2014 Graduation Stats - By the Numbers

This past weekend, Oakwood University hosted its 2014 Commencement Exercises. Listed below are some of the statistics shared by Dr. Leslie Pollard about the Class of 2014:
Total graduates - 313
Male - 115
Female - 198

Age of oldest graduate - 72 years old
Age of youngest graduate - 20 years old

Top three states with most graduate candidates:
Alabama - 115
California - 27
Florida - 23

Highest student GPA in the traditional educational program: 3.95 (Antonio McInnes)

Masters Graduates - 13
Adult & Continuing Education (LEAP) Graduates - 40
Dietetic Interns - 25

Graduates with dual degrees - 4
Graduates with double major in one degree - 6

Major with highest number of graduates: Biology - 35

Note: An additional eight "guests" marched with the Class of 2014. The guests were defined as those who chose not to march at their respective institutions because of Sabbath observance and other scheduling concerns.

Individual DVDs of the weekend’s services are $10 each, and are available through the Oakwood University Broadcasting Network. To check out pictures from the graduation services, please click here.

LEAP Graduates "Connect and Complete" at Reception
by Alexandrea Irby, LEAP administrative coordinator
LEAP grads receive a spiritual charge from Chaplain Kimberly Pearson at the LEAP reception on May 2.

On May 2, 24 graduates of the Leadership Education for the Adult Professional (LEAP) program gathered at the LEAP office to "connect" and "complete." Students were able to complete their clearance form in a "one-stop shop" format with Student Accounts Director Paula Wilson, Financial Aid Director Lynda Bartholomew, and SALT representative Alton Conwell.

Students were recognized for their achievements during a brief program segment of the reception. With family, friends, and LEAP faculty present; students walked across the "stage" to shake hands with the Adult and Continuing Education Executive Director, and Dean of the Business and Information Systems and Adult and Continuing Education Department, Hyacinth Burton.

Each student received the 2013-2014 yearbook, a t-shirt, a LEAP padfolio and pen, and a card signed by each staff member.

Awards were given to 12 students who were recognized for outstanding academic excellence. Cheryl Sullivan was recognized as LEAP Teacher of the Year, and Pearlie Richardson for Academic Fortitude. Cheri Wilson, director of development and former LEAP director congratulated the graduates and shared information on giving back to Oakwood University, especially the "Blue and Gold challenge." Chaplain Kimberly Pearson ended the program with a prayer of consecration for the graduates.

2014's Oldest Graduate Testifies

I left Oakwood single in 19xx; returned married with two small children in 1963; and left in 1965, when my ex-husband graduated - but still no degree!

After 47 years in various positions, I retired in 2007, and relocated to Huntsville. After a few "idle" years, a LEAP recruiter encouraged me to "give LEAP a look." With my mother's "determination-equals-success formula" motivating me, I received my bachelor's degree in Organizational Management on May 10.

To all my family, friends and well-wishers, words cannot express how blessed I felt being showered with love and a stupendous standing ovation and thunderous applause at my graduation...
ceremony on Saturday night. With the help of the Almighty Father, I finished the “1st” course of higher education.

Thanks EVERYONE... love ya, Elaine Willis-McKnight

Financial Gift Made to the Peters Media Center and Biology Department

Oakwood University is pleased to announce a recent gift to the Building on the Past, Claiming the Future Campaign. This campaign has been set up to assist in the funding of three capital projects on the Oakwood University campus, Carter Hall, Ford Hall and the new Peters Media Center.

Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Clara White have made a generous donation to the campaign in the amount of $95,000 to name three different rooms in the Peters Media Center. They have also chosen to support the Biology Department with a gift of $7,300, as the department strives to enhance the offerings to current and incoming students.

"God has seen fit to inspire so many individuals to contribute to Oakwood University and this campaign in general," said Kisha Norris, executive director of Advancement and Development. "We know that the vision set for Oakwood is inspired by God and we are proud to see so many answer to call to join us on this mission."

Oakwood University administration, faculty, staff and students would like to extend a big thank you to Dr. and Mrs. White for their generous gift to further the mission of the University.

If you or someone you know would like to make a gift to the Building on the Past, Claiming the Future campaign, please feel free to contact the Office of Advancement and Development at (256) 726-7201 or developmentoffice@oakwood.edu.

Join the Oakwood Family - Employment Opportunities

Oakwood continues to build the quality of personnel that will serve our students and constituents in the best possible way.
You can help us by recommending names of potential candidates to fill the following positions at the University:

**Faculty positions:**
- Religion (1)
- English (2)
- History (1)
- Music (1)
- Education (1)
- Nursing (1)
- Math (Department chair)
- Biology (Department chair)
- Dean (School of Arts & Sciences)
- Dean (School of Religion)
- Chemistry
- Psychology (Neuropsychology)

**Staff positions:**
- LEAP, Director
- LEAP, Academic Advisor

Interested candidates should submit their names and contact information to Garland Dulan, vice president of Academic Administration, at gdulan@oakwood.edu.

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**Faculty and Staff News**

Maxine Garvey, D.P.T., MHS, (third from left) chair of the allied health department, was selected by her faculty peers to receive the “Teacher of the Year” award at the 2014 Commencement Exercises.

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**Alumni Notes**

Dr. Everton A. Ennis, ’99, graduated on May 4 from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. His doctoral concentration is in the area of Congregational Conflict Resolution Training. Dr. Ennis pastors in the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

During his tenure of studies for the Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University, he spear-headed the effort
that resulted in the celebration and commemoration of key African-American church leaders in the new wing of the SDA Theological Seminary during the Bradford-Brooks-Cleveland Tribute Weekend in September 2000, when he served as President of the Black Student Association of the Seminary (BSAS).

Ennis is a sought-after consultant and seminar/workshop presenter in the area of congregational conflict ministry, local elder leadership development training, and church officer/church board orientation. He is founder and president of CLASS Act Seminars, an emerging ministry resource aimed at assisting pastors and local churches with strategic solutions for conflict ministry and leadership development.

**Pollard's Places**

This week I, along with the faculty and staff, are participating in our annual "Think Tanks." For the next few days, we will be debriefing the activities from the past school year and preparing for next school year. The theme, "Framing our Future" stems from our desire to equip our faculty and staff with the tools to move Oakwood forward in the future that God has promised us. Continue to pray for Oakwood University as we are given the task of preparing students for their professional careers as well as preparing them for eternity.

**OU Picture of the Week**

Selfie Mania - At various times during the 2014 Graduation
Weekend Services, Dr. Leslie Pollard took "selfies" with the graduating seniors. Pictured here is Dr. Pollard with the Social Work graduates. To see other pictures posted on social media, search #OakwoodGrad2014 and #OakwoodGrad14. (Photo by Richard Gordon)

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.

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