Vol. 3, No. 1

Mother Cunningham's "Extreme Makeover"

As we start a new calendar year, our biggest news is that several of our student service departments are moving into "the new Cunningham Hall."

The campus family, led by President Pollard and the Administration, paused for a special dedication and prayer service on Thursday, January 3. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled to take place in March, 2013.

Many found the reading by Kisha Norris, Executive Director of Advancement & Development, to be particularly moving:

Today we celebrate the completion of this building, Cunningham Hall. And today, we ask that God will come in and fill each and every space that has been prepared. Not only do we want God to come in, we want him to dwell here and continue to hover over this place, always.

Although this is not a church, we know that this building, this house of student services will definitely be a house of prayer, so today:

WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE - For the preparation of young minds
For the ministering to the needs of our students;

WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE - For the keeping of records, for the giving of reports and finances;

WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE - manner of diseases, for the
administering of Christian counseling;

**WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE** - For the recruitment of students, for the sharing of how God is working on these hallowed grounds;

**WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE** - For the discovery of new and innovative concepts, for performing duties to assist in the education of young people;

**WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE** - For getting men and women ready for the soon coming of Christ, for preparing them to depart to serve;

**WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.**

Vice President for Student Services David Knight said that "Time has a way of winking at us; crowning those who dare to dream, with the splendor of accomplishment. Today is a testament of how an old and somewhat put aside building with sturdy walls and a solid foundation can rise from the rubble of uselessness into a master-piece of elegance and purpose.

For several months, we watched from a distance; we prayed for your completion; we agonized over your colors and cast lots on unclaimed spaces. For all of us this moment could not have come any sooner. Amidst the excitement that this day brings may the echo of 'well done' round every corner; leap from every office; shout from every wall and dance on every floor. We like you like this. Sharp as a razor's edge with the 'pop' of well placed colors of blue and gold.

Today, we herald you as a treasure re-gifted to us from God. In the days ahead when the excitement of newness wears off and we find ourselves retreating into the cave of complacency, wake us up to a new reality. Don't let us spend our days hibernating with the idleness of fools. Wake us up to the reality that howls for deep introspection. Wake us up to see the rubble of uselessness inside of us that needs to change.

Let me thank you Cunningham Hall, for giving us a guided tour of your life. What is it that we need? Do we need fresh colors of love, joy, peace or patience...? Do we need to tear down walls of hatred, envy, strife or greed? Or do we need to rewire our attitudes, judgment, faith or convictions? Cunningham Hall you look like you would be satisfied to go another 65 years before another renovation. Not so with those gathered here today--we want the work of sanctification to take place every day of our lives. We want to go the distance. We want eternity. Thanks for your wisdom. We will occupy your space but live for the kingdom."
Read al.com/Huntsville Times reporter Kay Campbell's summary of the event [here](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/...tsGnvxlqjFmYa0fzFuhtg5qyzKNfyy8J5iSjvZyqSZbjvDQOEEHsB2taUWbbR3pW_X1kw79LA%3D), and be sure to stop by to see what has become of Cunningham Hall when you come for Alumni Homecoming Weekend (March 28-31, 2013).

 Movin' on up. . . and into Cunningham Hall -- to serve our students and their families better.

The following departments are in the process of relocating to the renovated Cunningham Hall:

**First Floor:** Faculty Development, Leadership & Quality | Faculty Resource Center | Health Services & Counseling | Registrar's Office

**Second Floor:** Center for Academic Success | Enrollment Management | Student Information

**Third Floor:** Career Services & Testing | Financial Aid | Financial Resolution | Student Accounts

*Sabrina Cotton commends employees' sacrificial service.*

*Student Accounts staff contemplate where to put everything.*
During the Christmas break, several employees worked to move in, unpack, set up, etc. Vice President of Financial Services Sabrina Cotton commended the IT team (who worked the entire break) and all other directors who been working on the $5 million renovation project.

**Q: What's up with the downed trees between Blake Center and the Library?**

**A:** Most of those pine trees were rotting and some were even leaning toward the library, posing a threat to that facility should a strong wind come along. Therefore, the trees were cut down during the Christmas break. No plans have been made for the utilization of the cleared space.

Because pine trees are generally very water absorbent, they would not have made good firewood or lumber.

