

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

CONQUERING THE ICE

MARATHON
IN ANTARCTICA

EXCAVATING TELL Umayri

OU TEAM JOINS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DIG

LEAPING
FORWARD
OAKWOOD'S
ADULT
EDUCATION
PROGRAM

OU
STUDENTS
RESPOND
TO A
HISTORIC
ELECTION



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

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Oakwood University Magazine

is the official journal of Oakwood University
 7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW,
 Huntsville, Alabama 35896
www.oakwood.edu

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History Is Made: For America and for Oakwood

In this issue we look back on a landmark year for the campus, our country, and the world! OU does not exist in a vacuum. The school is a part of its local community, and in a wider sense, of the United States of America. In November, a page was turned in our country's history when Barack Obama was elected the forty-fourth president of the United States. The son of a White mother and a Kenyan father, Barack Obama is the first person of color to attain the presidency. For African-Americans, President Obama's election is a source of deep pride. We think of the civil rights heroes who were beaten, had dogs and high-pressure hoses set on them, and were arrested in an effort to vote, who did not live to see this day, but "saw the promise afar off."

On January 20, 2009, millions of people in America and around the world looked on as the new president took the oath of office. The Oakwood University family congratulates President Obama and offers prayers for his success. For OU students, this year's election was doubly significant in that most freshman attained voting age, and most of OU's other students are getting their first chance to vote since attaining voting age. This election had a profound effect on our students as they participated in the electoral process.

On January 1, 2008, "the Oaks" turned a new page in its history by becoming a university. In March, the institution welcomed its first graduate students. In May, the first new residence hall constructed in more than a decade was dedicated. In August, 1,865 students were enrolled at OU, a new record. God has richly blessed Oakwood University. In a time of financial uncertainty and spiritual confusion, we are thankful that Oakwood remains a school of providence.

On election day, November 4, 2008, President Baker led the students, faculty, and staff in a service of thanksgiving for God's blessings on Oakwood University. In this issue you will see the celebration as the OU family formed an OU, photographed from a helicopter, and a release of brightly colored balloons.

Along with times of joy are periods of sadness, and OU has bid farewell to some of its dearest friends since our last issue. These include the president who led the campus to its first accreditation 50 years ago, a former vice president for finance, a longtime supporter and board member, and two students, one who died before he was to leave for the university to enroll as a freshman. We dedicate this issue to them.

As always, we celebrate our alumni as they bring positive change to the world. You make us proud and validate our continuing mission to prepare a new generation for excellence.

—Bill Cleveland

OAKWOOD PAUSES FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION ON ELECTION DAY

BY MICHELE SOLOMON

On November 4, 2008, the administration of Oakwood University authorized the dismissal of classes at noon to allow for a time of reflection, affirmation, and prayer in honor of this significant election day in U.S. history. Classrooms were vacant for the remainder of the afternoon, marking a day that many will remember as one of the most challenging election days in their lifetime, if not in the entire history of America.

The announcement came at the end of chapel when President Delbert W. Baker made the official announcement to faculty, staff, and students in the sanctuary of Oakwood University Church. Immediately following the service, attendees streamed out of the sanctuary to assemble in OU-formation on the field of Centennial Square, in front of Oakwood's signature Monument to Service. There, everyone paused for prayer for the nation's leaders and the entire national electoral process. It was also a time to reflect on how providentially God has led the historically Black university over 112 years since its establishment in 1896 during equally challenging times.

The Huntsville Fire Department was placed



Election day turnout at OU

on standby as participants excitedly watched a hovering helicopter take off and land as it carried a videographer and photographer on separate trips up into the air. First, the two-seater aircraft flew local photographer Danny Sesard to capture still shots of the human OU-formation from a bird's eye view. Landing to let Sesard off, Oakwood commu-

nication professor Dwyane Cheddar boarded the helicopter to record moving footage of the momentous occasion. Precisely on President Baker's cue, everyone released blue and gold helium-filled balloons as the crowd erupted into exuberant shouts. All eyes watched intently as the Oakwood colors made their way into a perfect fall sky.

University offices also closed their doors at three o'clock that afternoon to allow additional time for the Oakwood community to engage in prayer. Anyone who had not already gone to the polls was strongly encouraged to get

out and vote for their candidate of choice. A total of 722 votes were cast that day on Oakwood's campus, which served as one of the official polling sites for the historic general election. Election Day events concluded with an informal ice cream and sparkling cider reception under the breezeway between the Moseley Complex and Oakwood University Church. 🌟



Show of prayer and support for the U.S.A. and OU

OU Students Speak Out

“What is your reaction to the inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African-American president of the United States?”



“It’s great that Barack Obama was able to run such a clean campaign and have such excellent political strategy. However, while I’m proud to have him ascend to the presi-

dency, I’m not a fan of all his policies. I don’t agree with his economic policy and I’m really not sure about his stand on religious liberty.”

Orchadia McLean
junior, International Studies



“Speechless at the magnitude of the event; it happened so fast. It was inspiring in that I was able to see how far our nation had come. It made me feel really good to

see not just a Black man, but a competent one who was able to transcend racial lines and become our President.”

Ryan Lang
senior, Biochemistry

Through the Years: Oakwood and the U.S.A.



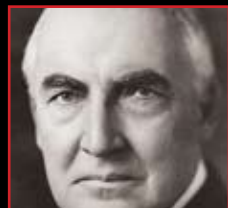
In 1896, Oakwood Industrial School opened on a former slave plantation with nine slave cabins and an old mansion. The country was in the midst of the recession of 1893, and 1896 was a presidential election year. **William McKinley** was elected in a landslide that year and had a successful first term. In September 1901, he was standing in a receiving line at the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition when a deranged man shot him twice. He died eight days later, the third president to be assassinated in office.



In 1904, the still struggling campus was renamed Oakwood Manual Training School. Oakwood was still concentrating on teaching Black youths a marketable trade, as classes were offered in mattress-making, carpentry, bricklaying, printing, and farming. **Theodore Roosevelt** was president, and in 1901 he had invited Booker T. Washington to dinner at the White House, the first such invitation extended to an African-American.



In 1917, the school offered its first instruction at the postsecondary level. Liberal arts courses were becoming a more prominent part of the curriculum as the school was renamed again as Oakwood Junior College. **Woodrow Wilson** was president, and the country was in the third year of World War I. Black soldiers were fighting and dying in Europe, but they were in segregated units and returned home to a stagnantly racist society.



In 1922, Oakwood was now a 14-grade institution. James I. Beardsley became the first president of the junior college. This also marked the beginning of students being charged tuition. **Warren G. Harding** was elected president in 1920. In 1923, he would die of a heart attack while in office. Two years earlier, American women first gained the right to vote upon the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.



In 1932, Elder James L. Moran became the first African-American president of Oakwood Junior College. Oakwood was going through hard times as the country was still mired in the Great Depression. By March, there were 13 million people unemployed, and almost every bank was closed. **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** was elected president in November 1932, and in his first “hundred days,” he proposed a sweeping program to bring recovery to the country.



In 1944, President Frank L. Peterson and the faculty and board were considering whether or not to seek senior college status. Dr. Eva B. Dykes, a professor of English at Howard University, had agreed to come to Oakwood and bring the first earned doctoral degree. This set in motion the process for attaining four-year college status. World War II was coming to a decisive point as D-Day took place in June. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt would die from a stroke the next year and be succeeded by **Harry S. Truman**.



In 1958, Oakwood College, under the leadership of President Garland J. Millet, received regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities. The struggle for civil rights for Blacks was beginning to take hold in the South. In 1956, the Montgomery Boycott had ended, and in 1957, formerly all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, was integrated by order of President **Dwight D. Eisenhower**.



In 1968, Oakwood College, now led by Dr. Frank W. Hale, was in the midst of a building boom. In this period, Peters Hall, Carter Hall, Blake Center, and Edwards Hall were constructed, soon to be followed by the Eva B. Dykes Library. **Richard M. Nixon** was president during a turbulent year in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. The next year, Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.



In 1974, enrollment first topped 1,000 students. Dr. Calvin B. Rock, college president, led in construction of the College Church, Moseley Religion Complex, and Beach Natatorium. In August, Richard M. Nixon became the first President of the United States to resign from office, in the wake of the Watergate scandal. Vice President **Gerald R. Ford** became the 38th president. Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's record of home runs in a single season.



In 1989, Dr. Benjamin Reaves, college president, led in the preparation of a strategic plan for the expansion of the campus. Wade Hall, residence hall for upper-class women, and the Skating Rink were constructed during his presidency. **Ronald Reagan** was president that year as the Berlin Wall was torn down, uniting West and East Germany and foreshadowing the collapse of the Soviet Union. General Colin Powell was named the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



In 2008, Oakwood College became Oakwood University. In addition to overseeing the institution's change in status and completion of Holland Hall and the Bradford-Cleveland Brooks Center, President Delbert W. Baker ran 12 marathons to raise funds for student scholarships. In the same year, the American people went to the polls on November 4 and elected **Barack Obama** as the first African-American President of the United States!



