Congratulations, Mr. President!

One of the national highlights of the past week was the second inauguration of Barack H. Obama as the 44th President of the United States. Several Oakwoodites were blessed to witness the 57th Presidential Inauguration ceremony on January 21, 2013. Among them were Oakwood's President and First Lady, Drs. Leslie and Prudence Pollard.
Jadon Williams, son of OU English instructor Josh Williams, in the crowd on the Washington mall.  
(Source: Facebook)

Oakwoodites' celebrate the 57th Presidential Inauguration

Bundled up to brave DC's cold temperatures: (l-r) Audrey King-Lewis, Sharon Thomas Yarbrough, Tina Robinson, Andrew Harewood, Cynthia Powell-Hicks, June Dennis, Glynis Pierre-Louis, Denise Willis and Victoria Harrison. All are Oakwood alumni except
Oakwoodites Sharon Thomas Yarbrough and Glynis Pierre-Louis coordinated a very successful Swearing-In Ceremony Inaugural Brunch. This event was held by Sisters Empowering Hawaii, of which Sharon is the Founder and President.

Attendees included Madame M.C. Townsend (CA) Regional Director of the Black Chamber of Commerce; Elizabeth Coggs (former Wisconsin legislator); Maria Amor Torres, Board Member Council on Trade and Investment for Filipino Americans; Martin C. Rodriguez, C.E.O. Marlan's Group; Donna Hakimian, Representative for the Advancement of Women Baha'is of the United States; Noelette Leader, Singer/Speaker/Composer; Dr. Andrew R. Harewood, Senior Pastor 4th Friendship Church, Washington, D.C., and 20001 Acting Command Chaplain; Denise L. Cook, The ORACLE; Millena Gay Actress and Emcee Host of "Manners and More With Millena"; and Steve R. Allen, Cultural Ambassador for DRC (Congo).

The story describing five current Oakwood students -- Julia Phipps (lead), Stephanie Campbell, Temar Ellis, David McNair and Andrews Sellers -- chaperoning a group of 14 boys and girls from the John McClure Snook Youth Club in Foley, Alabama, has been making the rounds in the media.

In a follow-up story, al.com/Huntsville Times
Wintley Phipps' rich voice enhanced the Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service on Tuesday.

reporter Carol McPhail said that the children were 'excited, happy' to see the inaugural activities. WAAY-TV Channel 31 also covered the story.

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**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.

**MLK Weekend Basketball Tournament Update**

The Ambassadors and Lady Ambassadors hosted teams from Canadian University College (CUC), Judson College (JC), Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) and Washington Adventist University (WAU), for the **Oakwood University (OU) Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Classic** -- January 19-21, 2013.

WAU men won all of their games; OU men won 2, lost 1; women won 2; SWAU men won 1, lost 2; women won 1, lost 1; JC women lost both games.
**Oakwood "commUniversity" announces its line-up of Black History Month activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker/Guest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Student Dining Hall</td>
<td>Black History Month kick-off: games and trivia contest</td>
<td>Dr. Carlton P. Byrd St. Barnabas Primitive Baptist Church Choir; Oakwood Adventist Elementary School Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Divine Worship</td>
<td>Dr. Jahmane Kunjufu – writer, educator, publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Student Dining Hall</td>
<td>Black Entertainment Day:</td>
<td>Black movie will be shown during lunch</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Dr. Andrews Hugino, Jr., President, Alabama A&amp;M University</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Divine Worship</td>
<td>Dr. Leslie Pollard, OU President Aeolians</td>
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<td>February 13</td>
<td>Student Dining Hall</td>
<td>African Day</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu – writer, educator, publisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Divine Worship</td>
<td>Pastor Michael Kelly, Senior Pastor – Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Tuskegee University Choir; “Tract Attack” immediately following service</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>Student Dining Hall</td>
<td>Creole Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Black History in Music and Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Divine Worship</td>
<td>Dr. Carlton P. Byrd Alabama A&amp;M University Choir; DeVon Franklin, Senior VP at Columbia Pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Student Dining Hall</td>
<td>Caribbean Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Oakwood University Church</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Miss Isabel Wilkinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**History and Political Science Recognizes Supporters**

~ by Dr. Samuel London, Chairman

**Erica Roberts**

The Department of History and Political Science is taking this opportunity to thank
alumna Ms. Erica Roberts (Oakwood, class of 2005), for her monetary contribution to the Department. Ms. Roberts is a former International Studies major who attended the Howard University Law School, where she graduated in 2009. Afterward, Erica found employment with the prestigious Chicago Law Firm of Jenner & Block. She is currently pursuing a career in design.

