What's Good About an MPH?
Check out Oakwood's new Master of Public Health Program

3 Simple Tips for Healthy Eating in 2020

Alumni Homecoming & Graduation 2019
Every day something exciting happens at Oakwood University!

Every page of this issue shares just a little of the story of accomplishments and events that have advanced the institution over the past few months. God’s blessings are too numerous to tell, so where should we begin?

It was a joy to speak to the inaugural International Summit of Colleges, Universities, and Ministers of Education at the United Nations in September. The purpose of the summit was to create partnerships between institutions committed to “advancing quality education for all persons of African descent.” We shared with them regarding the Consortium of African Adventist Universities and Partners (CAAUP), which has 16 member institutions. Oakwood University founded this organization in 2012 and it has been a blessing to our faculty who have participated in the faculty exchange within the Diaspora.

Oakwood University cannot succeed without the support of our faithful and generous community to help us reach our goal of a $20 million dollar endowment by 2020. Maybe you made your gift on Giving Tuesday, when we exceeded our $25,000 goal—and $31,780 was raised in one day! Or perhaps our alumni and friends who are Federal employees and retirees contributed to support Oakwood through the recent Combined Federal Campaign (#96964). Whatever you have done, we continue to thank you for your support of Oakwood University.

**MY GRATITUDE LIST**

If you “google” the word gratitude, you see an avalanche of positive research showing the health benefits of living with gratefulness (e.g. greater resilience, healthy optimism, less stress, higher endorphin levels, better relationships, etc). My personal list has over 100 things I’m grateful for, so I’ll share just a few.

In 2019 Oakwood University was ranked among the top 10 HBCUs in the United States. We remain grateful that Oakwood stands out in multiple publics as an outstanding institution of higher education. Praise God!

Our Oakwood Farms Market and farm-to-table Bistro will move from vision to reality when it opens during the first quarter of 2020. I am grateful for this addition to our industry recovery strategy.

On a personal note, God has allowed Prudence and me, who met as students at Oakwood University, to celebrate our 40th year of a wonderful marriage. We are grateful every day for the family He has given us. I am grateful that God set a new direction in our histories and is blessing the next generation.

Finally, I am grateful for the spirit of ministry, service, and sacrifice that is embodied in the dedicated and hard-working administrators, faculty, and staff of Oakwood University. I am also deeply grateful for the students, alumni, friends, ministers and members of the Huntsville faith community, and all who work with us in varying capacities in support of the mission of “a place called Oakwood.”

In the words of the apostle Paul, “I thank God always when I remember you” (Philippians 1:3).
WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT AN
Public Health

by Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser

WHY I MADE A CHOICE TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Public Health Defined

“Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases.”

—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation, 2019

“Public Health for the NIH who invests nearly $39.2 billion annually in medical research for the American people, is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.”

—The National Institutes of Health (NIH), 2019

“Public Health investigates the ecology of health and battles against deadly contagious diseases, minimizes the consequences of catastrophic events, and provide the basics of sanitation, safe food, and water.”

—thisispublichealth.org, 2015

The field of Public Health is vast, weaving together the foundation of five core disciplines: 1) Biostatistics, 2) Epidemiology, 3) Environmental Health Sciences, 4) Health Policy and Management, 5) Social and Behavior Sciences. Plant-based nutrition coupled with lifestyle intervention is one of the many valuable tools within the arsenal of Public Health. I like to think of public health as the hand of Christ helping make humanity whole. The American Public Health Association (APHA) says it well, the heart of Public Health “saves money, improves our quality of life, helps children thrive and reduces human suffering. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in Public Health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.”

by Garry Graham, Sr.

NEW START IN
PUBLIC HEALTH

by Garry Graham, Sr.

WHILE GROWING UP IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK AT THE BETHLEHEM SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (SDA), EVERY YEAR A GENTLEMAN WOULD COME TO VISIT DURING THE ADVENTIST YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR (BACK THEN, IT WAS REFERRED TO AS MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS) AND TALK ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SMOKING. HIS PRESENTATION WAS DIFFERENT THAN ALL THE OTHER PROGRAMS. HE BROUGHT A MANNEQUIN THAT SMOKED, APPROPRIATELY NAMED SMOKEY SAM.

THIS PRESENTATION INFLUENCED ME IN TWO SPECIFIC WAYS. THE FIRST, I WAS CONVINCED TO NEVER TOUCH A CIGARETTE. THE SECOND, IS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO USE VISUAL AIDS TO TALK ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SMOKING. I ALWAYS WONDERED, HOW DO YOU TEACH LIKE THAT?

YEARS LATER, I ATTENDED OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY WHERE I WAS EXPOSED TO A CLASS BY HOWARD SHAW IN MY FIRST SEMESTER. HE SPOKE ABOUT DIET, EXERCISE, WATER, SUNSHINE, TEMPERANCE, AIR, REST, AND TRUST IN GOD. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ADVENTISTS LIVE SEVEN YEARS LONGER THAN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN, AND I AM THRILLED TO LEARN THAT LUMA LINDA UNIVERSITY IS A CERTIFIED “BLUE ZONE.”

THE HEALTH MESSAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN “THE RIGHT HAND OF THE GOSPEL” AND A STRONG CATALYST FOR EVANGELISM.

TEMPERANCE AND HEALTH ARE NOW BEING MARRIED TO PUBLIC HEALTH, GIVING US THE BOOST NEEDED TO TAKE THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE WORLD. ONE OF THE MOST PROLIFIC GRADUATE DEGREES ACHIEVED BY OAKWOOD ALUMNI IS THE MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH). UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF US HAD TO GO TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION AND MAKE OUR MARK IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AREA. THE MPH HAS ALLOWED OUR ALUMNI TO BECOME CEOs, RESEARCH SCIENTISTS, AUTHORS, CONSULTANTS, TELEVISION AND RADIO PERSONALITIES.