"On January 20th, 2009, American history was made as Barak Obama became the 44th president of the United States of American and the first African American to become the leader of our country. . . . Although the citizens of the United States may share a myriad of opinions about Obama as president, no one can deny that the power of God has definitely been demonstrated. Now, young African-American children have a new Black role model."

Andrea Fluence
senior, Biology



"Honestly, it was unbelievable. I was never into politics before, but I actually followed Barack Obama's campaign. It gives us hope

that no matter the obstacle, there is nothing we cannot accomplish!"

Nathaniel Drew
sophomore, Theology



"A feeling of empowerment came over me. As Blacks in America, we have to live in two worlds. The world of our past, where we experience

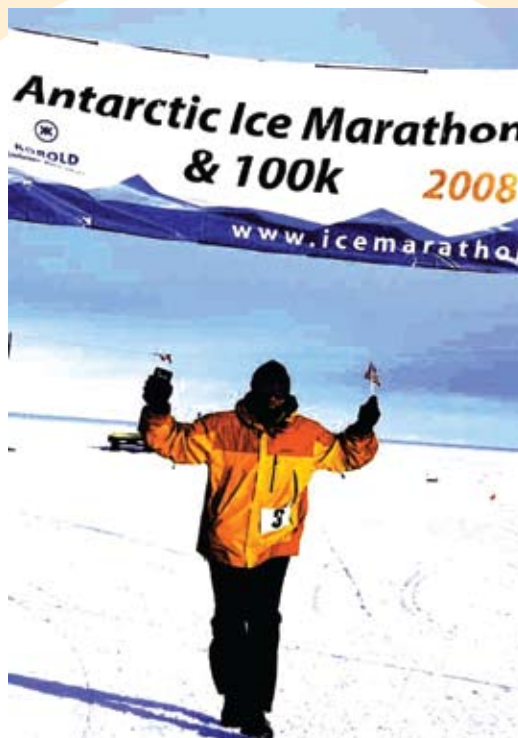
extreme oppression, and the "Ideal American" world where we are told we can do anything. For the majority of blacks these two worlds have traditionally been mutually exclusive. With the election of Barrack Obama, these worlds came together for a few moments."

Nicardo Delahaye
senior, Theology

ICE, MARATHONS, AND **SCHOLARSHIPS** The Common Link

In an interview, Dr. Delbert Baker chronicles his experiences running the Antarctic Ice Marathon

On December 13, 2008, Dr. Delbert W. Baker, President of Oakwood University, became the first university president and the first African-American to complete an official 26.2-mile marathon within 10 degrees of the South Pole, in the Antarctic. He did it for student scholarships, health, and the personal challenge. Michele Solomon, Director of Public Relations at Oakwood University, interviewed Dr. Baker about the experience shortly after his return.



Delbert W. Baker finishes historic marathon

What were the greatest challenges for you, personally, as you prepared for this unusually grueling marathon?

One of the top challenges was preparing to endure the extreme cold for hours, having never run in sub-zero weather before. Several race participants practiced running in a freezer, others had run at the North Pole. I didn't go through such preparation! Second was the environment:

the continent has vast expanses of ice; and running on snow and ice is tiring and very strenuous. Further, the breathing in the sub-zero temperature was torturous and extremely taxing. Third was the reality of living in twenty-four hours of daylight. It was difficult to say the least to acclimate to constant sunlight and to get the required sleep. I had never experienced any of these conditions. After having said all that, I felt very good about my physical conditioning and my mental attitude—that's where having run so many marathons in 2008 paid off.

What were the living conditions on the ground?

The promotional literature made it very clear that we would be living in an outdoor tent under primitive conditions, but it was one thing to read about it and another to actually experience it. The little CLAM tent I stayed in had no heat, water or electricity, neither did the outhouse and primitive shower arrangement. The only real warm place people could meet and socialize in was the dining tent, which had electric heaters run by solar panels. Finally and perhaps the most testing were the delays, including the two-day delay in arriving in the Antarctic and actually staying there two weeks longer than sched-



Antarctic Ice Marathon finishers at Patriot Hills Camp

uled after the race. It almost seemed overwhelming at times until I resolved that there was nothing I or anyone could do about it, so all we could do was to make the best of it.

What were your greatest concerns as you headed into the actual race?

First of all, the dates were off. We were supposed to run the race December 12. We planned to arrive two days before, and the plan was to get up early Friday morning, run the race, and be done with it. The two days were to be spent getting acclimated. Patriot Hills Camp, by Ellsworth Mountain where the marathon was run, is 3,000 feet above sea level, with sub-zero weather conditions that dropped to 30 degrees below and down to 50 degrees below with the wind chill factor. Well, we arrived the day we were supposed to run, or that night. So since we had a narrow weather window, we were told we had to run right away—just a few hours after arriving. Runners were asking, “Do we have a chance to acclimate?” The race organizers said, “You will not have the opportunity. You just have to be ready to run whenever there is a window in the weather.” So they said, “Today is the day; get ready, let’s run!” There was little time to psychologically or physically prepare for the run. We ended up running Saturday night at 8:00. We literally ran through the night. Our biological clocks were turned upside down, all thrown off.

What was the race, itself, like?

Cold, cold, freezing cold. I hadn’t used the goggles, face mask, buff, and mouth covering before, so putting all the accoutrements on and then running immediately caused me to struggle for breath for the first five miles. It was like I was suffocating. I began to have the nagging fear that I might not be able to reach the halfway point, let alone finish the race. That’s where experience helped. I had to control my mind and fight my very real fears. My first crisis came at the five-mile mark (usually it doesn’t come until mile 17). Fortunately I had something to call on from deep inside, and that something kicked in as I mentally broke through my fears and persevered the first five miles. At



Sixteen marathoners commence the 26.2 mile run

the first checkpoint I was able to adjust and change my face gear to breathe better. I had passed the crisis stage, but many hard miles remained in the race. I had to calm myself, refocus, and just coach my way through; and that’s how I finished.

How many layers of clothing did you have to wear as you were running?

Three layers of clothing. The inner layer is right next to your skin, then the middle layer, which is the insulation layer. When you perspire, it’s supposed to absorb the moisture so that it’s not next to your skin. Your outer wear, the third layer, is your main protection. You must have the right balance. If you’re too warm and perspire too much, you could run into a problem and your perspiration could freeze. Obviously, if you’re not warm enough, then that would expose the skin on your legs, thighs, arms, fingers, and face to frostbite. The balance of the right amount of clothing was crucial.

How many checkpoints were there, and how far apart were they?

There were four checkpoints, approximately 5-7 miles apart. At each checkpoint, they provided hot drinks, and had staff there to assist the runners. Only one of the runners actually needed medical help. All finished the race except for one, who was able to finish half of the marathon.

What was your daily routine like after the race, when you were waiting for your transportation out of the Antarctic?

Following the race, the day revolved around meals. The



Baker in Ellsworth Mountains, Antarctic



Marathoners came from around the world to compete in the Ice Marathon

dining tent was where everyone congregated—eating, reading, writing, endless conversations and meeting some of the most fascinating people in the world. The runners used the mornings and afternoons to exercise. There were many games planned—group and individual. Then after dinner each evening, there were formal presentations on historic, adventure and scientific topics.

What do you hope to accomplish for the students and Oakwood University through the Running for Scholarships Campaign?

I initially got into running because it's healthy and I enjoy it. Also, I love a challenge. Throughout my career I have enjoyed writing, traveling to far-flung places of the earth, and doing everything from meeting people, parasailing, to climbing Mt. Whitney and Mt. Kilimanjaro. But my main purpose for running for the past few years has been for student scholarships. My wife, Susan—a physical therapist—has been a constant source of inspiration to stay healthy, to run smart and avoid injuries. She suggested the idea of running for scholarships. I shared it with the Development Team and the rest is history. People sponsor me when I run for marathons for the 50 States for Student Campaign, and corporations sponsor me for the Seven Continents for Students Campaign. Florida Hospital has been a committed partner in underwriting the expenses of the marathons so that all the proceeds can go directly to a student scholarship endowment. Part of our partnership is that I train and run under the CREATION Health Model, developed by Monica Reed, Des Cumming, and the Florida Hospital team. Since I wear the CREATION logo when I run, I have had numerous opportunities to share the model and Oakwood University. It's a great partnership.

What type of personal and spiritual lessons have you taken away from this experience?

There are several, but one stands out in relation to the Antarctic Ice Marathon. When I came to the end, when I finally reached the end of the hardest 26.2 miles I've ever run, I pulled out a small flag and a Bible and carried them across the finish line! It symbolized the providence of

God on one hand and the renewed patriotism I feel after the election of Barack Obama. It was a great feeling. So, there are many take-away lessons. To name a few: just know that you are going to run into challenges in life, but you can overcome. Be persistent. Visualize the finish line from the start, and know God can help you do it. I prayed many times during those cold ice marathon miles, and prayer was a great strength to me. The lifestyle of the camp impressed me—how we could live off so little? I made many new friends, and there was a bond there that we will always remember. Finally, I saw the power of prayer. On the exact day, December 26, 2008, when the people of Oakwood University were fasting and praying that the plane would come and we would be able to leave; that very same day was the day that we had a “weather window” and the big Russian Ilyushin-76 landed. Four hours later we were out of the Antarctic. It's hard to deny the power of prayer.

