

# OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E



OUR DEAR OAKWOOD WITHIN WHOSE VALE THY STANDARDS  
WILL NOT FAIL; OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH WONDROUS  
CHEER WHEN THOUGHTS OF THEE DRAW NEAR... TO THEE  
DEAR OAKWOOD, TO THEE WE SHALL EVER SING; FOR  
DECADES THOU HAST STOOD, THY NAME SHOULD EVER RING.





# OAKWOOD

M A G A Z I N E

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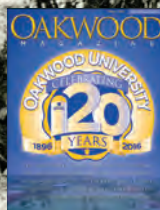
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### ABOUT THE COVER

Ron J. Pride created the graphic celebration of Oakwood's 120th Anniversary accompanied by a stanza from O.B. Edwards' beloved Alma Mater (Oakwood University Song).



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The editorial team has worked very hard to produce this special issue. This issue also features videos, some produced by our very own Oakwood University Broadcasting Network. Throughout the magazine you will see an icon for bonus content.



The video camera icon means you can go directly to [oakwoodmagazine.com](http://oakwoodmagazine.com) to view the video story.

We hope you enjoy this experience.

—George Johnson, Jr., Editor

ON THIS PAGE  
Oakwood Junior College  
enjoyed the fountain and  
"Archway of Flowers"  
during the 1940s.





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 ALUMNI HOMECOMING HONOREES



## **Class of 1946**

The Late Ch. (Col.) Joseph T. Powell

## **Class of 1976**

Andre Keith Artis, MD

## **Class of 1991**

Samuel F. Cort, Jr., MD

## **Class of 1956**

Pastor Jackson Doggette, Sr.

## **Class of 1986**

Audrey D. Robinson, J.D.

## **Class of 2006**

Theodore Thorpe, III, MA

## **Class of 1966**

David Grandison, MD. Ph.D

## **Class of 1996**

Lloyd Henry, MBA

### **Allegheny East Conference**

Family of the Year – Pastor Stephen and Margaret Richardson Family

### **South Atlantic Conference**

Family of the Year – Dr. Lloyd R. Broomes Family

### **Northeastern Conference**

Alumnus of the Year – Pastor Stafford Byers  
Merit – Rosalie Van Putten

### **Southeastern Conference**

Family of the Year – Dr. Eric Moore Family  
Alumna of the Year – Dr. Maya Byfield  
Alumnus of the Year – James English  
Merit – Daniel Smith

### **South Central Conference**

Alumna of the Year - Merkita Mosley





# The Oakwood Experience

**W**hen I arrived as a student on Oakwood's campus in 1974, I knew that I was in the right place. Nothing was going to stop this lanky freshman from New Orleans, Louisiana. Even though there were challenges around how I would finance my Oakwood education, I came in faith, as have generations of others. I knew that I wanted to be a part of the Oakwood experience; therefore no obstacles would stop me, if it were solely up to me. And what fortified me? In looking back, I believe that it was the daily immersion into the Oakwood experience that strengthened me for the journey!

How do we describe, in a few words, the legacy called the "Oakwood Experience?" How special is the experience? How powerful is the experience? How transformational is the experience? If you have the opportunity to walk around our campus, you will notice blue placards on various walls in buildings, on which the Oakwood experience is described. While the description is not exhaustive (and no description could ever capture, completely, the power of the Oakwood experience), it is an attempt to put some words in place, to memorialize that experience, to make it accessible to students, alumni, visitors, employees, and as many publics as possible. The description below is to be used as a tool for conscious reflection and discussion:

*"The Oakwood experience blesses the entire lifetime; it lasts, not simply for four years, but for 40 years! The experience is set in the American south, and it transcends the south. It arises from the blood-soaked sod of a former slave plantation. It flows east, and west, and north, and around the world—wherever Oakwoodites are found! It is fed by a rich musicality because it is shaped by the rhythms of black-church spirituality. The experience puts God first! It is academically rigorous and emotionally satisfying. The Oakwood experience is connected by lasting friendships*

*and joyous reunions. It spans generations. It is God-appointed, faith-grounded, and service-centered. Transformational. Inspirational. Exhilarating. Stimulating. To know it is to love it! And to love it is to never leave it. The Oakwood experience—it is you and me and we."*

In Scripture, we are reminded that memory is a great tool for revival and nurture. In this edition, we are remembering Oakwood—from its founding to its present maturation. For 120 years, Oakwood has stood as one of the great assets to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Oakwood also belongs to our nation's family of Historically Black Colleges

*"God is our leader. In following Him we cannot fail!"*

and Universities. For more than a century, we at Oakwood University have believed that our educational mission is to advance learning among underserved populations, while at the same time, opening our doors to every strata and stripe of educational aspirant. Since our founding in 1896, Oakwood University has viewed education as an indispensable preparation for wider service to God and to the human family. Thousands have, in their lives of service, received the blessings of our motto: "Enter to learn; Depart to Serve." It promises to inspire, challenge, and equip you for your life's calling.

Be blessed and remember that God is our leader. In following Him, we cannot fail!

*Leslie N. Pollard*



1976 Acorn photo



# Principals & Presidents 120 Years

by **George Johnson, Jr.**, Director, Integrated Marketing & Public Relations

**We** are very grateful for the many years of our leaders' dedicated service. This is just a brief listing of their accomplishments and is in no way a comprehensive list of the many acts of service they have rendered to Oakwood. 🙏

## OAKWOOD PRINCIPALS

- Solon Jacobs, (1896-1897)
- Henry Shaw, (1897-1899)
- Benn E. Nicola, (1899-1904)
- Fred R. Rogers, (1904-1905)
- Grandville H. Barber, (1905-1906)
- Walter J. Blake, (1906-1911)
- Clarence Boyd, (1911-1917)

## Joseph A. Tucker

(served 1923-1932) was best known for presenting the best face of Oakwood before the general Adventist constituency through positive public relations. He accomplished this mainly by touring with singing groups of Oakwood, by publishing *The Oakwood Bulletin* paper on a monthly basis, and by fostering friendly connections with board and conference leadership on all levels and especially the General Conference level. Also, *The ACORN* (school paper) was first published during this era.



## James I. Beardsley

(served 1917-1923) was described as "a man with a certain grace with words." He possessed communication skills, which no doubt influenced, tellingly, the more comprehensive coverage of the college bulletin. While bulletins of previous years were adequate and well prepared, the Beardsley years produced, early, a caliber of school catalogs that seemed to announce via their new and improved format and material a definite transition from secondary and special training to full-fledged junior college status. Also, the first graduation exercises were held during this era.



## James L. Moran

(served 1932-1945) was the first black president of Oakwood. With his first registration approaching in the fall of 1932 and classrooms in disrepair, Moran donned his overalls, improvised a scaffold, scraped, patched, and led out, himself, in the painting and renovation. His style of leadership in otherwise menial tasks brought a refreshing emphasis. Also during his administration, the first baccalaureate degree was awarded.

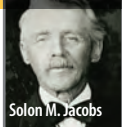


A.S. Steele loaned Principal Solon Jacobs \$1,000 to begin the initial development of Oakwood.



Founders Ellen G. White, O. A. Olsen, H. Lindsey and G. A. Irwin originally called the school "Oakwood Industrial School," and opened its doors November 16, 1896 with 16 students.

▶ 1896



Solon M. Jacobs



Incumbent U.S. President Grover Cleveland was succeeded by William McKinley in the historic election of 1896.

▶ 1897

Henry Shaw became principal.



▶ 1898

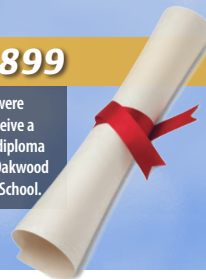
The mailing address of Oakwood Industrial School was, Chase, Alabama, after the Railroad Station, and the name of the second mayor of Huntsville.

▶ 1899

Students were able to receive a two-year diploma from the Oakwood Industrial School.

▶ 1900

F.R. Rogers is charged with practicing and teaching social equality with Blacks in Yahoo City, Mississippi – a charge which he vehemently denied.



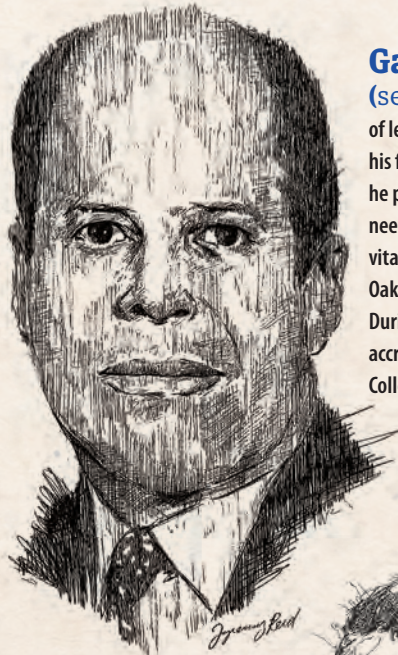


# of Dedicated Leadership

Information reprinted from *Oakwood! A Vision Splendid* and *The Historic Huntsville Quarterly of Local Architecture and Preservation*



**Frank L. Peterson**  
(served 1945-1954) was no stranger to Oakwood, as he served for many years on the college faculty, dating back to 1918, as well as on the Board of Trustees. In addition, he served as secretary for the Colored Work at the General Conference. He promoted the largest grouping of industrial training programs, including the broom factory and dairy industries.



**Garland J. Millet**  
(served 1954-1963) took the baton of leadership and hit the ground running. At his first Board of Trustees meeting in 1954, he prepared a fact sheet of 24 observations, needs, and suggestions, of which he felt vital reasons for accelerating the advance of Oakwood to regional accreditation status. During his administration, Oakwood became accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



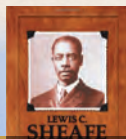
**Addison V. Pinkney**  
(served 1963-1966) led Oakwood to become a member of the United Negro College Fund. Although Pinkney had the shortest period of presidential history, under his leadership, G.E. Peters Hall (Fine Arts building) and Bessie Carter Hall (women's dormitory) were constructed.



**Frank W. Hale '48,**  
(served 1966-1971) was only 39 years old when he became the president of Oakwood. He was no stranger to Oakwood, as he was a student in the 1940s and served as an English and Speech instructor and opened the school's first Public Relations office. During his administration, he also instituted the Office of Student Affairs, Office of Development, Alumni Homecoming Weekends, and the Oakwood College Advisory Council.

The sale of fruit and other produce was used to pay for living expenses.

▶ 1901



▶ 1902

Lewis C. Sheafe: Oakwood's first black person to serve on the board.

The first "Certificate of Graduation" issued to Herbert Alcenio Turner.

Oakwood Farm was known to be the best in the area.

Elder Butler wrote "Interesting Facts about Oakwood" pointing out the needs for a girls' dormitory, principal's cottage, library equipment and a dependable water supply.

▶ 1903

Oakwood almost closed because of the poor conditions of its buildings and because of state legislation against education of Blacks.

▶ 1904



The boiler from the Morning Star was dismantled and used in the saw mill.