Additionally, the Department expresses gratitude to Mr. Barrington Smith (pictured, left), who has enthusiastically shown support for the History program. Twice, during the fall semester of 2012, Mr. Smith presented his collection of historical artifacts to the students of the Department.

Furthermore, this semester he provided a scholarship to Ms. Aldavina Dos Santos (pictured, right), a student worker for the Department of History and Political Science, assisting her in meeting her financial obligation to the University.
**Oakwood's Honda All-Star Challenge Team Serves Community**

Honda Campus All-Star Challenge teams from Oakwood University and sister
institution Alabama A&M University are participating in the Honda Challenge academic competition this year. Part of the criteria to qualify is taking part in a service project. That service was performed on the recent Martin Luther King Day holiday, on which many spend as a "day of service." Read/watch local NBC affiliate station WAAF's coverage of the story here.

**Take 6 and Aeolians co-starred in 24th Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream concert**

In 1963, then Governor George Wallace gave his infamous "segregation" speech on the steps of University of Alabama's Foster Auditorium. Last weekend, 50 years later and 300 yards away, in the UA's Moody Music Building, Oakwood-birthed Take 6 and the world-champion Aeolians choir, showcased Oakwood's finest musical traditions: tight, six- and eight-part *a cappella* harmonies, Negro spirituals, and traditional anthems, to a near-capacity crowd of Tuscaloosans, and a sizeable contingent of Huntsville (and Birmingham, and Nashville, and greater Atlanta) family and supporters. Read the *Tuscaloosa News* preview here.

*Take 6's Claude McKnight hit one of his signature high notes during the 2013 "MLK Realizing the Dream" concert in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on January 19, 2013. The program also featured Oakwood's Aeolians.*
For the second consecutive year, Oakwood and Huntsville's WAAY-TV (ABC) have partnered to produce WAAY’s "Black History Month Celebration" series.

Ms. Kisha Norris, Oakwood's Executive Director of Advancement and Development, and Tim Allston, OU's Director of Public Relations, will serve as the on-camera lead-in talent for the 100, 60-second vignettes that will be aired, beginning February 1.

Vignette honorees include noted Black Alabamians from civil rights, education, the arts, sports, science, and public service fields -- some are guaranteed to surprise you!

So, who will WAAY-TV and Oakwood honor, besides Birmingham's Dr. Condoleezza Rice and Huntsville's Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery?

Tune in, as the airing times will be 5:00 to 7:00 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Mondays through Fridays); 5:00-5:30 p.m. and 10:00 to 10:35 p.m. (Mondays through Sundays), CST.

Huntsville native
Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery
MOBILE, Alabama – Before he left for Washington D.C., Kishawn Knight, 12, said he was excited about seeing “a lot of stuff,” like the Lincoln Memorial and the White House.

While in the nation’s capital with a group from Foley’s John McClure Snook Youth Club, he got to do much more than that. In fact, he was on the right side of Pennsylvania Avenue for Monday’s Inaugural Parade, where he was able to see President Barack Obama up close.

"I felt excited and happy," the sixth-grader said Tuesday as the group headed back to Alabama by bus. They were scheduled to arrive at about midnight.

Snook Youth Club, a former Boys and Girls Club, was able to raise $9,000 from fundraisers and donations to take 14 students, ages 9 to 14, two staffers, three parents and five supporters to Washington. Five college students from Oakwood University in Huntsville met them at Trinity Washington University, where they stayed during the trip.

Snook Youth Club Director Deborah Ferguson recalled a long and cold, but fulfilling, day at the National Mall that began before dawn.