Did you have an opportunity to share your faith with the other participants?

Well, I wasn't there as a minister. But as a Christian, wherever you are, God gives witnessing opportunities. The Antarctic was no different. Christmas Day, a group of the campers approached me and asked if I would lead out in a religious service. I did, and it turned out to be a beautiful and emotional experience for all those present—Protestants, Catholics, Buddhists, Agnostics, and non-believers in anything. I read from Luke 2. I was able to witness to the practical side of belief in Christ and the Gospel. The Gospel is effective anywhere, even in the Antarctic.

What's next for you?

I plan to do six state marathons, and probably a marathon in Australia, the seventh and last continent. Perhaps down the line I will do what is called the “Grand Slam,” which is seven continents plus the North Pole Marathon. The point is, the enthusiasm is great, every indication is that people are enjoying the running for scholarships program, and support remains high. So it's more than an extreme adventure or a challenge; it's the sense that what



Meal time at Patriot Hills Camp



Patriot Hills residents stayed in tents



The Antarctic Ice Marathon was run in 30-degree below weather with all runners wearing goggles and layered clothes

we are doing is helping our students in a real and tangible way! Thousands of dollars are going toward the scholarship endowment. We are also making a great statement regarding healthful living. Our immediate goal is \$500,000, but who knows? With God's blessings and the right donors, I believe we can raise a million dollars! We have wonderful students at Oakwood University, and this is a way to strengthen and support them.

What is the most reassuring feedback that you've received since you've undertaken this challenge to run these marathons?

First, the fact that my wife and family support what I'm doing. Then, I have received great support from the students, faculty and staff at Oakwood University. One student approached me and said, "Thank you, Mr. President, for speaking and running for us. This scholarship program is an inspiration. You make us proud!" Students have been



Russian Ilyushin-76 freight and passenger plane

supportive all around. Not only have they offered kudos for the running of the Antarctic Marathon, but they want to run marathons, as well. A number have joined the Presidential Running Club, and I want to run one marathon with a group of students. Also, health consciousness has increased, and the Development team is working on making this running opportunity available to any runner who wants to run for the scholarship endowment. If anyone wants to help, they can do so individually by contributing to the 50 States for Students Program with a donation of any amount per mile—\$1, \$10, \$100 or whatever for the 26.2 miles in a marathon. You can also do it as a corporation or as an individual for the Seven Continents for Students, and support with larger gifts of \$5,000, \$10,000 or more. So far, more than \$100,000 has been raised with 50 States for Students and more than \$80,000 for the Seven Continents for Students Program. Every gift—large or small—makes a difference. Everyone is encouraged to go to the Oakwood University website for

more information.

Congratulations, Dr. Baker, for the successful marathons of 2008 and for the many dollars raised for the scholarship endowment. I think we can now clearly see that the link between ice, marathons, and scholarships is your commitment to the students of Oakwood University. It is that deep sense of commitment to our students that caused you to go even to the regions of the South Pole. May God continue to bless you and Oakwood University. 🌟

The Aeolians

Streams in the Desert with a Weekend of Spirituals

BY AUDLEY CHAMBERS, Ph.D.

The ministry of our Oakwood University Aeolians is well known in the Huntsville community, but

recently, their music ministry through six performances in Blacksburg, Virginia, and its surrounding community was like streams in the desert, refreshing the souls of people from all walks of life. Invited by the Department of Cultural Diversity and Inclusion on the campus of Virginia Technological and State University, the Aeolians opened up the Black Caucus' Constituency Meeting with two spirituals on Friday morning at the Burris Inn. The Aeolians' trademark surround sound made such an impact on those present that many made a commitment to attend the choir's full concert that evening.

The Friday evening program at the historic and newly renovated Lyric Theatre, where at one time Black people could only sit in the balcony, was performed to a sold-out audience. The eight male and eight female students of the Fisk Jubilee Singers (from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee) opened the first half of the program by performing traditional spirituals. The group's light, delicate, and yet traditional performance of the standard core of the spirituals repertoire was a reminder to some, and an introduction to others, of the great nineteenth-century choral composers of spirituals and the rich vocal and performance history of the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

The Oakwood University Aeolians opened the second half of the program with their signature brand of performance and interpretation that is only known to those who have heard them. A wall of sound came from the opening chords of the 45 students—half of whom are music majors and minors, along with the other half representing other disciplines. The climactic sounds that reverberated off the walls of the theater brought not only tears to some, but the entire audience to its feet. There was something special in the auditorium that Sabbath night, which one lady in the audience described as "having church." "You must come back again," she said. Another listener mentioned that "this is like an oasis in the barren desert."

At the invitation of Drs. Don and Lynette Wood—former



Aeolians under the direction of Dr. Jason Ferdinand

members of the Oakwood University community—the Aeolians took their music ministry to the Radford SDA Church, situated in the River Valley of Radford, Virginia. Starting early at 9:30 a.m., the Aeolians performed a 45-minute concert, after which they were whisked away to Melrose SDA Church, about thirty-five

miles away, to perform another concert. At each event the Lord used the choir, soloists, monologues, and dramatic interpretation to minister to His people.

Another highlight of the weekend was the opening by the Aeolians for the Kirk Franklin concert on Saturday evening. After their performance many in the audience commented on the music acumen of the group. People wanted to know about Oakwood University, and the musical training of the students—so much so that the chairperson of the Music Department, Dr. Audley Chambers, found himself answering many questions. At the end of the program several Aeolians members took advantage of the photo opportunity with the nationally famous vocal artist Kirk Franklin.

The Aeolians closed out the weekend's performances at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. They were especially proud to have former OU president Dr. Frank Hale in the audience. One Oakwood alumnus was so impressed that he graciously insisted on paying for the group's evening meal. Following the concert, he commented, "I'm a graduate of Oakwood, and I'm so proud of our students that I just want to give back to the institution." Mt. Olivet's senior pastor, Dr. Charles Booth, made tribute to Roland Carter, a distinguished African-American authority on spirituals. Dr. Booth also noted that Aeolians director Jason Max Ferdinand is following in the footsteps of the great musical masters, such as Carter. Indeed, Ferdinand deftly led the Aeolians and the audience to ever higher levels of worship and praise. At the end of the evening, the Aeolians were invited to return each February to perform for Black History Month. 🌟

Dr. Audley Chambers is chair of the Music Department at Oakwood University.



LEAPing Forward

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY'S ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

BY R. TIMOTHY MCDONALD, Ed.D.

Oakwood's degree completion program, affectionately known as LEAP (Leadership Education for the Adult Professional), celebrated its fourteenth year in 2008. The program has evolved over the years, meeting challenges while moving forward with renewed vision, updated strategies, and innovative programming for the twenty-first century.

History and Philosophy

LEAP has its roots in the growing realization that learning is a lifelong process. A study to determine how Oakwood might meet the emerging trend of adult education concluded that a program geared toward working professionals, with classes offered during the evening hours, would be meaningful. With most of these prospective students having already achieved varying educational levels, the new program was designed to accept the prior credits which these students had already accumulated. This allowed students to receive credits in exchange for their experiences with seminars, workshops, and on-the-job training experiences. Students would then prepare a "portfolio" of their experiences, documenting them with workshop or course outlines, certificates, and licenses.

The LEAP program was launched in 1994 with an inaugural class of 22 students, mostly working adults 25 years or older, who had achieved two or more years of college credits. They attended classes one night per week, and most were able to complete degrees in Organizational Management within 18 to 24 months. The program grew rapidly over the next ten years, graduating hundreds of students who have used their newly received bachelor's degrees for job acquisition, promotions, or for personal achievement status.

The LEAP program was launched in 1994 with an inaugural class of 22 students, mostly working adults 25 years or older, who had achieved two or more years of college credits. They attended classes one night per week, and most were able to complete degrees within 18 to 24 months.

Marcia Burnette, directed LEAP from its inception in 1994 to 1998; Dr. Trevor Fraser from 1998 to 2005; and Sonia Paul from 2005 to 2007. In 2008, Dr. Rachel Williams became program director. The first years presented the normal tasks of budgeting, staffing, finding the appropriate curriculum, and marketing the program to the community. The market study mentioned earlier showed that an education program in the Huntsville/Madison, Alabama, business area would be most desirable, so the organizational management curriculum became the first program offered.

The LEAP program required from the faculty a new type of teaching, with evening hours and adult learners who had jobs, families, and in many instances, long-forgotten study and learning skills. Naturally, faculty who had been accustomed to traditional learning techniques had to adopt new teaching styles and a flexible approach to dealing with adult learners. In addition, the admission, registration, financial aid, and accessibility of non-traditional students fitting into the traditional processes of the college presented opportunities for flexibility by the entire staff.

