Pictured at Oakwood's Commencement service: (L-R) Miss Kisha Norris, Exec. Dir. of Advancement & Development; Miss Sabrina Cotton, VP of Finance; OU's Teacher of the Year Mrs. Patrice Conwell; President Dr. Leslie N. Pollard; Dr. Garland Dulan, VP of Academic Administration.

Oakwood Alumnae honored as year's Outstanding Teachers

HBCUs honor Oakwood Alumnae with top Teacher Awards

During May 2013 Commencement exercises, both Oakwood and Hampton Universities honored Oakwood alumnae as their top teachers.

Mrs. Patrice Thomas Conwell (OC '85) received the Teacher of the Year Award at Oakwood University.

Dr. Paula C. Barnes (OC '74), chairman of the English
Department at Hampton University, was awarded the 2012-2013 E. L. Hamm Sr. Distinguished Teaching Award.

The Adventist Digital Library
by Paulette McLean Johnson, director - Eva B. Dykes Library

On May 22, 2013, library representatives from ten North American Division colleges and universities met at the General Conference (GC) to review progress and discuss issues relating to the Adventist Digital Library (ADL) now in development.

The ADL is a collaborative effort of the GC Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, the Ellen G. White Estate, the Center for Adventist Research (CAR), and the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians.

The ADL is to serve the information and research needs of students and scholars around the world. It is expected to house images, audio and video files, dissertations and theses, books and other documents. The ADL is in its initial phase and no date has been set for its release.

Paulette McLean Johnson, library director at Oakwood University, was among the attendees.

OU Staff "JAMs" in Orlando
Jenzabar is a leading provider of software, strategies, and services for higher education. The Jenzabar Annual Meeting (JAM) provides an opportunity for users of the company's administrative software to share best practices and implementation strategies.

Over 2000 attended this year's JAM, in Orlando, Florida (May 27-30), including several Oakwood staff from Accounting, Administrative Systems, Development, Student Enrollment Services and Title III.

This is the first year that an Oakwoodite has presented a JAM workshop. Karen Christmas (pictured) from the Registrar's Office, shared tips on "customizing the advising worksheet."

Bermuda Institute Celebrates 70 Years
by Dr. Roy E. Malcolm, University Historian

"Honoring the Past, Soaring toward the Future" was the theme of Bermuda Institute's (BI) 70th year Celebration held May 16-19, 2013. The school began in 1943, with 26 students in one room and one teacher. Growth in enrollment over the years demanded relocation for added classroom space. By 1965, the school was approved as a junior academy, and in 1968 produced 15 high school graduates, eleven of whom enrolled at Oakwood College that Fall.

With a current enrollment of over 330 students and 40 faculty and staff members, BI is approved by three accrediting associations. BI's graduates have gone on to further studies abroad and are making
significant contributions in their chosen professions. Many have returned to Bermuda to serve.

An example is The Honorable Craig Cannonier, J.P., M.P., Premier of Bermuda. "I am a product of the Seventh-day Adventist Education system," states the Premier, "and I can attest to the positive impact those teachings have had on my life and on the lives of my children."

The four-day celebration was a major success with strong support from the Atlantic Union, Bermuda Conference and BI Alumni. Lynn O'Donald Landy, M.A., Pastor of the Agape Faith Kingdom Ministries, was speaker for the opening ceremony at Thursday chapel. A BI alumnus, he donated $1,000 to the school/principal. The Sabbath worship speaker, Pastor David D. Steed, II, (another BI/OU alumnus) of the New Covenant SDA Church in Memphis Tennessee, stirred the hearts of the congregation in a dynamic message.

The music at all sessions was awe-inspiring featuring guest artists, Amber Bullock and the Award-winning group, Committed. Great music was provided also by outstanding local ensembles including the Academy Steel Band and Choir; Praise Teams, Heaven's Own, Spiritual Peace and the Alumni Mass Choir. Other presenters were Ru-Zelda Severin, vocalist; Pianists Lloyd Matthew, Owen Simons, etc.

The awards banquet held at the gorgeous Fairmont Southampton Princess Hotel was extremely well-supported. Premier Craig Cannonier was the keynote speaker with music by Amber Bullock and Committed. It was a delight to see awards of appreciation for service presented to former principals, alumni, retirees, community devotees, outstanding faculty and staff, etc. Principal Dr. Lois Tucker deserves highest praise for a job well done. Congratulations also to the Alumni Planning Committee.

The celebration was not without elements of surprise. Speaking eloquently from memory, Principal Tucker (pictured, right, with Dr. Malcolm) enumerated the contributions made toward the achievement of senior academy status and the successful enrollment of BI graduates in colleges abroad, especially, Oakwood University.

Dr. Tucker then read the inscription on a plaque which she announced would be placed on one of BI's buildings in honor of your humble servant, Roy E. Malcolm. That was a real surprise, and greatly appreciated While we do not work as a rule for earthly rewards, it is rewarding to know that our work is a blessing to others. "The consciousness of well doing is ample reward."
It's Camp Meeting Season

Members of the South Central Conference have gathered on OU's campus under the theme "When My People Pray," for the 67th annual Camp Meeting.