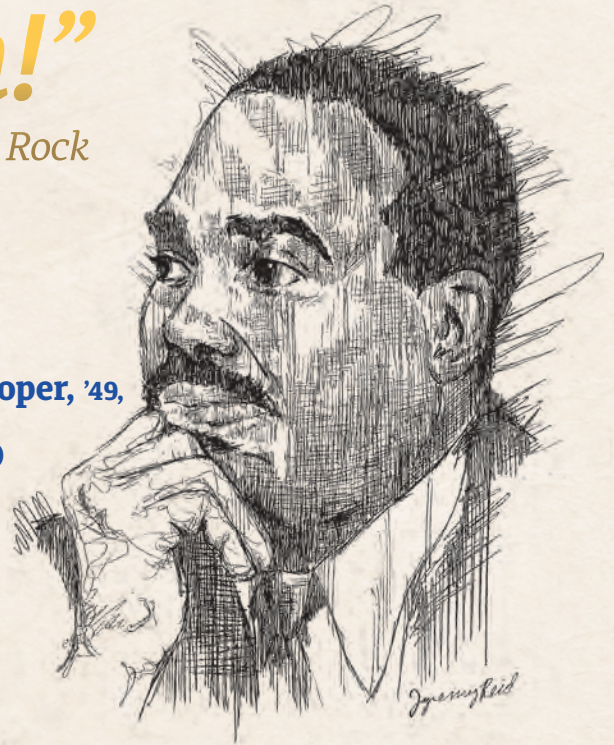






## “Go On!”

—Calvin B. Rock



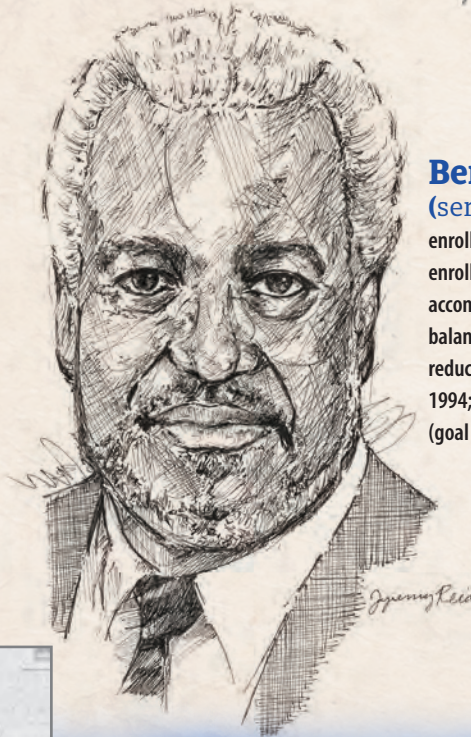
### Emerson A. Cooper, '49, interim

(served 8/85-12/85)

also served many years at Oakwood as the chairman of the Chemistry Department and as academic dean.

### Calvin B. Rock, '54,

(served 1971-1985) led in an overall enrollment increase, an international student increase, faculty increase, and a faculty doctorate degree increase. Under his administration, the college also achieved national recognition as one of the premier higher education institutions in America.



### Benjamin F. Reaves, Sr., '55,

(served 1985-1996) turned around an enrollment decline and established a trend of enrollment increase, up to institutional capacity. Other accomplishments included the elimination of the fund balance deficit that in 1986 had been \$1,700,000; reduction of the default rate from 29% in 1987 to 11% in 1994; and launched the first national capital campaign (goal of \$20,000,000).



Jyremy Reid, '15, created these presidential portraits. While at Oakwood, he served as a student worker in the Public Relations office as well as the editor of *Spreading Oak*. He is currently studying for an MBA in General Management at La Sierra University.



The enrollment rose from 16 to 30.

#### ▶ 1905

John Willingham perished in Oakwood's first fire.



#### ▶ 1906

The uniform adopted for all young women to wear at Sabbath services consisted of a white “middy” blouse, navy skirt, and a triangular tie.

Oaklawn, the first home of the principal, was erected.

Mattress Factory was established.



The cornerstone for the first “Block” Building on campus was laid for study hall.

#### ▶ 1907

A fire destroyed Chapel Hall.



#### ▶ 1908

Butler Hall was erected.



*“We will make plans that are destined to fail unless God intervenes.”*

*—Leslie N. Pollard*



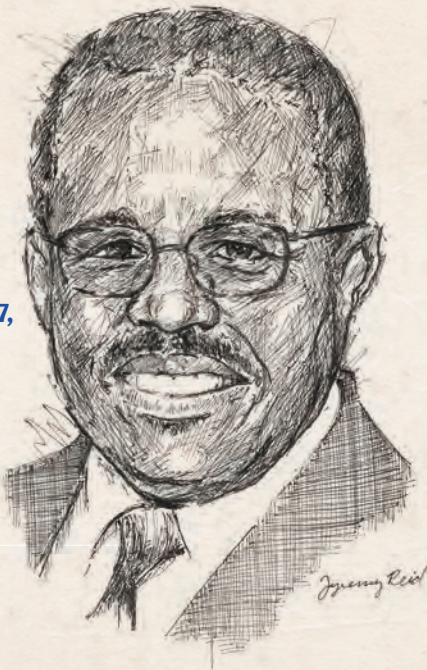
**Delbert W. Baker, '75,**  
(served 1996-2010) completed many marathons in efforts to raise funds for student scholarships. He raised more than \$500,000 for the scholarship endowment. During his administration he also enlarged land holdings; led out in renovations of existing buildings and new construction projects, including the McKee Business and Technology Complex and the development of the Adventist Boulevard and Main Gate entrances; prepared 17 historical marker/sites around campus; established Oakwood Memorial Gardens; and initiated Oakwood's "Best College" listing in U.S. News & World Report.



**Leslie N. Pollard, '78,**  
(serving 2011-Present) shared in his inaugural Vision 2020, a platform for progress, that would guide the institution across the next 10 years. The following are a few snapshots under his leadership: outlined the case for immediately engaging in an unprecedented research study of Oakwood students' spiritual commitments and beliefs; purchased two nationally-franchised businesses in Huntsville; received notice that Oakwood was fully re-accredited through 2018 by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA); led out in renovations to Carter Hall and Ford Hall and the construction of the brand new Peters Media Center; led Oakwood to becoming the first North American Division institution of higher education; received a \$2,000,000 gift for its planned Oakwood University Health and Wellness Center; launched a campaign for the Community Health Action Clinic; launched Healthy Campus 2020, an initiative that seeks to make the University the healthiest collegiate campus in the United States; and joined Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), which works with the private sector and PHA honorary chair, First Lady Michelle Obama, to make healthier choices easier.

**Mervyn Warren, '57,**  
interim  
(served 8/10-1/11)

also served many years as a dean of the Religion & Theology Department, general vice president, vice president for Academic Affairs, assistant to the president, and provost.



Doctors N.M. & Stella Martinson were superintendents of the Sanitarium.



▶ 1909

The nine graduates of Oakwood Industrial School were nurses.



▶ 1910



Oakwood Sanitarium opened (now known as East Hall).

First dining hall was completed.

▶ 1911



A two-story orphanage for homeless children in Huntsville was built.

▶ 1912







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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.

It's easy to create your own personalized brick today.

Visit [www.brickrus.com/order/oakwood](http://www.brickrus.com/order/oakwood) or call 256-726-7201.



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Oakwood Industrial School opened its doors on November 16, 1896, with 16 students. A year earlier, the 380-acre former slave plantation was purchased for \$6,700. Its towering oak trees—which gave way to the name “Oakwood”—dotted the early residence of America’s most famous slave, Dred Scott. Oakwood’s founders were all prominent Seventh-day Adventist world church leaders: co-founder/author Mrs. Ellen G. White, President O. A. Olsen, Treasurer H. Lindsey and G. A. Irwin, the Southern District director.

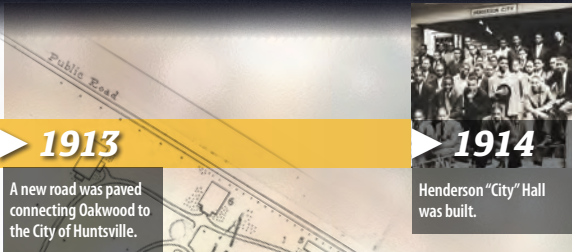
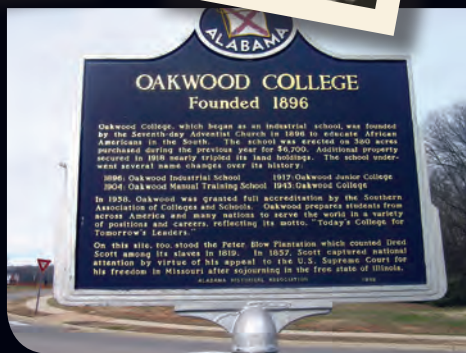
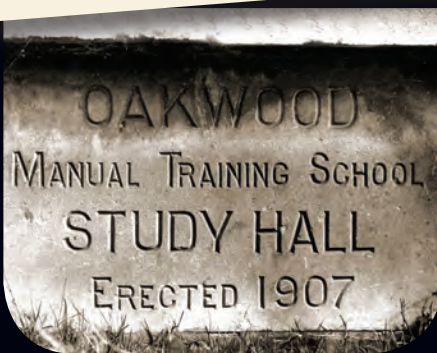
In 1904, Oakwood Industrial School was renamed Oakwood Manual Training School, which expanded to include a broader curriculum. In 1909, five students graduated in the class of 1909.

In 1917, Oakwood Manual Training School became Oakwood Junior College, offering a two-year college program with emphasis on subjects paralleling most junior colleges. Several of the principals of the church served the school until it achieved this status and elected its first president, James I. Beardsley, later that year. Additional land was acquired in 1918, nearly tripling the campus size.

In 1943, the school received its first accreditation as a junior college, thus changing the name to Oakwood College. It continued moving toward senior college status, which it achieved 15 years later. In 1958, the institution was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to



Oakwood Board, 1904



▶ **1913**  
A new road was paved connecting Oakwood to the City of Huntsville.

▶ **1914**  
Henderson “City” Hall was built.

Ministerial and Bible workers band formed.

▶ **1915**



▶ **1916**  
A representative from the state department of education made a second visit to Oakwood, and recommended that industrial work be correlated with the academy classes.



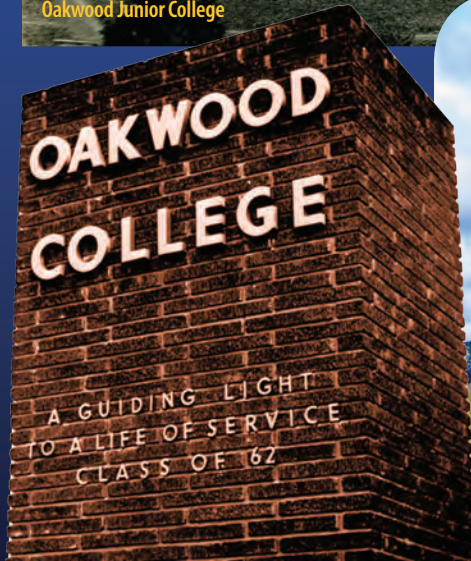
# of Growth and Development

award both associate and baccalaureate degrees. The first senior college graduating class, in the spring of 1945 consisted of nine students. By 1973, the first class to exceed 100 graduates, graduated 124 students; nine years later, the school graduated over 200.