The group landed four tickets to a seating area, where they would be able to get a good view of the president taking the oath of office. These went to two students with the highest GPAs and two staffers. The rest of the group waited in vain to get into the general admission area, but managed to make it to the Inaugural Parade nonetheless.

"I was really happy that everybody got a good experience in some way," Ferguson said. "And everyone got to ride the Metrorail, which was a highlight of the trip for them."

In addition to the inauguration and the Metrorail, the youth were impressed with two things in particular, Ferguson said – riding an escalator and experiencing a revolving door. They spent Sunday getting acquainted with the National Mall and nearby museums prior to Inauguration Day.

Most of the children on the trip live within an eight- to 10-block of the nonprofit Snook Club in Foley, where they take violin, choral and art lessons.

While in Washington, some of the children also took pictures with a U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard. Ferguson said the trip will be valuable, "especially for a young African-American male, to see all the possibilities – to see African-American men who are not criminals, who are not on television because of a crime they committed ... and more importantly who are doing something of service, giving service to their nation."

As they headed back Tuesday, teacher Lynn Hughes helped the children search for interesting facts in a special inaugural edition of the Washington Post.

"The whole thing is a learning journey," Ferguson said.
Click the images to see what the group did, or click here to go straight to the gallery on your mobile device.

Carol McPhail is on Facebook and Twitter.

Carol McPhail is on Facebook and Twitter.

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- Civil Rights history, much of it Alabama connected, on display during Obama inauguration

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Oakwood University students in Washington D.C. for Inauguration - W...
Volunteers repaint walls for Day of Service

Posted: Jan 21, 2013 8:40 PM EST
Updated: Jan 21, 2013 8:42 PM EST
By WAFF.com Staff - email

MADISON COUNTY, AL (WAFF) - Some volunteers from Oakwood University and Alabama A&M spent this Martin Luther King Day holiday in a day of service.

They gathered at the ARC of Madison County to repaint some walls for community service.

ARC is a non-profit that helps people with disabilities.

Both college campuses will participate in the Honda Challenge academic competition this year. Part of the criteria to qualify is taking part in a service project.

It just so happens, Monday is also Dr. Martin Luther King's "Day of Service."

"It's a wonderful opportunity to bring several good ideas together. That is, the Day of Service. It gives us the opportunity to partner with our sister school down the road, A&M, coming together to render this service to a local organization," said Patricia Stewart Daniel with Oakwood University.

"We can work together academically to be brighter, to know more, to prepare for our personal lives, but it also says we want to give," said Barbara Jones, Alabama A&M Honda Challenge Coach.

ARC of Madison County said they really appreciate the help. They said the new paint will give the interior a much-needed "fresh look."

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Volunteers repaint walls for Day of Service - WAFF-TV: News, Weather...
Take 6 headlines 24th Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream concert

By Mark Hughes Cobb
Tusk Editor
Published: Friday, January 18, 2013 at 3:30 a.m.

A cappella gospel sextet Take 6 took some audience members by surprise in its 2001 concert at the Moody Concert Hall. Despite the fact that only the six men appeared on stage, there seemed to be a lot more sound going on, like horn stabs, bass lines and percussion, guitar and trumpet solos.

It's a little like when Bobby McFerrin creates what sounds like a full band out of his voice and body, best known from his mega-hit "Don't Worry Be Happy." Only there are six guys doing it in Take 6, so it becomes more like an orchestra.

" 'Wait a minute? Were there instruments out there?' " said founding member and first tenor Cedric McKnight, laughing. "We try to make it so you don't miss what you would normally hear in a concert."

This year, as Take 6 celebrates the 25th anniversary of its first recording, the group comes back to Tuscaloosa on Saturday for the 24th Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream concert at Moody. They'll be joined by the Aeolians of Oakwood University in Huntsville, where the group has its roots, so the sound will be even fuller.

When McKnight, the older brother of R&B singer Brian McKnight, was starting an a capella quartet back in college, they were inspired by vocal groups such as the Hi-Lo's, the Mills Brothers, Manhattan Transfer and the Nylons.

"There were so many groups that do harmonies," he said, "even The Temptations and groups like that from an entertainment perspective."

