Welcome, Faculty and Staff!!

Oakwood traditionally opens the school year with the annual Faculty and Staff Colloquium -- time spent in re-consecration, inspiration and learning, as well as greeting old and new faculty and staff. Here are a few opening-day highlights:
First SDA Church Senior Pastor and Colloquium Devotional leader Debleaire Snell challenges staffers to move and think beyond "average."

Residential Life Director (Edwards Hall) Woodrow Vaughn shares his testimony in response to Snell's devotional.

Institutional Effectiveness' Jan Newborn: "Assessment is about teaching and learning, more than accountability."
Verizon Wireless' Jeremiah Knight (center) on accepting 2013 Presidential Award: "I really didn't come to get an award; I came to be with the people of God."

Hail to Our champions!

By comparison:


Congratulations - from all of us!

**Why Oakwood University? Why Oakwood Adventist Academy? Why not Secular Education?**

Wesley and Miriam Taylor answer these questions in the July 25, 2013, issue of the *Adventist Review*.

Artist's rendering of OAAA's new facility, currently under construction.

**Diverse Magazine:** OU sets the standard for meat-free eating on HBCU campuses. Click [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1111139991575/archive/1114345358712.html) to read the article.

**Join us at "the Oaks"**

Human Resources Management announces the following position vacancies:

- Public Safety Officer - Public Safety
- Custodian - Warehouse Services
- Custodian (Female Position) - Warehouse Services
- Office Manager - Student Activities
- Office Manager - Communications
- Accreditation Specialist - Institutional Effectiveness
Application instructions are available on the Oakwood website.

An equal opportunity employer, Oakwood University participates in

Don't miss this great opportunity to reconnect with your Oakwood family, visit with Oakwood faculty and administrators, and hear about exciting updates from your school. There will also be a drawing for Oakwood gear and memorabilia. We can't wait to see you in Orlando!
Oakwood Alumni and Friends!

You are invited to attend a vespers and fellowship dinner at Florida Hospital Creation Conference Center in Orlando, Florida.

Who will be there?
Fellow Oakwood Alumni and Friends, Dr. Leslie Pollard (President), OU Administrators and many more.

When?
Saturday, August 10th
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Where?
Florida Hospital Orlando
Creation Conference Center
601 E. Rollins St., Orlando, FL 32803

For more details, email alumni@oakwood.edu or call 256.726.7039.
Plan now for 2014 Commencement Weekend
Local hotel offers special rate for Oakwoodites

The Embassy Suites (adjacent to the Von Braun Center) in Huntsville has a "graduation" block set up for the month of May 2014.

Their base rate ranges from $169 - $279 during your graduation weekend (May 9-10, 2014); however, a block has been created for Oakwoodites coming in for graduation at the rate of $149.

The **group code GRD** includes:
- complimentary cooked to order breakfast buffet;
- complimentary manager's reception every evening (5:30-7:30pm);
- access to our indoor, climate-controlled pool;
- access to 24-hour fitness center;
- complimentary shuttle to and from the airport;
- complimentary shuttle for your guests within a 2-3 mile radius; and
- 10% off of spa services at the "Spa Botanica" (when you mention your group block).
- Hotel parking is $6.78/day.
- Internet service is $9.95/day/

The special rate is effective through midnight, April 26, 2013.

Call 1-800-362-2779 and ask for "Graduation Block," or book online. Remember, the group code is GRD.

Oakwood's contact for this special rate is **Tish Hyter, Executive Meeting Manager**.

Embassy Suites Hotel and Spa Huntsville
800 Monroe St SW - Huntsville, AL  35801
256-539-7373 ext 2009 (Main Line); 256-327-7805 (Direct Line)
256-539-7374 (fax)
TISH.HYTER@JQH.COM
OAKWOOD ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OAAAA SABBATH
AT THE OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH
AUGUST 10, 2013

Register as an alum at www.oa.oakwood.edu/oanaa-form

Join the OAAAA Mailing List
Support your school & get info on Alumni happenings
Visit http://ezurl.com/zRuBb or Scan ->

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SABBATH SCHOOL 9:15AM

DIVINE WORSHIP 11:00AM
- Alumni Honorees
- OAA Alumni Mass Choir
- Speaker: Dr. Carlton P. Byrd