Services will conclude Sabbath afternoon, June 8, with the ordination of nine ministers: Cristian Borbon, Dorian Melo Feliz, Darron George, Edward Harden, Philip Johny, Michael A. Polite, Ramon A. Santana, Roscoe Shields, Jr., and Gregory St. Ange.

Oakwood alum Elder MyRon Edmonds, of the Glenville SDA Church in Cleveland, Ohio, delivered an enthusiastic, relevant and very well-received sermon during the Divine Worship hour of the first Sabbath.

Our OU? Oh, Yes! readers across the country may wish to continue their fellowship and spiritual reflection as Camp Meeting season continues. Here's the schedule for other Regional Conference Camp Meetings:

Central States - June 6-8 (Rocky Mountain area); June 14-15 (Eastern area); and June 21-22 (Central area)
Interfaith Mission Service to Recognize Oakwoodite

This year's theme -- "Standing on Common Ground" -- of the annual Interfaith Mission Service Celebration and Awards Dinner recognizes the dedicated people who have led efforts to promote religious tolerance, social justice, racial harmony, and care for the most vulnerable in our community.

Award winners stand on the common ground of values held by the world's great faith traditions -- justice, mercy, equality, and help for those who most need it. The Rabbi Jeffrey L. Ballon Memorial Interfaith Award will be presented to Dr. Keith Burton, Director, The Center for Adventist - Muslim Relations, at the Awards Dinner on June 24, 2013.

More information about the event can be found on the Interfaith Mission Service's website. Also read Kay Cambell's article about the event at al.com/The Huntsville Times.
The fun begins at 3:00 p.m. on
Sunday, June 9th
at Unity Pond on the Campus of Oakwood University

Bring Your Lawn Chairs, Blankets, and Coolers along with your favorite fixin’s (salads, baked beans, dessert, etc.)
The following will be provided:
Veggie Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink and Watermelon

Bring the Family to enjoy
Food, Fun, & Games
Water Balloon Contest
Pie Eating Contest
and more...

Sponsored by
Development and Alumni Relations

For more information, email alumni@oakwood.edu or call 256.726.7039

www.oakwood.edu
Interfaith Mission Service banquet features Wendi Thomas, founder of race relations initiative in Memphis (updated)

Kay Campbell | kcampbell@al.com

Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on June 06, 2013 at 6:18 AM, updated June 14, 2013 at 11:21 AM

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – Community leader and reporter Wendi C. Thomas, the metro columnist for Memphis’ The Commercial Appeal, will deliver the keynote speaker for the 2013 awards banquet for Huntsville’s Interfaith Mission Service on Monday, June 24, 2013.

The banquet will be held on June 24 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville’s University Center beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The banquet is co-sponsored by the UAH Office of Diversity.

Tickets are $75 if purchased by Monday, June 10, $100 thereafter. A Gold Sponsor with 4 seats is $500. A Platinum Sponsor, with a table of 8 seats, is $1,000. Information at www.InterfaithMissionService.org.

In 2008, Wendi Thomas founded Common Ground: Conversations on Race, Communities in Action in Memphis to bring people together in a safe place to have tough conversations about people of different races living together in the same city. The nonprofit organization leads neighborhood discussions, private sessions for Leadership classes and training meetings for public employees. It has also organized activities that help make the community better and also help bring people together across racial lines to work together and to have fun together.

The work of the organization, Thomas states on the CommonGroundMemphis.org website, has uncovered “a deep longing for reconciliation between the races.” It’s the same longing that is helping to motivate Huntsville’s involvement in the National League of Cities’ Inclusive Communities Initiative, and coincides with the goals of the Interfaith Mission Service, one of the South’s oldest interfaith networks.

The banquet will also recognize the work in Huntsville of community leaders and volunteers who lead efforts to promote religious tolerance, social justice, and racial harmony and to care for the more vulnerable in North Alabama.

Awards this year will go to Marilyn Evans, who spearheaded the organization of...
The **Greene Street Market** at the Church of the Nativity, Episcopal; to Bobby Bradley, founder and CEO of **Village of Promise**; to **Dr. Keith Augustus Burton**, the founding director of **The Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations** at **Oakwood University**; to Bhavani Kakani, president of **Asha Kiran**; and to Sue Duthie, the manager of **FoodLine** since 1996 and to Kathy Emerson, a community volunteer for more than 40 years.

The Interfaith Mission Service is an interfaith cooperative of congregations, individuals and organizations founded in 1969. The IMS ministries have helped to network resources serve people in need and to build bridges among religious, cultural and racial groups.

*NOTE: Story updated 6/11/13 at 10:05 a.m. to include fact that UAH Office of Diversity is the banquet co-sponsor.*