Another trend observed during the early years was the ethnic diversity of the students. Since the program was focused on adult learners in and around the Huntsville area who had already achieved two or more years of higher education, many non-minority students were enrolled. This quickly expanded the racial makeup of the Oakwood student population, which is predominately African-American, and created a positive perception of the university throughout the surrounding community.

LEAP Expands Its Programs and Technology

Soon LEAP expanded its offerings to include degrees in Psychology and General Studies. This enabled the program to be available to more students and allowed the LEAP



Adult education classes at Oakwood University



staff to expand and interact with other academic departments on the campus.

In an effort to reach Oakwood students who had never completed their degrees, LEAP began a relationship with Griggs University, the distance learning university of the SDA denomination. Former students who could not quit their jobs and bring their families back to Huntsville were able to finish their Oakwood degrees by taking correspondence courses through Griggs.

Another highlight was the inauguration of innovative distance learning technologies. New course-management systems allow faculty to post learning tasks on the Internet, use discussion boards, and communicate with students. A related factor was the start-up of the Adventist Distance Education Consortium (ADEC), a group of Adventist institutions interested in advancing distance education programs and activities. This organization continues to promote the interaction of Adventist colleges and universities throughout North America via distance education.

During this time, the LEAP program also became affiliated with the Servicemen's Opportunity Center (SOC) which is a group of colleges and universities providing educational opportunities for the military. This affiliation enabled a solid appeal for members of the military at the nearby Redstone arsenal to attend the LEAP program.

As LEAP continued to grow, many community students were impressed with the Adventist lifestyle they experienced on campus. They were also positively exposed to Christianity as it was expressed in Religion and other classes. Some students renewed their commitment to God, and others became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a result.

Current Status and Future Direction

The LEAP program is alive, well, and continues to be positively received. But there are challenges. One is to increase the enrollment. To achieve this, the program's visibility is being increased with new billboard advertisements and newspaper ads. Additionally, information sessions are being held throughout the community, while word-of-mouth testimony from past and current students is generating strong prospects for the program. Plans are



under way to offer the complete program to students via the Internet.

When Oakwood College became Oakwood University on January 1, 2008, the status and perception of its programs and activities increased, including LEAP. We can now offer online access to the well-received LEAP onsite program. To enable faculty to learn this new technology, we have sponsored workshops on re-designing courses, using discussion boards, PowerPoint, and other strategies for teaching online. Faculty members are currently reorganizing their courses for online delivery, and will be ready to roll-out the program in the summer of 2008.

In addition to the online thrust, we are continuing to offer the program on campus so that LEAP provides onsite education to those adult students who are not familiar with computers and the use of the Internet. Whether online or onsite, LEAP will be the higher education solution for students throughout the world now and in the future.

If you have completed two or more years of education, and if you are at least 25 years old, and if you are willing to spend a minimum of one evening per week in class or online, LEAP will provide a quality Christian educational experience enabling you to successfully complete your bachelor's degree in 18 months. The entire LEAP program is directed toward seeing adult professionals receive degrees that will enhance their future success. 🌟

Dr. R. Timothy McDonald is vice president for *Advancement and Development* at Oakwood University.

EXCAVATING TELL UMAYRI

BY CIRO SEPULVEDA, Ph.D.

This past summer, my wife, Gloria, and I chaperoned two of my history students,

Kemi Adedokum (junior, International Studies) and Evelyn Laurie (junior, English), on a trip to Tell Umayri, Jordan. We departed the United States for Jordan in the last week of June and stayed three weeks, while both students, who were working on six hours of academic credit, extended their stay into the month of July for a total of six weeks.

Tell Umayri is located in the suburbs of Amman, Jordan. Although at one time it was isolated in the middle of the Jordanian Desert, today it has been surrounded by the homes of affluent Jordanians and Iraqi immigrants.

The archaeological dig began with a couple days of training. Archaeology is a very meticulous endeavor, and all participants must be adequately prepared to take part in the process. The training involved lessons on everything from the washing and labeling of ceramic shards (broken pieces of pottery) and bones found at the site, to becoming acquainted with the technique entailed in using a pick and trowel in the actual digging process and learning how to sift earth and look for interesting finds. Much of the work in the Tell consisted of trans-



The famous rock-cut Monastery at the southern Jordan city of Petra

Tell Umayri is located in the suburbs of Amman, Jordan. Although at one time it was isolated in the middle of the Jordanian Desert, today it has been surrounded by the homes of affluent Jordanians and Iraqi immigrants.

porting and sifting earth.

A typical day for our group began at 4:00 a.m., when we met for breakfast and prepared to load the buses by 4:45 a.m. and be transported to the excavation site. A watermelon break at

9:30 each morning was a welcome refreshment. Following several hours of digging in desert temperatures, we would break for lunch from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Afterward, it was back to digging until approximately 5:30 p.m., many times breaking to sit with one of the archaeological experts for a reading of our finds.

The day ended with dinner at 6:00 p.m., when an archaeologist or historian would share his/her expertise at the evening lectures, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Excavation at the site of Tell Umayri, part of an extensive area of ruins from the biblical era, has uncovered some of the best-pre-



Gadara (modern Umm Qais), with its spectacular panoramic views overlooking the Sea of Galilee, is the site of Jesus' miracle where He sent demoned spirits out of a man who lived in tombs at the entrance to the city



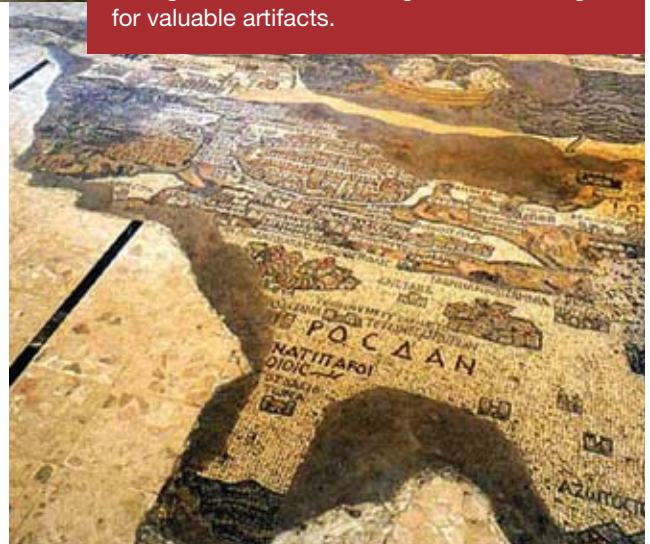
Baptismal pool for immersion at Bethesda from the first century A.D.



Sifting dirt at the archaeological site, looking for valuable artifacts.



Kemi Adedokun, Evelyn Laurie, Mrs. Gloria Sepulveda, and Dr. Sepulveda, OU's archaeological team



Madaba's masterpiece is this mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, the earliest original map of the Holy Land in any form to survive from antiquity

served finds from the Old Testament period in all of Jordan. Some have considered the site to possibly be the biblical city of Abel-keramim, referred to in Judges 11:33. Adventist archaeology at Tell Hesban was initiated and led by Drs. Siegfried H. Horn and Larry Geraty between 1968 and 1976. In the years since, Drs. Oystein LaBianca and Keith Mattingly have worked in Tell Hesban (biblical Heshbon); Drs. Larry Herr and Doug Clark worked at Tell al-'Umayri; and Drs. Randall Younker and David Merling excavated at Tell Jalul. Andrews University and the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary have sponsored the archaeological digs.

Earlier seasons have uncovered remains from the time of the patriarchs. The earliest discovery was a grave constructed of huge stones, holding skeletons and pottery vessels. There was also a well-organized town, with houses and alleyways dating from about the time of Abraham. While Jacob and Joseph were in Egypt, inhabitants built a rampart around the settlement, probably the Amorites mentioned in the Bible.

A consortium of Adventist colleges organizes these archaeological digs and has been excavating in Jordan for almost 20 years. The Oakwood University administration along with the Religion and Theology faculty are considering joining the consortium. This will mean that a professor from the Department of Religion who specializes in Old Testament studies will take students and join the excavation every two years. Many Oakwood University students would be enriched by the experience.

The OU group participated in the dig during the week, and during the weekends, field trips like the one to Petra gave group members the opportunity for further exploration. Our students participated in all of the activities and made the climbs to all of the sites visited. During the September 31 student chapel, the group presented a report to the campus. We are looking forward to future digs. 🌍

Dr. Ciro Sepulveda is chair of the Department of History at Oakwood University.



Dr. DeWitt Williams, national director of the Alumni Association, recognized Dr. Sherman Cox, who retired from his post as Oakwood University director of Alumni Affairs. Dr. Cox has made major contributions to the yearly success of Homecoming Weekend as well as supporting alumni chapters and encouraging alumni fundraising. Victoria Miller is the new alumni director.



Dr. Williams introduces the national alumni officers. All volunteers, these persons carry the burden of coordinating the work of the Alumni Association chapters around the country as they support Oakwood University.



Roland Gresham, renowned jazz guitarist, was the featured musical guest at the annual UNCF Gala, held each Thursday evening of Homecoming and supported by visiting alumni.