MY INTEREST IN PUBLIC HEALTH CAME FROM BEING AN SDA, WHILE NAVIGATING THE HIP HOP HUSTLE OF NYC, BY DOING HEALTH PRESENTATIONS AND MOBILE OUTREACH, AND GROWING WITH MY ACADEMIC PURSUIT IN THE SUNY DOWNTOWN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH. WHEN I STARTED MY PUBLIC HEALTH CAREER, MY MENTOR TOLD ME IT WAS A PROFESSIONAL PROGRESSION AS A RESULT OF MY EXPLORE AND EXECUTION I ALREADY HAD WITH THE HEALTH MESSAGE.


THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING AT OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY, THE BIRTHPLACE OF A MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM THAT HAS A DYNAMIC NEW ONLINE PLATFORM. THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE THE TRAINING FOR A NEW WAVE OF PRACTITIONERS TO TACKLE TODAY’S HEALTH CHALLENGES.
Simple Tips for Healthy Eating in 2020
by Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser

1. **Go Green:** Collards are a delicious side dish all year long. Try mixing them with kale! Both greens are good sources of Calcium (bone health & muscle contraction), Potassium (blood pressure & cell integrity), Beta-carotene/Vitamin A (Vision & cell division), and Folate (helps produce red blood cells and DNA).

2. **Keep Greens Bright:** Try to keep your greens bright in color and not to overcook them. If overcooked, most of the nutrients will be found in the liquid. So if you must cook your greens to that dark rich color, PLEASE DO NOT toss the liquid. Add that delicious “pot liquor” liquid to soups, stews and/or gravies.

3. **Go Green with Mac:** Add a fun, nutrient dense spin to traditional Macaroni & Cheese. Add greens like spinach, kale, collard or mustard greens to your mac and cheese. Season the greens well, then add them to your mac & cheese before baking. Consider Vegan Mac & Cheese recipes as well.

And remember, having positive, uplifting conversations around the dinner table bodes well for fellowship and digestion. Try to stay away from conversations like “what’s in the food” at the dinner table. Instead, consider replacing that topic with “let’s thank those who prepared the meal!”

The MPH degree has the potential to increase employment opportunities! The demand for Public Health Professionals in the workforce continues to increase across the United States. Growth will be driven by efforts to improve health outcomes and to reduce health-care costs by teaching people about healthy habits and behaviors, and utilization of available health care services.

Popular areas of Public Health Employment: Health Care Agencies, Biotechnology, Hospitals, Government (local, regional, national), Relief Organizations (i.e., ADRA, Red Cross), Research Institutes, Colleges/Universities, Consulting, Corporate Wellness, NGOs & Nonprofits, United Nations, Think Tanks, Religious/Church Organizations, Professional Associations, Foundations, or the Public Sector.

**HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR NEW ROLE AT OU?**

As the new Department Chair and Professor of Oakwood University’s Nutrition and Dietetics Department—home to the new MPH Program—it’s an awesome opportunity to be serving this capacity. It’s ‘full circle’ for me since Oakwood College is my alma mater.

Receiving my Ph.D. from Harvard University with the School of Public Health, Division of Medical Sciences and Graduate School has prepared me for such a time as this.

Collaborative-Leadership has been the prevailing theme as I have worked closely with great colleagues at Oakwood such as Dr. Earl Henry (Interim MPH Program Director), Dr. Joyce Johnson, Dr. Karen Benn-Marshall, Dr. Colwick Wilson and Dr. Prudence Pollard in developing the vision, direction and management of the MPH program. Having an excellent office manager, Mrs. Janelle Flint, has been a blessing.

Oakwood University is perfectly positioned to meet the public health need with our new Master of Public Health degree program in Nutrition & Wellness. This past fall semester 2019, we celebrated the start of our first MPH student cohort.

**TELL US ABOUT HOW AN OU MPH PREPARES STUDENTS**

Oakwood University’s Master of Public Health in Nutrition and Wellness is the next step for students who have completed undergraduate health-related degrees and want to continue their studies at the next level. With a focus on advocating plant-based diets, students will learn how to assess the health needs of diverse community groups. They will use their findings to create personalized health plans, programs and policies. In 22 to 24 months, the MPH degree also prepares graduates to meet the new standards passed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration for entry-level registered dietitians.

**MPH Program goals are:**

1. **Knowledge:** Prepare graduate health professionals who are able to provide innovative evidence-based nutrition education to diverse communities.

2. **Cultural Competence:** Prepare students to develop, implement, and assess programs to promote the health of a diverse population of individuals, groups and communities.

3. **Application:** Facilitate sustainable collaborations between faculty, students, and faith-based and nonprofit organizations in service to communities.

The MPH is key to effective, research-based, health promotion and disease prevention out-
By all accounts, the Alumni 360 events during Alumni Weekend 2019 were a success! Over 12 professions and departments were represented, at 12 venues across the campus. Over 300 Oakwood alums and students participated.

Alumni 360 is one of the Big 4 initiatives from the Office of Alumni Relations launched this year, where Oakwood alumni circle back on campus to network for their career and profession, and also help our current students by providing mentoring, internships or shadowing experiences. The goal is to ensure every student who attends and/or graduates from Oakwood will have had at least one internship or shadowing experience before leaving Oakwood.

If you would like to participate in our Alumni 360 during Homecoming next year—April 4-12, 2020—join our mentoring program, or if you can provide an internship or shadowing experience for our students, please contact either the Office of Alumni Relations: 256-726-7039, or Career Connections: 256-726-8495, today!

Oakwood University’s Alumni Homecoming 2019 has been described as “simply amazing!” It was felt that the Holy Spirit overflowed in every service, and that God continues to bless the efforts of His soldiers in this Oakwood family of believers. We encourage everyone to get engaged and ignited to share the good news about what’s happening at your University. Blessings to all attended in person, braving the unseasonably cool temperatures outside, as well as those who viewed the services online.