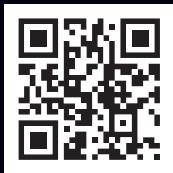
In 2007, the college received approval to award graduate degrees. In response to this higher accreditation, the school's Board of Trustees and constituents voted to change the name of the institution to Oakwood University. The 315 members of the 2008 graduating class were the first to receive degrees under the "Oakwood University" designation. 🎓



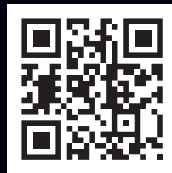
Oakwood Junior College



Since its birth in 1896, Oakwood has proved itself to be a major force in academic studies and performing arts by setting the standard for Christ-centered higher education. Scan the QR codes to check out videos for each school. ➔



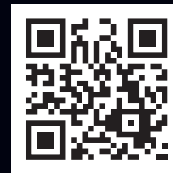
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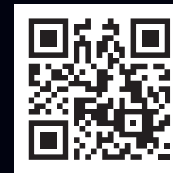
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION



SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCES



SCHOOL OF RELIGION



## ▶ 1917

The North American Division Council held a session on campus and the Oakwood Manual Training School was raised to the status of Oakwood Junior College.



J.I. Beardsley elected president of Oakwood

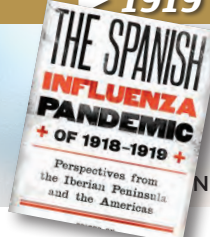
## ▶ 1918

C.J. Boyd asked by the General Conference to resign because he didn't have a degree.

J.I. Beardsley convinced the General Conference to purchase an additional 618 acres known as "the ford land."

## ▶ 1919

The influenza was so rampant on campus that school had to be suspended for two weeks.

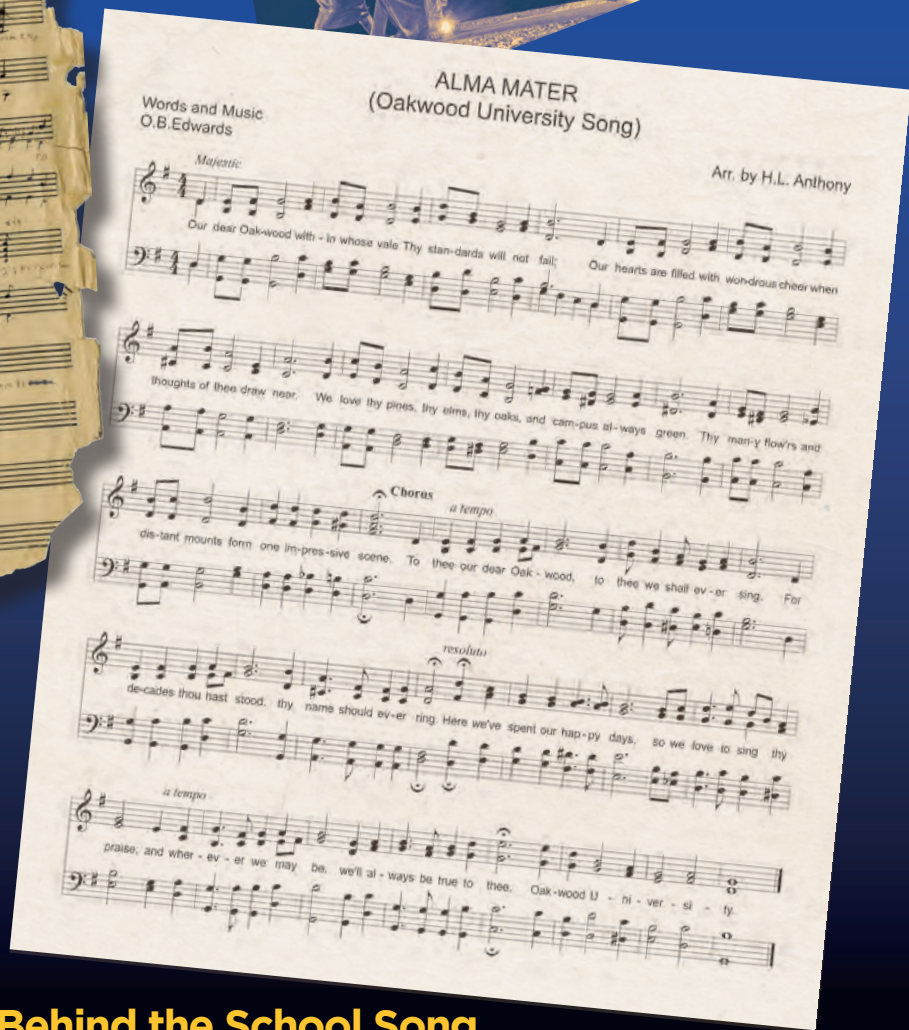
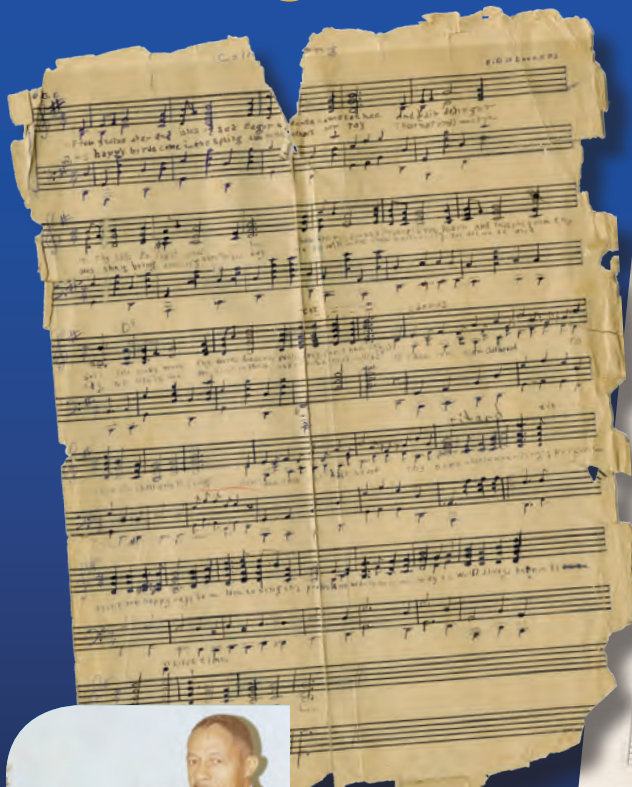


The first summer school at Oakwood Junior College was held.

## ▶ 1920

A campus-wide boycott took place because President Beardsley, along with other faculty members tried to evict Lawrence Longware.





O.B. Edwards, Sr.



H.L. Anthony

Send us a clip of you and your friends singing the Oakwood School Song. Send email to [pr@oakwood.edu](mailto:pr@oakwood.edu)

## The Story Behind the School Song

**C**ampus occasions celebrating accreditation always included singing the school song composed by Otis B. Edwards, Sr., and which by 1958 had been in full swing for some two decades or more wafting through these halls of learning. At one point in the 1950s, Dr. Edwards attempted to replace the trusted and tried "Our dear Oakwood within whose vale" with his new melody "Oakwood College, Alma Mater dear." But the latter never caught on. In 1965, Edwards commissioned a Music Department teacher, Harold Anthony, to set the traditional school song to written form and four-part harmony.

—taken from *Oakwood! A Vision Splendid*



▶ 1921

Lecturers from the State Agricultural School at Auburn, Alabama, were invited to speak to the students.

▶ 1922



Eighty percent of the students' expenses were met by labor.

▶ 1923

J.A. Tucker elected president of Oakwood.

As late as 1923, students who worked their way through Oakwood could only take one course per quarter.

▶ 1924



Young Men's Trades Building was completed.



# of Alma Mater Pride

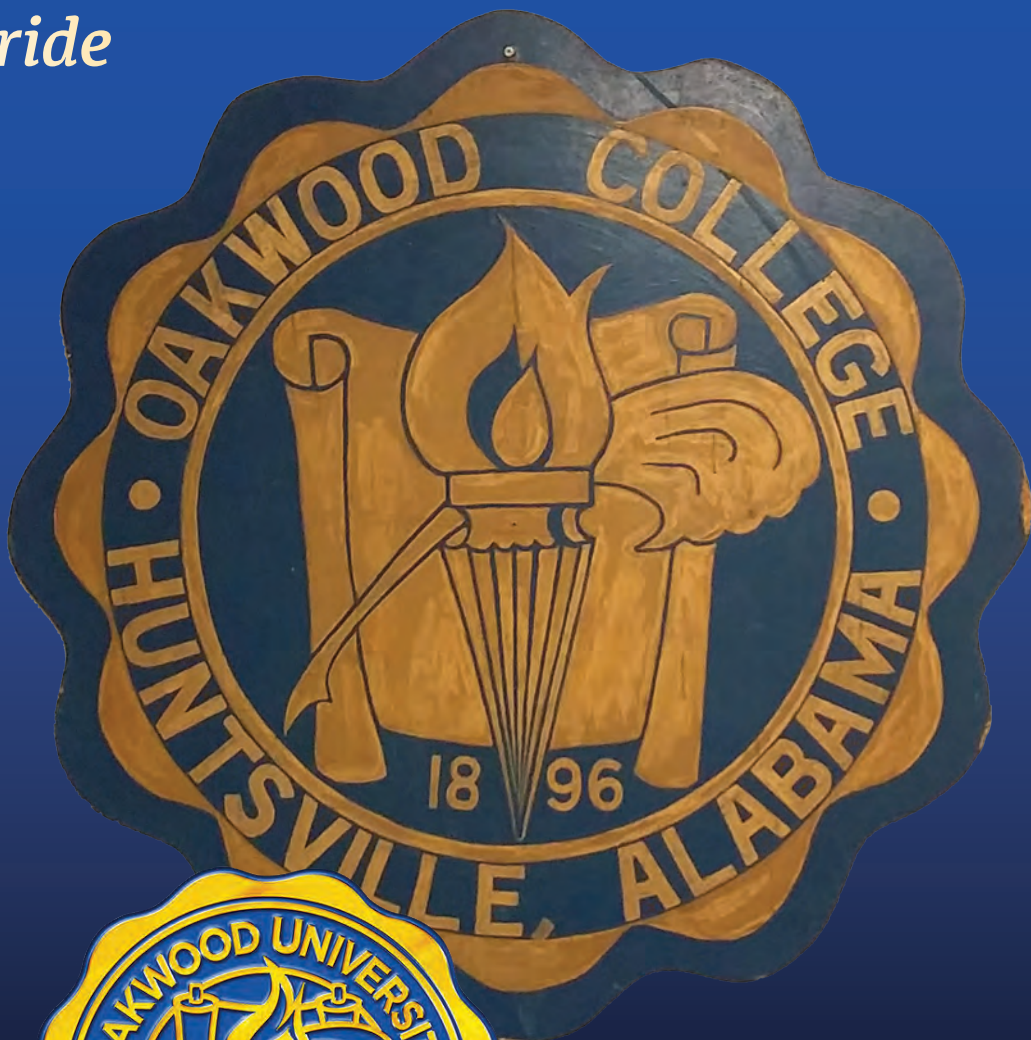
by Ron J. Pride, Graphic Designer

**T**he Oakwood University Seal still visually represents the highest ideals and values that it did at its creation by Turner C. Battle, III, back in 1946. The seal has been used to symbolize this historic institution for decades and is recognized as a symbol of excellence in education worldwide.

In 2015, some modifications to the seal seemed to be in order. We approached the revival of the seal with reverence and respect because great care and thought went into its development. The quill and flambeau were enhanced and the typography was reset. Of course, the blue and gold colors are still the foundation of the seal and the ensigns of Oakwood pride.

The enhancements made to the Oakwood University Seal are both for aesthetic value and to more clearly convey our story. The redrawing of the quill, for instance, defines the object more realistically. The flambeau is simplified, yet dimensional—in keeping with the look of the other objects. The flame burns a little higher. The typography is bolder, thus easier to read and reproduce. Added compass points on the inner circle speak to the global reach and influence of our University. The use of plain, round dots is now replaced by more meaningful acorns (faith & hope)—giving homage to the oak, the Yearbook, and the deeper insight of the potential in the seed.