AYS/CONCERT 5:00PM
- OAA Alumni

VESPERS 7:00PM
- OAA Alumni

BUILDING DEDICATION 7:30PM
E.C. Ward Elementary Building

BASKETBALL GAME 9:00PM
OUC Gymnasium
- Alumni vs. Academy
- Food Sale
- K-12 and Alumni Meet and Greet
- Family Fun and Fellowship
- $2 Admission

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 OUP OH, YES! EMAIL US AT PR@OAKWOOD.EDU

Try it FREE today.
BY WESLEY AND MIRIAM TAYLOR

A child has been lost! Not kidnapped by terrorists and concealed in a cave, to weep and starve, and rouse an entire nation to frantic searching. Were that the case, a thousand men and women would instantly rise to the rescue. Unfortunately, the loss of the child, though tragic and very real, has been without any dramatic alarm.

The fact is, his father lost him. Too busy to spend time with him, to work and play with him and answer his trivial questions, the child’s hand slips out of his own, and now the child is lost.

In fact, his mother also lost him. Caught up in her social events, she lets the sitter entertain the child with the latest TV show. Suddenly she is startled to find that the child is lost. It seems that she has but briefly glanced away.

Indeed, the church lost him. Preoccupied with sermons and programs for the wise and wealthy, the church has overlooked the child in the pew. It gave him no real part in the church service. It organized no meaningful activities for the youth. It established no school where all could learn in the presence of God.

Now the church and many heavyhearted parents are searching earnestly for the lost child.

A Divine Directive

Abruptly we find ourselves before the judgment throne. A divine question rings forth: “Where is the flock that was given to you, your beautiful sheep?” (Jer. 13:20). As individuals, as families, as a church, we have a divine commission regarding our young people. Scripture prompts us, “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6). It reminds us, “Teach [the words of God] diligently to your children” (Deut. 6:7).

It’s not enough to be informed; we must be transformed. It’s not enough to explore the sciences; we must delve into the science of salvation. It’s not enough to be equipped merely for this life; we must be prepared for a life that begins now, but extends throughout eternity.

The current of the world is raging away from God. We cannot afford to allow our children to be swept away and lost in the turbulence of its assumptions and agendas. The hearts of the young are easily impressed, by good or by evil. As Paul pointed out, it is by beholding that we become changed (2 Cor. 3:18).

Secular Education

The great danger of secular schools is their shrewdly mixing good and evil. Notice the difference between the two basic educational systems—God’s plan and its counterfeit.

Secular education is human-centered; Christian education is God-centered. Secular education is world-focused; Christian education is Word-focused. Secular education is informative; it emphasizes knowing. Christian education is formative; it holds that while knowledge is important, there is something more vital, and that is character. Secular education maintains that Jesus is a historical figure, perhaps even a great man. Christian education affirms that Jesus is Lord.

Secular education is rampant with subtle but deadly assumptions. It holds that humans are supreme. If this were true, then there would be no Higher Power. It maintains that people evolved from lower forms of life. If this were true, then there was no act of divine creation. Secular education asserts that a bad environment is to blame for evil behavior. If this were true, human beings would not be responsible for their actions. It contends that common practice sets the standard. This, of course, assumes that whatever the majority is doing must be right; and if this is true, then there are no moral absolutes. Secular education claims that the term maladjustment explains adverse human behavior. Therefore, there is no such thing as guilt. Finally, secular education holds that men and women are inherently good. And if this were true, then we have no need of a Savior. When you think of it, how foolish to attempt to be wise apart from Wisdom, to be true while rejecting Truth, to be enlightened apart from Light, to be nourished without Food, to exist without Life, to be educated without God.

Adventist Education

What makes Adventist education unique? Seventh-day Adventist education is a life-transforming experience, a spiritual revolution. It’s not
something simply to be pursued, framed, and hung. Its height is service; its depth is commitment; its scope is eternity.

The Word of God must be the foundation of all we do in the school—not just of the Bible class, but of every subject, every topic. The essential pillars of learning are to know God, to understand His plan for our life, and to exemplify Him in all we do. The resulting structure is an education with a view of eternity. “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). This education provides a safe shelter for our children. It furnishes them with a sense of purpose, of identity, of belonging. When your children are taught by God, Isaiah affirms, “great shall be the peace of your children” (Isa. 54:13).

Luke 2:52 describes the education that God provided for His Son: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” Notice that Jesus developed in four key areas: mental, physical, spiritual, and social. This balanced, whole-person development is the education that our children and youth must experience.

