We dedicate this issue of *OU? Oh, Yes!* to the memory of

**Emerson A. Cooper, Ph.D.**

*January 15, 1924 – August 14, 2012*

Emerson A. Cooper was born in the Republic of Panama. He spent his childhood days and teen years in the Canal Zone, where he received an American-style elementary and junior high school education. Emerson immigrated to the United States in 1945 and graduated from Oakwood Academy in 1946.

His college work included chemistry courses at the City College of New York (CCNY). Dr. Cooper completed the requirements for his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Science at Oakwood College during the summer of 1948. As a student at Oakwood, Emerson was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church by Elder C.E. Moseley. After
completing college in two and one-half years, he began his teaching career at Oakwood College in the fall of 1948. In 1949, Dr. Cooper married the former Marjorie Stephens, a 1948 Oakwood graduate.

While on a study leave from Oakwood College during the 1950-51 academic year, Cooper also worked as a chemist and later a consultant for the Metric Chemical Company in New York City. One of the products developed by this company was named Emersite in honor of Dr. Cooper because of the contributions which he made to its discovery and development.

Dr. Cooper received the M.S. degree in Chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1954. In 1959, he received the Ph.D. degree in Chemistry from Michigan State University. This earned him the distinction of being the first holder of an Oakwood undergraduate degree to earn a doctoral degree. Dr. Cooper participated in several National Science Foundation-sponsored Post-Doctoral Professional Development Institutes: Conference on Plant Biochemistry, Institute of Paper Chemistry, 1969; History and Philosophy of Science and Mathematics, American University, 1964; and Isotope Technology, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, 1962.


Over the course of his long and fruitful career, Dr. Cooper has been blessed to receive many honors, including: **Oakwood University Science Complex named in Dr. Cooper’s honor – 1993**; Resolution from the House of Representatives, State of Alabama recognizing Dr. Cooper for his contributions and outstanding leadership to Oakwood, the state and the nation – 1993; Distinguished Leadership Award, Alabama Association of College Administrators – 1993; First White House Initiative Faculty Award for Excellence in Science and Technology – 1988; Alabama Association of College Administrators Exemplary Service Award – 1987; TENNECO – UNCF Excellence in Teaching Award – 1986; American College Testing Program and the National Academic Advising Association Certificate of Merit for Academic Outstanding Achievement in the Academic Advising of Students – 1984; Outstanding Educators of America Award; Listed in American Men and Women of Science; Elected to The Society of Sigma Xi – Michigan State University – 1958; Danforth Fellow, Michigan State University – 1957. Dr. Cooper’s professional memberships include: the American Chemical Society, Alabama Academy of Sciences, Sigma Xi, Examinations Test Committee, Division of Chemical Education, American Chemical Society; and the Advisory Board, Alabama Center for Higher Education.

Primarily because of his visionary leadership and outstanding contributions across the entire educational spectrum of Oakwood College, the institution has, since the 1980s, ranked among the top 10 to 20 colleges and universities in the nation in sending Black students to medical and dental school.
During the 1950s, Dr. Cooper and the other two professors responsible for teaching all of the physical sciences at Oakwood arranged for members of the team of famous German rocket scientists who were at that time conducting research at Redstone Arsenal Missile Command, to become adjunct faculty at Oakwood and teach advanced mathematics and physics courses. Although Dr. Wernher Von Braun, who was the project leader, apparently did not teach a course at Oakwood, he did come out to campus on a number of occasions and interact with the students.

Dr. Cooper also received several important grants to fund research at Oakwood, including, National Institutes of Health, $165,620, 1972-1977, Minority Biomedical Support Program; National Aeronautics and Space Administration, $25,000, 1969-1971, Synthesis of Ninhydrin Analogs; Metric Chemical Company, $1,000, 1959, Synthesis of High Melting Compounds. Over the course of his career, Dr. Cooper's major research and teaching interests focused on the following areas: Synthesis of High Melting Compounds, Synthesis of Ninhydrin Analogs, Synthesis of 1, 2, 3 Tricarbonyl Systems, Predicting Success in General Chemistry, Teaching Chemistry to the Academically Disadvantaged, The Riley Reaction, Viroidal Properties of Ascorbic Acid, and Creationism.