The University has committed to planting some additional trees on campus to replace those in an effort to continue making Oakwood a place "where loveliness keeps house."

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**While most employees were Christmas breaking...**

Former OU Alumni Association President DeWitt S. Williams recently released a book titled *Highly Committed*. The book chronicles the life of Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and that of his family. For more than 100 years, the Wilson family has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in some capacity, beginning with William
Ted N.C. Wilson, President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Henry Wilson, Ted N. C. Wilson's great grandfather. Read more [here].

While alumnus and clean-comic Jonathan Slocumb was in town to MC the greater Huntsville Chapter of the 100 Black Men in America's annual Holiday Gala, al.com/Huntsville Times entertainment reporter Matt Wake interviewed him. Read the complete story [here].

WAAY-TV reported that OU-birthed singing group "Committed" returned "home" to Huntsville for Christmas performances. Read the story [here].

Oakwood's Service Learning Department, directed by Patricia Stewart Daniel, partnered with The Salvation Army to provide entertainment at the Salvation Army Angel Tree Christmas luncheon for Senior Citizens. "The DIVAS" (OU employees Doris Collie, Cheryl Sullivan, Ivy Starks, Selita Harpe, Diane Rugless and Debbe Millet) led in the singing of Christmas carols. Service Learning employee Samanta Burt played a classical selection on the violin. A good time was had by all.

Enrollment Management acquires GEM-E6

by James Hutchinson, Executive Director of Student Enrollment Services

Joyce Smith, former Enrollment Management Director, always dreamed of that department owning a golf cart to be used primarily to "showcase" Oakwood University to prospective students, parents and supporters, especially during the peak seasons of College.
Days, Registration, South Central Conference Campmeeting, Alumni Weekend, and for giving Campus Tours.

A request to purchase two golf carts was submitted to Dr. Garland Dulan, VP for Academic Affairs, and subsequently to the Administration. A suggestion to review the option of purchasing the GEM-E6 came from Sabrina Cotton, VP for Financial Affairs, and Dr. Dulan.

After reviewing the options, Joyce and I agreed on the selection to purchase the GEM-E6. Before purchase the President’s Council wanted assurance that the vehicle would be stored in a secure, lockable, unit. Thanks to Dean Kibler of Wade Hall, and Collins Alexander, Director of Physical Plant, we have such a place, in one of the annex apartment garages.

In our opinion, the GEM-E6 is the "Lexus" of electric low speed vehicles. It features a top speed of 25 mph, horn, turn indicators, a CD player, heat, head lamps, is a highway-rated, 6-passenger vehicle with stop lights, tail lights and cushioned seats.
Take 6 and Aeolians to perform in Tuscaloosa - January 19, 2013

The singing ensemble Take 6 and the Aeolians of Oakwood University will highlight the 23rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, January 19, in the Concert Hall at The University of Alabama's Moody Music Building. Tickets for the event may be reserved by calling 205/348-7111.

Among the nation's most recognized vocal ensembles, Take 6, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, has received 10 Grammy Awards, 10 Dove Awards and a Soul Train Award. Take 6 features Claude McKnight, Mark Kibble, Joel Kibble, Dave Thomas, Alvin Chea and Khristian Dentley. The group was founded at Oakwood University in Huntsville in 1980 and took its current name in 1988. Take 6’s newest recording, "One," in 2012, is notable for the group’s return to its spiritual heritage.

The Aeolians of Oakwood University is a vocal ensemble founded in 1946 by
Dr. Eva B. Dykes. The group has traveled around the world, including a 2012 performance at the Moscow International Performing Arts Center under the patronage of Michael McFaul, U.S. Ambassador to Russia.

Two days prior, the Aeolians will be performing at the UAHuntsville's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program, at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, in the University Center Exhibit Hall.

Aeolians at recent performance in Huntsville.
Oakwood University faculty, staff dedicate renovated Eugenia Cunningham Hall for student services

By Kay Campbell | kcampbell@al.com

on January 03, 2013 at 11:04 AM, updated January 03, 2013 at 11:17 AM

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – Faculty and staff at Oakwood University circled the lobby of the newly renovated Eugenia Cunningham Hall this morning, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, to dedicate the former dormitory for its new use as a student information center.

