's first principal.

Dr. Prudence Pollard admires the work of local baker and cake decorator Sherea Gordon who created cakes in the shape of two of Oakwood's landmarks, the Lawrence Jacobs Silos, and the campus bell.



Elder Charles Bradford and Dr. Mervyn Warren comment on a display in the Clara Peterson-Rock Museum.



Dr. Tim McDonald, Ellengold Goodridge and Hastings Newbill at the mid-day celebration.



the school was called "Oakwood Industrial School," opening its doors on November 16, 1896, with 16 students. The 380-acre former slave plantation was dotted with towering oak trees, which inspired the name "Oakwood."

Founder's Day activities began with a special Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting service on November 9 at the Oakwood University Church, where senior pastor and Oakwood alumnus Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, '94, presented an inspiring reflection on how God has led us in the past.

Pastor Anthony Bolden, '15, spoke during the University Chapel service on Thursday, November 10. Following Chapel, a commemorative photo was taken. Several alumni participated, as well as students and employees.

Also on November 10, the school dedicated the E. E. Rogers Biblical Languages & Resource Center, honoring Dr. Ernest E. Rogers, who served as Oakwood's first full-time professor of biblical languages, from 1945 to 1979. The Center fosters the learning and use of biblical languages, and provides computer-based resources for students.

Later that afternoon, a portrait of President J. L. Moran was unveiled at Moran Hall, honoring Oakwood's first African-American president (1932-1945).

On Friday evening, guest speaker Dr. MyRon Edmonds, '99, senior pastor of the Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Euclid, Ohio, addressed a vespers service. Dynamic Praise ministered to the congregation in music.

The speaker for Divine Worship on Sabbath, November 12, was former president Dr. Calvin B. Rock, '54. The world-renown Oakwood University Aeolians and Orchestra ministered in music. A Gospel Music Fest took place on Sabbath evening, featuring the Aeolians and guest choirs from Bethune-

Cookman University, and Alabama A&M University.

Frank and Anita Jacobs of Williamsport, Maryland, visited the campus of Oakwood on Founder's Day, November 16, 2016. Frank is the great-grandson of Solon M. Jacobs, the first principal of the Oakwood Industrial School.

Oakwood celebrated its 120th birthday with cake, balloons, and music in Blake Center during the lunch hour on Founder's Day, where "Mr. and Miss Oakwood" distributed "1896" commemorative t-shirts.

Founder's Day festivities concluded following Prayer Meeting at the Lawrence Jacobs Historic Silos Plaza, with hot chocolate, donuts, cider, and a fireworks display.

Oakwood University continues to view education as indispensable in preparation for wider service to God and to the human family. Since 1896, thousands have received the blessings of our motto: "Enter to

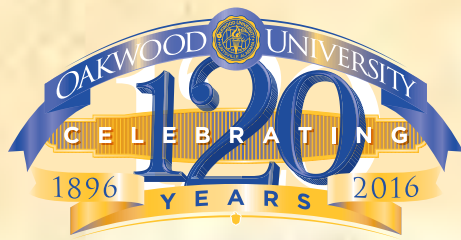
Learn; Depart to Serve."

Oakwood University, a historically Black Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher learning, offers quality Christian Education that emphasizes academic excellence, promotes harmonious development of mind, body, and spirit, and prepares leaders in service for God and humanity. Consistent with its mission statement, Oakwood University is in the business of transforming lives - both for now and, more importantly, for eternity.

Oakwood is consistently recognized by national media, business and educational associations. *U.S. News and World Report* ranks it perennially among the nation's "Best Colleges," both in terms of the "Historically Black Colleges and Universities" (HBCUs) and "Regional Colleges/South" categories; the magazine also ranks Oakwood among the top ten HBCUs with highest graduation rates. In its first-ever








HBCU ranking, the September 2012 EBONY Magazine top-rated Oakwood's science program.

Additionally, Oakwood is the nation's fifth-ranked producer of undergraduate black applicants to medical schools, according

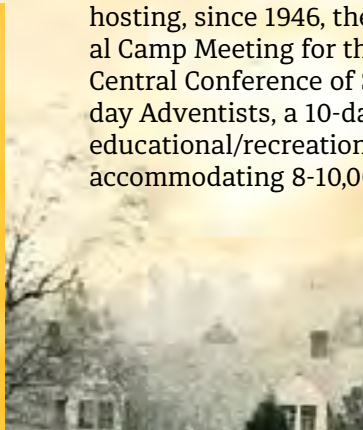
to the Association for American Medical Colleges. The University has tremendous local impact hosting, since 1946, the annual Camp Meeting for the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, a 10-day spiritual/educational/recreational retreat accommodating 8-10,000 attendees.

The University enjoys a beautiful natural setting on prime acreage and is considered one of the historical landmarks of the city of Huntsville, a cosmopolitan city of approximately 180,000 people located in north central Alabama. For those interested in additional information about the school and its history, an informative journey through Oakwood's history is available in the Spring, 2016, issue of the *Oakwood Magazine*. 

This article first appeared @ [AdventistReview.org](http://AdventistReview.org), Nov. 23, 2016.



Festivities included the unveiling of a new portrait of Elder J.L. Moran. ▼



Pastor Anthony Bolden at Thursday's Chapel program.



Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley shares part of her Oakwood story with President Pollard during church service on November 12.



The choir from Bethune-Cookman University participated in the Gospel Fest.



Oakwood's award-winning Aeolians during the Gospel Fest on Sabbath evening.




Dr. and Mrs. E.E. Rogers cut the ribbon, with Dr. Dedrick Blue (left) and Dr. Leslie Pollard

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNGC



# Oakwood Receives “Retool Your School” Grant Funds



A group of over 25 volunteer Oakwood students and employees gathered near the Lawrence Jacobs Memorial Silos Plaza on October 11, 2016, to help the team from Home Depot assemble bleachers for the soccer field. During the assembly process, everyone took a moment for a photo opportunity, as Home Depot presented Oakwood University with a check for \$20,000, representing Oakwood's winning the Tier II 2016 Home Depot's Retool Your School campus improvement grant. "I want to especially thank Kisha Norris, our Executive Director for Advancement and Development, and her team, for providing leadership in Oakwood's response to the Home Depot Challenge," said Dr. Leslie Pollard, President of Oakwood University. "For four consecutive years, Oakwood has won an award that has allowed us to improve our campus. Every time we use the pavilion near the Unity Pond for outdoor fellowship, or use the exercise equipment that has been installed, or now watch soccer games from the new bleachers, our energy is renewed." We thank everyone for their support by voting for Oakwood University each year, and we thank the Home Depot for the opportunity to participate. Staff from ASPiRE Television were on hand to film the day's activities, and the segment can be viewed at the link below. 



More saving.  
More doing.<sup>SM</sup>



<http://www.aspire.tv/videos/the-home-depots-retool-your-school-hbcu-grant-winners/>





# Oakwood Live! Brings Over 600 Potential Students to Campus

by Jeffrey Wilder, student writer

**EVERY YEAR** as the leaves begin to fall, and the weather begins to change, Oakwood University hosts a conglomerate of high school seniors, all wide-eyed and excited to learn everything they can about our beloved institution. These young prospective students come from all over the globe to experience Oakwood Live!

This year, Oakwood Live! (formerly known as College Days) was extended two additional days, for a total of five days of immersion in the academic culture and day-to-day life of the Oakwood student. Activities included visiting academic departments, attending the highly anticipated concert featuring Oakwood University's choirs, dramatic presentations and individual musical talent.

Although the weather wreaked havoc around the world, we were blessed to host more than 600 prospective students who were ready to receive, if only for a moment, the coveted "Oakwood Experience" we all talk about. Senior Joshua Southwell said, "I believe Oakwood Live! was a great chance to get a glimpse of what it's like to be a student here. All of the activities they were a part of, including the various worship experiences, provided a preview of what they can expect when they arrive next fall. I hope each student realizes that not only do you receive a quality education at Oakwood, but you forge lifelong friendships while finding yourself in Christ on this

campus! If you ask me, nothing tops such an experience."

During their time here, potential students also received a foretaste of dorm life, as they shared rooms with current students who volunteered to share their space in an effort to help give soon-to-be students the full OU experience.

Saturday night's block party offered our guests one last chance to mingle with student-led organizations. Several activities happened simultaneously: a basketball game, inflatables, an "escape room" tent, a video gaming truck, bubble soccer, and local guest food trucks provided a variety of delicious foods. 🍷





# OAKWOOD LIVES!





# 2016 UNIVERSITY Convocation



Oakwood University held its annual University Convocation on September 1.


Administration, faculty, and staff marched down the aisle of the University Church, which was filled with university students, as well as students from all grades of Oakwood Adventist Academy.

Following the welcome by President Leslie Pollard and USM President Gabriel Carter, the congregation and platform participants, including Dr. Leslie Pollard, Dr. Karen

Benn Marshall, Dr. Howard Weems, Dr. Prudence Pollard, OAA principal Gabriel Madrid, Kisha Norris, Sabrina Cotton, Kirk Nugent, David Knight, and Oakwood University Church Senior Pastor Dr. Carlton Byrd, led the congregation in reading the litany for Oakwood's new school year.

Together the platform participants and congregation prayerfully committed to keeping God first in every part of their lives. Part of the litany read: "From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, we will praise You. You are first in our worship, first in our prayer, and first in our praise. We will lift You up by putting You first every day of this new school year. Amen."

