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SDA world church milestone in the making?

On July 22, 2013, President Leslie N. Pollard reminded the Oakwood family that he would be "serving as a member of one of the most important committees that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has ever convened--the Theology of Ordination Study Commission.

"More than 100 theologians from around the world are meeting in Baltimore, MD, along with the General Conference Executive Committee. This is the second of four (4) three-day sessions that will meet before General Conference in July of 2015.

"The issue before the committee is to decide exactly what the Bible teaches about ordination in general, and the ordination of women, in particular."

Dr. Pollard requests that the Oakwood family join the worldwide church in prayer for this process. "We want God to lead this discussion," Pollard concluded.

For an additional report from the North American Division,
Home Depot in the house!

(L-R) Joey Gilkey, Karen Smith, Sabrina Cotton, Mark Hawkins, David Knight, Ivy Starks, Tim McDonald, Carlos Cole, Lynda Ares, Fred Tate, Lewis Jones

We're one step closer to constructing our Home Depot-sponsored outdoor pavilion (pictured below). Representatives from Home Depot stopped by Oakwood this week, to present the $50,000 award (in gift cards, as displayed), that you helped us win by voting for OU in the recent "Retool Your School" HBCU Campus Improvement contest.

Now, we wish to say "thanks," and show you our appreciation for your consistent repetitive voting during those three months - in our now "Reclaim Your Name" initiative. We wish to showcase you as a Home Depot campaign "donor," and inscribe your name in our pavilion area's Donors List.

Interested?
If you voted at least once for us during this historic and successful campaign, send us your individual full name (as you wish it to appear on the Donors List) as well as your individual email address -- i.e., one full name per email address -- - to pr@oakwood.edu, by Friday, August 30, to be included.
OU Sophomore Receives Award at UAB’s Summer Internship Program

Beat Reporter: Maxine Garvey, DPT - Allied Health Department

The Minority Health & Health Disparities Research Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) held its second awards and promotion ceremony for summer interns on July 12, 2013.

Congratulations are in order for our own sophomore, Chelsea Browne (pictured at right, with UAB's Dawn Fizer). She received the second place award for her research project and poster presentation entitled “Gender Based Violence Among HIV Positive Women in Kenya.” First and third place awards went to sophomores from UAB and Tuskegee Universities respectively.

Chelsea investigated a social and public health issue that is endemic in Kenya, where many women who are HIV positive live in silence out of fear of disclosing their status and hence many cases go unreported. Due to stigma, it is believed that the one in the relationship who discloses his or her status first is the one responsible for bringing the STD into the relationship as a result of promiscuity.

The prevalence and frequency of this was investigated through a qualitative study done at the National Kenyatta Hospital's Comprehensive Care Clinic in Nairobi. Two focus groups of 19 women resulted in 56% reporting that they experienced this type of gender based violence. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of these reported that this affected their attendance at the clinic and also their compliance with medications that slow down the progression of the disease to full blown AIDS. Recommendations from the study emphasized promoting greater awareness, support, and empowerment for women receiving this diagnosis. These resources would provide them with more support from their extended families, churches, communities, and others that
have also suffered this type of abuse. Chelsea is currently a social work major with a dual career goal of Social Work and Public Health.

Oakwood is one of six HBCUs in the southern United States that is the sub-recipient of this summer research opportunity through UAB. The project is funded by a research grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH). The purpose of the project is to increase the number of well trained minority healthcare providers in the "Deep South." The students obtain rigorous knowledge and practical experience in research, scientific writing, GRE prep, and career planning. In addition, they get to see a wide range of healthcare professional schools and clinics up close.

Dr. Maxine Garvey (pictured here with Chelsea) is the OU campus coordinator for the project and provides career advisement and monitoring of the interns' academic progress throughout the school year.

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**OU science students win top accolades in South African diabetes research training**

Oakwood University science students Jordan Matthews and Amal Taylor return to US, having received both high accolades and a top prize for their research training in health disparities in South Africa.

In its first-ever ranking of academic programs at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), EBONY magazine's September 2012 issue top-ranked Oakwood University's science program.

Funded by the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities/National Institutes of Health, the Elizabeth City State University (NC) Minority Health International Research Training (E-MHIRT) Program provided opportunities for students from minority populations where there are health disparities to receive training designed to reduce and eliminate those health disparities wherever they occur.

Former Oakwood professor Dr. Ephraim Gwebu, the E-MHIRT Director, reached out to OU by inviting applications through Dr. Safawo Gullo, OU biology department chairman. Oakwood applicants Jordan Matthews and Amal Taylor joined eight others from HBCUs ECSU, North Carolina A&T State University and Norfolk State University (VA).

The students left the US in mid-May and completed their research training in mid-July, under the tutelage of US and African prominent mentors and facilitators: Ephraim Gwebu, Keratiloe Gwebu, and OU's Malcolm Cort, who collaborated with Adebola Oyedeji, Oluwantobi Oluwafemi, Opeoluwa Oyedeji and Benedicta Nkeh-Changug from the Walter Sisulu University (WSU) in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, to provide an intensive 10-weeks of research training for the students.

The Oakwood students worked on two separate research projects:

Jordan Matthews (right) was based in East London, where he focused on developing inexpensive tools for assessing pre-diabetes status for use in South Africa. Jordan's research activity took him to three clinics where he assisted in the collection of psycho-social
and anthropometric data from sub-samples of persons with and without type 2 diabetes.

