Board of Trustees votes new direction for independent ministries

The Oakwood University Board of Trustees met on the campus, October 21 and 22, to hear progress reports; to govern the organization by reviewing and establishing policies and objectives; and to discuss annual budget concerns.

One of the several agenda items was Oakwood’s relationship to independent ministries (for details, click here: http://www.oakwood.edu/oakwood-university-a-naps).

This meeting also included a summary of the work coordinated by the Marble Leadership Group; a report by several Board members who attended September’s Strategic Actioning session; and a tour of the newly renovated Cunningham Hall.
Board members in front of newly-remodeled Cunningham Hall, at the conclusion of their meeting and tour, October 22, 2012.

**Latest President’s FYI now available**

The Office of Spiritual Life is featured in the October, 2012, issue of the *President’s FYI*. To view the issue, click here: [http://www.oakwood.edu/images/zfiles/administration/Presidents-FYI/Presidents%20FYI%20Issue%2010%20-%20October%202012.pdf](http://www.oakwood.edu/images/zfiles/administration/Presidents-FYI/Presidents%20FYI%20Issue%2010%20-%20October%202012.pdf)

**Oakwood awarded by Society of Adventist Communicators**

In 2005, the Board of the Society of Adventist Communicators developed a way for professional recognition awards to be given out annually at the Society’s convention. This year’s winners were announced throughout the annual convention, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with the theme “Soaring to New Heights.”

George Johnson, Jr. (*pictured, left*), Communication Director for the North American Division, and SAC Executive Director, reported that 241 nominations were submitted this year for the various category classes, displaying “lots of creativity.”
For the first-time ever, Team PR submitted various OU promotional materials for professional recognition awards. God blessed, and we won:

1. Corporate Communication: “Best Constituency Video: President Pollard’s Welcome Message to the Evangelism Council” (Anthonye Perkins)
2. Corporate Communications: “Best Promotional Materials for a Special Event: Presidential Inaugural Weekend” (Jerry B. Ross)
3. Print: “Best Student Newspaper: The Spreading Oak” (former editor Stephanie Campbell)
5. One-time Event Promotions: “Invitation to Presidential Inaugural Weekend” (Jerry B. Ross),
6. Book Cover Design: “Raise a Leader (Review & Herald Publishing Association) by Dr. Prudence Pollard”, and
7. 2011-2012 Student of the Year – Miss Dawnette Chambers, Communications Dept.
An Oakwood trailblazer returns to the Brazilian frontier
by Jason McCracken

In 1979, Elder Jason & Mrs. Carolyn McCracken arrived on their first mission assignment to the Central Brazil Mission in Goiania, Goias Brazil. McCracken is considered as the first African American student missionary to Brazil in 1975, and the second African American to serve in that country.

On September 18, 2012, Elder McCracken was invited by the same Pathfinder club (Desbravadores) in Brasilia to conduct a Week of Prayer, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the club’s organization. He was the youth and pathfinder director of the Central Brazil Mission where he inspired the club to conference, union and division status during the 80s.

The objective of the Week of Prayer was to celebrate 40 years of rich history, register all members (400) of the club since 1972, and inspire the former Pathfinders to return to church. McCracken made the accomplishment of this goal his primary focus throughout the week.

McCracken shares the Brazilian Pathfinders’ history, as he served as the first Junior Youth Specialist of the Central Brazil Union in 1986, with a membership of 400 clubs and 18,000 pathfinders. During his time in this role, he organized:

- The first Camporee in the Central Brazil Mission in 1982.
- The first Union Camporee in the Central Brazil Union in 1987

During the week, Elder McCracken visited many Adventist schools with a student enrollment of more than 1,100. He promoted Oakwood University via the web and talked about the institution’s history. Most of the students had never heard of Oakwood, which gave him the opportunity for him to really promote the University. (While in Brazil many of our sister institutions were recruiting students at the same time Elder McCracken promoted Oakwood.)
The weekly attendance was extremely high in a church that holds over 1,300. The nightly attendance filled the lower level of the church. The week of prayer ended with seven baptisms and over 120 youth and adult decisions to return to church and rebaptism.

The Church Orchestra composed a song for the event, in which Elder McCracken participated and sang every night, the theme song “In Moments Like These.”

He preached his last sermon with such emotion as he told his story of how God called him to ministry in order to save a friend dying of AIDs. McCracken told his friend, on his death bed, to repeat Psalm 23 “until you die.” His friend died repeating Psalms 23. The congregation cried with Elder McCracken as he made his final appeal to the youth by asking them to meet him at gate number 1 (of the 12 gates) in Heaven. This motivated the 120 Pathfinders who had left the church to return and make a commitment to God!

Elder McCracken was given a gift of the Brazilian selection team with his name inscribed on the back with the number 10. Brazil will host the World Cup in 2014.

**Department of History and Political Science “History Careers Seminar Series”**

The Department of History and Political Science welcomed approximately 100 people to the McKee Business & Technology complex auditorium, for the second and final installment in its “History Careers Seminar Series,” on Monday, October 15, 2012. Ms. Jane Mabry, an antique and collectibles appraiser, was the guest speaker.

The program began with an invocation by Paul Richardson, a junior history major and
treasurer of the OU Historical Society. Dr. Ciro Sepulveda, Professor of History and faculty advisor to the Historical Society, delivered the devotional. Gramond McPherson, a junior history major and president of the OU Historical Society, issued a general welcome. Dr. Alfonzo Greene Jr., Assistant Professor of History and co-advisor to the Historical Society, introduced the guest speaker.

Ms. Mabry described her journey to becoming an antique and collectibles appraiser, and elaborated on her responsibilities in that capacity. Ms. Mabry, assisted by her husband, verbally estimated the value of various artifacts attendees had brought to the event to discover their monetary worth. These items included: a collection of early edition Booker T. Washington books, a Civil War Confederate sword, slave shackles (being held by Ms. Mabry in photo, right), a James K. Polk Peace Medallion, a set of 19th century Shakespeare books, and a niddy noddy (a tool used to make skeins from yarn) made in the 1800s. McPherson, accompanied by Anthony Medley II (a junior history major and secretary of the OU Historical Society), presented Ms. Mabry with gifts of appreciation – including a copy of the volume *Last Day Events* by Ellen G. White.

In his remarks, Dr. Samuel London, Chair of the Department of History and Political Science, thanked Ms. Mabry and her husband for sharing their expertise in antiques and collectibles. He also spoke on the interest generated for the study of history through antique and collectable appraisal as shown on popular television programs like *The Antiques Road Show* and *Pawn Stars*.

Ms. Marie Stephenson, a junior history major and vice-president of the OU Historical Society, gave both the announcements and closing prayer.
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TO CAPTURE AND TO CAPSULATE “THE OAKWOOD EXPERIENCE,” AND TO COMMUNICATE IT WITH SPEED, ACCURACY, CONSISTENCY AND PASSION, TO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICS UPON WHICH OUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE DEPENDS! FOR YOUR FREE ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION TO OU? OH, YES!, EMAIL US AT PR@OAKWOOD.EDU.