The refinements made to parts of the Oakwood University seal will help to modernize the look of the seal for a new era of leadership. 🍷



Turner C. Battle, III

*“The college seal had become a reality during my college days. My children and their children would see the memorial I had created that would last forever.”*

—Turner C. Battle, III

Young Men's Betterment Society was organized.

▶ 1925



▶ 1926

The Alumni Association was established.

Oakwood's dairy ranked 2nd in the entire 200 herds existing in the state of Alabama for the quality of milk produced.

▶ 1927



▶ 1928

The first issue of "The Oaks" was published. It served as the yearbook.



## Oakwood and the Development of Black Seventh-day Adventism

By Calvin B. Rock, Ph.D.\*

**T**he central role that Oakwood has occupied in the growth of Black Seventh-day Adventism is due to several identifiable factors:

### 1 Oakwood's theological impact

All of Oakwood's academic departments have effectively advanced the individual, congregational, and institutional well-being of this sector of our denomination. However, the long line of pastors, Bible teachers, chaplains, and dedicated laypersons produced by Oakwood's Religion Department has been more determinative for the biblical understandings and the denominational loyalty of Black Adventism than any other study discipline.



### 2 Equipping youth for occupational and professional endeavors

When Oakwood was founded, its curriculum minimized liberal arts and maximized trades. The institution's name at that time



(1896) was Oakwood Industrial School. However, because of rapid growth in matriculation and wise response

to societal challenges, its name was changed in 1904 to Oakwood Manual Training School. Curriculum and matriculation continued to rapidly expand, and in 1917 the school became Oakwood Junior College; 26 years later (1943), it had matured to a full-fledged senior college, and in 2008 earned university status. At each step, as its faculty and academic offerings grew, so did the number of church member attendees who left the school better equipped to earn a livelihood and to contribute meaningfully to their disciplines, their communities, and, as this report must rightly emphasize, the many hundreds of Adventist congregations they have staffed, supported, and sustained.

### 3 Oakwood's social impact

From its very beginning, Oakwood has been the major crucible for the formation of friendships and families among black

Seventh-day Adventists. Seventh-day Adventist Blacks who attend Oakwood are much more likely to bond with others of their religious background than African Americans who attend non-Adven-



tist schools of higher education or even white-administered Adventist colleges and universities. In other words, Oakwood's social advantage accrues from the dual reality of lessening of the pressures and presence of non-scripture alliances at non-Adventist institutions while at the same time establishing friendships that last far beyond attendance or graduation. This latter good is not at all common for Adventist Blacks who attend one of the other (white-administered) Adventist schools of higher education. By this very special sociocultural reality, Oakwood has historically provided a palpable

▶ 1929

There were eight members of faculty and staff who were African American.

▶ 1930

Lights out for the campus was 9:30 p.m.



The Jubilee Quartet became the Alabama Singers.

▶ 1931

Some of the main leaders in the Oakwood strike of 1931 were Samuel Rashford, Allan Anderson, and Herman Murphy.

▶ 1932

J.L. Moran elected president of Oakwood.



Nine of the 14 faculty were African American.





dynamic unquestionably crucial to the continuing advance of Black Seventh-day Adventism.

#### 4 Oakwood's physical presence

Oakwood's acreage, with its grounds and halls of sacred memory, is not just sentimentally precious to its vast alumni; it is where many return each Easter weekend in animated worship and social joy. The gathering of thousand of Oakwood's former attendees, along with their families and friends, each Homecoming Weekend is a spirited happening—an annual pilgrimage of Oakwood's supporters to their spiritual Mecca. This weekend has high significance for the broader church community because its devotees, having revisited their corporate moorings and having been enthused by the school's special mystic, and return to their cities and churches recharged with the mission of the school and, by extension, that of the ecclesiastical body to which it belongs.

#### 5 Oakwood's prophetic mystique

This influence stems from several realities that establish Oakwood as a product of divine revelation. They are: (a) the fact



that it was the writings of Ellen G. White, the church's prophet, that inspired her son Edison to build the boat, the Morning Star, from the decks of which he planted the scores of mission schools that surfaced the need for one central place of education, (b) the fact that the prophet herself encouraged and endorsed the purchase of the



original 360 acres in 1894, (c) the fact that she herself visited and spoke at Oakwood on several occasions (1904 and 1909), and

(d) the fact that Oakwood is mentioned in the prophet's writings as ordained of God to do a special work for Black Adventism.

#### 6 A high sense of self-worth

Even prior to 1932, when the first African-American president of Oakwood, J.L. Moran, was installed, Black Adventists were inspired by

the presence of the few of their ranks chosen to labor there. What has occurred during the administrations of the presidents who followed Moran has exponentially increased that sense of dignity and self-worth. While in the past the General Conference, and now the North American Division, owns Oakwood and provides its basic constituency, the fact that for decades the school has been successfully operated by a board, administration, faculty, and staff, and student body pervasively African-American is a matter of justifiable pride for the church's Black constituents.



These factors have helped to establish Oakwood as the jewel of Black Adventism, the quintessential example of its ability to achieve, the premier statement of its denominational identity, and the unquestioned recipient of the providence of God, who, through the influences of this unique institution, has so greatly blessed this people. 🙏

\*This article is an excerpt from an article originally printed in the Summer 2005 issue of *Regional Voice*. Some of the information has been updated.

Separate ordinances of humility, meals, and chapel seats for whites and blacks ceased to exist.

▶ 1933



▶ 1934

General expenses for Oakwood were approximately \$198/year.



▶ 1935

General Conference voted to establish a Negro Sanitarium and Nurses' Training School as close to Nashville as possible, with the same Board that governed Oakwood Junior College.

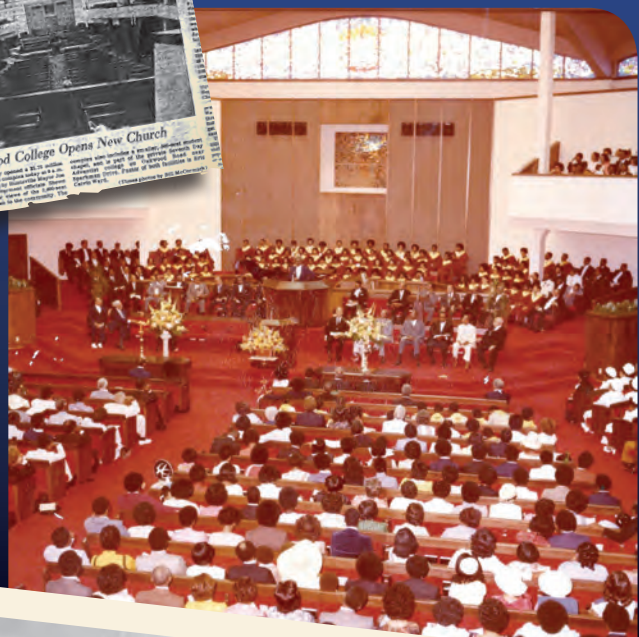
A total African-American faculty was voted in by the Board of Trustees.

Oakwood Junior College operated a clinic that offered services to the community of Huntsville.

▶ 1936







▶ 1937

The first bus was purchased.

▶ 1938

C.T. Richards graduated from Oakwood Junior College.

▶ 1939

An administration building was proposed to be built that would cost \$72,000.

▶ 1940



When a student sold \$424.80 worth of books or magazines from the Book and Bible House, they were entitled to a scholarship bonus of \$53.10.





This article, written 20 years ago by Oakwood's 5th president, the late Dr. Garland J. Millet, and adapted by his daughter, Debbe, depicts the spiritual life of the University and its growth up to that point. The original article was written for *Adventist Heritage Magazine* in 1996.

by **Debbe Millet**, Communication Services Coordinator

From the beginning of the Oakwood Industrial School in 1896, its students were surrounded by religious influences. The ongoing religious life program, sustained through the diligent involvement of faculty and staff members and students, offered repeated reminders of the aims of life at "The Oaks." In dormitories, students attended morning and evening worship services, most often conducted by the home deans. Before cafeteria meals, public prayers were offered. Private devotional exercises and prayer bands were encouraged. Classes and most work sessions began with prayer. Chapel exercises were held on some school days each week. Not to be overlooked was the influence of student church leaders, and prominent visiting speakers. Through the years, sundown vespers on Fridays were a well-loved time for singing, testimonials, praise, and presentations regarding sacred themes. Deep were the spiritual impressions gained at these particular sessions. Similarly, the Sabbath School exercises



You can view Tavonne Dillon's story at [oakwoodmagazine.com](http://oakwoodmagazine.com)

and the Sabbath church services were unforgettable, as religious influences flowed from heart to heart. On Wednesday evenings, especially in recent years, the prayer meeting has included a time for prayer partners to confide their mutual trust in God, to praise God, and to pray for divine guidance.

There have been, and continue to be, many outreach opportunities for Oakwood students. They have assisted neighborhood churches, encouraged the sick, distributed literature, and engaged in prison ministry. Wide participation in choirs and quartets not only brought joy and inspiration to listeners, but aided their members, as well. Some Oakwood students have served overseas as student missionaries. Others have earned tuition money through literature sales throughout the country. Others have assisted in student recruitment.

For most of Oakwood's history, church services were held in small chapels located within the various buildings, such as the Old Mansion, the Study Hall, the Old Chapel Building, Moran Hall, and the Ashby

gymnasium. On September 3, 1977, under the leadership of Elder Eric C. Ward, the campus congregation marched from Ashby to the newly constructed Oakwood Church complex.

From 1896 to 1931 white minister-teachers pastored the church: S.M. Jacobs, W.J. Blake, W.L. Bird, W.H.L. Baker, U. Bender, and T.V. Counsell. Since 1931, the following ministers, many of them former Oakwood students, have been responsible for the church: C.E. Moseley, R.L. Woodfork, C.T. Richards, J.R. Wagner, J.T. Stafford, J.J. Beale, V.G. Lindsay, N. Lindsay, R. Tottress, W.L. DeShay, E.C. Ward, L.N. Pollard, J.S. Nixon, C. Newborn, B. Jones (int.), and C.P. Byrd.

Oakwood's growth in the course of its 120-year history is incomprehensible unless the spiritual dimension of campus life is taken into account. The commitment of Oakwood's founders; the religious seriousness of faculty members who have inspired and supported students; and the spiritual sensitivity of those who have attended and the nurture they have provided each other, have all contributed to making Oakwood the institution it is today.

You could almost say that Oakwood is in my DNA, since I was born while my father, Garland J. Millet, Ph.D., was president (1954-1963).  
—Debbe Millet



▶ 1941

A meal ticket for the cafeteria cost \$3.25 per week.

▶ 1942

O.B. Edwards, Sr. submits his master's thesis, "Origin and Development of the Seventh-day Adventist Work Among Negroes in the Alabama-Mississippi Conference".

▶ 1943

Oakwood Junior College became Oakwood College.

In 1944 The United Negro College Fund is incorporated.

▶ 1944

The first graduating class of Oakwood College.