Students, administrators, faculty, and staff were admonished to remember victories and successes of the past, in a powerful address from President Pollard entitled "Lest We Forget." The world renowned Aeolians lifted the congregation's spirits as they sang "Lift Every Voice."

The 2016 University Convocation concluded with a special anointing service in which Huntsville area pastors prayed over students and employees of the University. 





# Oakwood's Visitors

## English and Foreign Languages Department Welcomes Dr. Sonia Sanchez

On September 6, Oakwood's Department of English and Foreign Languages and the Alabama State Council on the Arts hosted an evening with poet, mother, professor Dr. Sonia Sanchez on the "Poet as Creator of Social Values" in the Moran Hall Auditorium.

Sanchez is the author of over 20 books, and has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States, and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry

in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, the People's Republic

of China, Norway, and Canada. This is her third visit to Oakwood University: the first in 1994, the second in 2000. Ramona Hyman, Ph.D., associate professor of English, coordinated the poet's visit, and thanked everyone for their attendance.

## Dykes-Rivers Lecture Series Presents Erika Alexander

The Department of Communication hosted actress, producer, activist Erika Alexander for the Dykes-Rivers

Lecture Series on

September 15, in the Peters Media Center Studio. Students, faculty and community guests listened as Alexander described her journey to being an actress and activist for women's and children's issues. Alexander is possibly best known as for her award-winning role as "Maxine Shaw" from the hit series *Living Single*, and as "Cousin Pam" on *The Cosby Show*.

The lecture series followed an interview format with Oakwood alum David Person, '85, who asked Erika about her work as a delegate to Africa for the Clinton Global Initiative. After spending time in front of the camera, Erika has moved on to co-create, produce and star in the new YouTube series, *#TheBFFChronicles*. She has also co-created and writes for the graphic novel series *Concrete Park*.

Erika had visited a communications class earlier in the day, and noted how impressed she was with our students and their interest, as well as her positive impression with the Peters Media Studio and Oakwood's campus.

The Dykes-Rivers Lecture Series is named for communication pioneers James Dykes, Sr., and Ted Rivers, who were instrumental in the beginnings of radio broadcasting at Oakwood.

## Music Department Hosts Groundbreaking Artist Jacob Collier

Jacob Collier, one of the world's most distinctive, inventive and prodigious young musi-

Erika Alexander cordially obliged several individuals during a photo opportunity following the lecture. Pictured here (l-r) are Ted Rivers, one of the originators of Oakwood's broadcasting program; Mrs. Patrice Conwell and Dr. Victoria Joiner, assistant professors in the Communication Department; Erika Alexander; Dr. Renae Elliott, chair of the Communication Department; and interviewer, David Person.



cians, stopped by Oakwood University to present a master class for the Department of Music, between stops on his global tour.

Jason Max Ferdinand, D.M.A., chair of Oakwood's Music Department, said that "Jacob Collier is simply a genius! The knowledge that spews from his brain surpasses what many musicians learn in a lifetime. I think he totally revolutionizes how music can and should be approached!"

Growing up in a family of musicians, Collier has embraced the Internet to share his uniquely creative talent, and is best known for his trademark multi-faceted YouTube videos in which he sings all the parts, plays all the instruments, and visualizes every component with a mosaic of screens. "Mr. Collier displayed an amazing versatility and depth of imagination which inspired our students," said Dr. Leslie Pollard, who attended the event.

Jacob has spent the last year collaborating with Ben Bloomberg at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), designing and building a one-of-a-kind solo live performance vehicle, which brings his one-man, multi-instrumental, multi-visual format of music making to the stage in a way that has never been seen or heard before. Collier is concurrently working on commissioned arrangements for orchestras and bands, traveling to give masterclasses at various schools and universities, and collaborating with many different musicians, including Take 6. 🎵



Kenneth Anderson, Huntsville's director of Multicultural Affairs, reads the "Sonia Sanchez Day" proclamation.



# Oakwood Receives the Largest



Career Pathways employer panel—"What skills do students need to be employable?" Panelist: Juanita Phillips, '97, Allen Reid, '94, Brian Bridges, Tom Houser, and Frank Williams. Jill Stuart takes visual notes in the background.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY CHROMES, II

**A**fter a six-month planning phase, UNCF announced Oakwood University as one of 24 colleges and universities that will receive five-year grants totaling \$35.3 million for the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), a transformative effort to design and implement programs to improve employment outcomes for graduates.

In a competitive application process which began with 87 institutions, Oakwood University, Talladega College and Tougaloo College collaborated over the past few

months to apply for a CPI cluster grant, which will collectively award \$6M to the three institutions. The award will be allocated across a five-

year period beginning in 2017.

"I am pleased and excited that Oakwood University and our sister institutions, Talladega and Tougaloo, have been able to work together to receive this award of up to \$6M," remarks Dr. Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University. "This grant from UNCF and the Lilly Foundation is going to give us the edge that we need to make sure that when our students finish their degree, they will be eligible for employment because of the career exposure we will provide. Special thanks to my colleagues in presidential leadership - Dr. Beverly Wade-Hogan at Tougaloo and Dr. Billy Hawkins at Talladega - who provided the passion and vision which guided their campuses into joining our his-

toric collaboration. The next five years will be among the most exciting in the history of our University."

Dr. Prudence Pollard, Vice President for Research and Faculty Development, led the Oakwood team in writing and facilitating the strategies designed to assess, equip, and place students in gainful occupations or graduate programs within a year of graduation. The on-campus team includes Vice President for Academic Administration, Dr. Karen Benn Marshall, and the Deans and Department Chairs at Oakwood. Each entity has a significant responsibility to deliver different elements of the grant.

Made possible through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is a unique pilot program for select historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly black institutions (PBIs) that is helping them enhance career readiness for their 54,000 enrolled students. Many of these students will be the first in their families to earn college degrees. The majority of students are from low-to-moderate income families and must receive federal financial aid to pursue their undergraduate studies.

Oakwood University submitted a proposal that reflects a commitment to strengthening career advising and mentoring, enhancing curricula, and supporting integrated co-curricular engagement. As part of CPI, the selected institutions will develop a range of academic programs, student internships, industry partnerships, specialty certifications, and faculty development as they forge a new model for career readiness.



**UNCF**

**A mind is a terrible thing to waste®**





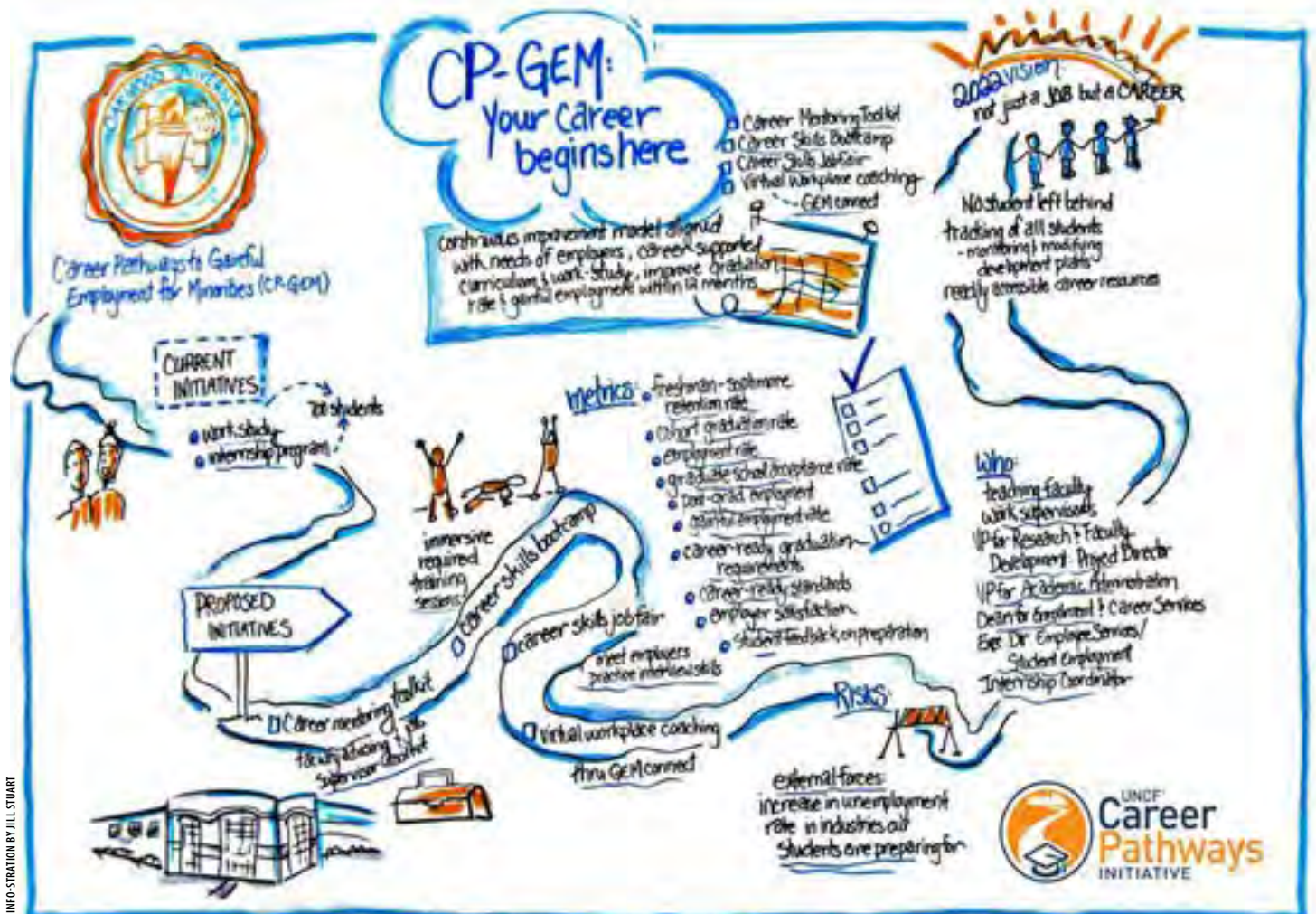
# Grant Award in Its History!

