Oakwoodites' presence during Presidential Inauguration activities

Wintley Phipps (Oakwood, class of 1976), founder of the U.S. Dream Academy, award-winning vocalist and pastor, is scheduled as a featured soloist for the Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, January 22, at 10:30 a.m.

President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, interfaith leaders and other dignitaries will attend. The service will be webcast live at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org).

While we congratulate Wintley for this esteemed second consecutive invitation, he's not the only Oakwoodite scheduled to witness, or participate in, inauguration weekend activities.

Five current Oakwood students -- Julia Phipps (lead), Stephanie Campbell, Temar Ellis, David McNair and Andrews Sellers -- will be chaperoning a group of 14 boys and girls from the John McClure Snook Youth Club in Foley, Alabama. Read how al.com reporter Carol McPhail describes their story [here](#).

Julia Phipps and Andrew Sellers were also interviewed by Daniela Perallon from the local CBS affiliate station, WHNT-TV News 19. Watch the interview [here](#).
Academic "Credit for Life Experience" workshops

Because "prior learning" may be converted to academic credits toward a college degree through Oakwood's LEAP program, the Adult and Continuing Education Department will be hosting two Credit for Prior Learning Workshops.

The first workshop, scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., is for Deans and Chairs of the Psychology, Business, Religion, and Information Technology/Computer Science departments. The second workshop, for LEAP students, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, at 6:00 p.m. Both workshops will be held in the Committee of 100 Auditorium of the McKee Business & Technology Complex.

Special presenter will be Dr. Sandra Price, former Vice President of Academic Affairs and professor in Oakwood's Adult & Continuing Education Department.

Welcome!
~ by Cheri Wilson, Director of Adult & Continuing Education

The Office of Adult and Continuing Education is pleased to welcome Ms. Alexandrea Frye as the
new Office Manager and Admissions Coordinator. Ms. Frye comes to us highly recommended for her professionalism, efficiency, tenacity, and exceptional customer service.

As an Oakwood alumna, Ms. Frye recognizes the importance of a college education as a path to improving the quality of life for the whole family. She "hit the ground running" and has already started application files for more than 30 students for Fall 2013. Ms. Frye is a team player and the Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) Team is ecstatic to have her join the team! God bless Ms. Frye as she grows and serves at Oakwood University.

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**Oakwood University's Leadership Academy**

On page 32 of the January 2013 issue of the *Southern Tidings*, read about Oakwood University's Leadership Academy.

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**Oakwood to host MLK Weekend Basketball Tournament**

The Ambassadors and Lady Ambassadors will host Canadian University College,
Judson College, Southwestern Adventist University and Washington Adventist University, in the **Oakwood University Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Classic** -- to be held in the Ashby Gymnasium - beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 19, 2013.

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Multi-Generational Diversity is topic of 2013 DEEP Retreat

Approximately 50 of Oakwood's Administrators, School Deans, Department
Chairs and Program Directors will be joining their counterparts from Southern Adventist University for the DEEP Leadership Retreat, January 25-27, 2013.

The retreat will be held on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. Several engaging and interesting activities have been planned, focusing on multi-generational diversity.

Dr. William S. Bossert, senior pastor of the Riverview Adventist Church in Reno, Nevada, will present the featured workshop, titled "Capsized in a Perfect Storm."

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**One of our OU? Oh, Yes! readers comments:**

"This is great! So glad to be in touch with my school and the current events occurring there. Keep communicating!"

~ Myra Franklin Smith, Oakwood, class of 1978

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Forward this email

Oakwood University PR Ofc | 7000 Adventist Blvd. NW | Huntsville, AL | 35896
Members of the violin class at the John McClure Snook Youth Club practice their pieces in Foley, Alabama. The club is sending 14 youngsters to Washington D.C. for the second inauguration of President Barack Obama, which is set for Monday, Jan. 21, 2013. (Photo by Snook Youth Club)

FOLEY, Alabama – A group of 14 boys and girls from the John McClure Snook Youth Club in Foley will leave this weekend for Washington D.C. to attend the second inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The youths, ages 9 to 14, are part of an after-school program at the club, a nonprofit organization that was formerly part of the Boys and Girls Club of South Alabama. Director Deborah Ferguson said the organization is relying on donations and proceeds from fundraisers to pay for the trip, which will cost almost $9,000.

She said some parents suggested the idea few months ago. “They said, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if our kids could go to the inauguration?’”

“After the election, they came back and said, ‘Are we going to do it?’”

Parents held fish fries and bake sales, and received help from two local churches, the South Baldwin Democrats and other donors. The Snook Club continues to accept monetary donations to replace field trip money that’s being used for the event. Staffers are also collecting warm blankets and clothing for the young travelers.

“None of the children could afford this trip,” Ferguson said.

The group will leave Saturday at noon, drive through the night and arrive at Trinity Washington University, where they will stay, at about 7 a.m. Sunday. On Monday, they will be up at 4 a.m. heading to the National Mall to get as close as they can to the festivities.

“We look at it as an excellent opportunity for civic engagement,” Ferguson said, adding that the club’s motto identifies the children as “global citizens who care about the world.”

The club, she said, wants to help them to understand fully what it means to be a citizen – beyond just saying the Pledge of Allegiance. “Going to the inauguration helps to cement that in their minds,” she said.

The four boys and 10 girls were chosen from 32 participants in the after-school program based in part on their
marks in behavior, Ferguson said.

Kishawn Knight, 12, said he has never been that far away from home before – only to Louisiana and Tennessee. "I think we’re going to see a lot of stuff, like the Lincoln Memorial and the White House, of course,” he said.

The sixth-grader at Foley Intermediate School said his mom was especially excited for him. "I think she wants me to make her proud,” he said. Kishawn has been attending the after-school program for at least five years, where he takes violin, choral and art lessons.

The group will be chaperoned by two Snook Club staffers, three parents and five supporters. Five college students from Oakwood University in Huntsville will also meet the group at Trinity to help oversee the trip, Ferguson said. After the inauguration and parade, the group will do some sightseeing and return to Foley at about midnight Tuesday.

Most of the club’s participants live within an eight- to 10-block radius in Foley, Ferguson said. "That’s the area they travel in their whole lives. So one of the things we actively do here is to try to get our children out of that eight-block radius,” she said.

The Snook Club was formed after the Boys and Girls Club pulled back on operations in Baldwin County in 2008, turning them over to other nonprofit organizations.

Carol McPhail is on Facebook and Twitter.

Related Stories
Foley’s Snook Youth Club in Washington awaiting presidential inauguration

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FOLEY, Ala. (WHNT) – A few months ago, it would have seemed unlikely a group of children from Foley, Alabama would get to experience the inauguration of a President of the United States. Now, 14 kids from the John McClure Snook Youth Club are heading to Washington, D.C.

Julia Phipps, a Senior at Oakwood University. Phipps spent her summer in Foley, doing art projects with the kids. Phipps, along with five other Oakwood students, will be chaperoning the kids on their trip to the Capitol.

“I think it’s an enormous experience for them because there are so many great things that come with travel, to open them up to that opportunity is beautiful and wonderful,” said Phipps.

Phipps says a trip like this gives the children something to aspire to outside of their small town in South Alabama.

“They probably don’t get any involvement in political things, so to give them that experience, maybe one of them will feel the need to become a president of the United States,” said Phipps.

The youth club has been fundraising to afford the nearly $9,000 trip. They will leave Foley on Saturday and drive through the night to DC. They plan to wake up bright and early Monday morning to get as close to the inauguration festivities as possible.