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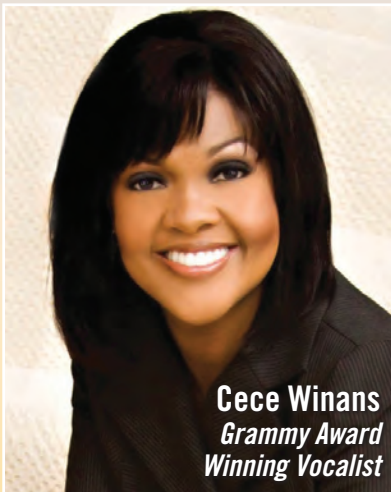


# EASTER SPECIAL

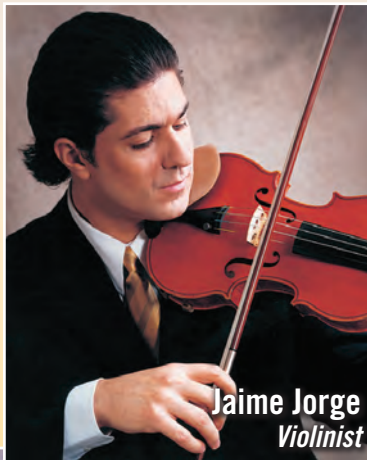
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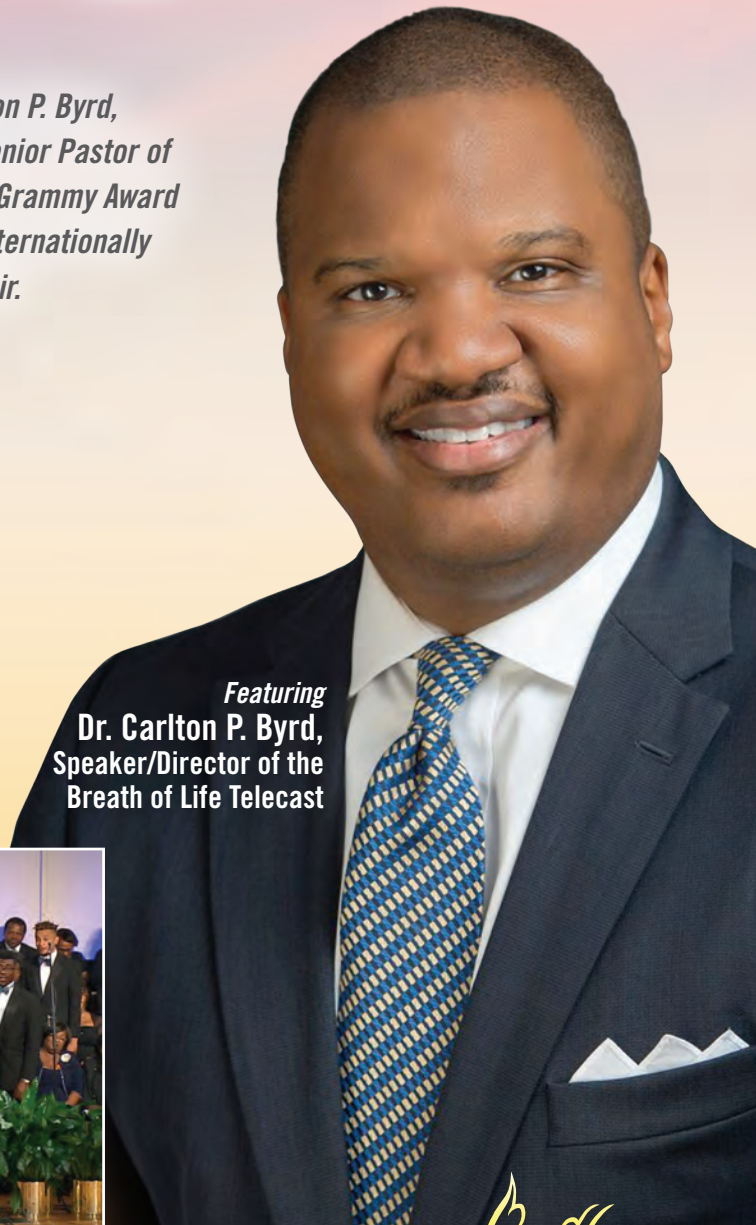
*This ABC special features an Easter message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry and Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. Music by Grammy Award winning vocalist CeCe Winans, violinist Jaime Jorge, and the internationally renowned Oakwood University Aeolians Concert Choir.*



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# 120 Years of Good, Hard Work

by George Johnson, Jr.

**T**hroughout the years, Oakwood has been known for its industries. Oakwood operated a laundry that serviced the Huntsville community and the Redstone Arsenal, a dairy with cows that produced milk, and a bakery. In earlier years of Oakwood's existence, industry businesses consisted of a cannery, blacksmithing, wagon making, job printing, carpet weaving, dressmaking, and shoe repairing, just to name a few.

In 2014 and 2015, Oakwood purchased the Edible Arrangements franchise businesses in Huntsville to help revitalize industries at Oakwood. "Mrs. Ellen G. White believed that education should address the head, the heart, and the hand. The part of that triad that we have lost is the "hand" element—the skill-development responsibility of Christian education. By recovering industry, we can teach students those other kinds of skills," said Dr. Leslie Pollard. 🍌



Oakwood Academy began to operate separately from the college.

In the fifth decade (1936-1946), the administration finished building Moran Hall, created a home for the president and became a senior college with completed chemistry and physics laboratories.

Alpha Tau Delta, the Commercial Honor Society, was organized.

▶ 1945

F.L. Peterson elected president of Oakwood.



▶ 1946



Eva B. Dykes established the Aeolians.

▶ 1947

Cunningham Hall was built.



▶ 1948





# “Project Radio”

## A Legacy of Radio Broadcasting at Oakwood

by Reggie Hicks, General Manager, WJOU

On January 7, 1979, WOCG-FM (now WJOU) went on the air for the very first time and began a radio ministry and broadcast service of Oakwood University that would continue for decades. However, the idea for a radio station at Oakwood actually started years earlier. In the mid 1960s, a group of faculty and students organized the Oakwood Radio Club. Some students even earned their FCC third-class broadcasting licenses allowing them to work as radio DJs. Unfortunately, they did not have a radio station to hone their skills.

That soon changed with the launch of “Project Radio-AM at Oakwood College”—an initiative that laid the foundation for Oakwood’s first radio station, WOAK-AM. This 620khz on-campus carrier current station, used the electrical wires throughout each dormitory to broadcast its signal.

Some years later, WOCG-FM went on the air as Oakwood’s Class A, FM radio station, broadcasting 12 hours daily from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Today, WJOU-FM broadcasts 24/7 and provides more than 8,000 hours of programming, not only to the Tennessee Valley, but to the entire world through live streaming on the Internet and on the free Tuneln Radio app.



The College Press became a separate department.

Oakwood’s Medical Cadet Corps formed.

### ▶ 1949



### ▶ 1950



### ▶ 1951

Oakwood’s first Committee on Accreditation (known today as Institutional Committee for Self Study) was formed.

### ▶ 1952

Elder and Mrs. Moseley bid farewell to Oakwood as Elder Moseley became associate secretary at the General Conference.

You can listen to audio clips of Oakwood Heritage Moments produced by the late Minnie Dixon at [www.wjou.org](http://www.wjou.org)



## Breath of Life Ministry

Breath of Life began television broadcasting in 1974. It was the dream of pastor and recording artist Walter Arties, '40, to create a program that would appeal to African Americans looking for hope and guidance. For 23 years, Pastor C. D. Brooks, '51, was the featured speaker.



In 1997, Pastor Walter L. Pearson, Jr., '88, became the Speaker/Director, and he continued the legacy until December 2010, when Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, '94, assumed the role of Speaker/Director. Pastor Byrd also serves as the Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Dr. Byrd continues to expand the vision and reach of Breath of Life as he builds on the foundation laid by those who have gone before him.



W.H. Green Memorial Library opened.

▶ **1953**



▶ **1954**

C.E. Moseley was elected president of Oakwood College but refused acceptance.

G.J. Millet elected president of Oakwood.

▶ **1955**



Peterson Hall completed.

▶ **1956**



▶ **1956**

By the end of the sixth decade (1946-1956), more than 600 students were enrolled at Oakwood.



# of Teaching and Preaching God's Word

by **Debbe Millet**

**W**hen Oakwood Industrial School opened on November 16, 1896, there were only two formal curricula: grammar school training and a course in religion. Now in 2016, the School of Religion prepares students for pastoral internship and graduate school, offering bachelor's degrees in Biblical Studies and Languages, Church Leadership, Ministerial Theology, Pastoral Care and Pre-Chaplaincy, and Religious Education, and a master's degree in Pastoral Studies.

The Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center, an expansion of the Moseley Complex, offers opportunities for continuing education in pastoral studies for ministers, Bible workers, evangelists and teachers. 🙏



**▶ 1957**  
Richard Wayne Penniman (now known by his stage name, Little Richard) attended Oakwood as a Theology student.

Oakwood gained accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



Desmond T. Doss, Congressional Medal winner spoke at Oakwood College.



Anna Knight Elementary School completed.





By Michele Solomon, Customer Care Coordinator

Academic and social clubs at “The Oaks” have spanned a wide range of interests and talents throughout our 120 years. Dating back to the 1940s and '50s, we had organizations such as The Excelsior Club for young men, Kappa Mu Delta, The Glee Club, The International Relations Club, The Master Comrades, The Veterans Club, The Medical Cadet Corps, and the Trailervillers—representing graduates who vacated their cherished trailer homes for the next group of students to occupy. Those groups were all trailblazers for the other clubs and organizations that would eventually form on the Oakwood campus.

Succeeding decades saw the formation of a vast array of academic societies, professional organizations, and social clubs. The academic societies included Beta Beta Beta National Honor Society (TriBeta), Psi Chi (the International Honors Society of Psychology), the National Society of Black Engineers, the Oakwood Bio-Medical Association, Phi Beta Lambda, Phi Alpha Delta, and Omega Sigma Psi. Professional organizations have included the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, and the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), the Pre-Veterinarian Club, the Education Club, the Social Work Club, Health Ambassadors, Entrepreneurs Collective, and the National Organization of Black Accountants.



Our ethnic and cultural diversity has manifested itself in the formation of groups like the Caribbean Youth Association, the African Student Association, and Der Deutsch Klub, while our artistic inclinations have expressed themselves in groups such as the Art & Soul, the Anonymous Artist, Voices of Triumph, Dynamic Praise, the Oakwood Improv Comedy Team, Mkonon-Nia Drama Ministry, and the Oakwood University Literary Guild. Those of a more political/public service persuasion have formed groups that include the Young Democrats of Oakwood University, and the Oakwood University Ambassador Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and, of course, the United Student Movement. Still, others with a more ministry-minded focus have embodied the spiritual life message through 4 Him, Project Re-Connect, the Prophecy Club, Campus Ministries Council, and countless other ministry organizations too numerous to name. 🗣️



Judge Henry Richardson Jr. of Indianapolis, argued for Oakwood to be accepted into the United Negro College Fund Organization.

## ▶ 1961

First admissions of Oakwood College graduates directly into Loma Linda University School of Medicine.



## ▶ 1962

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at Oakwood for a civil rights rally at the Ashby Auditorium.

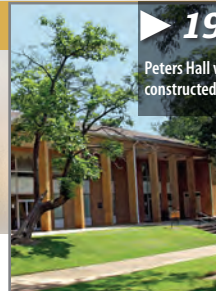
## ▶ 1963

A.V. Pinkney elected president of Oakwood.



## ▶ 1964

Peters Hall was constructed.





# and Social Activity



## Kappa Mu Delta



Oakwood College choir performed at the World's Fair in New York.

### ▶ 1965

Oakwood students participated in the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery.