“These colleges and universities show promise in significantly addressing the urgent challenges facing African American college students and graduates,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO. “We heartily congratulate Oakwood University and the 23 other institutions chosen to lead this important work.” UNCF launched CPI in December 2015 through a rigorous and competitive multi-phased grant process that targeted 87 eligible public and private HBCs and PBIs. In the first phase, UNCF made planning grants to 30 institutions. In the final phase, UNCF has chosen 24 institutions for implementation grants. Of those schools, 15 institutions will receive individual awards ranging from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Nine of the institutions, including Oakwood, have been selected for three cluster grants, in which each cluster of three institutions will collaborate

intentionally to achieve their shared outcomes. Each cluster will receive up to \$6 million.

“I also commend our UNCF President, Dr. Michael Lomax, who has worked tirelessly to build partnerships designed to advance the UNCF mission of educating students of color in order to make them successful,” says Dr. Pollard. “His vision for enhancing our UNCF institutions’ curricula and capacity will serve as a legacy of service which will be long remembered.” Oakwood’s guided pathway provides student-centered and immersive experiences, a career preparation with faculty to guide students toward academic and professional success. Our vision is an internal social media and highly connected (GEMconnect) guided career pathway to provide each graduate with 21st century career and technology tools needed to thrive. 📱

During Oakwood’s Colloquium 2016, artist Jill Stuart created this info-stration to visually explain the UNCF® CPI grant objectives.





# Carpe Agape

“seize the love”



A student volunteer cleans windows at the Huntsville Space & Rocket Center. ▶

# Agape Day

PHOTO BY ANTHONY CHORNES, II

**S**eptember 20 was AGAPE Day 2016, the one day during the fall semester at Oakwood University when classroom instruction is officially set aside so that students, employees and administrators can “depart to serve” the Huntsville/ Madison County area, and learn in the “community classroom.” Oakwood has been participating in AGAPE Day for over 10 years.

The day began at 8:45 a.m., when approximately 675 volunteers in their bright yellow t-shirts boarded the buses to be transported to work sites in the greater Huntsville area. Work projects included painting, planting, weeding, general cleanup, conducting science experiments with elementary school children, and assisting senior citizens.

The number of work sites

totaled 35 this year, including the Downtown Rescue Mission, CASA Community Garden, the Alabama Constitution Village, Highland Elementary School, the Huntsville Botanical Garden, Willow Run Towers, Habitat for Humanity, Morris Elementary School, and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

**“Oakwood tangibly shows our commitment to the value of service.”**

AGAPE Day was first launched in 2005 as an initiative between the Division of Academic Administration and the Freshmen Studies Department, and is

now coordinated by the Office of Spiritual Life. Chaplain Kimberly Mann, AGAPE Day Coordinator, shared that the day “was a blessing to both the individuals who rendered service as well as to those who were beneficiaries. Community members and service recipients appreciate the way that Oakwood tangibly shows our commitment to the value of service.” 🐾



▲ Pre-physical therapy major Kiana Berry assisted with animal care at the Greater Huntsville Humane Society.





Students helped with meal preparation at the Downtown Rescue Mission ▶



Dr. Finbar Benjamin, assistant vice president for academic administration, trims hedges in front of the Children's Museum in downtown Huntsville. ▶



◀ Volunteers worked to assist a local elderly couple with clean-up and yard work.



▲ Students were happy to volunteer at over 30 work sites throughout Huntsville.



▲ Agape Day volunteers spent time with senior citizens at Willow Run Towers and with children at local elementary schools. ▶



You can search social media for AGAPE Day photos at #AgapeDay2k16 and #agapeday16.







## Oakwood Student Receives ETS Presidential Scholarship

● Along with the President's Office, we congratulate **Nandi Brooks**, from Miami, Florida, for being the 2016-2017 recipient of the Educational Testing Service Presidential Scholarship for HBCU Students. Nandi is one of eight students who were selected.

The scholarship competition recognizes students who have established a record of outstanding academic performance in college, both overall and

in their major field of study; who exhibit an interest in leadership in their chosen field; and who have a financial need. Nandi is a junior communication major with a special focus in public relations and a minor in marketing.

Recipients of this scholarship are required to make a presentation on a topic related to their major field of study at ETS headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey, in early 2017.

## Oakwood Student Named as HBCU All-Star

● The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities announced recently that **Gabriel Carter**, of Atlanta, Georgia, is one of 73 students from across 63 HBCUs named as the 2016 HBCU All-Stars. The All-Stars, comprised of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, are being recognized for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

"During the course of one academic school year, the 73 All-

Stars will distinguish themselves as exemplars of the talent that HBCUs cultivate and as noble ambassadors of their respective institutions," said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. "The Initiative is looking forward to working with this third class of All-Stars and is confident this opportunity will allow the Initiative to meaningfully connect with HBCU students and advance academic excellence at their schools."

Over the next year, the students will







try professionals, the students will share proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential. They will also participate in the White House HBCU Week Conference, national and regional events, and webinars with Initiative staff and other professionals on a range of disciplines that support a spirit of engagement and personal and professional development.

a group and network with one another to achieve their goals. Kedgeree Dominic McKenzie, senior communication major at Oakwood, will continue his work with the WHIHBCU as Communication Director of the All-Star Ambassador organization. McKenzie served as a 2015 HBCU All-Star.

serve as ambassadors by providing outreach opportunities and communicating with other students about the value of both education and

the Initiative as a networking source. Using social media, relationships with community-based organizations, and sessions with indus-

The All-Stars were selected from over 300 students from 24 states, the District of Columbia, Ghana, Nigeria, and the Virgin Islands. They will work together and as



Kedgeree Dominic McKenzie

# Oakwood Student Continues to Make an Impact


● **Tyler Brown**, senior public relations and political science major, spent her summer as a Congressional Black Caucus intern in the office of Representative Elijah Cummings. She is a native of Washington, D.C.

During the summer of 2014, Brown accepted an internship with the United States Department of Justice at the Office on Violence Against Women. There she polished her skills in grant writing, while



educating herself on pressing women's issues. Visits to the White House coupled with opportunities to meet with many political activists, in tandem with the knowledge that she received from her internship, influenced Brown to change her career goals.

Last school year, Brown served as the editor of Oakwood's newspaper, *The Spreading Oak*, and is currently a member of Phi Alpha Delta, a graphic design lab instructor, and a public relations writer.

Tyler currently holds the office of Senior Class Vice President. She also intends to continue her relationship with the Huntsville City Boys and Girls Club. After college, Brown plans on pursuing a dual JD/MA with a focus in public policy. She aspires to be employed by a crisis communications management firm in the DC metro area. 



## Oakwood University Endowment: \$20M by 2020

**O**akwood University has begun to implement plans to grow its endowment to \$20M by the year 2020.

“It may seem a tall order to make such a sizable jump in our endowment, but we see this as a strategic and necessary goal when we look at our future plans and the invest-

ment in our future,” states Sabrina Cotton, vice president for Financial Administration. “By partnering with the Board of Trustees, the President’s Office, and the Development Office, we feel that our stretch goal is easily attainable as long as we are persistent and keep the ‘big picture’ in mind.”

At the close of fiscal year 2016, Oakwood had an endowment totaling \$13.8M, representing a 42% growth over the past five years.

The plans for growth include four strategies:

1. Budget to eliminate non-mandatory spending of endowment earnings until 2020;
2. Reinvest earnings not required for mandatory spending;
3. Assign annual % increase in operating subsidies received from NAD and Regional Conferences to quasi-endow-

- ment (per voted policy); and
4. Add at least two new scholarship endowments via fundraising annually.

“The growth of the endowment is important because it allows us to reduce our dependence on tuition revenue, and it assures our students that they can successfully complete the journey to graduation by the use of scholarship funds,” remarks Cotton. “Other useful areas of the endowment allow for the upkeep and continued outfitting of campus buildings and the growth of our academic programs.”

If you or someone you know would like more information on contributing to Oakwood University’s endowment, please contact our development office by emailing [Kisha Norris](mailto:knorris@oakwood.edu) at [knorris@oakwood.edu](mailto:knorris@oakwood.edu), or calling her at **256-726-7201**. 📞



## My Road to Graduation Scholarship Program

**T**his past fall semester, Oakwood University was pleased to launch a brand new scholarship program to support our students on the road to graduation.

The My Road to Graduation scholarship program is just one of the many ways that Oakwood University is implementing to assist every student who wants to attend and complete a degree with the tools and finances to succeed.