The $5 million renovation converts the three-story building into a central location for all the offices that support student matriculation, including student finance, admissions, recruitment, health, counseling, registration, testing and tutoring, as well as faculty development.

The building, which was constructed in 1947 as a women's dormitory, also now houses five state-of-the-art conference rooms.

The year-long project brings together the offices, which had been scattered in four separate buildings around the campus, said Sabrina Cotton, the vice president for financial affairs, who participated in the dedication. Other senior administrators and chaplains led the short dedication, and then the faculty and staff members were invited to take a self-guided tour of the facility.

Registration for the Spring 2013 semester for the Seventh-day Adventist institution begins Monday, Jan. 7. The university saw a record enrollment of 2,023 students during Fall 2012, and more than 2,000 are expected to return, Cotton said.
Laurel Resident Releases New Book

Source: TEACH Services, Inc.
Dated: Dec. 27, 2012

DeWitt S. Williams, a Laurel, Maryland, resident, recently released a book titled Highly Committed. The book chronicles the life of Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and that of his family.

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Laurel Resident Released Family Biography of the President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

RINGGOLD, Ga. – DeWitt S. Williams, a Laurel, Maryland, resident, recently released a book titled Highly Committed. The book chronicles the life of Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and that of his family.

For more than 100 years, the Wilson family has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in some capacity, beginning with William Henry Wilson, Ted N. C. Wilson’s great grandfather. The book traces this history and examines the family’s unwavering commitment of service and the rare fact that a father and son, Neal and Ted Wilson, have both held the highest position in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, that of president of the General Conference.

Williams served as the associate director of health for the Health/Temperance Department at the General Conference from 1983 until 1990, and then as director of health for the North American Division from 1990 until he retired in 2010 after 46 years of service to the Adventist Church. While serving at the GC, Williams lectured in more than 100 countries, wrote articles about the importance of good health, and talked to young people about the dangers of drugs.

Before his appointment to the Health/Temperance Department, Williams held positions as pastor in the Southwest Region Conference; department secretary for the Congo Union, Africa; president of the Central Africa Union; and assistant and associate director of the General Conference Department of Communications.

In addition to Highly Committed, Williams has written four other books, three of which were co-authored. In addition to writing and volunteering on numerous boards, Williams enjoys exercising and has run in several marathons.

Williams is a graduate of Oakwood University and Andrews University. Furthermore, he earned his doctor of education degree from Indiana University in 1975 and his master of public health from Loma Linda University in 1985.
"Highly Committed" is published by TEACH Services, and is available through the publisher’s Web site (http://www.TEACHServices.com), Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or local bookstores by request.

For more information or to schedule an interview with the author, media professionals may contact Alison Lopez-Ramirez at marketing@teachservices.com.

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Jonathan Slocumb: Comedian talks mentors, working with Vivica Fox and Aretha Franklin, more

By Matt Wake | mwake@al.com

on December 28, 2012 at 4:46 PM

Print

View/Post Comments

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- The voice on the phone identified himself as Michael Jordan.

Understandably, comedian Jonathan Slocumb was hesitant to believe this and replied, "Yeah, right... Seriously, who is this?"

The caller handed the phone over to another person and then a female voice indicated she was Jordan's assistant. And that the NBA legend enjoyed Slocumb's performance hosting the 1996 NAACP Image Awards a couple nights prior so much he wanted Slocumb to host the launch of his new Nike shoe line, the Jordan Brand. In two days. In Las Vegas.

"She asked, 'Will you be available?' 'Uh, give me one second. Yes," Slocumb recalls, calling from Houston, Texas, where the comedian is at a park with his son.

On Dec. 29, Slocumb, who attended Oakwood University and is now based in Los Angeles, will host the 100 Black Men of America-Greater Huntsville Chapter's Holiday Gala, to be held 6 p.m. at the Von Braun Center's North Hall (700 Monroe St.). Individual tickets are $75 and reserved tables for eight can be purchase for $600. For more information, call 256-536-8050.

Jonathan, you're known for your ability to perform for both mainstream and faith-based audiences. What do you think enables you to do that?