At the Alumni Awards Dinner, Dr. and Mrs. Baker recognize Dr. Richard Showers, local political leader and special friend of Oakwood University.



Pat Rahming, Alumni Association public relations director, was recognized for her valuable contributions in promoting the associations programs and events. Her unflagging support of Oakwood University is appreciated.



Drs. Don and Lynette Wood, Allegheny East Conference, were honored as Family of the Year.



Dr. Jennifer Stone, associate director of the Alumni Association, presented the Alumnus of the Year Award to Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, senior pastor of the Berean SDA Church in Atlanta, Georgia.



The Alumna of the Year for 2008 is Sharon Robles, Northeastern Conference, an active member of the A. Samuel Rashford Chapter of the National Alumni Association.



Each year we remember those of our Oakwood family who ended life's journey since we last gathered. Elder T. Marshall Kelly offers his musical tribute as the names appear on the screen.

Dr. Williams and OU President Delbert Baker welcome Elders Charles D. Brooks, Charles E. Bradford, and E. E. Cleveland, special speakers at this year's Homecoming. These men, each an alumnus of OU, have had a great part in the spread of the gospel throughout this country and around the world.

Members of the Class of 1946 came together for a special reunion at this year's Homecoming.



Elder Stennett Brooks, former president of the Northeastern Conference and longtime supporter of the Alumni Association and the UNCF, was presented a medal in appreciation of his work. Sadly, Elder Brooks was killed in an automobile accident a few weeks after this gathering. For more, see the In Memoriam pages.



At the UNCF Gala, Dr. Baker escorted Miss UNCF Oakwood, Alyssa Marie Ruth Moore, into the hall.

relations
work in pro-
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Hill Harper was the featured speaker at the 2008 UNCF Gala. A film, television, and stage actor, Harper stars in the drama series CSI: NY, where he portrays Dr. Sheldon Hawkes. Harper earned a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School, where he was a classmate of President Barack Obama. He also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Kennedy School of Government.

ence,
umni

Homecoming 2008: *Reflections*

Oakwood's alumni and friends gathered March 20-23, 2008, once again for Homecoming Weekend. It is customary to assemble each year to celebrate those formative years at Oakwood University, catch up on life friendships, show support for a worthy alma mater, and generally recapture the academic and spiritual atmosphere that helped to shape and inspire our lives. We who love "the Oaks" are a vital, ever-growing family. It embraces alumni—graduates and anyone who studied on this campus—and friends and supporters around the world. This institution exist solely to provide young people with the intellectual and moral fitness needed to run successfully the race of life and receive the crown of victory that will not pass away. 🌟

SAIC, OAKWOOD SIGN NASA MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ AGREEMENT

A first between a NASA contractor and a historically Black university

BY MEGAN NORRIS DAVIDSON

The Marshall Space Flight Center marked a major milestone Feb. 18 with the first “Mentor-Protégé” signing agreement between a NASA prime contractor and a historically black college or university. The three-year NASA agreement is between Science Applications International Corp. of San Diego, known as SAIC, and Oakwood University of Huntsville. Marshall’s Small Business Office oversaw the signing agreement, which coincides with Black History Month.

Originating in 1926, the month is a remembrance of important people and events in black history. Historically black colleges and universities are defined as American schools established before 1964, which were formed with the intention of serving the black community. Oakwood University, originally an industrial school, was founded in 1896.

Under the new pact, SAIC will aid Oakwood University with technology enhancement, contract management and business administration. “This agreement will increase the viability of Oakwood University as a business partner and potential prime contractor for future NASA projects,” said David Brock, a small business specialist in Marshall’s Office of Procurement. “It also will allow students interested in pursuing technical or engineering careers to gain experience through SAIC internships and provide potential opportunities for graduates in technical fields at NASA.”

Audrey Robinson, manager of Marshall’s Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity and an Oakwood University alumna, spoke at the event. “As we celebrate Black History Month,” she said, “it is fitting that we take time to recognize and celebrate Oakwood University’s selection as the first historically black university to participate in the NASA

Mentor Protégé Program. As an alumna, it makes me proud to see the school develop relationships with organizations such as SAIC.

“Through this venture,” she added, “SAIC has the opportunity to create a more diverse work force, which can



Historic signing of the SAIC/NASA mentor-protégé agreement with OU

result in greater creativity and innovation. The students will have real life research and work experiences which will excite their imaginations and make them more competitive as they enter the professional arena. It's a win-win for everyone."

The NASA Mentor-Protégé Program was established by NASA's Office of Small Business Programs and implemented in January 2008. The program pairs large companies with eligible small businesses and institutions to establish long-term relationships, enhance technical capabilities and enable them to successfully compete for larger, more complex prime contract and subcontract awards. 🌐

This article was first published in the February 2009 issue of the Marshall Star. It is reprinted here by written permission.

SAIC provides NASA and primarily the Marshall Center with information technology systems and services under the Unified NASA Information Technology Services, or UNITEs, contract. Awarded in 2004, the contract includes encryption security systems and computer networking.

For more information about the NASA Mentor-Protégé Program, visit <http://osbp.nasa.gov/mentor.html>.

Megan Davidson, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communicatins.

Junior Achievement in a Day

On Tuesday, November 25, 2008, Oakwood University partnered with SAIC/UNITEs to lead out in classroom instruction at Lincoln Elementary School as part of the Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama's JA in a Day (JANA) program. From 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., a group of about a dozen OU administrators and staff members coordinated with JANA to offer classes that introduced business concepts to K-6 students. JANA is a special junior achievement delivery method that facilitates the partnership between businesses and elementary schools.

OU professionals engaged Huntsville's Lincoln Elementary School students in a fresh, lively, and enlightening way. In keeping with the JANA motto, Oakwood administrators and staff members sought to "share [their] success to inspire young people to reach their full potential." In so doing, the Oakwood team, which included university president and first lady Delbert and Susan Baker, hoped to encourage a supportive relationship among educational professionals at Oakwood University and Lincoln Elementary while having fun with the students. 🌐



OU President and Mrs. Baker Interact With Lincoln students



Participating in the NASA Mentor-Protégé signing Feb. 18 between SAIC and Oakwood University are, seated from left: Dan Harris, SAIC's senior vice president; Brenda Tate, contracting officer in Marshall's Office of Procurement; and Dr. Delbert Baker, Oakwood University president. Observing, from left, are: Bruce Emerson and Nicole Lucas of SAIC, supporting Marshall's Office of the Chief Information Officer; Jeff Jackson, contracting officer in Procurement; Sheila Fogle, manager of Marshall's Application, Web & Multimedia Services Office; Jonathan Pettus, director of Marshall's Office of the Chief Information Officer; Davis Brock, small business specialist in Marshall's Small Business Office; Glenn Delgado, assistant administrator of the Office of small business Programs at NASA Headquarters in Washington; Marcia Burnette, Director of Sponsored Programs at Oakwood University; Audrey Robinson, Manager of Marshall's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, and Byron Butler, director of the Office of Procurement.

Photo by David Higginbotham

DR. GARLAND J. MILLET

REMEMBERING A BELOVED FORMER PRESIDENT

Garland J. Millet was the third child born to Cynthia and Oliver Millet, in Oakland, California. When Garland finished high school, his mother insisted that he attend Pacific Union College, a decision for which he always thanked and praised her. At PUC, he was classmates with G. Nathaniel Banks, Carl Dent and Norman McLeod, and became friends with Inez Lang Booth.

Between school sessions, Garland worked as a porter on the Southern Pacific Railroad, developing his gracious manner. He first lived in Huntsville from 1934 to 1936, where Professor Millet served as a men's dean, and taught English and Mathematics at Oakwood Junior College. One of the female students – Ursula Berry—seemed particularly outstanding. They were married on July 22, 1937, a few months after the completion of the Golden Gate Bridge, when a gallon of gasoline cost only ten cents!

Their first denominational assignment was to serve as principal and teacher at the Washington Union Academy from 1937 to 1941. The Millets' son, Garland, was born in Washington, D.C., in 1938. In 1942, they returned to Oakwood where Professor Millet served as a librarian and, again, as an instructor of English. Their home was once more blessed with the birth of a baby, their first daughter, whom they named Carol.

The Millets headed west to California in 1944, where Professor Millet taught at the Los Angeles Union Academy from 1944 to 1949, followed by five years of pastoring in the Southern California Conference at the Delaware Avenue and Berean SDA churches. He received his M.A.



Garland Millet, fifth president of Oakwood University

degree, and was ordained to the gospel ministry at Lynwood, California, in 1949.

Elder Millet served as the fifth President of Oakwood College from 1954 to 1963. Oakwood received its original accreditation as a senior college in 1958. Enrollment doubled, the number of faculty with doctoral degrees increased, and 13 buildings were added to the campus. Mrs. Millet served as his administrative secretary for a time, but had to cut back on her schedule when their second daughter, Debra, was born in 1956.

When no other venue in the city of Huntsville would open their doors to civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr., President Millet facilitated Dr. King's visit to the Oakwood campus to address the community at the Ashby Auditorium in March of 1962.