Oakwood will provide up to \$3,000 annually (\$1,500 per semester awarded at the end of the semester) to assist students who enter Oakwood as

first-time freshman and who complete and receive credit for at least 15 earned Oakwood University hours each semester and maintain a 2.0 GPA. Students can receive the scholarship for a maximum of nine semesters.

“When students come to Oakwood University and are unable to complete their degree, we all lose. The My Road to Graduation scholarship rewards those students who want to complete their degree, on time and are successful academically,” states



Sabrina Cotton, Vice President for Financial Administration at Oakwood University. “Many students this semester have already benefited from these additional funds.”

For more information on this scholarship or to apply for admission to Oakwood University, please contact [Malcolm Taylor](mailto:Malcolm.Taylor@oakwood.edu), Director of Admissions & Recruitment, **(256) 726-7356** or [admissions@oakwood.edu](mailto:admissions@oakwood.edu). 📞





# OU Women Get R.A.D.!

by Victoria L. Joiner, Ed.D., associate professor of Communication



**R.A.D.** stands for the Rape Aggression Defense System, a comprehensive self defense course. R.A.D.-certified instructor, OUPD Chief Melvin Harris, led a group of approximately 17 young women through the 12-hour course that teaches the tenets of awareness, risk reduction, prevention, and avoidance, and the basics of actual hand-to-hand defensive training.

All of the training culminated with the students engaging officers in hand-to-hand defense scenarios. Twelve students in their protective gear were placed in vulnerable situations in which they had to extricate themselves physically. The simulation became much more realistic when the officer restrained each woman and tried to rough her up. However, each woman was able to utilize the techniques they had learned on how to fight back, draw attention to their predicament, and most importantly, break free from the attacker and get to safety.



Ruth Spann, a student participant, said the simulation was “really kind of scary but I was excited to know how to defend myself” she said. “I am very glad that I came and learned these techniques!”

seemingly sweet and nice, but their intentions are not nice at all.”

Chief Harris stated, “I want the women on campus to feel empowered through R.A.D. training. That’s why this year we offered the training to Oakwood staff members as well.” Harris said that approximately 12 students completed the training during this last session, and the OUPD is



Officer Desmond Paramour donned a very threatening protective suit and transformed into an aggressive bad guy during the final 3-hour session.

Charlotte Brand, staff member in the OUPD Office, wanted to be a part of this R.A.D. training “so I could help the young ladies understand how important it is to protect themselves—not only from strangers, but from anyone, including friends, acquaintances, or even family members, who could violate them in any way. A lot of times people see an attacker as big and vicious, but many of them you already know. They are

**“I am very glad that I came and learned these techniques!”**

planning to offer the training again in the future. “We hope more students, staff, and faculty will take advantage of this training so they can be just a little safer in their homes, at work, and wherever they go.”



# Fall Student Week of Prayer – “I AM”

by **Bright A. Baah**, Religious Vice President, United Student Movement

**D**uring the fall semester, the Student Week of Prayer occurred September 26-30, 2016. Each appointed speaker shared their insights on one of the five ‘I AM’ statements of Jesus. The week’s programming allowed every class to be represented, and speakers were not just limited to theology majors. Ultimately, God was the One who chose the speakers, and each one was used uniquely for His glory.



## **MONDAY - ‘I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD’**

On Monday, which was led by the junior class, engineering major Ken Brandon explained light from a scientific perspective, which added a unique element to his sermon. At the end, we were awed by Christ’s power to obliterate darkness, in both the physical and spiritual realm.

## **TUESDAY - ‘I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD’**

The freshman class led in all aspects of the service, giving God their best. Camille Belle, a double major in psychology and elementary education, likened Christ to our older brother, Someone who will always fight our battles, and will protect and take care of us.

## **WEDNESDAY - ‘I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE’**

Wednesday night prayer meeting was led by the senior class.

Caleb Akins, a senior Spanish major, shared that Christ is the only and unique way to reach the Father, and about the necessity of acknowledging God’s unique way of reaching Him. Moreover, if we have Christ, then we have truth and life abundantly.

*“God’s presence was felt throughout the whole week.”*

## **THURSDAY - ‘I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE’**

The sophomore class led out on Thursday. Biology major Jodi Lewis preached from her heart, in a way that was not only convicting, but sincere as well. Ms. Lewis showed that Christ is always sufficient, especially in the tough times of our lives, and that we should expect Him to supply all our needs.

## **FRIDAY - ‘I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE’**

The Religious Vice President Bright A. Baah ended the week at Friday’s AYM, preaching about Christ resurrecting what we believe is dead in our lives. He talked about the faith of Mary and Martha, and how we are like them whenever we doubt Christ’s power

in our lives.

Overall, the student week of prayer was successful not because of the number of people who came down for the appeal, or the number of individuals who stood for baptism, or the diversity of the speakers, but because God’s presence was felt throughout the whole week. Christ indeed was lifted up every night and the students were drawn to Him. 🙏





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# LEAVE A LEGACY



**H**elp us celebrate the new Peters Media Center, home of Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN). The sidewalk leading to this state-of-the-art facility, dubbed The **Legacy Walkway**, is paved with bricks. Oakwood University is excited to offer you the opportunity to pave the way into the next 120 years of success by purchasing a brick to be set on campus.

Our **Legacy Walkway** features names of donors, loved ones, special remembrances, and favorite sayings. Customized bricks are a great opportunity to congratulate a recent graduate, celebrate a degree or accomplishment, or honor your loved ones.

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

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# 2016/2017 OAKWOOD LADY AMBASSADORS

## Home games

10/31 Welch  
 11/03 Snead State  
 11/05 Washington Adventist  
 11/06 Forest Trails  
 11/08 Bryan  
 11/10 Martin Methodist  
 11/14 Georgia Northwest Tech  
 11/17 North Alabama  
 11/29 Alabama A&M  
 12/01 Snead State  
 12/03 Covenant  
 01/14 Martin Luther King Classic

01/15 Martin Luther King Classic  
 01/16 Martin Luther King Classic  
 01/19 Fisk  
 01/21 Concordia  
 01/23 Judson  
 01/28 Warren Wilson  
 01/30 Hiwassee  
 02/02 Georgia Northwest Tech  
 02/06 Covenant  
 02/16 Hiwassee  
 02/18 Fisk  
 02/22 Concordia

03/01- 03/04 USCAA National Tournament



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CRONIS II



# OAKWOOD BASKETBALL

## 2016-2017 Ambassadors

10/25 **BRYAN** 7 PM

10/28 at Faulkner University Classic 3 PM

10/29 at Faulkner University Classic 7 PM

11/01 at Cumberland 7 PM

11/03 **TALLADEGA** 7:30 PM

11/05 at Washington Adventist 9:30 PM

11/06 at Forest Trails 4 PM

11/08 at Bryan 6:30 PM

11/10 at Martin Methodist 7 PM

11/12 **CUMBERLAND** 8 PM

11/17 at North Alabama 8 PM

11/28 at Talladega 7 PM

12/01 at Stillman 7 PM

12/03 at North American 9 PM

01/14 **MARTIN LUTHER KING CLASSIC** TBA

01/15 **MARTIN LUTHER KING CLASSIC** TBA

01/16 **MARTIN LUTHER KING CLASSIC** TBA

01/19 at Fisk 8 PM

01/21 **CONCORDIA** 9 PM

01/28 **NORTH AMERICAN** 9 PM

01/30 at Hiwassee 7 PM

02/16 **HIWASSEE** 8 PM

02/18 **FISK** 9 PM

02/22 at Concordia 8 PM

\*02.28 – 03.05 USCAA National Tournament



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# Leaders



# Oakwood Hosts 22nd Annual Graduate & Professional School Expo

by Jeffrey Wilder, student writer



On October 3, Oakwood University's Career Services & Testing Department hosted the 22nd annual Graduate and Professional School Expo to conclude Career Focus Month.

Over 70 graduate and professional programs were represented and hundreds of students attend-

*“This is an opportunity for students to prepare for their futures.”*

ed. Upper-class students were especially encouraged to attend to gain insight on how to prepare for graduate school and also to speak to advisors from over 60 institutions about enrolling in graduate programs after their matriculation at Oakwood.

Verneice Wright, Director of Oakwood's Career Services & Testing Department, said “This is an opportunity for students to prepare for their futures. Students who know they are going on to grad school need to be proactive in finding out what is necessary to achieve that goal.” Networking is a key component to successfully navigating the application process. This



event allows the students to maximize their effort.

Over the course of four days, the statewide graduate and professional school recruiting event is held in several cities in Alabama, including Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Montgomery. Other Career Focus Month activities included presentations on topics such as resume preparation and financial literacy.

The Career and Testing Center in Cunningham Hall exists to help students who are planning their futures. 🙌







# Oakwood Reaches Out to Former ITT Tech Students

by Kisha Norris, M.Ed., CFRE, executive director of Advancement & Development

**O**n September 20, Oakwood University hosted an information session to reach out to the former students of ITT Tech after that institution's unexpected closing. The information session included representatives from the Registrar's Office for transcript review, the Financial Aid office for assistance with funding, and academic advisors from various departments.

"Education is vital to the future of our society," says Dr. Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University. "If we at Oakwood can do anything to assist the students who were displaced by the closing of ITT Tech, we want to support them."