Some of the weekend’s highlights included the
- Pre-Alumni Kick-off, with author and CNN commentator Angela Rye
- 41st Annual UNCF Gala, with Grammy-winning recording artist Lalah Hathaway
- honoring the 40 years of broadcast ministry of Praise 90.1 FM WJOU
- honoring the 30 years of music ministry of Dynamic Praise
- the musical ministry of Pastor Donnie McClurkin and the Aeolians
- Alumni 360 events, Oakwood Legacy photo booth, and the Alumni Village
The Look of Legacy

Pictured here are many of our Legacy Families—those families where several generations have attended Oakwood through the decades—siblings, parents, and/or grandparents. The Office of Alumni Relations celebrates with you the handing down of the “Oakwood Experience” to succeeding generations.
Oakwood University hosted its 2019 Commencement Exercises, May 9-11, for 328 of the brightest students in the world who entered to learn, and have now departed to serve. The Commencement speaker was the Honorable Greg Mathis. Honorary doctoral degrees (Doctor of Humane Letters) were awarded to Mrs. Lois Peters and Elder Ed Zinke. An additional four “guest” graduates participated in the Commencement ceremony on Saturday night. Guest graduates are defined as those who chose not to march at their respective institutions because of Sabbath observance and other scheduling concerns.
2nd Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations, New York City

by Tristan Johnson, Bruce Lindsey, Sian McCollum, and Kennedy Blye

Tristan Johnson, Senior/Social Work major - Worcester, Massachusetts: This trip to Manhattan was like a business trip and a short vacation combined into one! I learned so much from just a couple of hours attending the different sessions. The United Nations not only stands for addressing global social problems, but is also extremely active in policy development: passionate about getting various resources for certain countries; helps end discrimination against oppression of certain groups; and plays a significant role in trying to end the practice of sex trafficking, and the list doesn’t stop there. The United Nations is one of the most prestigious organizations I have ever witnessed.

Before this trip, I saw social work as one of the only professions that actively focuses on helping those who need help. However, social work is so much bigger than just helping the average person. The profession is a principle for how people must treat one another. We should uplift our neighbors when they’re down—treat one another. We should uplift the average person. The profession is so much bigger than just helping who need help. However, social work actively focuses on helping those who need help. However, social work is so much bigger than just helping the average person. The profession is a principle for how people must treat one another. We should uplift our neighbors when they’re down—treat one another. We should uplift the average person. The profession is so much bigger than just helping

Bruce Lindsey, Senior/Social Work major - Baltimore, Maryland: Our trip to New York was truly an eye opener. The most humbling experience was being at the UN Headquarters. Seeing and meeting some great people along the way made the trip even better. When we attended the conference on Sunday, I’ll never forget the exceptional panel speakers. They were all very different, but their passion for changing the world was shining through. By far the best part of the whole trip was when the panelists opened the floor for questions. Everyone who wanted to ask a question was heard, and given a detailed answer in return. Moments like these are rare and I was glad to be a part of it.

Sian McCollum, Senior/Social Work major - Buford, Georgia: It was such a blessing to attend Social Work Day at the United Nations for the second year in a row. I’m so grateful to be a part of a department that creates opportunities that will forever impact our lives as social workers. What stood out to me the most was the student forum that took place before the Social Work Day at the UN. I appreciated that they created a program specifically for students to network with each other, and present their research on various topics. Sitting in on the discussions that at the U.N. Headquarters, I was able to see the different perspectives of other social workers from around the world.

Kennedy Blye, Graduate 2019/ Social Work major - Beltsville, Maryland: The United Nations trip was overall a great experience, especially in the sense that we got to network with people from all around the world to discuss the needs of children and how we as social workers can utilize our skills. I really enjoyed hearing the different panel discussions. One story that stood out to me was a lady sharing her experience during the Genocide. Her family was killed and she talked about how she overcame the trauma. It was also good to be able to bond with the group that was there. Overall, I had a worthwhile trip and I would definitely go back to the U.N. and I am thankful for this experience.
OU Literary Guild and its Affiliates Join the Literary Conversation by Dr. Cecily Daly

S
ince the inception of our 50th year in 1985, this God-given literary treasure holds a mission of assisting young people in discovering talents they never knew they possessed. The Guild also assists members and friends to integrate faith and learning as they employ our three age-old rights: “The Right to Read” and the right to write.

Everyone connected with the Guild has, to a greater or lesser extent, been encouraged and enabled to “Write the Vision, Make it Plain…” Hab. 2:2

OU Literary Guild and its Affiliates Join the Literary Conversation by Dr. Cecily Daly

LITERARY AFFILIATES: WHO ARE THEY?

This is the name given to academic groups that have dedicated their entire university home chapter for membership and want to know how to successfully establish and maintain like clubs of literary excellence in their local areas.

METE SOME AFFILIATES AND CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESS!

1. North Dallas Adventist Academy, Richardson, Texas: for their first book - Millennial Voices - written by a class and submitted by their teacher – Catherine Jackson.
2. Oakwood Adventist Academy, Huntsville, Alabama: for their first journal which they named, Depthinition, written by their affiliate club and submitted by their teacher – Gwyn Woods.
3. West Indies College Group of Longest serving sponsor, Dr. Dorothy Patterson, efervescent membership card supplier, and Ms. Karen Tucker, encouraging quality control sponsor, we have had many successful writing harvests. Our 500+ authors have written in various publications, including five Insight magazines featuring Oakwood, four collegiate Sabbath School Quarterly’s, seven completed books, one documentary video, and one “Caring & Sharing” video, the springboard for our textbook scholarship funds.

We have now established COULA (a Consortium of Oakwood University Literary Affiliates), experienced a global push, and expanded the Guild to a total of 12 Literary Affiliates who keep the goal of maintaining “the Right to Write” with excellence. For more information check our website, under the Eva B. Dykes Library page.