Wisdom. Many schools impart knowledge, but wisdom is our greater need (Prov. 4:7). Wisdom is the ability to leverage knowledge, to apply it in tangible and constructive ways. Such enhanced knowledge, cast into the crucible of life, seeks to reveal God’s attributes and make a difference in the lives of others. This calls for students to be connected to the Source of wisdom. “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Prov. 2:6). It calls for high-level thinking—analysis, decision-making, and creativity. Wisdom, furthermore, requires excellence. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Eccl. 9:10). Those satisfied with second-rate performance simply cannot do God’s work.

Stature. True education must be useful. We can’t afford to be top-heavy, filled with grand ideas that are never carried out. Consequently, Adventist education emphasizes practical skills and the development of a solid work ethic. The importance of this dimension is highlighted by the fact that Jesus spent the first three decades of His life in the carpenter’s shop, learning and perfecting a practical skill. In this physical domain, Adventist education also emphasizes fitness and a healthful lifestyle.

Favor with God. In the spiritual arena, students in Adventist schools study God’s Word. They learn how to pray, how to have faith. They fellowship with other young people who share their spiritual goals and commitments. They participate in worship activities, Bible classes, and times of spiritual emphasis. They encounter Seventh-day Adventist teachers as mentors and role models. They experience the Holy Spirit in their lives. In so doing, they develop a biblical worldview. In Adventist education, faith and learning meet and merge. Fragments of knowledge are drawn into a robust spiritual unity, centered on God, the source of all truth (John 1:3, 17; James 1:17). Faith penetrates and infuses learning like water permeates a sponge. After all, Christianity is a lifestyle, not just an add-on. We do not need Christianity flowing alongside of life. We need Christian lives. We do not need individuals who can serve on occasion as Christians. We need genuine Christians, 24/7.

Favor with men. Let’s suppose that we are preparing surgeons. On graduation day our candidate marches down the aisle and is handed the parchment declaring them a surgeon. The following day they find themselves in the surgery suite, and there on the operating table is the victim—sorry, the patient. Our freshly minted graduate breaks out into a cold sweat; their knees start to buckle. In all their training, they’ve never before stepped into an operating room. “Preposterous!” you exclaim. “A travesty! Malpractice!” You are absolutely right, but don’t we do the same thing? We cannot expect our young people to graduate from school, to move out into society, and to be effective witnesses for God when they have never had any training or significant experience in witness or service! In Adventist schools students learn how to touch the lives of others. They learn of Christ, who did not come to be served, but to serve (Matt. 20:28). They discover that to live is to give. They find that they have a calling—a mission and a message.

Ellen White summarized it this way: “True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”

The Difference
As you can see, Seventh-day Adventist schools are intentionally different; they are distinctive by design. They are Christ-centered and
Bible-based. They are student-connected and socially applied. They are places in which faith and learning unite, where students study the sciences and at the same time link their learning to the Creator. They are places where young people are taught, not only about God, but by God (Isa. 54:13). They are places where our young people learn to recognize the voice of the Teacher sent from God (John 3:2).

It’s not sufficient to prepare merely for a job, a profession, or a career. We must be prepared for heaven. We must give our young people an education that is consistent with our faith, that will form character to endure the test of time (Ps. 144:12).

Worldly influences, like waves of the sea, beat against young people and threaten to sweep them away. Where are your children? Have you placed their feet firmly on the Rock?

We must make no compromise. God calls us out of Babylon. We are to live for Christ, not for the world. We are called to convert the world; not to be converted by the world, subverted and diverted from our mission.

We cannot allow our children to become bewitched by a false education. Our children are too precious to be abducted and lost for eternity.

As parents we must invest where it matters most, in our children, even if it requires personal sacrifice. As a church family we must rally together and find creative means to ensure that each of the children and youth in our congregations has the opportunity of a Seventh-day Adventist education.

Authentic Christian education is distinctive. There is nothing that can take its place. Don’t permit a pretense to displace the reality, a bogus education to replace the true. Value the original above the counterfeit.

Will your children be taught of God, educated for eternity? The choice today shapes tomorrow.

