Get set for Alumni Weekend 2014

The theme for this year’s Alumni Homecoming Weekend (April 17-20) is "Oakwoodites for Life!" The Oakwood story is not just about the milestones you have achieved since your graduation from Oakwood.

Check www.oakwoodalumni.org for more information.

Oakwood Wins National Runner Up Title in Honda Competition

Oakwood's Honda Team: Greg Edouard, Kenesha Bennett (captain), Dr. Rennae Elliott (coach), Jennifer Miller, and...
After 24 rounds of play, Oakwood University's Honda Campus All-Star Team was named "National Runner Up" in the Honda Campus All-Star Championship Tournament held in Torrance, Calif., this week earning an institutional grant of $25,000. They were defeated by the Bulldogs of Fisk University who earned an institutional grant of $50,000. This year marked Oakwood's 24th year participating in the competition and its 18th time qualifying for the National Championship Tournament.

During the event's gala banquet, Rennae Elliott, Ph.D., chair of Oakwood's communication department and team coach was named Coach of the Year. Team member, Antoine Southern, was added to the Honda Campus Division All-Stars roster. "We are very proud of how well the Oakwood Team did in this year's competition," said Dr. Garland Dulan, vice president for academic administration. "And having our own being named as coach of the year and as a division all-star was just icing on the cake," he added.

Since 1989, Honda Campus All-Star Challenge has engaged the best and brightest students at the HBCUs in its annual academic quiz championship -- the "HBCU Battle of Brains." Honda is proud of its relationship with the HBCUs, and in addition to sponsoring the competition, has awarded over $7 million in grants. Honda's participation highlights the quality of HBCU education, and the grants provide needed support for the institutions.

**Oakwood Recognizes Students for Academic Achievements**

Last Thursday, Oakwood University hosted its annual Honor's Convocation. This event recognizes the academic achievements of the students - freshman through senior as well as the adult continuing education program. "The occasion for which we have gathered here today is not for the purpose of recognizing individuals who are perfect. It is for recognizing individuals who have pushed a little harder, have persevered a little longer, and have stretched themselves a little wider to achieve a personal academic best that represents the 'God First' mindset and legacy of excellence that is Oakwood University," said Scott McNeil (pictured), USM vice president for academic affairs at the beginning of the program.

Click [here](#) to see the entire program and some of the individuals who were recognized.
Oakwood Alum to Keynote 3rd Annual Faculty Research Symposium

Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser, '94, will present the keynote address at the 3rd Annual Faculty Research Symposium, to be held in the Committee of 100 Auditorium of the McKee Business & Technology Building on Tuesday, April 22. Additional presentations from the Oakwood faculty awardees of the 2013-2014 Faculty Development Grant Program will be made throughout the day.

Dr. Brown-Fraser is a public health-nutrition research scientist, author, educator, and personal fitness trainer. She will present: "Associations Between Cholesterol, Colon Cancer Screening, Behavior, and Diet." Dr. Brown-Fraser is dedicated to advancing health promotion, disease prevention, and eliminating health disparities. She believes that good health is our God-given birthright. Prevention is her motto. Attending Oakwood crystallized her commitment to service, community, and academic excellence.

Currently, Dr. Brown-Fraser is an assistant professor in the Nutritional Sciences Program at Morgan State University, School of Community Health and Policy in Baltimore, Md., where she trains future leaders and innovators in nutritional sciences, dietetics, and food science.

Faculty and Staff News

Six of Oakwood's dietetics students, under the direction of Claudia Follette, '91, didactic program director, have partnered with Deep Roots in "Growing Healthy Kids" at Huntsville's Morris Elementary School.

"Growing Healthy Kids" is a pilot program at Morris Elementary School that introduces students to fresh produce. The children grow the produce, and Oakwood students periodically visit the class to introduce new food items that include that particular vegetable. OU students follow-up with a survey to determine the children's approval of the dish. The long-term goal is more variety in the diet, and
better eating habits that will lead to improved health. MORE

Alumni Notes

Dr. Washington Johnson, II, '83, assistant director of Chaplaincy Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, recently visited with students in the Department of History and Political Science. In his presentation, "For God and Country," he discussed his recent tour of service in Djibouti, Africa, at Camp Lemonnier. While there, Dr. Johnson ministered to the spiritual needs of military personnel and residents of the east African nation. In his discourse, he discussed the unique history of Djibouti, specifically focusing on the politics, demographics, and culture. Dr. Johnson shared his testimony of how the Lord blessed him with a promotion to the rank of Commander in the U.S. Navy. He also encouraged students to consider chaplaincy as a career in which they can utilize the skills and knowledge acquired at Oakwood to further the building of God's Kingdom and to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19, 20.