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Oakwood University Hosts the Adventist English Association Conference

by Dr. Maquisha Mullins

For the first time since the organization was established in 1968, the Adventist English Association (AEA) met on the campus of Oakwood University on June 21, 2019. The Department of English and Foreign Languages welcomed the international members of the AEA. Approximately 70 percent of the attendees were first-time visitors to the campus. Jenny Nogales from Adventista de Bolivia said that “It is warm here, we were treated very kind.”

The conference location rotates through the Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities around the world and convenes only once every three years. This year’s AEA was unique because it was hosted jointly on both the campuses of Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University.

Monique Pittman, professor of English at Andrews University, a first-time visitor to Oakwood, commented, “I feel very welcomed and am eager to learn more about the history of the university.” She went on to mention how interested she was in the powerful role OU has, “…in taking the pain of the past and using it for inspiration.”

The morning began in the Moseley Chapel where President Pollard offered opening words that emphasized and celebrated the complexities of the English language. Dr. Ramona Hyman, chair of Oakwood’s Department of English & Foreign Languages, initiated the celebration of the spoken word by sharing her work and encouraging OU professors and other attendees to share their favorite, or original poetry. The day also included a walking tour around campus, a visit to the Clara Peterson-Rock Museum in the Eva B. Dykes Library, lunch and afternoon sessions in the Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center. The concluding moments on Oakwood’s campus, before departing for Southern Adventist University, were spent in reflection at the historic slave cemetery.

Conference goers enjoyed the time spent on the sunshine-soaked campus of Oakwood University and look forward to another opportunity to return. The next AEA conference is scheduled for June 2022, and will be held in Peru.

Maquisha Mullins, Ph.D., is the interim director of Integrated Marketing & Public Relations.
The Oakwood University Annual Fund Campaign supports the basics for our students. From student aid to academic department support, your gift makes a difference for the future of Oakwood. Don’t delay—make your gift today!

Make a secure gift online at: give.oakwood.edu, or call us at: 256-726-7201, to speak to a development associate.
"An Army, Rightly Trained" and On the Move

by Marcya Burden, Preston Foster and Amanda Ringer

What began in 1919, known then as simply “the History Department,” under the leadership of Dr. O.B. Edwards, the Department of History and Political Science celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. Subsequent leaders have been Dr. Clarence Barnes, Dr. Emmanuel Saunders, and Dr. Ciro Sepulveda. The current chair is Dr. Samuel London.

The department has grown from having only History majors in the past to now having four degree programs: History, International Studies, Pre-Law, and Public Policy (formerly History, International Studies, Pre-Law). At its present, the department consists of four degree programs: History, International Studies, Pre-Law, and Public Policy. Our students enter leading law and policy professional schools, and the workforce, prepared to compete at the highest level. More importantly, they are prepared to protect freedom of conscience and communicate the importance of the 3 angels’ messages in the halls of Congress and state-houses.

“We are training an army to defend our liberty of conscience and to advance our prophetic belief in the separation of church and state in the places where policy is made and interpreted,” says Preston Foster, Assistant Professor and Pre-Law Program Director. “At each stop during a trip to Washington, D.C., we were met by Oakwood graduates who are currently in the law and policy arena, building a pipeline for other Oakwood graduates. We believe that, in contrast to other faith-based schools that advocate for the integration of church and state and put the rights of religious minorities (i.e., SDA) at risk, Oakwood trained attorneys, public servants, and history scholars must make the case for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience.”

ON THE MOVE

Oakwood students attend the annual National HBCU Pre-Law Summit, which fosters mentorship between current legal practitioners and future law students. We have added many opportunities to the curriculum, including internships and engagement with Oakwood alumni. We have also added many opportunities to the curriculum, including internships and engagement with Oakwood alumni. We have also added many opportunities to the curriculum, including internships and engagement with Oakwood alumni.

Our students receive advice on financing a law school education, and answers to their questions about the application process. Out of the thousands in attendance at the 2019 LSAC Forum, graduating senior Courtney Garrett, native veteran, of the United States Army, and Pre-Law major at Oakwood, received on-the-spot admission to the University of Richmond School of Law. The admissions officers were highly impressed, and amazed at his professional disposition, knowledge of the law, and respectfulness.

During trips to Washington, D.C., Oakwood students visit with senior researchers at The Brookings Institution – the country’s pre-eminent public policy think tank; meet with OU alumni at Georgetown Law School and Howard Law School; and attend arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court. Students have attended private briefings with several influencers, including Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-CA); Oakwood alumna Michael Reed, Chief of Staff to Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA); mentors at the American University School of Public Affairs and the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon; and Attorney Avia Buchanan, the first African American SDA graduate of Harvard Law School and Director of the Public Defender’s Office in Washington D.C.

Oakwood alumna Kamilah Giscombe Smith offered career opportunities at Deloitte Human Capital Partners. We are training an army to defend our liberty of conscience and to advance our prophetic belief in the separation of church and state in the places where policy is made and interpreted.”

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ACADEMIC OPERATIONS

Marshall. Their investment in our students will pay dividends, immediately, and for decades,” said department chair Dr. Samuel London. The Oakwood army is embedded in the nation’s capital and the halls of power and influence, for the glory of God, and we look forward to the many blessings God has in store for our program and our students.

Our students are gaining hands-on experience before graduation. Six Oakwoodites traveled to Montgomery for the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) meeting in November 2019. The SDEC is run by the Democratic National Convention. Members of the SDEC play a vital role in Alabama politics, such as writing and approving bylaws, endorsing senate candidates, etc. As of November 1, Oakwoodites occupy six of the 210 member seats of the SDEC.

After submitting their Candidacy for Office forms, each student spoke to the current members of the SDEC Youth Caucus, sharing their contributions to the community and their policy priorities. At the conclusion of several hours of speeches from approximately 80 other competitors, Oakwood’s six candidates, each members of the OU-founded United Collegiate Black Scholars (UCBS) organization, were voted into office. “This is a prime example of our students going beyond academics and directly into practice—at a very high level—while undergraduate students. Not only do they represent the interests of the Oakwood and larger communities, they also have distinguished themselves as leaders of their generation. They are in the arena,” said Foster, UCBS sponsor.