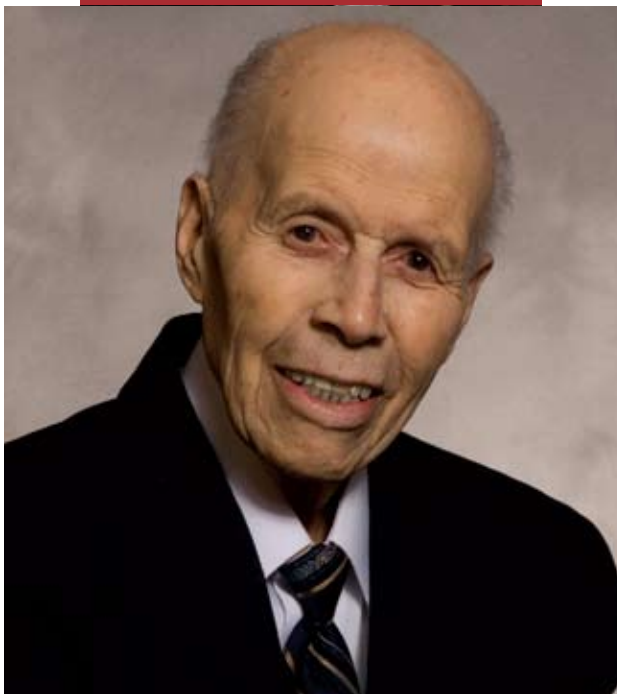
After leaving Oakwood in 1963, Dr. Millet served as consultant for Brown Engineering, and taught classes at Alabama A&M University. In 1965, he received the Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. From 1965 to 1967, he served the triple roles of Assistant to the President of Fisk University, as an Associate Professor at Fisk, and as interim Pastor of the Riverside Chapel SDA Church in Nashville. From 1967 to 1970, he served as the third African-American editor of Message Magazine.

In 1970, Dr. Millet was elected as the first African-American worker in the General Conference Department of Education, where he served for eight years as an Associate Director. He served on the Oakwood College Board of Trustees for some 20 years. From 1978 to 1982, he served as Special Assistant to the President of Loma Linda University, where his responsibilities and research laid the groundwork for the University's diversity initiatives. He was selected as an honored alumnus of Pacific Union College in 1994, one of the first African-Americans to receive this honor.

The Millets retired to Huntsville in 1982, where Dr. Millet was a charter member, and served as the second president, of the Committee of 100 for Oakwood College. "Dr. Millet was a true visionary and a man of action. He made historic advances at a difficult time during the nation's history.... During the time I knew him, Dr. Millet faithfully attended many events and meetings, offering his help and support. He will be deeply missed and his legacy will ever be in the annals of



Garland and Ursula Millet



Garland Millet, age 93

Oakwood University," said Dr. Delbert W. Baker, current president of Oakwood University.

"Dr. Garland Millet was my grandfather, whom I affectionately called 'Papa.' He stood out to me as a champion of excellence. I see myself as a product of his influence. He was someone to emulate. He pushed for success.... He was an educator, in every sense, and at every opportunity. This is as true of his career as it is for his life as a father and grandfather. He imparted knowledge whenever possible. He would show interest in our education and our achievements, which continued long after his 'retirement.' I remember his interest in my own children's activities. As his grandchild, I learned from him, as well as from my other family, to push forward, to strive for achievement, to keep your goals in mind, to look for opportunities from which to learn and to educate, to stretch your mind, and to always be ready to learn," said Carmen Byars Bucknor, Dr. Millet's granddaughter.

Dr. Millet had been married to his beloved wife Ursula for 70 years when she died on January 13, 2008.

He passed away peacefully at his home less than nine months later on September 7, 2008. A memorial service was held on September 21 in the Oakwood University Church. Dr. and Mrs. Millet have both been laid to rest at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens.

Because of Dr. and Mrs. Millet's legacy of dedicated service to Oakwood and to the cause of Christian education, the Garland J. and Ursula B. Millet Endowed Scholarship Fund was established at Oakwood University. Contributions may be mailed to Oakwood University, Office of Advancement & Development, 7000 Adventist Blvd., NW, Huntsville, AL 35896. 🌟



STENNETT H. BROOKS

Elder Stennett H. Brooks was fatally injured in an automobile accident. Elder Brooks served the Northeastern Conference as president and was a member of the OU Board of Trustees. At the time of his death, he was president of the A. Samuel Rashford Alumni Chapter.



KELLON HILL

Kellon Hill had been accepted to Oakwood University and was preparing to travel to the States when he was murdered in a robbery attempt. He would have been a member of the graduating class of 2012.



RONALD LINDSEY

Elder Ronald Lindsey, treasurer of the Hawaii Conference, passed following a long illness. Prior to accepting his most current position, Elder Lindsey served Oakwood University as vice president for financial affairs.

Our hearts go out to the families of:

Anthony, Sr., Harold L.: Music, retired

Blanchard, Shirley O.: father of Danny Blanchard, former faculty member

Bradley, Lillie: grandmother of David Moore, Public Safety

Fanroy Sherrod, Annie Belle: mother of Jeneen Gresham, Advancement and Development Grandmother of Sanitha Douglas, Health and Counseling Services

Green, David L.: former employee

Hutchinson, Louise: wife of James Hutchinson, CAS Johnson, Anna Rosalee: mother of Rachel Paschal, former employee

Kemp, Estine: mother of Derek Bowe, Sr., Chair, English and Foreign Languages

Lee, Richard: brother of Harold Lee, Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center

McCullum, Anthony: father of Elaine Gray, Library McPhee, Helen: sister of Derek Bowe, Sr., Chair, English and Foreign Languages

Mierez, Linda: sister of Joan Weekes, Dean, Wade Hall

Mulzac, Kenneth: former faculty member, Religion and Theology Department

Nixon, Julie Merle: mother of Philip Nixon, Student Services

Norwood, Quinn: sophomore, Oakwood University

Payne, Peter: brother of James Payne, former employee

Pullins, Tommy Lee: father of Fred Pullins, Trust Services and Planned Giving

Scott, Pearlle: mother of Shonda Scott, CAS

Shaw, Hattie: mother of Howard Shaw, Chair, Health and Physical Education

Ward, Diana: mother of Elizabeth Wright, CAS

Weems, Sr., Howard: father of Howard Weems, Jr., Chair, Psychology

Williams, Edward: brother of Carole Booth, Student Information Center

Wynn, Vornia Mae: grandmother of Vernessa Armour, Financial Aid

THY **WILL** BE DONE

BY **FRED PULLINS**

If you died today, would your financial affairs be in order? Who would be in charge of your unfinished business? How would your money and other possessions be used? And the most important question is “Will the accumulated blessings God has given you during life be used to His honor and glory after your death?”

Did you know that you cannot die lacking a will? If you do not draft a will during your lifetime, the state in which you reside will draft a will for you at the time of your death. However, in drawing up this vital document, the state will not consider your desires to protect and provide for your children, or to benefit deserving students who are struggling to pursue their education. The state is unemotional and does not consider your desire to benefit loyal and deserving friends or the charity of your choice. The state is dedicated to a distribution formula that would give your God-given assets to the devil himself if he happened to be your closest relative.

We don't own anything that we have in our possession. We are merely stewards of God's possessions. During our lifetime, aren't we expected to exercise good management, benefit others who are less fortunate, support God's work, and grow the assets He has entrusted to our care? These obligations do not end at the time of death. We have the ability and responsibility to control the use of God's property after death. It's as simple as drafting a will or a trust agreement that expresses our desires relative to how the possessions in our care are to be distributed.

Most of us are of modest means and cannot give to our church, educational institutions, or independent ministries as generously as we desire. However, a will or trust agreement gives us the opportunity to make sizeable gifts to these entities when we no longer have need for our personal sustenance. A will or trust allows us to appropriately care for our families and fulfill our God-given responsibility to support His causes. Not only should we live faithfully, but we must be careful to die faithfully.

We are counseled as God's stewards: “Let it ever be kept in mind that the present selfish system of disposing of property is not God's plan, but man's device. Christians should be reformers, and break up this present system, giving an entirely new aspect to the formation of wills. Let the idea be ever present that it is the Lord's property which you are handling. The will of God in this matter is law.



If man had made you the executor of his property, would you not closely study the will of the testator, that the smallest amount might not be misapplied? Your heavenly Friend has entrusted you with property, and given you His will as to how it should be used. If this will is studied with an unselfish heart, that which belongs to


God will not be misapplied” (Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 328, 329).

Preparing your will should be a thoughtful, spiritual exercise entered into with earnest prayer for divine guidance. Your will should be a living and lasting testimony to your faith in Christ and your dedication to spreading the gospel and hastening Christ's soon return. Your will should be so arranged that it will be a clear reflection of your desires and purposes and those of your Lord and Master.