The Coopers have three children: Mrs. Roslyn C. Fields, a nurse case manager now living in Huntsville; Mr. Stephen N. Cooper, a critical care nurse in Atlanta, Georgia and Mrs. Margo A. Bagley, formerly a chemical engineer for the Procter and Gamble Company and now a Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, VA. They also have been blessed with six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
Oakwood President Dr. Leslie N. Pollard said that “Dr. Cooper will be missed greatly. He was a renowned scholar, able administrator, a genuine lover of students and a committed Christian professional. And his days of leading our institution will be long remembered. Our entire community grieves over his passing.”

Oakwood Alumnus David Richardson recently dedicated an electronic textbook on introductory organic chemistry “to Dr. Emerson A. Cooper, my friend, mentor, and locus parentis. He was my academic counselor, inspirational consultant, and best of all, a caring and nurturing undergraduate instructor.” Richardson also said, “My life was deeply touched by this great man.”

Several of Dr. Cooper’s former students, colleagues and friends from around the country are observing:

Dr. Cooper formed my dear mother’s scientific mind in the sciences as her mentor/advisor during her study at Oakwood. We owe all she is to this SDA science pioneer - you are truly missed, Doc, and we WILL see you in the earth made new! ~ Keith So’Brien • He was a wonderful human being!!! ~ Earl Henry • Dr. Cooper was such a thoughtful leader, and what a scholar! ~ Ramona L. Hyman • A dignified, yet humble Christian intellectual and servant. ~ Preston Foster • One of the nicest professors on Oakwood’s campus during my time there. ~ Janet Watkins Wynn • The one professor who taught both me and my father. He used to remind me of that often (...). ~ Carole Wagner • Dr. Cooper was the first instructor for Chemistry at Oakwood College. What a brilliant mind he had... Truly missed... ~ James Bowman, III • Your dad was a noble gentleman who seemed to always "make lemonade out of lemons." ~ Janice L. Coopwood Ford • What a great scientific mind as well as a great kind man we have lost. One of my heroes. ~ Brian Smith • A Great, Kind & Loving man. I only have fond memories of my Uncle Emerson... ~ Michele Sullivan • I’m grateful for his teaching. ~ Ronald McCowan • Dr. Cooper was a dear Friend. He was indeed a very special Human Being. ~ Victor L. Brooks, Sr. • I remember Dr. Cooper as a fine Christian gentleman, always with a smile. Be encouraged family. The Lord is coming to wake him soon!” ~ Muriel Massey Wray
Anton Dormer said: “(...) It was under his tutelage and his recommendation that I attended and completed medical school. He was a man of vision and his legacy continues on in all of the many health professionals that have graduated from Oakwood University, then and now. A great man has passed, but his legacy lives on in all that have benefited from his wisdom. May God be with his family.”

Read Paul Gattis’ report in the August 15 The Huntsville Times by clicking here: [http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/08/former_oakwood_president_emers.html](http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/08/former_oakwood_president_emers.html)

The funeral service will be at noon on Sunday, August 19, 2012, at the Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church with Dr. Carlton Byrd officiating. Interment will be in the Oakwood Memorial Gardens. Dr. Cooper will lie in repose one hour prior to funeral time. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions to the Emerson A. Cooper Scholarship Fund, at Oakwood University, in care of the Office of Advancement and Development.

One of the most recent examples of Dr. Cooper's legacy of service to science and education is that Tamanda Chanza, an undergraduate student at Oakwood University, recently participated in a project that studied the role of thyroid hormone in regulating bone formation, as part of the 12th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium at Loma Linda University. Read more at http://www.pe.com/local-news/san-bernardino-county/san-bernardino-county-headlines-index/20120815-loma-linda-health-disparities-research-symposium-held.ece

Congratulations to 2012 SAIC-OU summer internship graduates - RaeChelle English, Brian Johnson, Ryan Jones, Michael Jumper, Danielle Lewis, Daniel Norwood, Phillip Simpson (not pictured) and Sheldon Smith. This year, six of the eight student interns were from OU. Daniel Norwood is student at University of Alabama Birmingham and Phillip Simpson is from Texas A&M University. These students spent three months helping to support NASA's space and technology programs. On August 10, the interns made final presentations to the OU administration and SAIC management on the details of their work assignments and received commendations and praise.