CLOSE TO HOME

On the local level, Mayor Paul Finley, of nearby Madison, Alabama, recently met with over 60 of Oakwood’s students, and explained the plans for the future of Madison, projecting that in a couple of years, the population of Huntsville will be over 600,000 people. He and Huntsville’s Mayor Tommy Battle are working together to enhance the educational systems of North Alabama.

The Pre-Law Program’s “Legal Practitioners of Huntsville” Mixer welcomes legal practitioners, politicians, non-profit administrators, and community leaders to Oakwood’s campus to foster relationships and to thank them for their service to the Huntsville and Madison County area.

Dr. Marcya Burden is the pre-law program coordinator, and assistant professor, Department of History & Political Science. Preston Foster is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Public Policy Program Director at Oakwood University. Amanda Ringer is Assistant Professor/History Coordinator.

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The Literacy Factory

by Dr. Dana Wilchcombe

The Literacy Factory Annual Women’s Conference provides high quality hands-on collaborative experiences to educate, edify, and awaken women to make an eternal difference. In 2018, over 250 attendees participated in workshops ranging from women’s health, emotional intelligence, and how to support learners with special needs. The Literacy Factory aims to support the literacy needs of the community by providing intentional experiences that make an eternal difference.

The concept of the Literacy Factory was birthed from my childhood experience growing up in central Harlem in the ’80s. I saw that many families needed individualized, intentional literacy support for their children, but were unable to pay a tutor or local educational afterschool support services. Simply embedding the basic tenets of true education makes the eternal difference of the Literacy Factory. We do this with absolutely no funding or financial support. Our resources are trained teacher candidates, retired teachers and volunteers.

Junior and senior teacher candidates work directly with students. Teacher candidates also provide parent workshops that train parents to embed effective teaching strategies using real life applications outside of the classroom. The Literacy Factory is attached as a case study component for ED 342 Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Difficulties. Data is evaluated and used to inform instruction for continuous improvement.

Dana Wilchcombe, Ph.D., is a literacy professional who founded the Literacy Factory, who enjoys creating individualized literacy learning plans. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Education at Oakwood University.

One of the activities at Oakwood University that is supported by the CFC is the Literacy Factory, a free 10-week afterschool literacy program for deserving students in the Huntsville community. Since its inception in the Spring of 2015, free individualized instruction has been provided for over 100 students in grades K-12.

Our mission is to increase a student’s reading and literacy achievement by at least two grade levels through 10 consecutive highly effective literacy experiences. In 2018 we added a math literacy component with the same mission.

Mar. 1 • 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
St. Paul’s Baptist
700 E Bell Blvd. • Richmond, VA 23224

Mar. 2 • 7:00 p.m.
Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist
3703 Tryon Rd. • Raleigh, NC 27606

Mar. 3 • 7:30 p.m.
1st Presbyterian Church-Durham
305 E Main St. • Durham, NC 27701

Mar. 4 • TBD
University of Virginia
400 Emmet Street S. • Charlottesville, VA 22903

Mar. 14 • 2:00 p.m.
Music For All
5625 W 30th St. • Indianapolis, IN 46222

Apr. 11 • 5:00 p.m.
Oakwood University Church
(Alumni Weekend)
7000 Adventist Blvd. • Huntsville, AL 35806

Tour Schedule 2020

Jan. 19 • 7:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
The Bethel Church
215 Bethel Baptist St. • Jacksonville, FL 32202

Jan. 26 • 4:00 p.m.
Snead Community College
220 N Walnut St. • Boaz, AL 35957

Jan. 31 • 7:00 p.m.
Calvin University
3201 Burton St SE. • Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Feb. 8 • 11:00 a.m.
Southern Adventist University
4881 Taylor Cir. • Collegedale, TN 37315

Feb. 9 • 5:00 p.m.
Alys Stephens Center
1200 10th Ave S. • Birmingham, AL 35204

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A team of 13 courageous Oakwoodites departed from Huntsville this past May to serve during a 10-day mission trip to Guatemala. Led by Chaplain Andrew Pileggi and Dr. Eva Wheeler, the team included seven OU students and four professionals from local Huntsville churches. The primary focus of this trip was to provide free medical and dental services to residents of rural areas in the region of Petén, Guatemala. Dr. Marcus Moss, ’08, worked alongside our students providing free tooth extractions. Three of Oakwood’s pre-dental students performed their first tooth extractions assisted by Dr. Moss.

Other students conducted intake screenings, recorded blood pressure measurements, and filled prescriptions. Dr. Elden Lopez, director of God’s Helping Hands, was assisted by Dr. Diaz, who also works with God’s Helping Hands. At the registration table, Chaplain Pileggi and Dr. Wheeler counted an average of 90 patients seen per day. The days were hot, and the lines were long, and the team was amazed by the patience of those they served. The residents never complained about how long they had to wait, they never raised their voices, and were more than understanding when the team had to leave at the end of the day, even though it meant some would not be able to see one of the doctors or the dentist.

In addition to providing medical and dental care, the team also visited an orphanage, a senior citizens’ home and a local elementary school. At each location they interacted with the residents by singing, leading art/crafts activities, and sharing short devotional thoughts. One of the more impactful and life-changing activities was giving food out to the homeless.

The team traveled to an actual landfill, where families lived in makeshift tents and would scour the trash every day looking for items that could be sold, or food that was still edible. It was a sobering scene: women holding infants, a pungent stench filling the air, mosquitoes swarming around each person, trash burning, and entire families scouring piles of trash.

The team distributed 50 meals to the families. Some of the team members were so impacted that they decided to return with more food, clothing and toys for the children. The entire team loved the experience and many vowed to return the following year. It was a mission trip that included various opportunities for ministry, service learning, an excursion to the Mayan ruins of Tikal, and plenty of good food and fellowship.