"Oakwood University is a great place and we want as many local students as possible to be able to complete their education right here at home," says President

Pollard. "We also plan to serve non-local ITT students through our online services."

"We're excited for these students to finish what they started," remarked Vice President for Academic Administration, Dr. Karen Benn Marshall. "We plan to work very closely with every individual student to determine which credits will transfer and how they can complete their degree." 📚



Representatives from the Registrar's Office were available to review transcripts, and staff from the Office of Financial Aid helped determine sources of funding. Academic advisors from various departments also attended.



*"Oakwood University is a great place and we want as many local students as possible to be able to complete their education right here at home."*





# Information Technology Makes a Move

**F**or a number of years, the Information Technology (IT) department has been scattered across the campus. Having offices in five different buildings made it more challenging for them to service the departments on campus and student concerns. But now, all of that is a thing of the past.

As of October 2016, the IT department has been relocated to one building, Blake Center. The staff and their leader, Kirk Nugent, Chief Information Officer (CIO), couldn't be more excited.

"It was really important for me to bring the entire staff in one location," says Nugent. "The comradery and team effort that I have seen since the move has made us a better group, a better family and a more cohesive unit."

Some of main reasons for the IT move were:

- To be more central to campus, and more available for student support.
- 80% of the campus technology infrastructure (server access, switches, etc.) is located in Blake Center.
- Majority of campus administrators are located in Blake Center.

"Technology doesn't work well in isolation. We need to be able to come together and work on issues and chal-



lenges, sometimes very quickly, to make things happen. This move has enhanced our ability to get our campus IT infrastructure at its best," remarks Nugent.

The changes that you now see in Blake Center are only the first phase of the renovations for IT. The second phase of construction is now underway and scheduled to be completed in the Spring semester 2017.

"We know that this move is better for our students and campus community. Instead of having to send people to different areas to get their issues resolved, they can come to one place. We see this as a win for our campus," said Nugent. 📧







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## Power Packed Weekend:

**D**uring the Fall semester Power-Packed Weekend, under the banner theme “He Said Go,” associate chaplain Marlene King explored the subject of purpose. This is a brief synopsis of her first sermon in the series.

For many of us, when the subject of purpose is mentioned, we often find ourselves frustrated, not knowing what to do about it! I believe that before we were born and made our entrance into this earth, God created us with specific plans, purposes and dreams on how we would live out our lives in Him.

In 1 Corinthians 2:9, Paul said, that “eyes haven’t seen nor ears heard—nor has it entered into the hearts of man, all of the things God has prepared for them that love Him.” While this is a tangible, spiritual reality that God desires us to live



with vitality, conviction and confidence, the enemy of God is always working behind the scenes to create havoc, drama and insurmountable pain.

It’s no surprise, then, that in spite of all the awesome and wonderful plans God has for us—we still sometimes lose our way, get completely off track and out of balance. Sometimes you feel like you’re moving forward toward your goals with everything happen-

the devil of lies, rumors and gossip begin to stir things up, only to break us down! We can’t find peace! We’ve lost our joy and lost our hope. It’s in these moments that we’ve got to follow the instruction of Psalm 27:13, 14—and enroll in the pre-requisite for preserving purpose, and allow faith to be our teacher. The text (in the New King James Version) points to three literal realities that are available—right now—to help us to win spiritually, and that’s where we’ve got to begin:

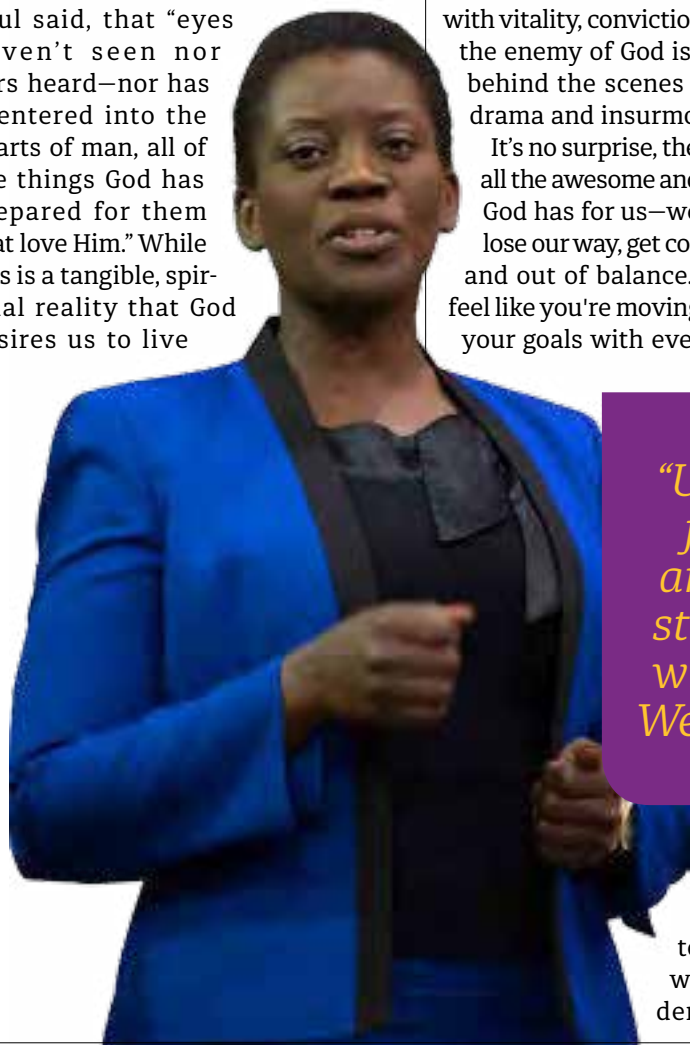
- Believe God without having first seen
- We’ve got to wait on God, and
- We’ve got to be courageous

With all of the civic and domestic unrest happening in every part of the world, the increase of poverty, dehumanizing and demoralizing activities that used to be conducted in the underground world becoming mainstream, contaminated food and water sources, launching of nuclear missiles, economic distress and handicap—if we aren’t careful, as

*“Until we get our faith renewed and our courage strengthened, we will never move!”  
We will never “Go!”*

ing according to plan, but then life begins to happen. While we are fighting the demon of self and

demoralizing activities that used to be conducted in the underground world becoming mainstream, contaminated food and water sources, launching of nuclear missiles, economic distress and handicap—if we aren’t careful, as







# POWER PACKED! WEEKEND

Christians today, it would be easy to find ourselves quickly falling into a pit of despair and hopelessness—but God! BUT GOD!

As I was wrestling with what to say to strengthen the hearts and minds of those who've been discomforted, God encouraged my heart with Psalm 27:13, 14. This is how we become strong in faith

and strong in heart. We can never go with God along the journey, or go along the path and plans God has already determined and declared for us, if we don't get this faith thing together! It's NOT an option! The Bible tells us: it's impossible to please God without faith. It's the prerequisite to the journey!

God says "Go!" But until we get our

faith renewed and our courage strengthened, we will never move! We will never "Go!" God is calling us to do greater and mightier things than Jesus Himself has done. We have got to believe that we can have the power to be and do all that He has purposed for our lives. Just tell Him, God I'll Go! Tell Him, God I believe, I receive and I'll Go! 🙏



Pictured are members of the Oakwood University Police Department, students and staff, with (1st row, l-r): Dr. Howard Weems, Dr. Karen Benn Marshall, Huntsville Police Deputy Chief Kirt Giles, OUPD Chief Melvin Harris, Dr. Joyce Johnson, Dr. Washington Johnson, OUPD Captain David Clarke, OUPD officer Eric Davis and Chaplain Kimberly Mann.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY CHORNES II

## OU Remembers and Honors First Responders

**D**uring Chapel on September 8, Oakwood University paused to honor and remember the service of first responders during the tragedies that occurred 15 years ago on September 11. The guest speaker was Dr. Washington Johnson, assistant director of Adventist Chaplaincy and commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Service personnel from the Huntsville Fire Department and Huntsville Emergency Medical Services, Inc., were also in attendance. U.S. military service was represented by Oakwood students and employees who are veterans. 🙏





# Healthier Snack Choices Now Available at OU

by Shirna Gullo DNP, MSN, BSN, RN, director of Healthy Campus 2020

According to the American Heart Association (2014), “vending machines are a highly visible source of food and beverages in the workplace” (p. 2). Vending machines are also a much-needed source of food and beverages in the academic setting. Consequently, healthier options should be available for those who are striving to eat and drink healthfully. The old adage remains true, “You are what you eat.”

The AHA (2014) also emphasized that a culture of health is created when organizations improve the nutritional quality of vending products. By joining the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) initiative on September 21, 2015, Oakwood University made a commitment to integrate 23 initiatives to create a culture of health, in the areas of food and nutrition, physical activity/movement, and overall programming. Consequently, one initiative encompassed the choices available from campus vending machines. The Healthy Campus 2020 (HC 2020) Teams agreed to convert 50 percent of the items in the vending machines to healthier options, and the HC 2020 Committee of Chairs agreed to move forward with the vending machine conversion.

## THE PROCESS

In planning this project, David Knight, vice president for student services, discussed options with the current vendor that supplies the campus vending machines. In addition, as the Director of the Healthy Campus 2020 program, I completed a random survey and site visits to locate all of the vending machines (snack and drink) on the campus. There was an initial count of 12 snack machines and 10 drink machines. In addition, I met with a representative from the State of Alabama who

shared the state’s vending program, “Good Choice,” which was less rigorous than PHAs vending program.