### ▶ 1966

Frank Hale Jr. elected president of Oakwood.

Carter Hall was built.



### ▶ 1967

Dr. Hale co-founded the Alabama Center for Higher Education/ACHE; and visited the White House as a guest of President Lyndon B. Johnson to discuss higher educational issues.

### ▶ 1968

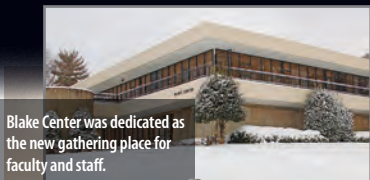
Just after 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was fatally shot on the balcony outside his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.





*"Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak."*

—Rachel Zoe



Blake Center was dedicated as the new gathering place for faculty and staff.

▶ 1969

Brenda Spraggins, '71, was crowned Queen of the National UNCF.



▶ 1970

Julian Bond, Civil Rights activist and leader, spoke at Oakwood.



▶ 1971

Calvin Rock elected president of Oakwood.

▶ 1972



Oakwood College's choir was in concert in Detroit where they raised \$2,500 for a scholarship fund. On March 19th, they sang Verdi's Requiem at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



# of Stylistic Expression

by Jeffrey Wilder, Student Writer

It has often been said that Oakwood University students have such style that they can be recognized even from beyond the confines of the campus, and since its inception, this university has been a mecca for students to showcase their individual personalities through fashion. African Americans, especially those who attend or have previously attended historically black colleges and universities, have always taken pride in the way they dress and appear in the public eye. Oakwood students are no exception; throughout the years, the students of our renowned institution have maintained a haven of personal style that completely encircles the world beyond our gates.

As we celebrate 120 years of academic and Christian excellence, let's take a glance through the looking glass at some of the incomparable styling of our past and present students. 🍷



Eva B. Dykes Library completed.

▶ 1973



Corliss Claibon was recognized as the one thousandth student.

▶ 1974

Oakwood enrollment was 1,035 students.



Oakwood awarded its first Associate Degree in Nursing.

▶ 1975



▶ 1976

First Alumni Weekend held at the Von Braun Civic Center.





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# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY



by **Richard M. Hodnett**, Assistant Director for Alumni Relations & Marketing

From the OC All-Stars playing in local gyms to the two-time national champion Ambassadors, athletics at Oakwood University certainly has come a long way. In the 1960s students formed a basketball team and played wherever they could. This rag tag group became known as the Oakwood All-Stars.

As the student body grew, so did interest in playing sports, and women's teams were later added. The nickname, Ambassadors, was chosen, and a formal athletic department was established. In 2008 Oakwood University joined the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA). The men's basketball team has won three USCAA National Championships: 2008, 2012, and 2016.

Currently the Oakwood University Athletic Department is comprised of men & women's basketball, men & women's soccer, women's volleyball, softball, and men's baseball. There are plans to add men & women's track and field team, a tennis team, and reintroduce golf. 🏀



Oakwood's radio station, WOCG-FM, had their first on-air test broadcast on December 8.

## ▶ 1977

The Oakwood College Church was completed and dedicated under the pastoral leadership of Eric C. Ward.



## ▶ 1978



## ▶ 1979

First Annual Pastoral/Evangelism Conference (PELO) convened

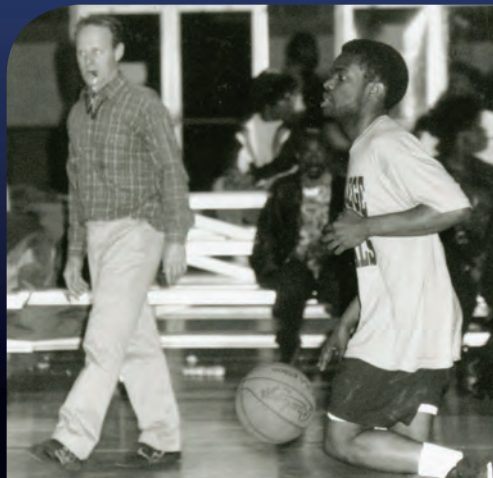
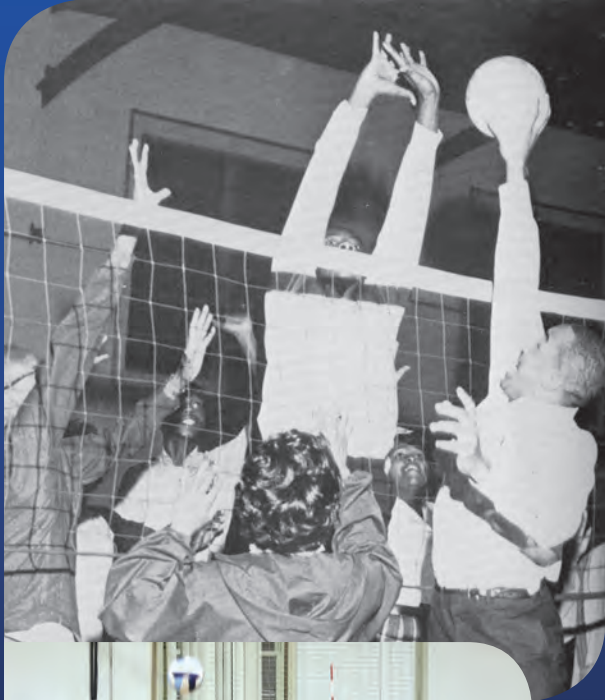
Flags representing all the countries of the students are dedicated.

## ▶ 1980





# of Fun and Fitness



Oakwood College choir performed at the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Oakwood released promotional video titled "Winning the Race."

Muhammad Ali visited and addressed Oakwood campus.



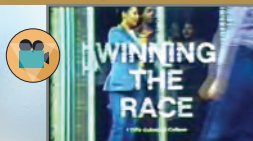
## ▶ 1981

*Essence Magazine* cited Oakwood University for preparing more Blacks for success in medical and dental schools around the country than all but four or five of the leading colleges in the country.

## ▶ 1982



## ▶ 1983



## ▶ 1984

Minneola Dixon accepted the role of Director of Alumni Relations.



# 120 Years of Generational Commitments

by George Johnson, Jr.

**T**ake a moment to think about your favorite place to buy groceries, your favorite restaurant, your favorite brand of shoes, or your favorite fragrance. Why do you continue to purchase this specific item or buy from that specific store? There is something particular, or even unique, that keeps you returning. Is it the quality? The familiarity? The company that you are purchasing from has etched its brand and experience into your brain that you feel you must have it.

Well, through its 120 years of

existence, Oakwood has provided academic excellence to many families. Patriarchs and matriarchs of families began their educational pursuits here and many down the family lines followed. Many heard about and witnessed the experiences of their relatives and simply wanted the same opportunities. And to be honest, some were “forced” into the Oakwood experience, later finding it wasn’t so bad, after all.

Listed here are just a few of the family legacies that have passed

through the halls of Oakwood—some as early as the 1930s and some as recent as our graduating Class of 2016. Take a moment to read through their memories of Oakwood and what the “Oakwood experience” meant to them.

We thank everyone for his or her commitment to Oakwood—past and present. It is because of your commitment to Christian education throughout these many years that we are able to continue to serve others. 🙏

## Pollard Family

Karin Pollard, '09; Kristin Pollard Kiel, '05; Genesis Kiel, future Class of 2035; Leslie Pollard, '78; Demetrius Kiel, '16; and Prudence Pollard, '78



“As a LEAP student, Oakwood University provided the opportunity for me to realize my dreams of completing my bachelor’s degree. At Oakwood, I have been supported by professors through personal tragedies and encouraged to continue pursuing my degree, despite the challenges of being a full-time barber, father and husband. My professors have prayed with me, supported my business and dedication to observing the Sabbath by becoming regular clients at my barbershop.”

—Demetrius Kiel

Prudence LaBeach, 1975 Acorn photo

Skating Rink opened (now called Millet Activity Center).

Benjamin Reeves elected president of Oakwood.

▶ 1985



▶ 1986



July 6 was proclaimed as “Chessie Harris Day” in Alabama honoring Chessie Harris for her dedication and commitment to children.

▶ 1987

East Hall, the historic sanitarium building, was added to Alabama’s official register of Landmarks and Heritage.



▶ 1988

Dynamic Praise was established.



Oakwood received a \$400,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.



## Nephew & Great, Great Aunt

Jordan Harris, '16; and  
Ruby Bufford Jones, '37



"In retrospect, my years at Oakwood hold the fondest memories of my life. It's been a few months shy of 80 years since I graduated—I'm 100 years old now, but I could never forget those indelible times. I worked in the campus laundry to work off my school bill. That was hard work in those times. My favorite part about the Oakwood experience is the life-long friendships I made on campus in 1936 that I still have today. Dr. Ernest Rogers is one of my good friends from my class with whom I still keep in contact."

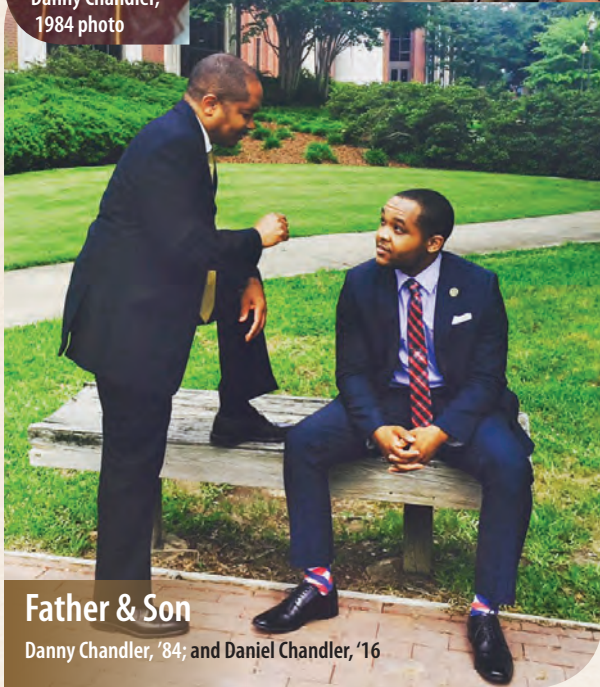


Ruby Bufford,  
1937 Acorn photo

—Ruby Bufford Jones



Danny Chandler,  
1984 photo



## Father & Son

Danny Chandler, '84; and Daniel Chandler, '16

"The most compelling part of my Oakwood years was the relationships I formed with fellow students and faculty members that still exist more than 30 years later. There is something special about becoming an Oakwoodite. And they are everywhere! No matter where my travels take me, near or far, I can almost always find an Oakwoodite. Once inducted, it is for life. It is a fringe benefit of attending Oakwood."

—Danny Chandler



## Laury Family

Darnell Laury, '96; Kamesha Laury, '16; Stefan Laury, future Class of 2023;  
and Antoinette Percy-Laury, '93

"My Oakwood College experience is filled with wonderful memories, from attending AYS and other social activities in Moran Hall, to hearing powerful sermons from Eric C. Ward and E. E. Cleveland. However, it was the character building task of praying through registration every quarter, taking off-campus trips to eat food that was uniquely different from the cafeteria and forming lifelong friendships with people from all over the world, that still fill my soul with joy and laughter. Nevertheless, my fondest memory is marrying my beautiful wife nearly 23 years ago, who was my "Navigator" during freshman orientation, fall 1991."