From left to right: Andrew Pileggi, Calvin Lokko, ’17, Marcus Moss, ’08, Karina Feliz, Edith Tian, Victor Matos, Epi Hernandez, Khayla Chapman, Dr. Eva Wheeler, Deshonne Brown, Nina Bucknor, Dayani Williams, Angeline O’Quinn, Dr. Lopez and Dr. Diaz of God’s Helping Hands.

Nina Bucknor experienced the joy of mission service.
A Special Thanks for Giving

n behalf of President Leslie N. Pollard, administration, faculty, staff and students—thank you! Thank you for supporting Oakwood University and our students by supporting the 2018-2019 Annual Giving Campaign. The Annual Giving Campaign includes all gifts received in the Advancement Office between July 1st and June 30th of a given fiscal year. Because of your sacrificial philanthropy, you gave over $1.5 million dollars this past fiscal year. When a gift is made to the Annual Giving Campaign, it impacts the lives of students by supporting programs, scholarships, capital projects, and other opportunities for a quality education now and for future generations.

Oakwood University gratefully acknowledges the following alumni, parents, students, employees, and friends for their generous contributions. Your gifts are all valued and deeply appreciated and make a difference in the advance of Oakwood University and our students by supporting the 2018-2019 Annual Giving Campaign.
Dr. Stanley James

Walking near his office in Bermuda earlier this year, Dr. Stanley James, M.D., ‘91, felt the Lord say to him: “Why are you paying money to keep the grass down, when you can pay that money to bring food up?”

James was shown that the plot of grass would become a platform for sharing the message of healing. “When we look at those who are sick in Bermuda, most of that population don’t have the finances to get food that is fresh and nutrient-dense,” he said.

In September, he employed JaVaughn Dill of Dill Pickle Farming to chop up the grass, fertilize the ground, and plant a garden of kale, bok choy, onions, beets, carrots, tomatoes, collard greens and other vegetables. “It wasn’t me,” says James in response to the buzz as to who planted the garden. “It was the Spirit of God!”

“Your why is allowing you to keep the grass down, when you can pay that money to bring food up?”

We believe that Dr. James’ serving fresh vegetables to his patients exemplifies the spirit of Beyond the Oaks, an Office of Alumni Relations Engagement Initiative that encourages all Oakwood alumni and friends to serve, as our motto states “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.”

Because of You.
**Alumni News**

**Dr. Lloyd Benjamin Mallory, ’89,** is the new choral director and assistant professor of music at Kentucky State University, in Franklin, Kentucky. He most recently served as director of choral activities and associate professor at Delaware State University. Mallory has also held positions in music at Lincoln University, Pine Forge Academy, Oakwood University, Howard University, Sigo Church, Duke Ellington School for the Arts and Clark Atlanta University. Mallory earned a doctor of musical arts at the University of California at Los Angeles, pursued post-graduate studies at Morgan State University, Marywood University and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, earned a master’s in music at Morgan State University and a bachelor’s at Oakwood University.

**Connie Hall, ’84,** first grade teacher at Lloyd Dickehoian Elementary School in Sparks, Nevada, was named the Washoe County School District Certified Employee of the Year. Hall, who has taught in the Washoe Valley for nine years, believes her prayer life has impacted her success as a teacher. “Every day I pray in the parking lot before walking in the school, asking God to use me for His glory that day however He sees fit,” she said. “He always gives me wisdom and renewed strength when needed.”

**Allen Perkins, ’01,** made history this past November, when he was sworn in as the first African-American superintendent of Madison County Schools in Alabama. Perkins said that Madison County Schools have been on the up and up in recent years and he wants to make sure it keeps going in that positive direction. “It’s not a job for me, it’s an opportunity of service, it’s a mission for me and I enjoy it,” he said. He’s no stranger to Madison County Schools; he was hired as an elementary teacher 17 years ago and eventually rose to the ranks of supervisor of instruction over the district. Perkins will hold the position of superintendent until at least 2022.

**Audell Brown, Esq., ’02,** founded a boutique law firm in Miami, specializing in defending freedom, restoring the injured, and protecting our rights. He began his career as an assistant public defender in 2005. After more than a decade of handling complex and high-profile criminal and civil cases, he has distinguished himself as a top trial lawyer. Brown has provided legal analysis in numerous televised appearances, and has been called on as a voice of reason to speak on events that have sent shockwaves through the world, from Ferguson and Baltimore, to Australia. He currently serves as a Trial Analyst for the internationally distributed Law Crime Network. Brown was recently recognized during Black History Month 2019 as one of 100 Famous African-Americans and Seventh-day Adventists in Spectrum Magazine.

With all of the notable and distinguished achievements that Attorney Brown has achieved, he is most proud of being a devoted husband to his wife, Lotoya K. Brown, Esq., and a father to their two children, Aria and Andell II.

**Brandon Broune, ’08,** joined the Wolves staff in the Athletics Department at Walla Walla University after previously teaching physical education and coaching for the past 10 years. A 2010 graduate from Oakwood University with a bachelor’s in Physical Education, Broune has always pursued excellence.

During his time in education, he established weight training programs and as a coach, he worked as a personal trainer developing skills and fitness for the sports programs he oversaw. Broune has extensive experience working with different sports camps, working five summers with the Miami Suns Beys Basketball organization.

**Brenton Harrison, ’09,** was recently named one of Nashville’s Power Leaders in Finance by the Nashville Business Journal. To assemble the list, the publication accepts nominations from the public. Harrison serves as a financial advisor at Henderson Financial Group, Inc.

**Imani Cherry, ’14,** successfully defended her dissertation at the School of Behavioral Health, Department of Psychology at Loma Linda University, for the Ph.D. Her topic was “An Examination of the Mediating Factors Between High Schizotypy and Distress.”