His main project was the development of a Diabetes Risk Score (DRS) as a simple tool for identifying pre-diabetes status. He presented his research at the 2013 Annual E-MHIRT Symposium at Walter Sisulu University on July 18, 2013.

He, like his counterparts from the United States, received excellent accolades from the WSU research judges who described the work as, "of a very high standard."

Amal Taylor (left) was based in Mthatha, in the Chemistry Department, where he was involved in the synthesis of compounds from plant metabolites with therapeutic potential.

Under Drs. Adebola Oyedeji and Opeoluwa Oyedeji, Amal was able to extract essential properties from a local plant believed to have some medicinal properties. Amal demonstrated that the plant extracts have hypotensive, anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties.

His report earned him not just high accolades, but first prize among his ten counterparts.

"Both Jordan and Amal left the research training more strongly resolved to pursue graduate education in their chosen fields, which was one of the major objectives of the training program," remarked Dr. Gullo, adding, "These science majors have held high the banner of an Oakwood University (science) education, and deserve our highest congratulations for their work.

"Finally, a special 'thanks' to Dr. Ephraim Gwebu, for including OU students in the E-MHIRT Program."

Coming Soon, . . .
'Loveliness' still keeping house at Oakwood

On July 25, 2013, OU Grounds Department Director Carlos Cole and members of the
Grounds staff, along with several members of the OU President's Council, received the certificate indicating that the Oakwood campus has maintained its place on the City's Beautification Honor Roll.

Cole said "We got three perfect "100" scores from the judges, and three "Wow!" notations."

Keep up the good work!
"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
Benjamin Franklin

Oakwood Adventist Academy Alumni Association
(OAAAA) Alumni Sabbath
Oakwood University Church

Join us for worship and fellowship!

For more information, please see
Dr. Everett Roper, OAAAA Alumni President.

www.oa.oakwood.edu/oanaa-form

Recognizing former OAA graduates • Evening Social • Special Guests

Sabbath, August 10, 2013
TEAM PR'S THREE-PRONGED MISSION:
TO CAPTURE AND TO CAPSULE THE OAKWOOD EXPERIENCE; AND TO COMMUNICATE IT WITH SPEED, ACCURACY, CONSISTENCY AND PASSION, TO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICS UPON WHICH OUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE DEPENDS! FOR YOUR FREE ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION TO OU? OH, YES! EMAIL US AT PR@OAKWOOD.EDU.
Agreeing on a theology of ordination is preparatory to the TOSC’s other task, discussing the ordination of women to the gospel ministry.

By a vote of 86 to 8 – a ratio of almost 11 to 1 – delegates at the Seventh-day Adventist® Church’s Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) agreed yesterday to approve a consensus statement on an Adventist theology of ordination. The action was an early endorsement of the goal of TOSC leaders to move unitedly through the challenging issues surrounding the church’s discussion of ordination.

According to the statement, “Seventh-day Adventists understand ordination, in a biblical sense, as the action of the church in publicly recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global church ministry.” Biblical examples of ordained persons include elders/supervising elders and deacons, the document says, as well as “elders who were itinerant and supervised greater territory with multiple congregations.”

Explaining the role of an ordained person, the statement continues: “In the act of ordination the church confers representative authority upon individuals for the specific work of ministry to which they are appointed. These may include representing the church; proclaiming the gospel; administering the Lord’s Supper and baptism; planting and organizing churches; guiding and nurturing members; opposing false teachings; and providing general service to the congregation.”

Unlike the beliefs of some other Christian faiths, however, Seventh-day Adventist ordination “neither conveys special qualities to the persons ordained nor introduces a kingly hierarchy within the faith community.”

The statement concludes by noting “the ultimate model of Christian ministry is the life and work of our Lord, who came not to be served but to serve.”

The approval of the document came on the second day of the second 2013 gathering of TOSC members, who met at a private, non-church conference center near the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. Delegates included church pastors, lay members, scholars and officers from throughout the Seventh-day
Adventist global community, with Artur Stele, a general vice president of the world church and director of the General Conference Biblical Research Institute, as chairman. Geoffrey Mbwana, another general vice president, is vice chair.

“This is the first time the church has taken a serious study to develop a theology of ordination,” Mbwana said shortly after the vote. “It’s critical that before we discuss any issue of ordination, we actually understand a theology of ordination. Today, I think a milestone is beginning to happen: that a consensus statement has been accepted to be recommended to the General Conference, the Annual Council and then to the [GC] Session to be adopted as a statement of a theology of ordination.

Agreeing on a theology of ordination is preparatory to the TOSC’s other task, discussing the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. The subject has been debated among Seventh-day Adventists for years, with the worldwide General Conference Sessions of 1990 and 1995 declining to permit such ordinations. The TOSC is charged with producing material for discussion and making recommendations that will be acted upon at the church’s July 2015 world session, due to be held in San Antonio, Texas.

According to Bill Knott, Adventist Review editor and a member of the TOSC, “If the church can reach consensus on a common theology of ordination, it offers hope that it may also find a solution that honors the strongly held convictions on both sides of this issue.”

Committee meetings concluded on Wednesday, July 24.