OU represented at Southern Union Conference Quinquennial Ministerium

Every five years, the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists holds its ministerium convention, to nurture, support and educate its ministers. Oakwood was well represented January 6-9, 2013, in Daytona Beach, Florida.
OU music associate professor Adriana Perera presented "Levites in the XXI Century: The Challenge" on the relevance and impact of music ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Dr. Keith Augustus Burton, director of Oakwood's Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, presented "Building Bridges with our Muslim Friends." Enrollment Management's Ms. Kerth Payne and Team PR's Tim Allston coordinated Oakwood's exhibit booth, distributing materials to the estimated 3000 ministers and their families who attended.

Adriana Perera addresses the impact of music ministry in the 21st Century.

Dr. Keith Burton gives suggestions on building bridges with Muslim believers.

OU Students praised for E.G.White Estate Presentation
Oakwood University coordinated the Sabbath program at the Ellen G. White Estate's Year-end Consultation, January 4-7, 2013, on Kent Island, Maryland. Writers of the eight best student papers submitted were awarded a scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to Kent Island.

"OU students gave a great presentation to the Trustees of the EGW Estate, drawing on demographic research to show that the Bible and EGW has solutions to the growing problem of family dysfunction and related disparities," said Dr. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, Director of Education of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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**Oakwood professor considers meaning of medieval art at Huntsville Museum of Art**

In medieval times, art "was more of a sermon from the church to the church than the creative expression of individuals," said Huntsville Museum of Art curator Peter Baldaia Friday as he walked through an exhibit with Bobby Harrison, professor of art appreciation at Oakwood University. Read the entire al.com article [here](#).
Oakwood professor to speak at Calhoun's King tribute

By Bayne Hughes | The Decatur Daily | @dd_baynehughes

G. Russell Seay Jr., assistant professor of religion at Oakwood University, will be the featured speaker at Calhoun Community College's annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute on January 14 in the Kelley Gymnasium.

Calhoun's Black Student Alliance and Nursing instructor Vickie Hale-Brown will host the ceremony that begins at 11:00 a.m.

After serving for 30 years as a pastor and denominational administrator, Seay joined the Oakwood University faculty in 2010. The Memphis native's research interests are Martin Luther King Jr. studies, critical race theory, philosophy of religion, Protestant Reformation thought and the doctrine of grace.

The Oakwood Adventist Academy Choir, under the direction of Dr. Phillip Williams, will be the special musical guest.

The program is free and open to the public.

Oakwoodites Discuss Theology of Ordination on NAD Committee

At the 2011 North American Division Year-end Meeting, a committee was voted to provide direction to discussion of the biblical theology of ordination and its implications prior to the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Three of the members of the North American Division's Theology of Ordination Committee are from the Southern Union, and at least four that we know of are Oakwoodites. Members elected to serve on the North American Division's Theology of Ordination Committee include:

Gordon Bietz, Chairman - President, Southern Adventist University
Kyoshin Ahn - Executive Secretary, Illinois Conference
Dedrick Blue (OC, class of 1983) - Pastor, Northeastern Conference
JoAnn Davidson - Professor, Andrews University
Dwight Nelson - Pastor, Michigan Conference
Kendra Haloviak-Valentine - Associate Professor, La Sierra University
Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson - Professor, La Sierra University
Stephen Richardson (OC, class of 1981) - Pastor, Allegheny East Conference
Edwin Reynolds - Professor, Southern Adventist University
Russell Seay (OC, class of 1980) - Assistant Professor, Oakwood University
Tara Vincross - Pastor, Pennsylvania Conference
Clinton Wahlen - Associate Director, Biblical Research Institute
Ivan Williams (OC, class of 1986) - Director, Ministerial Dept., North American Div.

Steve Norman, Communication Director of the Southern Union Conference and Editor of the Southern Tidings, recently suggested "Please pray for this committee as they work and Gordon Bietz as he chairs this committee."

**Local facility offers discount for Commencement guests**

The Embassy Suites Hotel and Spa in Huntsville (conveniently located across from the Von Braun Center where Oakwood's Commencement activities are held), has announced a special rate of $159/night + tax for anyone staying at the Embassy Suites for a graduation service: $159/night + tax. The rate is good beginning as early as Wednesday, May 8, through Sunday, May 12, 2013.