In 2004, OU was chosen to be a subcontractor and team member on the newly awarded SAIC Unified NASA Information Technology Services (UNITeS) program. During that time, Oakwood grew the UNITeS subcontract from an initial $1.7-million award to a more than $12-million award. Since that time, SAIC has teamed with Oakwood on several Federal contracts including the recently awarded
Enterprise Application Services Technology and NASA Integrated Communications Services contracts—both are Agency-wide contracts that support NASA’s information technology needs. SAIC and Oakwood have worked together to successfully accomplish goals to establish wireless technology support on campus, establish ISO 9002 certification audit compliance, provide network engineering classroom training, Federal contract training, and human resources laboratory development.

In 2006, SAIC and OU started a summer internship program designed to place Oakwood students into the workforce that supports NASA’s space and technology programs. Since 2006, the summer internship program has grown—to date, summer interns have spread across several SAIC/NASA programs. The OU-SAIC connection has grown into a unique relationship that supports NASA customers, OU, and local and national communities. SAIC is the nation’s largest employee-owned research and engineering company, providing information technology and systems integration products and services to government and commercial customers. SAIC and its subsidiaries have more than 44,000 employees at offices in more than 150 cities worldwide.

For more information about 2013 summer internship opportunities at SAIC and NASA contact Dr. Rose Yates, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs – ryanes@oakwood.edu or Dr. Everett Roper, Associate Professor/Internship Supervisor – eroper@oakwood.edu.
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VISIT US @ WWW.OUCSDA.ORG
Employment Opportunities at “the Oaks”...

As we start a new academic year, Oakwood continues in a building mode – building 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:

Chemistry | Contact Kenneth LaiHing @ laihing@oakwood.edu

- **Assistant/Associate Professor**: PhD in Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry required. [Faculty-Chemistry](#)

- **Lab Coordinator (Staff)**: Bachelor of Science in Natural Science required [Lab Coordinator-chemistry 2012 revised](#)

English and Foreign Languages | Contact Derek Bowe at dbowe@oakwood.edu

- **Assistant Professor - Doctorate in English required** [Assistant Professor of English 2012](#)

Psychology | Contact Cherryl Galley at cgalley@oakwood.edu

- **Assistant Professor - Doctorate in Abnormal, Biological, Cognitive, Experimental, Health, or Neuro psychology required** [Assistant Professor of Psychology](#)

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We encourage you to send the name(s) and contact information for which position you are making the referral to the department chairs or directors as soon as possible.

Further information about applying for any of these positions is available at: [http://www.oakwood.edu/campus-services/human-resources](http://www.oakwood.edu/campus-services/human-resources). Thank you for assisting us. Job Line: 256.726.7300.
What an easy way to support Oakwood students -- with an Oakwood license plate.

Purchase an “OU License Plate” by visiting your local Department of Motor Vehicles, like Advancement & Development Executive Director Kisha Norris (pictured) recently did. Funds generated are directed toward scholarships for Alabama resident OU students.

Outside Alabama? PR Intern Quran Simmons has been investigating availability of an Oakwood license plate in other states. So far, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina and Texas have responded to Quran’s inquiries. If you live in one of these states and would you like to have an OU license plate for your state, let us know by email: pr@oakwood.edu.

Microsoft Office 2010 Training Classes Beginning August 2012

What: Access, Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel and Word

When: Beginning Monday, August 20, 2012

Time: 5:45 pm – 7:45 pm Mon & Wed or Tues-Thurs

Cost: Free!!! (Snacks are provided each evening.)

Interested? Contact Patricia Beale: pbeale@oakwood.edu for enrollment instructions.

Instructors: Shaunda Roach (left) & Sandra Burton (right)

Hurry!!! Seating is Limited!

Did you know? There are 80 days until Election Day. http://www.electioncountdown.us/

Vote and the choice is yours.

Don’t vote and the choice is theirs.

Don’t register and you have no choice.