The making of an estate plan can be as simple as contacting your local conference, union office, college/university, or independent ministry to obtain confidential consultation about estate planning. The service is free and without obligation. In most cases, these entities can assist you in drafting the necessary legal documents through a licensed estate attorney without cost to you. If you would like to discuss your affairs with a stewardship representative to determine the best way to include the work of the Lord, contact the trust services director at any of these mentioned entities. Your discussions will be handled confidentially.

Make the decision today to extend your devotion to God's work beyond your lifetime. You can accomplish this by taking the time to ensure that the possessions God has placed in your care are used to bring Him honor and glory. Our Savior will say to His faithful stewards, “Well done good and faithful servants, you have been faithful over the few things; now I will make you rulers over many.” 🌸

Fred Pullins is director of Trust Services and Planned Giving at Oakwood University.



Oakwood Memorial Gardens
7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35896
www.oakwood.edu
Phone: 256-726-8278

HOLLAND HALL OPENING

This fall, 2008, young men attending OU began moving into Holland Hall, the first new residence hall built on the campus since Wade Hall in 1991. Holland is a three-story brick building designed to house freshmen and sophomores. The hall is erected to the highest modern standards and features all the amenities needed to make the facility a true “home away from home.”

The decision to erect this \$11 million facility was prompted by the need to house a greater proportion of students on campus. Many students have been living in apartments in the community because of the lack of on-campus accommodations. With the opening of Holland Hall, Peterson Hall will house overflow students in its main-floor rooms. Edwards Hall, built in 1975 and renovated in 2006, will continue in service as the upper-class men’s residence hall. Holland and other construction projects recently completed give the university much-needed breathing room as the institution moves toward the 2,000-student milestone.

A very successful year in fundraising provided much-needed finances for this construction. The university received a \$1 million donation from the Holland family, and the Board of Trustees voted to name the new residence hall Holland Hall in honor of Burks and Elline Holland, parents of the Holland children. The ribbon-cutting and official naming took place Friday, May 9, 2008, attended by members of the Holland family along with faculty, staff, and community officials.

Burks and Elline Holland were the parents of eight sons and eight daughters, all of whom attended



Holland Hall dedication, Friday, May 9, 2008

Oakwood University for some time during their education. Eight are Oakwood graduates. In addition, 23 grandchildren and one great-grandchild attended Oakwood. The Holland family has continued their commitment to Oakwood with six grandchildren currently enrolled and two others

attending Oakwood Adventist Academy.

Although Burks and Elline were not privileged to receive a formal education beyond high school, they had a deep conviction that a college education was the ticket to a productive and independent life for each of their children and that Christian education makes a difference in the lives of young people. They took seriously the texts “Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” and “All thy children shall be taught of the Lord” (Prov. 22:6; Isa. 54:13).

They did not leave the training of their children solely to educators, but laid a positive foundation at home. They were loving parents, yet consistent with their discipline. “Educators” in their own right, they showed through their own life experiences that God’s promises

are sure, that His love is endless, and that no matter how dismal circumstances may seem, one should “hold on to God’s unchanging hand.”

Approximately two-and-a-half years ago, Carla Joseph Jones, one of Burks and Elline’s granddaughters, spoke with Jacquelyn Gates (vice president for advancement and development at Oakwood University at the time) after hearing a presentation by President Delbert Baker regarding a “dormitory naming opportunity” for anyone who would make a sizable donation toward the residence hall construction. Gates accepted Carla’s sugges-



In memory of Burks and Elline Holland



Dr. Baker presents a plaque to the Holland Family

tion and approached the Holland family, who graciously accepted the challenge to donate \$1 million toward the construction of a new men's residence hall.

Young men moving into the new residence hall will find Holland a comfortable place, well suited for study, rest, and meaningful social interaction. Holland will be



Bed, Bath & Beyond decorated model bedroom on display

an important part of the future success of Oakwood University as the campus enters the twenty-first century. 🌐

Dr. R. Timothy McDonald



Dr. R. Timothy McDonald accepted the position of vice president for Advancement and Development at Oakwood University in June 2008. A graduate of Oakwood University, Dr. McDonald has extensive experience in this area, having served previously in this office and as vice president for Information Technology at OU. He served four years as vice chancellor

(president) of the University of Eastern Africa Baraton, and most recently as director of the OU LEAP Adult Education Program.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dr. McDonald has an Ed.D. degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. He is married to Beverly McDonald, a retired educator, and they have four grown children. Dr. McDonald is a professional educator who has served in many positions at all levels of education, from elementary school teaching to university administration. In addition, he is active as a consultant, grant writer, and speaker in the areas of communications, technology, leadership, education, conflict resolution, and development.

Patricia Stewart-Daniel



Mrs. Daniel was born in San Jose, Costa Rica, and moved to New York City as a child. She began her journey in Christian education at the Hanson Place SDA Elementary School in Brooklyn. After high school and a brief stint at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New

York City, she came to Oakwood in 1974 and graduated in 1978. In 1979, Mrs. Daniel accepted a call to join the Lake Region family to teach at Shiloh Academy for five years before moving on to Andrews University, where she worked for almost 24 years. Her previous position was associate dean for Student Life/Dean for Community Student Life at Andrews University.

In that position she had a number of responsibilities including: planning university events, such as convocations, university forums, and awards assemblies; development of the student handbook; staff development for the division; and accountability for the co-curriculum program. Mrs. Daniel also led a task force that overhauled the chapel/assembly program and made it more vibrant and flexible in programming and delivery. In 2008, Patricia Daniel accepted the position of vice president for Student Services at OU.

McKee Business and Technology Complex Naming

On Monday, April 21, 2008, during the spring meeting of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees, the Business and Technology Complex, erected in 2002, was named in honor of O.D. and Ruth McKee, cofounders of the McKee Baking Company. A ceremony was held to unveil the new name, attended by Ellsworth and Sharon McKee. The McKees, supporters of Adventist Christian education on campuses around the U.S.A. and overseas, recently donated \$1 million to OU for expansion, and other financial gifts to fund scholarships for OU students.

The McKee Business and Technology Complex houses the Departments of Business and Information Technology and contains state-of-the-art computer technology, classrooms, an auditorium, a dining area, a board room, offices, and a computer training facility. The building has been a great asset to the mission of the university.

The OU Board of Trustees voted to name the complex after O.D. and Ruth McKee. This dedicated couple shared a love for God, family, and country. They believed in hard work, honesty, and treating people fairly. They believed in giving back to the community, to their church, and to their employees. Today, the business is family-owned, and their dedication to philanthropy is shared by the second and third generations.

The McKee family has been active in their support of Christian education, as well as Oakwood University through the years. Thank you to the McKee family for their generous gift to Oakwood, which is underwriting the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center and the McKee Business and Technology Complex. Their interest in the university is helping to educate and empower future servant leaders for God and humanity. 🌟



Unveiled signage at the Business and Technology naming ceremony



Marcia Burnette, Mervyn Warren, Delbert Baker, and Ellsworth and Sharon McKee listen as Elder Don Schneider, OU Board chair, offers remarks



Ellsworth and Sharon McKee address the attendees



Building named in honor of O.D. and Ruth McKee

OU Ambassadors Return to USCAA's National Tournament in Defense of 2008 Title

The OU Ambassadors left Huntsville March 3, 2009, for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to defend our 2008 United States Collegiate Athletic Association championship. First up was the awards banquet. Although the Lady Ambassadors were not invited to this year's tournament, they were well represented. Sarai Cisneros, Jennifer Williams, and Monique Woodson all received Academic All-American honors. One Ambassador, Landon Bertram, was also honored as an All-American.

Our first game was on March 4 with Johnson/Wales of Miami, Florida. The game was tough, but the Ambassadors won, 64-56. After our win we had an off day. True to the commitment of the USCAA to not schedule OU on Sabbath, our second game with Rochester College of Rochester Hills, Michigan was scheduled at 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 6.

The Ambassadors needed to win the game with Rochester College to advance to the championship game. Most people had already put Talladega College in the championship game, and OU wanted to be there as well. However, Rochester College did not cooperate. After a slow start, the Ambassadors were down 20-29 at the end of the first half. But in the second half, the Ambassadors came out with strong "D" and some good shooting. OU took a 34-35 lead with 15 minutes remaining in the second half. With 44 seconds remaining, the Ambassadors had a 54-52 lead. However, we missed four free-throws and made two



turnovers. Rochester College tied the game, and we went into an exciting overtime. Final score, Rochester College 59-58!