Actually, that's the way a real, balanced person lives their life. No balanced person is one-sided, so the same person that would enjoy the music of, say, Shirley Caesar also enjoys the music of Patti LaBelle. Comedy is the same thing. I happen to be an outspoken Christian person, but I believe in balance and my audience believes the same thing.
The theme for the 100 Black Men Holiday Gala you’re hosting in Huntsville is "The 100 as One: Mission-Vision-Cause," which reflects the organization’s emphasis on mentorship. Who are a couple of key mentors that have made a big difference in your career?

No question, that would be Bill Cosby and Sinbad. To me they’re the absolute best at this whole game, and who I have actual contact with and have performed on stages with. They define everything I want to be. They get it. They have a very diverse audience from all walks of life, and we all basically talk about life. I've found a niche because a lot of people in the African-American community are not impressed with profanity and negative depiction of women and so forth.

What are some things you've come across in the last few months that have made you laugh?

This is a festive time of year that families get together to exchange gifts, and it's so funny that we work all year to get money to spend for one day. One day. And we sing these things called Christmas carols that nobody knows all the words to. On the 10th day of Christmas, what did my true love give to me? Nobody knows. They just know the five golden rings.

On the TV series "The Steve Harvey Show" you played a funk musician and in Tyler Perry’s film "Meet the Browns" you played a pastor. Which character did you identify with more?

Actually the funk band. Music really fuels my comedy and my writing, and my full show has a lot of music in it. Oakwood was known for their music contributions to the world, and I was given my first big break when I toured with Take 6, and most of them went to Oakwood. The preacher for the movie, all I did was watch some of those fake televangelists. I was just representing all those horrific preachers out there who are preachers for tax credits only. They don't care about people; they just want the tax credits.

You toured this past summer with the legendary soul singer Aretha Franklin as her opening act and host. Was there a song that knocked you out every night during her show more than "Respect"?

That's the one. She'd end with "Respect." And even to this day, people cannot spell respect. You’d hear the audience (singing), " R – E – S – T – P." They know the tune but they don't know how to spell respect. Her show is still high-energy and the audience never leaves unsatisfied.

You also recently completed a national tour of the stage play "Cheaper To Keep Her," which starred Vivica Fox. Is she as good-looking in person as she is on the screen?

This is how I describe Vivica: Imagine this beautiful, elegant woman walking down a dark alley. And in one hand she has a white French poodle, and in the other hand she has a black pitbull, and she's wearing Timberland boots and a gown. That's Vivica Fox. She's as hardcore as any guy you'd want to meet, but then there's this feminine, beautiful, professional, classy woman. I'd work with her a thousand more times. She's the giving, heartwarming woman I've ever worked with in this industry.

I know you're dedicated to perform comedy without profanity, but are there some comics that curse a
I've made a choice to what I deliver, but I also enjoy brilliance and Chris Rock is at the top. His brain is like none other. He comes up with stuff that, as a comedian, you think "Why didn't I think of that?"

More: [www.100ghc.org](http://www.100ghc.org), [twitter.com/jokeumslocumb](http://twitter.com/jokeumslocumb)
Singing Group Committed In Huntsville For Christmas

Singing group and Huntsville's own Committed was in town spreading some Christmas cheer.

Posted: Monday, December 24, 2012 5:29 pm

HUNTSVILLE, Ala (WAAY)-Singing group and Huntsville's own Committed was in town spreading some Christmas cheer. Committed performed two Christmas concerts at the Rock Family worship center in Huntsville.

The a capella group met at Oakwood University and in 2010 won a television singing contest. After that they signed a record deal and recorded two albums.

Group member Robbie Pressley says its been a fun ride getting to sing professionally around the world. "Its been a great experience, so far. We met in college and we never thought we would be doing this full time and we had a platform to push us above and beyond. And we've been able to go across the nation and the world" Pressley said.

Member Tommy Gervais says as Seventh Day Adventist Christian, the group always put God first in their music. "I feel like this is a great way to spread His love and the word through us. We can sing and tour and make CD'S but getting to see the people, they don't see God until they meet us" Gervais said.

Robbie Pressley agrees. "Its very important, that's our ultimate goal because we are committed to our music and committed to each other and committed to God. And its most important for us to minister to the masses".

Committed's musical influences include: Boys to Men and a capella group Take 6 to name a few. The day after Christmas Committed goes on tour in London, England.