Darnell Laury,  
1995 Acorn photo

—Darnell Laury

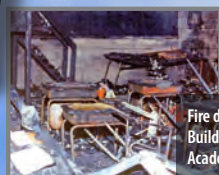
▶ 1989

Oakwood Alums Take 6<sup>th</sup> won first Grammy award.



▶ 1990

Dr. J visited Oakwood.



Fire destroyed one wing of the Anna Knight Building which housed several of Oakwood Academy's elementary classrooms.



▶ 1991

Wade Hall opened.



▶ 1992

Fall enrollment topped 1,350 students.

Oakwood Aeolians sang on ABC's Good Morning America!



## Pettiford-Powell-Hicks Family

Back: Shelby Powell Hicks, '11; Aaron White, (attended '02-'04); Allycin Powell Hicks, '05; James Rodriguez, '13; Kyndall Powell Hicks Rodriguez, '14. Front : Cynthia Powell-Hicks, '76; Calvin Hicks, Alice Pettiford Powell, (attended '45-'47)



“When one graduates from Oakwood University you have not only obtained the academic certification, but you become an integrated part of the Oakwood fabric forever.

Many students have met lifetime friends, their wives, and husbands at Oakwood. While attending Oakwood College in 1945, I met my husband, a Theology major, Joseph T. Powell.

Our two daughters and three grand daughters are all graduates of Oakwood.

The sweetness and light of old friends is what develops into an eternal fellowship. Oakwood University graduates have fulfilled the motto ‘Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve.’ They have become ministers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, counselors, missionaries, and friends.”

—Alice M. Powell



## Grandson & Grandmother

Kyle Smith, '16; and Nola Love Bryant (attended 1954-1956)

“Through my experience at Oakwood, I’ve made more than just close friends. Over four years, those friends have become a close-knit family. Oakwood has provided more than just a setting to build these relationships, while also providing an education, but I’ve matured as a person, and most importantly grown spiritually. The Oakwood experience is like none other; it’s life changing.”

—Kyle Smith

Students banded together to purchase a brand new grand piano. Dr. Wayne Bucknor was the first to play it at the dedication ceremony led by USM President Carlton Byrd.



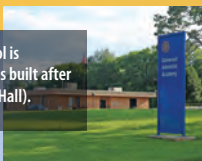
Nola Love, 1955  
Acorn photo



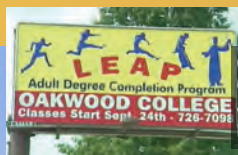
Delbert Baker elected president of Oakwood.

▶ 1993

Oakwood Elementary School is dedicated (a new school was built after the fire at the Anna Knight Hall).



▶ 1994



▶ 1995

Oakwood’s adult continuing education and degree completion program (LEAP) started.

▶ 1996

Oakwood celebrated 100 years.







### Whiteside Family

Angelita Nwaokelemeh, '03; Kim Logan-Nowlin, '79 and Micha Logan, '04  
Jessica Graham, '04 and Ricardo Graham, '73; Felicia Moline, '04

"My college experience changed my entire outlook on and attitude toward life. As I entered Oakwood College, I didn't know what to expect or how my experience would impact my life. I entered as a shy girl, who had low self-esteem and walked out as a confident women transformed by the love of Christ. I was lost and found my identity in Christ!"

—Angelita Nwaokelemeh



### Bradford Family

Back Row: Dwight Bradford Jr. (attended 2010-2012); Janet Carter Bradford (attended 1974-1976); Dr. Calvin Rock, '54; James Lewis III, '01; Dwight Bradford Sr., (attended 1974-1979); Sharon Bradford Lewis, (attended 1970-1971); Charles Bradford Jr., (attended 1972); Anne Marie Rimple-Bradford, David Brown Sr., '95; Marquita Bradford Brown, '95; and David Brown Jr. Front row: Charles Bradford Sr., '46; and Ethel McKenzie Bradford, '46



Etta Littlejohn

Etta Littlejohn, mother of Charles Bradford, Sr. and grandmother of Dr. Calvin Rock, was one of the first 16 students to attend Oakwood in 1896.



### Sisters

Shannalee Sheppard, '00; and Monisha Jacobs, '16

"Attending Oakwood and being part of the Social Work Department completely changed my life as I gained a family and forever friendships. This program prepared me in unimaginable ways and has opened up so many doors for me. I've learned a wealth of information in the Social Work field, which has aided me with the students I work with, who are autistic."

—Monisha Jacobs

### Williams Family

Chrishel Williams, '16; Daryl Williams Jr., '14; and Bacur "Morel" Williams, '15



The Oakwood Aeolians sang at the White House.

Adventist Boulevard opened in Huntsville.

Oakwood Memorial Gardens established.

▶ 1997

Diversity Education Exchange Program (DEEP) started in conjunction with Southern Adventist University.

▶ 1998



▶ 1999

EG White Estate branch office opened at Oakwood.



Oakwood College dedicated the Slave Cemetery.

▶ 2000





# Families

“Oakwood and my life are synonymous. I was born to Elder Calvin E. and Harriet Moseley who were both faculty here. Formative years led through Oakwood elementary, academy, and university where also my son Mervyn E. and daughters Karis and Shana traced their

lives along those same three levels of Oakwood education. Thirty-two years on the OU faculty sharing the abundant life with students, now a retiree, still in the Oakwood community, I’d say all I know is Oakwood.”

—Barbara J. Warren

## Warren Family

(left to right): Asia Byers, Ashlee Byers, Autumn Byers, Ayana Byers, Timothy Byers, '03; Shana Warren Byers, '92; Mervyn E. Warren, '86; Imani Dobson, Michael Dobson, Jr., Barbara Warren, '59; Mervyn A. Warren, '57; Karis Warren Dobson, '91; Michael Dobson, Sr., and Malachiae Warren.



Barbara Moseley, 1957 *Acorn* photo



Zeola Germany, 1949 *Acorn* photo

“Before graduating from all-Negro Fairfield Industrial & Technical High School in 1945, Elders Herman L. Murphy and E. T. Mimms’ crusade baptized my parents, their younger children and me. I could hardly wait to travel 123 miles north to Oakwood College! Oakwood trained me to teach across eight decades—both here as well as in Russia—the Grand Cayman Islands and in China. Oakwood, I’m still ready to serve – now at 88!”

—Zeola Germany Allston

## Germany-Scott-Allston Family

Clockwise from left: Zeola Germany Allston, '49; Ivan M. Allston, '14; Amalia Brooks Peterkin, '94; Melody Germany, '85; Judith Lockett Bentley, '09; Veronica Bass Lockett, '84; Nadia Lockett, '13; Donalyn Parker Stephenson, '88

McKee Business & Technology Complex opened.

Snack bar renovated.

Morning Star House relocated to Oakwood's campus.

▶ 2001

▶ 2002

▶ 2003

▶ 2004

▶ 2005

Oakwood released promo video titled “Realizing the Vision.”



West Oaks Apartments built.



Oakwood hosted first and only winter graduation.



Time capsule buried to be opened in 2055.





James McNeil, Sr.  
1976 *Acorn* photo

## McNeil Family

Top photo: (left to right) Raquel McNeil, '10; Betina McNeil Laidley, '02; Guerdha McNeil; James McNeil, Sr., '76; Billy Mitchell; Melinda McNeil Mitchell, '02, (seated) Mary Kate McNeil. Bottom left

photo: (left to right) Charles T. McNeil, '78; Lystra McNeil; Scott McNeil, '15; Paul McNeil, '11. Bottom right photo: Lewis Edwards, Sr., '74 and Albertha McNeil Edwards, '74

"Oakwood to me means a place to learn more about God, develop mind, skills, character, to make preparation and to serve humanity while providing for one's livelihood. It's a gift from God to receive instruction from dedicated teachers and make friends for life.

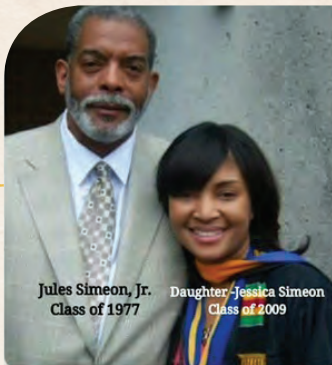
Attendance at Oakwood afforded me the opportunity to meet my husband (L. W. Edwards, Sr.) and allowed our two sons (Marcus and Lewis W., II) to share the experience. God be praised!"  
—Albertha McNeil-Edwards

"The all night prayer meetings, power hour in the middle of the day, dormitory worship and joint periods of fasting and prayer prepared me for the valleys I have faced all of my adult life. Most precious to me are the friendships I developed that are still strong and vibrant nearly 40 years later. I thank God and my parents for my Oakwood experience."  
—Dale Simeon

## Simeon Family



Dale Simeon, 1976  
*Acorn* photo



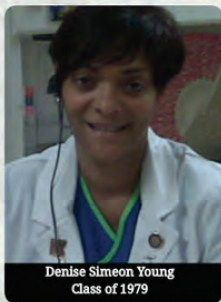
Jules Simeon, Jr. Class of 1977  
Daughter-Jessica Simeon Class of 2009



Marcia Simeon Ogen  
Class of 1978



Daughter Raquel M. Buckley Class of 2006  
Dale M. Simeon Class of 1978



Denise Simeon Young  
Class of 1979



Kimberly Simeon Washington  
Class of 1982

Monument to Service erected on campus.



### ▶ 2006

Four seniors won awards for research presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Anaheim, CA.

### ▶ 2007

Enrollment exceeded 1,800 and President Baker made good on a promise and jumped in the pool.

Oakwood hosted first Agape Day.

First masters degree program offered.

The Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center opens.



WOCG changed its call letters to WJOU.

Oakwood College officially became Oakwood University.

### ▶ 2008

New men's residence hall, Holland Hall, opened.



The Oakwood Ambassadors joined the USCAA and won their first national championship.



▲ You can view more stories (My Oakwood Story and I Am Oakwood University) about why students chose Oakwood.







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**PASTOR PAUL GRAHAM**

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DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART	ONBOARD & OFF-BOARD ACTIVITIES
9 June	Fort Lauderdale		4:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUAA-GOC Meet &amp; Great (We encourage wearing OU Colors)</li> <li>• Mission Trip Excursion (optional) Sundown Vespers &amp; Concert</li> <li>• Sabbath Power Hour Service/ Mission Trip Excursion (Optional)</li> <li>• Nyse Collins Health &amp; Wellness Encouragement Impact + R&amp;R</li> <li>• Back Home... Safe Travels!!!</li> </ul>
10 June	Nassau, Bahamas	8:00 am	6:00pm	
11 June	Freeport, Bahamas	8:00 am	6:00pm	
12 June	Cruising			
13 June	Fort Lauderdale	8:00 am		

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## AEOLIANS DIRECTORS

- Eva B. Dykes 1946-1956
- Johnnie Mae Pierre-Louis 1956-1968
- Harold Anthony 1965-1968
- Jon Robertson 1968-1970
- Marcus Thompson 1970-1971
- Harold Anthony 1971-1973
- Alma Blackmon 1973-1985
- John Dennison 1983-1987
- Ricky Little 1988-1993
- Eurydice Osterman 1994-1996
- Lloyd Mallory 1996-2001
- Julie Moore 2001-2004
- Lloyd Mallory 2004-2006
- Norman Crarey 2006-2007
- Wayne Bucknor 2007-2008
- Jason Max Ferdinand 2008-Present

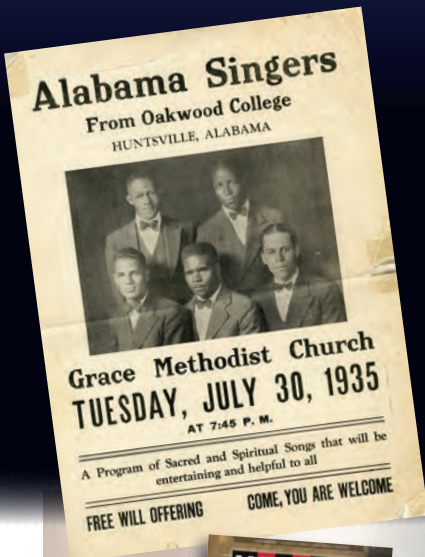
## VOICES OF TRIUMPH DIRECTORS

- Aliethia Evans 1994-1996
- David Williams 1994-1996
- Damian Chandler 1996-1999
- Danica Chandler 1999-2002
- Erin Robinson 2002-2003
- Fionna Robinson 2002-2003
- Christi Osi 2003-2004
- Roy Gaiter 2004-2007
- Danae Gaiter 2007-2009
- Maya Rutlege 2009-2011
- Anthony Bolden 2011-2015
- Kebrina Clark 2015-Present



## DYNAMIC PRAISE DIRECTORS

- Owen Simons 1988-1996
- Benji Young 1996-2011
- Stephen Manders 2011-2015
- Bruce Bean 2011-Present



Oakwood closed early due to a tornado emergency. Graduation postponed.