At a rehearsal, fellow student Mark Kibble heard them and joined in, adding a fifth part, joining them in performance that very night. They added a sixth voice and became Alliance, changing the name to Take 6 after signing with Warner Brothers.

Take 6 cut its self-titled debut disc in 1988, which won them two Grammys and landed airplay on jazz and contemporary Christian stations.

"In our arrangement, we have more of a big-band style of arranging and production," McKnight said. "Mark Kibble has an ear that allows his arranging to
develop what is essentially the rhythm, the harmonies, the horn stabs, the intricacies of what you might hear in a big-band arrangement when you have competing horn sections, a walking bass line and percussion and so on."

Though they've continued to mostly perform a cappella, Take 6 has worked with bands and instruments on occasion, as the song or feel required it, racking up 10 Grammys, 10 Doves, a Soul Train award and two NAACP Image Award nominations. Take 6 has collaborated with Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, Don Henley, Ray Charles, Queen Latifah, Joe Sample, Quincy Jones, Marcus Miller, Gordon Goodwin, k.d. lang, Luis Miguel, Ben Tankard and CeCe Winans over the past few decades.

For the 25th anniversary, Take 6 will celebrate throughout 2013.

"What we decided to do was re-record that first record. For all intents and purposes, it's out of print," McKnight said. "Technology was what it was back then. For all the fans who had it back then, and for new fans, we decided to do it again with better technology, better voices."

In the process, McKnight and his partners rediscovered some material they hadn't been performing, but have brought back for the anniversary year.

"One of the other things we kind of discovered along this pathway was how young we were," he said, laughing. "I sang those first-tenor parts 25, 26 years ago. Our voices are a little more mature now. When you're a young man singing falsetto, things flow out of your voice box a little easier. It takes all of my body now, instead of just my voice.

"One of our very first tours was with Al Jarreau, around '89 or so. At that time, Al was probably just a little bit older than I am now. We used to wonder why he'd spend all day sleeping, resting up in his room. We were young. We were out were out playing basketball, goofing around.

"Now when it's time to sing, I rest up."

In all these years, there have only been two changes in the Take 6 lineup, when Joey Kibble, Mark's younger brother, came in to replace Mervyn Warren, who was leaving to become a producer. And just a year or so back, when Khristian Dentley stepped in for Cedric Dent, which had been a gradual changeover, with the two men rotating spots as Dent worked on professorial duties at Middle Tennessee State University.

"I know that we actually like each other, we respect each other," McKnight said. "It sounds kinda funny, but whether in a music setting, work setting or family, if you don't respect or make the effort to like each other, it can be a very, very difficult relationship."

Another mild surprise for Take 6 audiences might be just how wide the group's range is, adding in funk, R&B, jazz and other elements to create its sound.

"We don't proselytize or preach from the stage, but we do the things we know," McKnight said. "For us it's about gospel, the good news, the love of God. So in that sense it's definitely a ministry."

But a Take 6 show is also light-hearted; the evident good spirits among the men
plays into the performance.

"Because we have so much fun with each other on stage, we try to include the audience in on that fun. From night to night we're not even sure what each guy is going to do, other than that he better sing his part right," he said, laughing.

For Saturday's performance, audiences can expect selections from throughout Take 6's decades.

"I know we're going to do a couple of things with the choir from our alma mater, the Aeolians, and we'll throw a couple of surprises in there. It's an ongoing developing thing where we sing through our influences, so we have a lot of fun with that, usually six or more different artists," he said. "These are songs most people in the audience will recognize."

Saturday's concert is a highlight of a weekend of Realizing the Dream events. Tonight's kickoff banquet at 6:30 at the Hotel Capstone will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Cynthia Tucker, a Monroeville native formerly with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and currently the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer-in-Residence in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. Tickets are $25 and are available by calling 205-348-7111.

On Monday, there'll be a Unity Breakfast at 7 a.m. in Stillman College's Hay Center, with a Unity March starting at noon from Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and proceeding to City Hall. A mass rally will be held at 6 p.m. Monday at First African Baptist Church, 2621 Stillman Blvd.

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