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JANUARY 11-12, 2013

Back to School Concert
Friday, January 11, 2013, at 7:00 pm

• Oakwood Adventist Elementary Choir
• Oakwood Adventist Academy Choir
• Voices of Triumph
• Oakwood University Choir
• Oakwood University Aeolians
• Psalm 3

BACK TO SCHOOL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
SABBATH, JANUARY 12, 2013,
AT 11:00 AM

SPEAKER: DR. CARLTON P. BYRD
MUSIC: OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY AEOLIANS
AND GOSPEL RECORDING ARTISTS, "VIRTUE"

Oakwood University Church
5500 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
Phone 256.837.1255
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Meetings will be held at Oakwood University in Moran Hall 100
Admission is FREE with limited seating to the first 30 registrants

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- Performing head-to-toe assessments
- Conducting triage under simulated conditions
- Selecting and setting up a treatment area

For More Information (256) 726-8133 or euserves@oakwood.edu
Prayerfully consider Huntsville Museum of Art’s exhibits: Objects of Devotion, Divine Masterpieces and Encounters: John Donovan

By Kay Campbell / kcampbell@al.com
on January 09, 2013 at 9:30 AM, updated January 09, 2013 at 12:21 PM

All three exhibits, Encounters: John Donovan, Divine Masterpieces: Selections from Bob Jones University Museum & Gallery and Object of Devotion: Medieval English Alabaster Sculpture from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, will remain at the museum through Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013. And all three, while appealing to those who view them merely as works of art, also can carry deeper messages for people who view them through the lens of faith.

It’s hard to look at Donovan’s depictively cuddly warriors, assembled from remnants of both the stuff of military weapons and the stuff of children’s toys, without thinking of Isaiah’s prophecy God inspiring nations to beat swords into plowshares. The works re-imagine fierce killers as the winsome children they also are. Whether or not Donovan, who teaches at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, means the works as statements of the absurdity of war and the humanness of the warriors inside their armor, those are meanings the collection offers.

Art for prayer’s sake

Speculating on the intentions of the sculptors and paintings, most anonymous, whose works are included in the museum’s other special exhibits, is less risky.

“These people had almost no color in their lives,” Harrison said. “Dyes and pigments were expensive and precious. They couldn’t read, they couldn’t write. They could walk out of their drab, windowless huts — out of that drudge and into the glorious cathedral where the paintings are rich with sumptuous colors and touched with gold.”

Walking into Heaven

Those congregations of artists in the workshops used the vocabulary of iconography so that figures and situations could be instantly recognized by the viewer, Harrison said. And they were created, to almost literally, provide a glimpse of paradise.

“These people had almost no color in their lives,” Harrison said. “Dyes and pigments were expensive and precious. They couldn’t read, they couldn’t write. They could walk out of their drab, windowless huts — out of that drudge and into the glorious cathedral where the paintings are rich with sumptuous colors and touched with gold.”

Picturing the serene alabaster carvings that are now almost all white encrusted in color and gilt is hard for the modern viewer to imagine.

“They would look maybe even garish to our eyes,” Baldaia said. “It would look maybe even garish to our eyes.”

The apparent difference between the flatter Byzantine iconic style of the earlier paintings and the more realistic, rounder style of the early Renaissance works should not be taken as a symbol of artistic skill, Baldaia said, but of what the artist was trying to say with the painting.

“Points out the meaning of the odd tiny man tucked at the corner of a Byzantine-style painting of Mary and Jesus (he was likely the donor that made the painting possible), the more realistic style of painting behind him demonstrates how artists during the Renaissance wanted to convey the humanity of the holy family. The paintings, created within the same half-century, show that artists had different intents, not necessarily different skills, in the works they did,” (Kay Campbell / kcampbell@al.com)

In the older works, artists convey the eternal sublimity of the holy figures in their serenity and poise. In the Renaissance settings where the Virgin Mary looks like she could have been a neighbor — group of caroling angels to one side notwithstanding — the art expresses the immediacy of the experiences of Jesus and Mary on Earth. God is no longer far away or unearthly, but couched in the base of the cross felt.

"These were made in workshops," Baldaia said. "This is not art for the pure fun of it."

The Trinity, God the Father holding up Jesus on the cross, with the Holy Spirit as a dove on top of the cross, is a recurring scene in the alabaster carvings on exhibit at the Huntsville Museum of Art. The carvings, on loan from London’s Victoria and Albert Museum, would have been used in the homes of the fairly well-off as a locus for devotional meditation. (Kay Campbell / kcampbell@al.com)

John Donovan’s River Animals: Bear is among the disturbing sculptures that depict the militancy of ancient warriors through the vocabulary of child’s toys. Looing at the sculptures as a person of faith can also find a message of the absurdity of war and the essential humanity of the warriors sent off to kill each other. (Kay Campbell / kcampbell@al.com)

Huntsville, Alabama — Before people wandering the Huntsville Museum of Art can find the priceless treasures of Medieval and Renaissance paintings and alabaster carvings, which are in the museum’s climate-controlled rooms, they are likely to be distracted by the profoundly quirky clay sculptures of John Donovan just off the first gallery.

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"Encounters: John Donovan" is included in regular admission to the museum. The cost is $10 for adults, $8 for students, seniors and members of the military and $5 for children ages 5 to 11. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free for members.

For more about the exhibit, see this story by Huntsville Times arts reporter Pat Ammons.