Instead of playing for the National Championship against Talladega College, the Ambassadors had to settle

for playing Southern Virginia in the consolation game, which OU won. With only two starters graduating, the Oakwood University Ambassadors should be a formidable team again for the 2009-2010 season. We appreciate the leadership of our coaches and the outstanding players on the OU Ambassador teams.—Coach James Roddy. 🌟

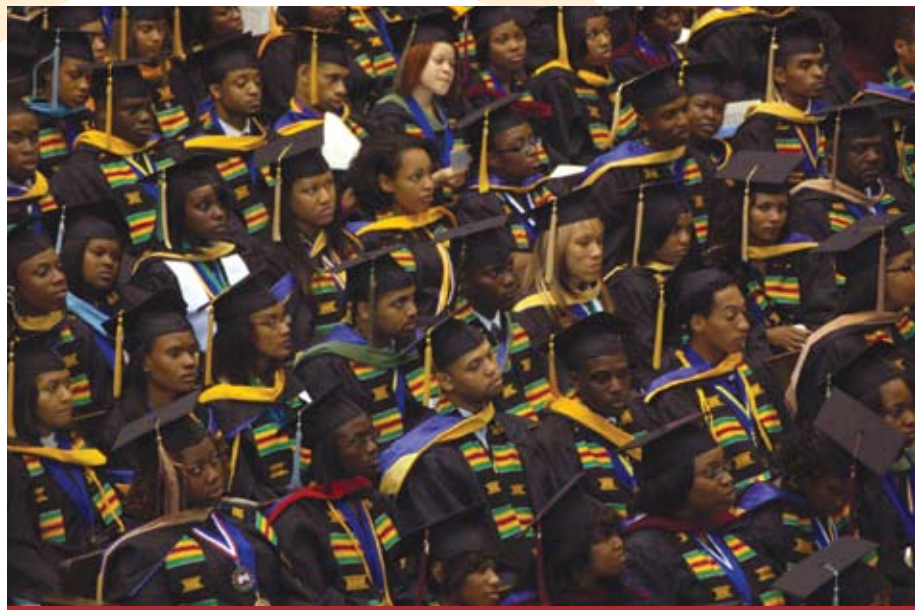


OU versus Rochester College at USCAA Championship

What's Better Than an Oakwood College Commencement?

AN OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

Commencement 2008 had the distinction of being the first since Oakwood became a university, and the graduating class was the first to receive university degrees. In recognition of this milestone in Oakwood's history, the faculty, graduates, and platform guests gathered for a group photo. U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee presented a stirring address to the new university graduates, encouraging them to go out and make their own history. As we enter a new century, Oakwood University will continue to emphasize *Education*—our purpose; *Excellence*—our method; and *Eternity*—our goal. 🌟



Oakwood University graduates in OU Church for Consecration



Two members of the class lost their lives in an automobile accident; they were remembered with empty draped chairs



An Oakwood University degree



Jubilant graduates

OU Campus Queens 2009

Oakwood University holds two campus queen pageants annually, to choose young women who will act as ambassadors for the university in fund-raising and student support.

The Miss UNCF Oakwood University Coronation, planned by the Alumni Relations Office, was held on December 6, 2008. The program featured three contestants who had together raised more than \$6,000 in scholarship money for UNCF.

Melissa Phillips, senior physical therapy major from Los Angeles, California, was named Miss UNCF Oakwood University 2009. The first runner-up was Ayana Joseph, senior biology major from Knightdale, North Carolina. The second runner-up was Cherie St. Bernard, junior health



Melissa Phillips, Miss Oakwood UNCF, and her court

care administration major from Washington, D.C. Phillips and members of the Oakwood University Pre-Alumni Council represented Oakwood at the 51st National Pre-Alumni Council Leadership Conference, held February 5-9, 2009, in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Christine Jobson, Miss Oakwood University 2009

Christine Jobson, senior music education major from Miami, Florida, was named Miss Oakwood University 2009. Also competing were first runner-up Kendall Coopwood, senior biochemistry major from Atlanta, Georgia; and second runner-up

was Holly Carrell, senior biochemistry major from St. Louis, Missouri. The other contestants were Mishay Butler, junior English major and communication arts minor from Moreno Valley, California; Alyssa Minisee, senior elementary education major from Los Angeles, California; and Khyrista Valentine, junior biology major from Kansas City, Missouri. Jobson, who hopes to increase school spirit among students, among other goals, will be featured along with queens from other HBCUs in an upcoming issue of Ebony magazine. ❁

Oakwood University Revives ORATORICAL CONTEST TRADITION

BY MICHELE SOLOMON

Breath of Life Speaker/Director Walter Pearson, an Oakwood University alumnus, breathed new life into an old tradition when he approached his alma mater last year in an effort to revive an Oakwood public speaking tradition. Through his efforts, and those of an anonymous supporter who donated the prize money, the

Breath of Life/Oakwood University Oratorical Contest was formed, and on April 10, 2008, the first such competition took place at the McKee Business and Technology auditorium on Oakwood's campus. The theme was "Impacting the World for a Better Tomorrow."

The competition began with 23 talented students, who participated in the qualifying meets. A volunteer panel of judges comprised of local clergy and faculty and staff members from the University of Alabama Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, and Oakwood University evaluated six final contestants as they competed for first-, second-, and third- place prizes totaling \$6,000.

Of those six finalists, music education senior Christine Jobson placed first, theology sophomore Philip Kerimah placed second, and business marketing and communication senior Lynae Turner placed third. The contestants walked away with \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000, respectively. The other three finalists—Kaggia Scott, Ashley Stephenson-Jones, and Joseph Holland—all received prizes for competing in the final round.

A committee of Oakwood University faculty and staff members has met regularly over the past several months to facilitate the preliminary rounds as well as the final run-off. This competition serves as a pilot for possible duplication at other Seventh-day Adventist institutions throughout North America in the first of what is to become an annual campus event. ❁



Lynae Turner, Philip Kerimah, and Christine Jobson

(For more information on the Breath of Life television ministries, go to <http://www.breathoflife.tv>.)

UNDERSTANDING THE

Reflections on **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

BY **MERVYN A. WARREN, Ph.D., D.Min.**

How was I to know on that windy March day of 1962 that the impressive person of medium build, confident demeanor, and humble spirit was delivering a speech in our Ashby Gymnasium as a virtual dress rehearsal for the next year's immemorial "I Have a Dream" address at the Washington Lincoln Memorial in 1963?

How could I have known that giving his written signature to my printed program that March eve forecasted his signing my doctoral research on his pulpit discourse at Michigan State University in the mid-1960s?

How was I to know that Dr. Robert Green, an African-American professor at MSU who had participated with Dr. King in the 1965 Selma, Alabama, march would hear about my MLK research project and personally run interference for me to secure a personal interview with the most articulate spokesperson on social justice?

Could I have known that on a hot summer day in August, 1966, that Dora McDonald (personal secretary to Dr. King) would telephone me (in my married student apartment at MSU, housing a wife and a two-year-old son) with the shocking news that Dr. King agreed to have me meet him at O'Hara Airport in Chicago, Illinois, for a personal interview in the midst of a continuing human rights campaign which earlier that month had proved violently fierce and fiercely violent?

Was I to know that one of the busiest leaders on the planet would allow me unhurried conversation covering intimate details from family history, to educational aspirations, to visions of life service, to theological and philosophical beliefs, to confidence—or lack thereof—in the goodness of humankind?

How was I to discern that he would ask me for a copy of my Ph.D. dissertation (whenever it was completed) and that he would be felled by an assassin's bullet in 1968, ere I could deliver on my promise but that his widow, Coretta Scott King, would hear about the promised dissertation 20 years later and invite me to present it posthumously to

her during an annual *King Celebration Week* in Atlanta?

Would I have fathomed that I would hear with my own ears the first African-American president of the United States of America, Barack Obama, openly and formally reference the influence of Dr. King on his rise to the White House?

Who knows the depth of responsibility that one bears when granted opportunities of special privilege! Who knows the weight of meaning of "To whom much is given much is required!" A certain group, of biblical class, of biblical yesteryear, "men of Issachar," by name, "understood the times and knew what [should be done]" (1 Chron. 12:32). Of course, speeches and sermons galore have grown out of my personal experience with the world of Dr. King. For sure, national radio interviews are requested of me annually. The year 2006 produced a live international telecast of my MLK testimony on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Certainly, the book *King Came Preaching*, summarizing my doctrinal research, has been published by InterVarsity Press—one of their best-sellers, I am told—and nominated for an award. But are these sufficient? Is this all that it's about? Or am I to be doing more for the much that has been my privilege? Am I anywhere near the boundary that defines modern "men of Issachar" who understand our time and know exactly what should be done for our contemporary and existential world?

I believe such queries are appropriate for the days of our time and the meaning of life as lived and taught by Jesus Christ and are meant to inspire rather than inflict us. Do you understand your time, your "historical kairos," as King would say in a borrowed expression from Paul Tillich—your creative, critical moment bursting with possibilities for great and meaningful things? Now is your time. Seize it! 🌟

Dr. Warren is the Provost and Senior Vice President of Oakwood University.

TIMES—

“There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths, and downright ignorance.”



EDUCATION EXCELLENCE ETERNITY

Oakwood College is now...

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY



Monument to Service
Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve

The Oakwood story began in 1896 with a dream, a former plantation, and 16 pioneering students. Today, Oakwood has attained university status. An award-winning campus, Oakwood University has received distinction in its undergraduate programs with more than 16 areas of study, and approximately 60 degree offerings. The first graduate students are working toward a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies. Oakwood's multicultural student body comes from across the U.S.A. and forty countries around the world.

For information on graduate, undergraduate, adult education or online education, please contact:



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McKee Business and
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