**Jermaine Blackmon** (left) attended Oakwood University 2004-2006. He passed away on September 16, 2015 due to complications with sickle cell disease. Jabari Blackmon (right) attended Oakwood University 2005-2007. He passed away on December 16, 2017 due to complications with sickle cell disease. Their parents Dr. Milton and Mrs. Juliet Blackmon, both in the class of 1981, are looking forward to seeing their sons again when Jesus returns.

**Christine Johnson, DMA, ’09,** made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York this fall. Johnson, who was Miss Oakwood in 2001, earned a masters in Vocal Performance from the University of Kentucky in 2011, and a doctorate in Vocal Pedagogy and Performance from the University of Miami in 2019. In addition to the temporary engagement singing soprano in the chorus of the Met’s production Porgy and Bess, she is also a lecturer and teaches voice on a part-time basis at the Music Department at Western Connecticut State University. Other Oakwood alumni are at the Met as well. Markel Reed, baritone; and Makeda Hampton, soprano, who taught at Oakwood for a number of years. Also in the production is Dr. Latoya Lain, mezzo soprano, former teacher of direction at Oakwood.

**Andell Brown, Esq., ’02,** attended Morgan State University and a bachelor’s at Oakwood University. Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, earned a master’s in music at the University of California at Los Angeles, pursued post-graduate studies at Morgan State University, Marywood University and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, earned a master’s in music at Morgan State University and a bachelor’s at Oakwood University.

**With the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, Stanton Reed, ’83, business and accounting professor at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida, has assumed the role of Collegewide Faculty Association president at Valencia.**

**Keshia M. Sanders, ’11,** successfully defended her dissertation at the School of Behavioral Health, Department of Psychology at Loma Linda University, for the Ph.D. Her topic was “An Examination of the Mediating Factors Between High Schizotypy and Distress.”

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Jermaine Blackmon** (left) attended Oakwood University 2004-2006. He passed away on September 16, 2015 due to complications with sickle cell disease. Jabari Blackmon (right) attended Oakwood University 2005-2007. He passed away on December 16, 2017 due to complications with sickle cell disease. Their parents Dr. Milton and Mrs. Juliet Blackmon, both in the class of 1981, are looking forward to seeing their sons again when Jesus returns.
TO SHINE BY NIGHT

“The Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night...”

Jeremiah 31:35

He other evening, I walked out onto my balcony into the cold of night. I looked up into the crystal-clear sky and took in the beautiful scene. The stars glittered like diamonds against the backdrop of space, and there in the midst of the sky was the brightest object—the moon.

While I gazed, I began to realize that this celestial night-light has often been credited with lighting up the darkness of the evening. In all truth, the moon emits no light of its own. It does not have the power or the resource to generate that type of energy. Quite simply, the moon is a mass of craters and rock covered with dust. Man has touched down on the moon and kicked up the dust that covers the whole landscape. The light we attribute to the moon actually comes from the sun. The sun is that celestial body of solar energy that is responsible for radiating light and heat. There is nothing about the moon that is worthy of any glory.

One of the primary purposes of the moon is its ability to reflect. The light of the moon that is visible to us is directly proportionate to how much of it is exposed to the sun. If the moon is directly exposed to the sun’s light, it shines fully and brightly. If something cuts off any part of that light, only part of the moon is visible. You can witness the effects of this principle during a lunar eclipse. The Earth moves into the path between the sun and the moon, the sun’s light is interrupted and the moon has nothing to reflect. Without exposure to the sun, the moon loses one of its primary functions.

It began to dawn on me that one of our best qualities as humans is our ability to reflect. There is no glory in anything we are or feel we are able to do. The Bible says that all of our righteousness is equivalent to a stack of soiled rags (Isaiah 64:6). The best we feel we can offer is about as worthless as the dust on the moon’s surface. Most importantly, the extent of our effectiveness on this earth is proportionate to our exposure to the character of God in our lives. The more of God’s light we expose ourselves to, the brighter our lives shine in this dark world. Consequently, when we allow some body, some object or some circumstance to eclipse the divine light that shines on us, our true purpose is veiled in the resulting darkness. As long as the light is interrupted, our purpose remains in the shadows. In fact, when we are fully exposed to God, His glory illuminates our experiences so brightly, that people can mistakenly attribute His light to us.

It is the job of the Son of God to shine. It is our job to reflect His light. When we do what we are called to do, we transfer the greatest glory to the darkest of situations. The moon does its best job at night. It was created for dark situations. You and I were created to shine in dark situations. We were created to reflect that light in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. So understand that the circumstance itself doesn’t matter so much as what we are to be in that circumstance...a light; but, your responsibility is not even to generate light. You cannot. That is not in your nature. That is God’s responsibility. All you need is full exposure, so you can reflect.

Go Deeper: Isaiah 60:19, II Corinthians 4:3-6.

What do you do while taking a breathing pause from teaching and administrative assignments? This past fall semester of 2019-20, I found myself “taking it easy” for the first time in several decades, and set my sail for bon voyage over quiet waters. Dreams of sailing the seven seas did not materialize, but I did do a bit of mental deep-sea diving and reflection about my Oakwood experience and “what hath God wrought!”

On the one hand, the joy of classroom teaching and student interaction occupied my thoughts. On the other hand, my reflection took me past the path of past Oakwood administrative responsibilities and my rare privilege of personal and official connection with the last nine successive presidents of Oakwood—Frank L. Peterson to Leslie N. Pollard. I re-lived our association together and recaptured their precedents (personalities and patterns, procedures and programs) displayed through their valiant leadership. Rerunning the tape or downloading images of my moments, days, and years spent with these renaissance men gave me the distinct sense of having fertilized a bit of each of them within my soul.