However, in addition to snacks having to be 200 calories or less per serving and contain 230 mg of sodium or less, the state’s program wanted to ensure that the snacks contained 10% or less



Choices for a beverage from Oakwood’s vending machines now include 100% juice.

daily value of total fat; 10% or less daily value of total carbohydrate; and 5% or more daily value of at least one: fiber, vitamin D, calcium, potassium, or iron.

Oakwood University utilized the 2015 school-approved list from the vendor which contained the available healthier snacks, based upon the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) “All Foods Sold in Schools” standards. Dean Knight and I selected the healthy snacks from the approved list. For example, the snack had to be a whole grain-rich grain product or have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food, or be a combination food that

contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable; or contain 10% of the daily value of calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber.

The snacks also had to meet the following criteria:

- < or = 200 calories
- < or = 230 mg of sodium (reduced in July 2016 to < or = 200 mg)
- < or = 35% calories from fat
- < 10% calories from saturated fat and
- zero grams of trans fat
- the sugar limit had to be < or = 35% of weight from total sugars in foods (USDA, n.d.).

The vendor provided a wide variety of snack options for the students to sample, and 22 options were selected, 14 from the drink list, four (4) different types of Silk non-dairy yogurt as tasting options.

A vending fair was held in Blake Center on January 7, 2016, where students sampled only the snacks that were of interest to them. Baskets were labeled with numbers, different varieties of snacks were placed in the baskets, and a master copy with the number and the assigned snack, drink, or yogurt was prepared.

## EVALUATION

Evaluation forms were placed in front of each item so the evaluation could be correlated with the identified snack and number. On a scale of one (1) to six (6), questions included:

1. How does the food look?
2. How does the food taste?
3. How is the texture? How does the food feel in your mouth?
4. How does the food smell?
5. How would you rate the food overall?

Some items were required a Yes or No answer:

6. Was the snack too sweet?

PHOTOS BY ANTHONY GORRIS, II





7. Was the snack too salty?
8. Would you like to see this snack in the vending machine?

The beverage and yogurt snack options were organized in a similar fashion.

**THE RESULTS**

There were at least 100 participants in the vending fair and many passersby. This number was calculated as a result of those participating in the drink taste test. These participants sampled only one drink of their choosing and then evaluated it. However, the numbers were varied for the snack items. A template was made to calculate and analyze the results. Student workers in the Division of Student Services made a data collection sheet from the original that allowed

them to score each question per participant. The final total was calculated and transferred to a master copy for the end results and comparisons.

**FINAL STEPS**

The remaining steps were to collaborate with the vendor and decide on a transition date to convert the vending machines with the healthier options. The conversion occurred on March 1, while students were out on spring break. The snacks used in the conversion were those selected by the students at a rate of 50% or higher. The drink machines were completely converted by adding water, PowerAde, Vitamin Water, and 100% juices in August 2016 prior to the fall semester.

During a Chapel session, a slide was presented to inform students of the

change and give them the locations of the vending machines. A campus-wide announcement was also sent out regarding the vending locations (Eva B. Dykes Library, Carter Hall, Physical Plant, Green Hall, Holland Hall, Edwards Hall, Wade Hall, and a drink machine in the West Oaks Apartments). Ongoing monitoring of the vending machines and usage will be integrated with the goal of "Making the Healthier Choice the Easy Choice" (PHA, 2016). 🍷

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## 2016-2017 Awardees of the Faculty Development Grant Program Announced

**P**rudence Pollard, Ph.D., MPH, SPHR, Vice President of Research & Faculty Development, in conjunction with the Office of Faculty Development and the Office of Research & Grants, is pleased to announce the 2016-2017 awardees of the Faculty Development Grant Program.

Oakwood University's Faculty Development Grant Program provides seed money for research, teaching, and service-related projects designed to enhance the effectiveness of individual faculty members, thus benefiting our students. Awardees will make their scholarly presentations at the annual Faculty Research Symposium, scheduled for April 18, 2017. All are invited to reserve the date and plan to attend the event.

**From the School of Arts & Sciences:**

**Dr. Kevin Anderson** - Chemistry  
Inhibition of Botrytis cinera with essential oils

**Dr. Marie-Claire Boutrin** - Biology  
Healthy Campus 2020: A Health Initiative to Improve Student Health

**Dr. Audley Chambers** - Music  
"Everything in its Right Place:" Clara Myers and the Unraveling of the History of Handel's Messiah's First Performance in Jamaica

**Dr. Julie Moore Foster** - Music  
"A Study of Songs that Move Us"

**Dr. Chandra Mountain** - English  
#SAYHERNAME: Black Women's Literature and Psychological Violence

**Dr. Carmiele Wilkerson** - English  
Images of Chinese in Post-Colonial Literature

**Dr. Carmen Bucknor** - Psychology  
Self-Efficacy of African American Female Undergraduates in STEM Majors

**From the School of Education & Social Sciences:**

**Dr. Olivia Beverly** - QEP  
The Impact of University Faculty Development Initiatives on Greater Research and Scholarship Output Among Faculty Participants

**Dr. Dana Wilchcombe** - Education  
Perceptions of the Use Differentiated Literacy Instruction Practice Within a Local HBCU

**From the School of Nursing & Health Professions:**

**Dr. Karen Anderson** - Nursing  
Falls prevention/wellness program exercise groups for community dwelling older-adults: Descriptive Characteristics of Target Population

**Dr. Fiona Lewis** - Nutrition & Dietetics  
The Influence of Black Identity on Wellbeing and Health Behaviors

**Dr. A. Yolanda Smith** - Nursing  
Student Perceptions of Learning Using Cooperative Learning Activities in Pre-Nursing and Nursing Classes: A Phenomenological Study 🍷



# Oakwood Kicks Off UNCF North Alabama Campaign

by Jeffrey Wilder, student writer

**O**n September 13, Oakwood University hosted the annual kickoff for the North Alabama Campaign of the United Negro College Fund. This event begins the fundraising campaign, and highlights the students who benefit from the UNCF, a philanthropic organization that funds scholarships for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The aid given by UNCF has helped countless deserving students with scholarships for over 30 years.

At the kickoff, students who had benefited from UNCF scholarship funds gave testimonials, explaining how UNCF has aided them in their educational journey. Senior K. Dominic McKenzie expressed that he wouldn't have been able to continue his journey here without the assistance from the UNCF.

UNCF scholarships are available to all students at Oakwood, who are encouraged to apply at the UNCF website: [www.scholarships.uncf.org](http://www.scholarships.uncf.org). Further information is available through the Office of Advancement and Development in East Hall.



Kerry Joseph, her daughter Miss UNCF Kaylah Joseph and Lucy Cort pause for a photo opp.



## Oakwood's Women's Leadership Tea Another Success

**T**he Division of Advancement & Development greeted approximately 80 women for the annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Women's Leadership Tea, on November 13, at The Ledges of Huntsville Ballroom.

The occasion was filled with delightful conversation, delicious goodies, beautiful art and music. Students shared their gratitude for UNCF scholarship assistance, and student musicians shared their musical talents. Miss UNCF 2016

Kaylah Joseph led the audience in writing a "Letter of Hope" to women residents of local shelters, who are recovering from domestic violence.

The Women's Leadership Tea is one of a series of fundraising events for the North Alabama Campaign for the United Negro College Fund, the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. Proceeds from the event will be directed toward scholarships at Oakwood University.

PHOTOS BY ROLAND SCOTT





# Why Planned Giving?

by Lewis Jones, Assistant Director of Development/Planned Giving Officer

**M**ost people require some kind of assistance in life, whether it's physical, financial or spiritual. During life's struggles, we are often reminded that more must be done to continue positive, humane acts of kindness, and to sustain programs for personal enrichment. We wish more funding were available for medical research, for Christian education, or a much needed missionary work.

As a result, many people want to make charitable gifts but need to do so in a way that helps meet their other personal, family, or financial needs. Planned gifts give you options for making your charitable gifts in ways that may allow you to:

- Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible
- Increase your current income
- Plan for the financial needs of a spouse or loved one
- Provide inheritances for your heirs at a reduced tax cost
- Reduce your income tax and/or avoid capital gains tax
- Diversify your investment portfolio
- Receive income from your personal residence or farm
- Plan for the transfer of your business
- Leave a charitable legacy for future generations

Oakwood University acknowledges the many sustaining estate gifts it has received from its alumni and the broader family of faith, as a whole, during the last 120 years. We are often pleasantly surprised to receive notices that the University is the beneficiary

of major gifts of property, undesignated cash, and endowed funding from individuals we have not had the pleasure to meet. These thoughtful and generous individuals just felt

more participation in this area. In brief, we owe the establishment of our estate-planning initiative to her vision and unrelenting tenacity to see our institution move forward in



PHOTO BY ANTHONY CHORRIES, II

moved to invest in our students and the growth of our educational mission. As a result, Oakwood is stronger and in a better position to serve students for decades to come.

Mrs. Irizona Bland Duckworth holds the distinction of being our first and most prolific annuity contractee. She contracted four annuities with Oakwood University many years ago. Mrs. Duckworth recently passed and was laid to rest in the State of Michigan. However, the legacy she established at Oakwood University will long exceed her ninety-plus years of life. She was a visionary and encouraged us to include charitable gift annuities in our menu of fundraising offerings. In subsequent years, Mrs. Duckworth gifted several additional annuities to stimulate

the area of fund raising.