Oakwood Ambassadors Men's Basketball team won 2nd National Championship.

Oakwood Aeolians won three awards at the World Choir Games.

### ▶ 2009

The inauguration of Barack H. Obama as the 44th President of the United States. The first black man to occupy the White House.



### ▶ 2010

Oakwood President Delbert Baker elected a vice president of General Conference.

### ▶ 2011

Leslie Pollard started as president of Oakwood.

### ▶ 2012





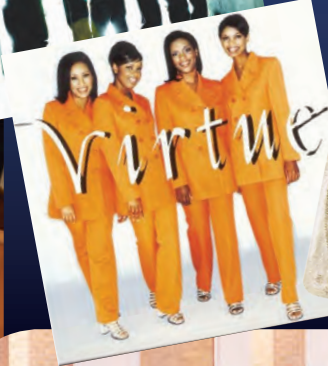
# of Musical Harmonies

by Richard M. Hodnett

From the very beginning, music has played an integral part of the fabric of Oakwood University. Though music classes were offered at Oakwood as early as 1902, the legacy truly began in earnest when the Jubilee Quartet, started by Frank L. Peterson began to travel, representing Oakwood in 1925.

Over the next nine decades, notes from countless groups and solo performances graced the campus known for its powerful musical legacy. Some groups went on to become "institutions" at Oakwood such as the world renowned Aeolians, Dynamic Praise, and Voices of Triumph, while other groups, such as Take6, Virtue, and Committed, shared their talents on a national level. Many other solo acts left Oakwood and made their mark on both the national and international music scenes.

The music of Oakwood University holds a special place in the Oakwood experience. It is attached to the many fond and precious memories Oakwoodites hold so dear. 🎵



▶ You can view more videos of past Oakwood music at [www.facebook.com/BlackInTheDayAdventistProductions/videos](http://www.facebook.com/BlackInTheDayAdventistProductions/videos).

Cunningham Hall renovated.

Oakwood won Home Depot Retool Your School grant.



Oakwood participated in the historic Selma 50th Anniversary March.



▶ 2013



▶ 2014

Oakwood purchased Edible Arrangements franchise.

▶ 2015



Leroy and Lois Peters Media Center opened.  
**healthy campus 20**  
Healthy Campus 2020 launched.

▶ 2016

Video highlights 120 years of Oakwood's growth and development.





# 120 Years of Impacting History Through Architecture



Moran Hall



East Hall



Ashby Auditorium



**O**akwood was built on the labor and dreams of people who gave their educational and administrative talents with little thought of reward and recognition. The campus is a testament to Oakwood's rich history. Every inch of Oakwood's acreage has a unique story to tell:

**Moran Hall** has served as a classroom building, church, and auditorium. It was constructed in 1938 by students using rocks from Oakwood's quarry. It currently houses the Departments of English & Foreign Languages and History & Political Science. It was named for J.L. Moran, Oakwood's first black president, who was elected after the historic student strike in 1931.

**East Hall** is the oldest surviving building on campus. Constructed in 1909, the building has served as a medical center, nurses' training

center, president's residence, faculty home, men's residence hall, as well as housing for academic and support departments. Ellen G. White once gave a speech from the balcony of this building. Currently, it is the administrative offices for the Division of Advancement & Development.

**Ashby Auditorium** was the site for a civil rights rally in 1962 with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Because of the existing conditions of the South, Oakwood's auditorium was the only meeting place in Huntsville that was available. It is said that Dr. King's speech was an earlier version of his "I Have a Dream" speech.

**The Jacobs Silos** were built in the 1920s to store the grain harvested on Oakwood's farmland. They serve as a landmark memory of how agriculture played a major part

in the development and financial support of Oakwood. In Oakwood's early history, most of the students worked on the farm or in the dairy. The silos were restored in 2010 and renamed the Lawrence Jacobs Historic Silos Plaza.

**The Slave Cemetery** was rededicated in 1998. This site was used as a burial ground for slaves that lived on the Peter Blow and Job Key plantations from 1811-1865. It is believed that Dred Scott's first wife and children are buried here.

**The Morning Star House** housed dismantled parts (the bell and star) of the Morning Star steamer that plied the waters of the Mississippi. The boat was operated by Edson White that helped to minister to Blacks in the South. During her visits to Oakwood in the early 1900s, Ellen G. White stayed in this house. 🍷



The Silos



The Slave Cemetery



The Morning Star House





# Growing Forward

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the past 120 years, we look forward to the things of the future. If you are interested in donating to any of these initiatives, please visit [www.ougiving.com](http://www.ougiving.com).



### **Anna Knight Center for Women's Leadership**

The dedication ceremony of The Anna Knight Center for Women's Leadership is Sunday, March 27, at 11:30 a.m. The Anna Knight Center for Women's Leadership is housed in the Eva B. Dykes Library, lower level.

The Center will serve to honor exemplary women who inspire selfless and dedicated service to the community at large. The Center empowers women through education, nurture, support, and recognition.

### **Community Health Action Clinic**

Oakwood's commitment to the community is evidenced by the establishment of the Community



Proposed Health Action Clinic site plans

Health Action Clinic. This clinic will provide preventative health care and bring more awareness to the community about lifestyle choices that can affect one's health and well-being. The clinic will also provide opportunities for the reinforcement of student learning and will make a measurable and sustainable improvement in the health status of the community. The Community Health Action Clinic is slated for a grand opening later this year.



### **eChapel**

As Oakwood seeks to offer courses and degrees to non-traditional (distance/online) students,

we want to be intentional about keeping them engaged in the overall Oakwood experience which includes spiritual life at the University. One of the ways that we will seek to do this is through an "eChapel" program.

Oakwood's "eChapel," titled Your Power Moment, will consist of short, high definition video devotional messages. These recordings will be no longer than four minutes, and will consist of short narratives that will be delivered weekly to the student body.

### **Health and Wellness Center**

The main focus of the Health and Wellness Center is to provide the kind of facility needed for the faculty, staff, and students to experience wholeness of life and lifestyle. The footprint of the Health and Wellness Center will incorporate the Market Square, Ashby Auditorium, the Beach Natatorium, the Millet Activity Center, [and extending across the running track and tennis courts], with elements that will be completely new. The Center will also house classroom and office spaces. The Center is scheduled to open in 2018. 🍷



Proposed Health & Wellness Center site plans



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# Those Precious Memories

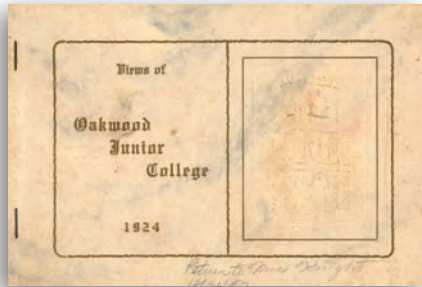
**I**t's a "mere" 735 miles from Huntsville to my hometown of Baltimore. My family and I try to get back home at least once a year. So, you can imagine how excited we were this past December. My two sons were excited about the possibility of a white Christmas. My wife wasn't so enchanted about the northern cold weather. However, all four of us were happy about seeing and spending time with loved ones. These events continuously add to the collage of memories in our mental database.

Many times during our family events we get a chance to reminisce on past events as well as look through old photo albums. These large, three-ring binder books contain the visual history of our family. These images are memories of family members transplanted to an earlier time of their youth.

Some photos depict times of happiness such as weddings and birthday parties. There are also sad reminders of those represented in captured moments from the past but who are no longer with us today. Each photograph has its own story.

While researching for this 120th anniversary edition of the *Oakwood Magazine*, my production team had a similar experience of reminiscing and learning. Only a few on the team have actually attended Oakwood. However, while looking through old photographs and slides in our Archives Department\*, we could all sense and feel the camaraderie that was experienced here on our campus. During our research, a hymn kept replaying in my head...

*Precious memories, how they linger,  
How they ever flood my soul;  
In the stillness of the midnight,  
sacred secrets still unfold.*



Publishing at Oakwood can be traced back to early versions of the academic bulletins, to the 1930s with the production of *The Acorn* (the original name for the school newspaper), to its name change

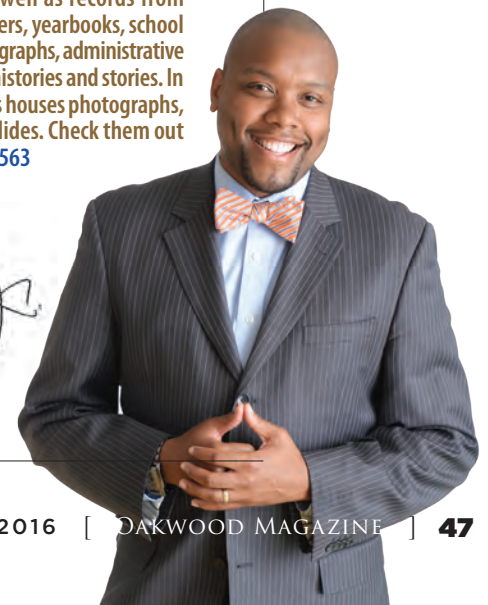
in 1946 to *Spreading Oak*, to the very first *Oakwood Magazine*.

Now looking back at those moments of research, I reflect on my job as director of marketing and public relations and I can truly say I love sharing memories. As a communicator, it's exciting to be a part of Oakwood's history and tradition of preserving memories through the printed page. I count it as an honor to continue the tradition that has been set before the team and me, and we want to continue sharing the memories that future generations will one day, "unfold." 📖



**\*NOTE:** Special thanks goes to the Oakwood University Archives Department and its director, Heather James, for helping with the production of this special edition, as well as Dr. Mervyn Warren for his historical record printed in *A Vision Splendid*. Oakwood's Archives holds all historical records as well as records from board meeting minutes, presidential papers, yearbooks, school newspapers, bulletins, dissertations, photographs, administrative and academic departments' records, oral histories and stories. In addition to these documents, the Archives houses photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, filmstrips, and slides. Check them out at [libguides.oakwood.edu/c.php?g=260563](http://libguides.oakwood.edu/c.php?g=260563)

*George Johnson Jr.*







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