**INSPIRING LEADERS**

I was an inspired student of Frank L. Peterson in the 1950s, and graduated under Garland J. Millet, who later invited me back to teach in the Religion Department immediately following Seminary graduation in the early 1960s. I continued teaching during the Addison V. Pinkney years before taking leave for doctoral studies in the mid-1960s. I returned to teach religion the second time when invited by Frank W. Hale, Jr., after my three-year leave for PhD studies and church pastoring which included ordination to ministry. He also appointed me chair of the Religion Department. I was called into the ranks of administrative leadership in 1970s by Calvin B. Rock as General VP (subsuming Academic Affairs and Student Affairs), VP Academic Affairs, and Assistant to the President; continued as Assistant to the President during the interim Presidency of Emerson A. Cooper; and remained for a period as Assistant to the President for Benjamin F. Reaves before returning to teach religion in 1985 for the third time and chair the department for the second period. I was called by the Board of Trustees to the new position of Provost and Senior Vice President (2002-2010) during the administration of Delbert W. Baker. While serving in the position of Interim President between Baker and Leslie N. Pollard, I was dispatched by the Board of Trustees (as board secretary) to deliver its invitation to Pollard to accept the Oakwood presidency. As the Interim President, I assisted in officially welcoming the Pollards to the campus, introduced him to the faculty, staff, students, and the President’s Council, and spent a period of presidential orientation time, acquainting him with matters of institutional organization, personnel, budget, mission, student enrollment, and the general state of the ship.

Because of extensive and diverse learning from Oakwood presidents, I once thought of writing a playful caricature book about my presidential associates entitled “The Animal Planet.” Obviously, this lighthearted spoof of each president, unidentified, would simply suggest the particular animal most nearly reflect his leadership style. (Viz., wise owl, tricky fox, chest-thumping gorilla, sly serpent, roaring lion, frugal squirrel, et cet-era.) If I had pursued that path, the animal-lead would be non-sequential and shuffled about in order to conceal their true identity, thus leaving to the reader to guess “who’s who”—all in fun. However, I was unable to convince myself that this parade of animals would be accepted for the innocent lambent narrative it intended to be. Instead I wrote a book entitled *Sprucing the Tree (Size of Oakwood University Presidents: 1896 - 2010)*, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2015. Maybe you have seen it.

**LEADERSHIP PERSONALITY**

Leadership theory claims that institutions take on the personality of their leaders. To whatever degree this is true or not, one thing for sure: the trend of how a president performs duties does paint a portrait of his/her style and maybe even his/her character while also shaping the culture of the institution. On a deeper level, the experience of presiding over an institution can serve the will of God for salvific purposes in the personal life of the lead administrator if he/she perceives challenges as instruments of character development. Check out the section on “Leadership” in Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, 494, where Ellen G. White counsels leaders that “All the difficulties, the setbacks, the hardships, and the disappointments which God’s servants will meet in active labor will only strengthen them in the formation of correct characters.

By putting their own energies of mind to use, the obstacles they meet will prove to them positive blessings. They will gain mental and spiritual muscle to be used upon important occasions with the very best results.”

While we gladly appreciate variety as a beautiful hallmark of God’s grand creation, science teaches us that exact duplicates do not exist among His originals (no two blades of grass or flakes of snow are exactly alike, not even so-called identical twins). That same principle of unique identity mirrors a truth about Oakwood presidents. Each one embodies a special personality all his own while similarities among them as lead-administrators occasionally appear. What would happen, however, if we could bundle, capsulize, or melt these nine (or ten) personalities into one entity that represents their individual specialized precedents, patterns, and profiles? Like the United States’ national motto (e pluribus unum—out of many, one), the distinctive standpoint leadership quality from each of the stated ten Oakwood presidents contributes to one perceived “prototype” if not idealized picture of what a university leader looks like.

Through my lenses, I see a stream of Christian education lead administrators whom I respectfully characterize accordingly: Peterson the Inspire; Millet the Energizer; Pinkney the Conciliator; Hale the Administrator; Rock the Leaders’ Leader; Cooper the Educator; Reaves the Articulator; Baker the Initiator; Warren the Mediator; and Pollard the Facilitator.

Men and women of destiny (including leaders to come), listen to the wisdom of Divine inspiration: “Press in the right direction, . . . solidly, intelligently. Then circumstances will be your helpers and not your hindrances. Make a beginning. The oak is in the acorn.” (Ellen G. White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 6, p. 145)

Mervyn A. Warren, M.Div., Ph.D., D.Min, is enjoying his retirement after having served Oakwood University as Teacher, Dean of Religion, and five administration positions including Provost and Interim President.
I came to Oakwood University with high hopes and great expectations for my college experience. I knew I could go anywhere and do anything with the education afforded me. But in my freshmen year I found myself getting slightly off task during study hours or sleeping in when I had an 8 am class (not uncommon for first year students, but not advised).

Upon my return home for holiday break my grades were there to greet me. It was a sobering moment. What I read did not truly reflect who I was. However, it was a true reflection of my efforts. I hadn’t given it my all. I hadn’t even given half of what I was capable of, but I then decided that the rest of my journey would be very different. I significantly increased my level of engagement in curricular and co-curricular activities and I never reverted to my old ways (by God’s grace). Upon graduation I was accepted to the country’s #1 school of communications for graduate studies. From that experience I learned my story will only reflect my true contributions. I am now privileged to work at the great Oakwood University. I take great joy in my role of sharing great stories with the Oakwood community of alumni and friends. I’m convinced the world should know about the achievements of OU students, employees and my fellow alums. I celebrate each victorious moment when a business is started, awards are won, scholarly articles are published, every graduate school graduation and the birth of a child. Let’s stop sleeping in! We are a community of high achievers, go getters and innovators. There is a community of Oakwoodites anticipating a great report from us. Whatever it is, I encourage you to lay it all out there; knowledge, time, influence, money...dedicate it to God and it will be great. Your contributions inspire and empower others to experience their own personal, academic, or professional victories. I pray my actions are in-line with God’s will and that each day, in some small way, are moving the university forward and encouraging others. Every evening I exit campus headed home proud I gave all I had to give.

All I Have to Give

I learned my story will only reflect my true contributions.
alumni homecoming

REM EMB E R...

april 4-12, 2020