Pollard's Places

Last week (April 8-9), I attended the General Conference's annual Spring Council Meetings in Silver Spring, Md. One of the presentations that I took special note of was concerning creative outreach projects that was presented at the Council on Evangelism and Witness. It inspired me to think about what we are doing here at Oakwood University in the realms of creativity and outreach. Oakwood University, through the Office of Spiritual Life operates 4HIM (His Hands in Mission) local, national, and international missions for faculty, staff, and students. Chaplains Weems, Pollard, Pearson, and Simons oversee our Campus Spiritual Life Master Plan. Within this school year, we deployed 600 students to participate in Agape Day - Huntsville. Three hundred students participated in Global Youth Day. 20 4HIM students served in a Spring Break Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans. Twenty-two students are presently preparing for a 4HIM summer missions trip to Kenya, and 10 faculty and
staff are preparing for a 4HIM trip to Madagascar. On campus, witness activities remain vibrant as well with Power Hour, AY Release, dynamic residence hall worships, and weekly chapels. Please pray for our campus as we seek to walk faithfully toward the mission of which God has called Oakwood University - preparing leaders for service to God and humanity! - Dr. Leslie N. Pollard

**OU Picture of the Week**

Today, Oakwood’s YMTF (Youth Mentoring Task Force) is hosting its one-day conference on campus. YMTF is designed to bring successful professionals from every walk of life to share with the students their personal career experiences. Pictured addressing students from a nutrition class is Ricky Allen, ’91, a clinical information specialist from McKesson Corporation, an American company distributing pharmaceuticals at a retail sale level and providing health information technology, medical supplies, and care management tools. *(Photo by Anthony Chornes, II)*

**About Oakwood**

Oakwood University, a historically black, Seventh-day Adventist institution in Huntsville, Alabama, has as its mission to transform students through biblically-based education for service to God and humanity.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
Morris Elementary students dig 'Deep Roots' for healthy food in Huntsville

A Morris Elementary School 3rd grader settles a lettuce seedling into a bed behind the school in Huntsville, Ala., on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, as part of the Growing Healthy Kids program run by the non-profit, faith-based Deep Roots of Alabama as part of the organization's mission to connect families, especially those in impoverished areas, to growing their own vegetables and making healthy food choices. Want to help? The program can use volunteers, and there will be a 5K walk/run and health fair in Huntsville on May 10, 2014. Details at DeepRootsofAlabama.org. (Kay Campbell / KCampbell@AL.com)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama - Bins of soil, dark as crumbled Oreo cookies, sit on the lawn beside the greenhouse behind Morris Elementary School. A class of third graders surge toward the garden beds, full of questions and eager to reach for the sprigs of young lettuce and wispy onion plants that Wendy Payne, director of Deep Roots of Alabama hands out for planting.

Payne, who is certified as a master gardener, shows the children how to open the soil, slide in the seedling, and then cup the soil around the little plant to start a row.

“So what do plants need to grow?” Wendy quizzes the children, all students in Jacqueline Johnson's third grade class.

“Sun,” the children call, “water, soil, oxygen …”

Their voices trail off as they consider what might be left out.

“And love,” decides one lad, sure he’s thought of the right thing, especially when Wendy Payne laughs in surprise at the unexpected answer.

Encouraging the love of healthy foods and a hands-on understanding of simple gardening is all part of the program that Deep Roots is planting in elementary schools in North Alabama, “Growing Healthy Kids.” Deep Roots is a faith-based organization that is supported by some Huntsville-area congregations, donations, and also by the Huntsville Botanical Garden, Oakwood University, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County and Master Gardeners of North Alabama. The goal of the organization is to help communities, particularly communities in areas of poverty, get re-connected with healthy foods and home gardens. When the volunteers with Deep Roots “preach” the gospel, they do it with their actions, not sermons. Any lesson that verges on religion is presented in terms of character development that children can understand through the lens of their own tradition, whether religious or not.

“We share the gospel in a unique way,” Payne said. “When we do a lesson on the ‘fruits’ of the Spirit – love, joy, patience, kindness and so on – we get the children to draw a card to see what word is on it, and then to think or to pray or meditate about what that could mean in their own lives that day. By the way we live our lives, they should be able to see the gospel.”

Saniya Mitchell, a 3rd grader at Morris Elementary School in Huntsville, Ala., prepares to plant an onion seedling. Her class is participating in the 'Growing Healthy Kids' program by Deep Roots of Alabama that teaches children how to garden as a way to cultivate body and soul at Morris Elementary School in Huntsville, Ala., on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. (Kay Campbell/al.com)
Powerful choices

From late February through early May, volunteers will visit Morris and five other elementary schools that are part of the direct program. Four other schools are now self-sustaining, using the curriculum that Deep Roots has developed to meet Alabama curriculum benchmarks in math, science and reading. They help them see how to plant a garden, how to compost, how to tend the growing plants, and how to get up the courage to try new vegetables.

Payne and Tony McGehee, a retired teacher and children’s book author who is now the farm-to-school educator with Deep Roots, will return to Morris on Friday. They’ll encourage students to try vegetable soup that the cafeteria cooks will have made with a recipe using lots of vegetables for this week’s “Fun Tasting Friday.”

Next to the beds where the third graders are planting lettuce and onions, members of Master Gardeners of North Alabama are teaching second graders about starting seeds in pans of soil. Eventually the third graders will be planting the tomato seeds that the second graders are starting.

Deep Roots of Alabama is part of a growing network of faith-based organizations intent on helping people, particularly people who live in impoverished communities, to gain access to healthy foods. The Tennessee Valley Community Garden Association is helping neighborhoods develop community garden areas along with the work of the Alabama Sustainable Agricultural Network. Wendy Payne is also a member of the North Alabama Food Policy Council, which includes the North Alabama Food Bank.

“We want to empower the children to make healthier food choices,” Payne said.

Want to help? The program can always use volunteers, whether working directly with children or other gardeners, or providing back-up garden help. Also, Deep Roots will hold a 5K walk/run and health fair in Huntsville on May 10, 2014, in Big Spring Park East in Huntsville. Details at DeepRootsofAlabama.org.

Follow this link for a 2012 story about an earlier Deep Roots project in Huntsville, Ala.