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1 All quotations of Scripture are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
3 Ellen White writes, “Give your children the Word of God as the foundation of all their education” (Counsels on Education [Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1968], p. 181). She also adds, “In localities where there is a church, a school should be established, [even] if there are no more than six children to attend” (“Christian Schools,” Gospel Medical Messenger, Dec. 3, 1913).
4 Ellen White notes that it is the work of true education “to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men’s thought” (Education [Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1903], p. 17).
5 Ibid., p. 13.

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John Wesley Taylor is associate director of education for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Miriam Louise Taylor serves as executive assistant in the Secretariat of the General Conference. They have two children who study in Adventist schools. This article was published July 25, 2013.
Students are demanding more alternative eating options for college dining.

by Vikki Conwell

Hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza are staples in most college cafeterias, but as more Americans explore alternative eating habits, a growing number of colleges and universities nationwide are responding to the call for healthier, non-meat food options.

Though schools like the University of California—San Diego and the University of North Texas are expanding their dining options with a vegan “eatery lounge” and an all-vegan dining hall, respectively, Oakwood University has long been ahead of the curve. Based in Huntsville, Ala., the historically Black Seventh-day Adventist institution reportedly stands as the only HBCU with a meat-free dining program and is the only vegetarian university in the state.

According to a 2013 report by food service consultant Technomic, only 35 percent of students nationally reported satisfaction with their schools’ dining programs. About half of survey respondents said they were looking for greater flexibility in their dining options.

“A lot of people are becoming more health-conscious,” said David Knight, vice president of student services at Oakwood. Satisfaction with the school’s dining program increased from 17 percent in 2011 to 71 percent, due to input from the student advisory committee. The college is among 7,800 Seventh-day Adventist institutions that feature a vegan bar and a market area where students can feast on a selection of meatless treats on-the-go.

“The health message permeates through all Adventist life of home, church and school,” he said.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church stresses health and holistic living through dietary restrictions, a day of rest known as the Sabbath, moderation in activities and no use of tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs. The recommended diet includes a generous amount of whole grain breads, cereals and pastas, fresh vegetables and fruits, legumes, nuts and seeds. It can include low-fat dairy products such as milk, yogurt, cheeses and eggs. The Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle also emphasizes exercise, eating nuts, social support and attending church regularly.

According to the Adventist Health Study-2 conducted by the Loma Linda University School of Public Health, people who eat a vegetarian diet live longer than those who eat meat. The 96,000 survey respondents reported lower risk of heart disease, several cancers, high blood pressure, arthritis and diabetes than other Americans. Vegetarians and vegans tend to consume less saturated fat and eat more fruits and vegetables, beans, legumes and nuts. An estimated 35 percent of Adventists are milk and egg-using vegetarians, according to Loma Linda.

The study also noted that SDA vegetarian men tend to live three years longer than SDA men who eat meat.

The message of good health should resonate louder in the African-American community where health disparities loom larger, said Knight. African-Americans are at greater risk for illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure...
and strokes, often because of their diets.

“We are an HBCU, so we must stop killing our brothers and sisters when it comes to salt, fatty foods,” he said. “We talk to people about drinking and drugs, but not about obesity. We become silent killers because we allow certain health messages to get by.”

Since adopting a vegetarian diet four years ago, Oakwood student LaToya Bunting says her health has improved dramatically. Symptoms from her childhood epilepsy seem to have lessened. Her stamina and energy have increased, and her appetite is not as ravenous.

“I know what’s good for my body,” said the senior elementary education major. “Eating healthfully is one of the best ways in which I can glorify God with my body.”

The Detroit native enjoys the large selection of foods found on campus such as tofu stir fry, taco salad, lasagna and a buffet of soul food.

“It was a welcome relief not to look at menus and make substitutions,” said Bunting. “You don’t have to pull apart a dish to make it your own.”

Trevor Fraser of Oakwood’s School of Religion said the Bible serves as guide for all aspects of life, including diet. The initial guidelines for Oakwood’s menu stem from Genesis, when Adam and Eve ate grains and seeds from the ground. After the flood, man was given the option of eating meat, explained Fraser, but only clean meats such as cows, chicken and fish with fins and scales. Still, there is no scripture that states, “Thou shall not eat meat.”

“If you want to eat meat, you certainly have reason to do that; it wouldn’t be against the Bible,” said Fraser, a professor and coordinator for Master’s of Pastoral Studies. “We’re looking at a better approach to spirituality and health … what will produce a greater impact on one’s life.”

Semantic Tags: Health  Students

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