By making bequests and other "planned gifts," you can continue to help organizations that are making an important difference in your community. Can you think of a better way to thank the people or organizations that have had an impact on your life than to make a contribution from your estate through a bequest?

If you or someone you know would like more information on how you can make a planned gift to benefit Oakwood University, please contact our development office by emailing Lewis Jones at [ljones@oakwood.edu](mailto:ljones@oakwood.edu) or calling him at **256-726-7586**.

Gifts large and small are important. Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy! 🙌



◀ WJOU GM Reggie Hicks surprised health fair organizer Ron Gilbert with an Outstanding Service Award for his hard work organizing the annual event.

▼ Cherillee Lewis, senior communications major, accepts scholarship award from Victoria Joiner, Ed.D., assistant professor.



◀ Exercise can be fun!

▼ (L-r) Reggie Hicks, General Manager, WJOU; Artis and Edna Sidney, owners of Garden Cove Produce; Jim Pride, CEO of Good Samaritan Hospice.



# 4th Annual Community Health Fair



Oakwood University's Praise Station WJOU 90.1 FM, and Good Samaritan Hospice, hosted the fourth Annual Community Health Fair on October 27 at the Millet Activity Center on the campus of Oakwood University.

Vendors provided health screenings, BMI Testing, dental consultation, flu shots, healthy product presentations, affordable healthcare act counseling, senior citizens info, home health care services, and healthy cooking demonstrations.

"This health fair event is our gift to the community," said Reginald Hicks, general manager and director of WJOU. "It's very important to know about your health and how healthy you are," he added.

Health Fair Community Awards were presented to Artis and Edna Sidney, owners of Garden Cove Produce, and Cathy Miller, Community Impact Director for the United Way of Madison County. Organizers also presented four scholarships to Oakwood University students: Chidinma Nwadike, senior accounting major; Cherillee Lewis,

senior communications major; Dennis Jefferson, freshman nursing major; and Tatiana Cruse, senior communication major. "Not only do we want to make sure we let the community know about health, we want to help students out as well who are pursuing education in these health and communication-related fields," said Reggie Hicks, general manager of WJOU.

The presenting sponsors for this year's health fair included Saria Services Group, Inc., Breath of Life Television Ministries, and the Oakwood University Church. 🍏



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

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## Oakwoodites Honored During American Education Week



➔ American Education Week presents the opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The AEW Committee in Huntsville/Madison County also honor teachers, and enhances the partnership among local colleges and universities. At the annual AEW kickoff luncheon in Huntsville on November 14, 2016, Oakwood employees Paulette Johnson, director of library services, Don Ranatunga, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, and Sabrina Cotton, vice president of financial administration, were among the honorees. Three faculty members from Oakwood Adventist Academy were also honored.

## Oakwood Attends the ABRCMS

➔ Fourteen Oakwood students and three faculty members attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), in Tampa, Florida, November 9-12, 2016. The faculty members were Dr. Cherryl Galley, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Melissa Simmonds Richardson, Research Mentor Coordinator for Oakwood's IMARI grant, Dr. Juliet Penrod, Chair of Biology and Program Coordinator of the IMARI grant, and Dr. Kenneth Lai Hing, Chair of Chemistry and Program Director for the IMARI grant.

The student conference attendees presented their research conducted over the past summer at various research institutions. Out of over 1500 posters presented, three Oakwood students from the IMARI grant won \$250 and certificates: Greg Darville, II, junior, biomedical sciences major, Amara Hendricks, senior, biochemistry major, and Keith Rogers, junior, biomedical sciences major.

All students represented Oakwood well and are to be commended for the work that they have done to be able to attend and present their research at ABRCMS.



## Oakwood's President Addresses the Mission of Higher Education

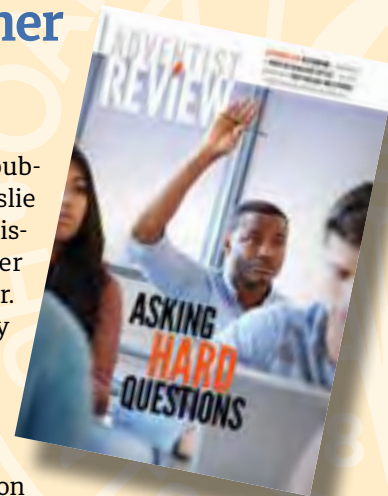
➔ The *Adventist Review* recently published an article by President Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., which addresses the mission of Seventh-day Adventist higher education. The article is taken from Dr. Pollard's remarks at the Inaugural Faculty Development Institute (May, 2016).

In part, he said that since 1896 Oakwood has, through all its program adjustments and adaptations, consistently attempted to implement its mission in every generation.

Oakwood's mission is to lead students into a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the principal purpose of an Adventist education. However, the second is "like unto it": We work every day at Oakwood University to impart a worldview that equips students for success in service now, and that outfits them for service throughout eternity. Newly tooled and totally surrendered graduates leave this institution to honor God, have an impact, and serve humanity.

This dual purpose—to lead students into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to effectively impart a distinctively Seventh-day Adventist world-view designed to provide the biblical foundations for moral and ethical decision-making—fulfills our educational mission.

This dual process is foundational to the curricular and cocurricular environments of our university. These purposes grant us our unique identity within the marketplace of higher education.



Winter 2017





## Oakwood President's Leadership Tour

➡ President Leslie Pollard and a group of Oakwood's student leaders spent time in Washington, DC, October 20-23, 2016, for the President's Leadership Tour. This annual trip allows Dr. Pollard to speak to the students about the impact of their leadership on the campus.

During the tour, the group visited several monuments and historic sites including the new National Museum of African American History & Culture, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the United States Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument and Reflecting Pool.

The Administration would like to give a special "thank you" to Leroy and Lois Peters, friends of Oakwood University, who hosted all of the 24 students and their chaperones for the Leadership Tour.

## Miss Oakwood Featured on The HBCU Nation Radio Show

➡ Miss Oakwood University 2016-17, Courtney Buckhanon, was the featured HBCU queen during the week of September 26-30, 2016, on The HBCU Nation Radio Show.

With a weekly reach of over 10 million listeners, The HBCU Nation Radio Show is the only nationally syndicated talk show in America that exclusively promotes HBCU excellence, innovation and sustainability.

Produced from the studios of Elizabeth City State University and broadcast on HBCU Sirius XM Channel 142, powered by Howard University, its recent partnership with The African American Public Radio Consortium makes The HBCU Nation Radio Show the fastest growing and one of the most highly regarded media properties in the HBCU community and all of Black radio.

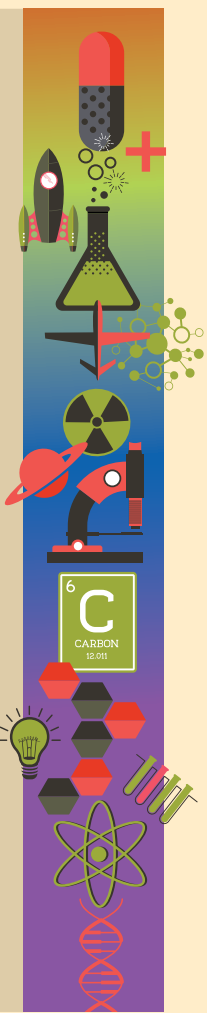


## Oakwood Hosts Chemistry Night

➡ On the evening of October 24, almost 150 elementary, middle and high schools students and their chaperones/guardians arrived at Oakwood University's Department of Chemistry for an evening of scientific discovery during the university's Chemistry Night.

All activities took place in the Chemistry lab in the Cooper Science Complex. Local students had the opportunity to participate in fascinating hands-on experiments that brought textbook learning to life.

Chemistry Night is an annual, free of charge event sponsored by Oakwood University's Chemistry Department, and is open to students of all ages in Huntsville and Madison County.





## Oakwood Student Interns at Mayo Clinic

The summer of 2016 proved to be very productive and educational for promising Oakwood University junior, Gregory Darville II.

During the Spring semester, after completing a rigorous and competitive application process, Gregory was chosen to participate in a summer undergraduate research program at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Gregory was selected out of a pool of hundreds of applicants, and was the only contender from Oakwood University for the internship.

While interning at the Mayo Clinic, Gregory conducted research on developing a tool to screen antibodies, and said that participating in this program solidified his desire to enter the medical field.

In his spare time during the summer, Gregory enjoyed going to the gym and mingling with the other students from colleges and universities all over the United States. Upon completion of his matriculation at Oakwood with a bachelor's degree in biology, he hopes to be accepted into medical school in pursuit of his goal to become a doctor.

## Oakwood Against Domestic Violence



Domestic violence is a prevalent issue, not just worldwide, but especially on college campuses. Over half of victims who report abuse say that they are abused by a girlfriend or boyfriend. One in five students have experienced domestic violence in some capacity. In fact, college age women experience a higher rate of partner violence than anyone else.

To bring awareness to this issue, two female clubs at Oakwood, Legacy 31 and Faithful 15, collaborated to present several awareness-raising events during this past October, which was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On October 21 at 2:00 p.m., several female students gathered at the Unity Pond for "Yoga in the Park," a time for relaxation and reflection. On October 22, students gathered at Blake Center to car pool up to Green Mountain for an outdoor worship experience.

Students and community members were invited to a "Healing Walk" on Sunday, October 23, to figuratively walk two miles "in the shoes" of those who have survived domestic violence. The goal was to combat domestic violence at our HBCU by challenging men and women to walk a total of two miles.

On October 27, Crisis Services of North Alabama, the Madison County Taskforce Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, and Oakwood University presented their annual candlelight service in Wade Hall, to celebrate survivors and honors those whose lives have been taken as a result of domestic violence. This year's

Candlelight Vigil also celebrated a special 10-year community partnership. Oakwood

University was honored for its continued support and housing for the Candlelight Vigil since 2006. Approximately 50 individuals and supporters attended. Helen Fischle, MSW, Dean for Student Success, Academic Administration, coordinates the annual gathering.



Winter 2017



## Oakwood Celebrates Healthy Campus Week

by Shirna Gullo, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN



The activities during Healthy Campus Week, September 19-23, 2016, followed the health principles outlined in STAND OUT (sunlight, temperance, adequate rest, nutrition, drink water, outdoors, use physical activity, and trust in God). Oakwood is utilizing the eight laws of health in order to foster a holistic approach to a healthy mind, body, and soul. The goal of Healthy Campus 2020 initiative is to make Oakwood University the healthiest campus in America.

The activities for Healthy Campus Week began with the Calorie Burn II Weight Loss Challenge Kick-off. Sponsored by Oakwood's Public Safety Department, this activity is a spin-off of the "Biggest Loser." Seven teams signed up to track how many calories would be burned, and how much weight could be lost through this challenge, which lasted through December 9. The winning team was announced at the Employee Christmas Party on December 14.

During the week, walkers could choose to meet at either 5:45 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. on two days of the week by the pond near the Oakwood University Church, for prayer, fellowship and exercise.

Pictures were taken of 30+ students engaged in some sort of exercise, such as hula hoop, jumping jacks, or push-ups, to encourage their classmates to do at least 30 minutes of physical activity per day. Participants used the hashtags #Healthycampus and #oustrong when photos were posted on various social media sites.

On September 23, Dr. Bert Connell, from Loma Linda University, lectured in the Foods Lab/Dining Room on the subject of "Health Reform in the Food Industry."



Gloria Brooks, from the English & Foreign Languages Department, tries on a sleep mask given to participants in the STANDOUT Reading Club meeting.



## Oakwood Students Attend 2016 NABA Student Conference

by Andrew Taylor, School of Business student



The fast-paced city of Atlanta, Georgia, was the location of the 37th Annual NABA Southern Region Student Conference, held at the Sheraton Hotel, October 6 and 7, 2016. The over 600 minority business students attending from all over the southern United States included 17 students from Oakwood University. Vern Gohanna, assistant professor of Accounting, and Ellengold Goodridge, director of LEAP, were the sponsors.

The Conference presented our students with several learning and networking opportunities. The first event was the Career Expo, where students could pitch themselves to potential companies, handing in their resumes with hopes of receiving a follow-up email or interview. Out of our 17 students who attended the conference, 10 of them were able to interview with major corporations such as PWC, KPMG, Turner Broadcasting, Grant Thornton, JP Morgan & Chase, and others. Andrew Taylor was also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through NABA,

sponsored by Cargill.

There were also many business seminars on different subjects such as graduate school, preparation for the CPA exam, personal branding, and other topics. Oakwood's business students represented Oakwood in an exemplary fashion in Atlanta, while still competing effectively in the business world.

All the students who attended the conference discovered its value, and are looking to make the trip to the 2017 NABA conference even better through feedback and discussion.







The Jacobs family (l to r):  
Lewen, Clara, Burton, Marquette  
and Solon Jacobs ▶

**READERS:** This section of the magazine seeks to tell the Oakwood Story—in bite-sized pieces. The narrative is compiled from information found in the Eva B. Dykes Library and the Oakwood University Archives.

**S**olon Marquis Jacobs was the first principal of Oakwood Industrial School. He was born on October 7, 1846, in Tonawanda, New York. He became a member of the Fontanelle, Iowa Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1882. While there, he held several denominational positions, including district supervisor and field secretary of the Iowa Conference. In 1896 he was asked by the General Conference to go to Huntsville, Alabama, to manage the operations of the school to be started for the “colored people.” On April 3, 1896, he and his family arrived to lay the foundation for Oakwood University.

Mr. Jacobs’ agenda was to prepare the physical plant, develop long-range plans for both the school and the farm, and to set a date for the opening of school. He got busy right away. The Old Mansion was expanded to include a kitchen and dining

room, and a new two-story building was constructed to function as classrooms on the lower level and a boys’ dormitory on the upper floor. It was expected that the new building would be completed by October 1, so the opening day was announced as October 7, 1896. That was not to be as construction was delayed due to insufficient funds. Students who arrived for the October 7 start date worked during the day and attended informal night classes taught in Old Mansion by the Jacobs’ children. The building was completed by November, and with the curriculum decided (English, religion and industrial arts/work), the doors opened officially on Wednesday, November 16, 1896. Sixteen students and three teachers including Principal Jacobs, Arthur F. Hughes, and H.S. Shaw made up the school body.

Solon Jacobs earned the reputation of being a diligent worker, a scrupulous manager, and a



# Premier Principal: Solon M. Jacobs



▲ Solon M. Jacobs and Mariette Millard Jacobs



Mary McBee ▶  
Boy's dormitory, 1896 ▼



friendly neighbor. He did much to build trust and goodwill between the residents of Huntsville and the suspicious new school where uneducated children of slaves were taught by outsiders. Mr. Jacobs won the respect of one wary neighbor by seeking his advice about farming methods unique to Alabama's red soil. On another occasion, Mr. Jacobs surprised a neighbor whose barns and farm equipment had been destroyed by fire. Mr. Jacobs and a group of students showed up and announced they were there to plant his corn. After a brief conversation, the once hostile neighbor asked forgiveness for some unkind things he had said regarding Mr. Jacobs' role in starting the school. Mr. Jacobs assured him he had already forgiven him, as evidenced by his presence. He also did the same for other neighbors, both black and white. As word spread about these acts of kindness, the community cautiously regarded the school in a positive light.

Balancing the role of principal and farm manager

was a challenge for Solon Jacobs. At the end of the first year, he decided that in order to maintain the quality of the academic program, it was best for him to resign as principal and devote his full attention to managing the farm. For the next five years he did that with perseverance and integrity. In 1902 he completed his tenure at Oakwood and moved to Graysville, Tennessee.

Solon Jacobs died on March 7, 1927, and was buried in Graysville. He was survived by his partner in love and business, wife, Mariette Millard Jacobs, and sons, Lewen and Burton. One hundred and twenty years later Oakwood University reflects on the legacy of this pioneer and echoes the words of Ellen G. White, "...this is the Lord's institution."<sup>1</sup>

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# OUR *Mission*

Breath of Life's mission is to present the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ to all people groups from a contemporary, urban perspective.

*I*n pursuit of this mission, religious education is important to us. Jesus said in the great Gospel Commission, "Go ye therefore, and **TEACH** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **TEACHING** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

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# Blood, Sweat and Cheers!

**T**his schoolyear’s celebration of 120 years has inspired me to sit and reflect on the changes, improvements, the highs and the lows, and the promises of what is now Oakwood University.

I have walked across the campus and imagined being one of the first 16 students to enroll at the Oakwood Industrial School on November 16, 1896. I think of what the original 360 acres looked like and where they sat in relation to the 1187 acres that is the campus of Oakwood today. I’ve read of the hard work it was to prepare the property for the first day of school: the brush clearing, the building and repairs that had to be made to the Old Mansion and the slave cabins to fashion them into dorms, classrooms, dining hall and living quarters for the teachers. I’ve viewed the photos of the first students and see the anticipation and fear of the unknown across their faces. I imagine, what would I have done as a student during that time?

Fast forward to March of 2012, to my interview for the position I now hold at Oakwood. I remember my feelings of wonder as I was given a tour of the grounds and told of this institution’s rich history. I have often reminisced of the time I spent in the Clara Peterson Rock Museum and my amazement at the artifacts, the pictures, and the accomplishments that line the museum walls. I remember hearing

the many stories of students, alumni, faculty and staff, about their time on this campus and their fond memories.

I’m inspired by the blood, sweat, tears and love that have established this place called Oakwood since 1896, and continue to flow on this campus, in each department and in every classroom, every day. It’s no wonder that one of Oakwood’s founders, Mrs. Ellen G. White said, “The Lord led in the establishment of [this school].”<sup>1</sup>

There is no denying that only by God’s grace does Oakwood University continue to transform lives and educate students who change the world each day.

It is my hope and prayer, 120 years from now, if God delays His coming, that the person who sits in my position will have the same reflections. That he or she will see that throughout time, wars, depressions, famines, civil rights battles, economic crashes, unemployment and uncertain governments, that God and God alone is the reason we have existed and will continue to exist.

Happy Anniversary, Oakwood University...here’s to many more!

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, Letter 25, 1902. Brackets supplied.



Paulette McLean Johnson, Library Services Director, points out details in the Clara Peterson Rock Museum to special Founder’s Day visitors, Frank and Anita Jacobs.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY CHARNICKS, II



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