Oakwood University moves up on U.S. News & World Report ranking

U.S. News and World Report's HBCU rankings list Oakwood University at number 23, one place ahead of the 2012 ranking.

The Huntsville Times/al.com reported that "Huntsville colleges move up in U.S. News & World Report rankings. Read reporter Paul Gattis' story here.

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were compared only with one another for these rankings.

In order to be on the list, a school must be designated currently by the U.S. Department of Education as an HBCU.

To qualify for the U.S. News ranking, an HBCU also must be an undergraduate baccalaureate-granting institution that enrolls primarily first year, first-time students and must be a school that is currently part of the 2014 Best Colleges rankings.

Volunteer Day set for September 22
Construction is almost finished on the OU outdoor pavilion near the campus' Unity Pond, sponsored by the $50,000 grand prize winnings from this year's "Retool Your School" HBCU campus improvement contest, sponsored by The Home Depot®.

If you're in Huntsville on Sunday, September 22, join us between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for "Volunteer Day." Together, we will clean and spruce up the pavilion's surrounding area (i.e., do some light landscaping, plant a few trees, and install picnic tables, benches, lights and ceiling fans).

Oakwood wishes to say "thank you" for your support as one of the winning 340,000 votes! If you voted at least once toward our victory, we want to "Reclaim Your Name" -- by inscribing your individual name as a "donor" at "your" outdoor pavilion. If you haven't done so already, send your individual name and email address to us at pr@oakwood.edu. Each name must be associated with a separate email address, please.

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**Oakwood student to participate in UAB Civil Rights 50th anniversary commemoration**

Justin Brown, a junior Composition and Recording Arts major, will represent Oakwood in a Composition Master Class on September 16, 2013, at the University of Alabama, Birmingham's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center (ASC). Brown currently studies composition with OU's music professor Dr. Eurydice Osterman.

The master class, with clinician Yotam Haber, is part of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement and the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

The ASC has commissioned as the clinician, Yotam Haber, to create a new work for orchestra and choir. As part of this project, ArtPlay (the Education and Outreach Department of the ASC) invited young...
OU student
Justin Brown

composers in high school through college to submit proposals for new works that in some way address the Civil Rights Movement or present-day struggles in the U.S. and abroad. The culmination will be a workshop on September 16 in which the participants will have a reading session with members of the Alabama Youth Symphony in the Jemison Concert Hall at UAB's Alys Stephens Center. The event is open to the public.

For a complete listing of September's "Hope Takes the Stage" events at UAB, visit the ASC website.

Another OU student in the 'pipeline' to Duke University

by Vern Gohanna, Beat Reporter - School of Business

Jorge Borge (pictured, below), an MIS student in the Business and Information Systems Department was selected to participate in Duke's Summer 2013 Institute. He and other students selected received a stipend and an iPad for the two-week institute, where activities were geared to help them learn more about how they can contribute to academia by pursuing a Ph.D. in business and other related fields.

Jorge was thrilled that he was selected in a very competitive process from among other students attending universities throughout the country. During the two weeks, he was required to write, present and defend a proposal, an
"My experience at Duke is one that has changed my life. It gave me an opportunity to see that a Ph.D. in Business is something I can accomplish," Borge said.

exercise that he welcomed although he admitted that it was extremely challenging. The opportunity to meet and network with professionals in business was priceless.

In September, 2012, Oakwood's Dean of the School of Business and Adult Education, Hyacinth Burton, visited Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, to begin a partnership between Duke and Oakwood in the Ph.D. Pipeline Opportunity Program (PPOP). The mission of the PPOP is to inspire and inform undergraduate students to prepare for careers as business faculty, with special emphasis on students in under-represented populations.

The PPOP is designed to help boost awareness and address the critical shortage of under-represented (African-American, Hispanic-American, Native American) faculty in Ph.D. programs in business and related fields. The PPOP wants to enlarge the number of minority faculty who can serve as role models, mentors, and public policy leaders as well as pursue their academic careers.

The three more explicit reasons for the PPOP initiative is to help undergraduate under-represented students 1) learn about the advantages of a career as a business school faculty member; 2) understand the steps necessary to prepare for a career in higher education teaching and research; and 3) acquire a supportive network for success in doctoral programs and faculty careers (Reuben, 2012).

The main intentions of the PPOP are fivefold: 1) to form partnerships with diverse institutions with the objective of promoting best practices that will encourage targeted students to pursue careers as business faculty, 2) to attend a two-week capstone Summer Institute with faculty and students from across the nation at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, 3) to express the value of academic research through a variety of issues, especially those that affect minority communities, 4) to create awareness about the benefits of the faculty lifestyle, and 5) to partner with the Ph.D.
Project to take advantage of both programs (Reuben, 2012)

Oakwood University has joined a list of other prestigious universities in becoming a partner in the PPOP, and envisions a continuous relationship with Duke University as we work together to prepare students for careers in academia.

Ph.D. Pipeline Opportunity Program 2012 Abridged Report (L. J. Reuben, Program Director)

AGAPE Day 2013 set for October 2

On October 2, in partnership with Huntsville's Operation Green Team, Oakwood administrators, faculty, staff and student volunteers will be spending time demonstrating the University's commitment to service.

Oakwoodites will be trading their laptops for dust pans, paint brushes and rakes to "clean up, spruce up and fix up" at several Huntsville locations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, and our neighbor (on Sparkman Drive) Ed White Middle School.

Operation Green Team's goal is to make Huntsville a local and national model in terms of landscape beauty, cleanliness, and environmental consciousness.

OU is a gun-free campus

The new Alabama gun law (Act 2013-283) that went into effect on August 1, 2013, among other stipulations and mandates, allows for the open carry of firearms and the possession of a firearm without a permit while traveling in a vehicle.

The framers of this legislation included a provision that gives schools the right to forbid the possession of firearms on their campuses. The administration of Oakwood University has chosen to exercise this right.

Appropriate signage has been posted at the
campus entrances giving notice that firearms are forbidden. Anyone found to be in possession of a firearm on campus will be subject to arrest. This will be inclusive of students, faculty, staff, contractors, visitors, and any other category of individuals who may come onto our campus other than law enforcement personnel.

Please assist administration and the Oakwood University Police Department in keeping our campus safe and in minimizing confrontations by disseminating this information to those who may not be aware of the new Alabama gun law and the institution's stance on forbidding firearms on campus.

Oakwood University Police Department
Please join us Sabbath morning at two locations

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<tr>
<th>Breath of Life SDA Church</th>
<th>Capitol Hill SDA Church</th>
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<tr>
<td>11310 Fort Washington Rd.</td>
<td>914 Massachusetts Ave SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Washington, MD 20749</td>
<td>Washington, D.C. 20019</td>
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<td>301.292.2100</td>
<td>202.543.1344</td>
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<td>Speaker - Dr. Leslie Pollard</td>
<td>Speaker - Dr. Jesse Wilson</td>
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<td>Special Music - the Aeolians</td>
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In last week’s issue, we made a mistake. . .

OU? Oh, Yes! reader Ossie Randle was the first to point out that we misspelled film-maker, in the mention about filmmaker
Jacob Bender.
We wish there was an actual 'prize,' but for now - a heartfelt "Thanks for keeping us on our editorial toes!"
Huntsville colleges move up in U.S. News & World Report rankings

Paul Gattis | pgattis@al.com

Oakwood University. (Submitted photo)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama - The three universities in Huntsville maintained their standing in the 2014 U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges ranking released today.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville was tied with six other schools in being ranked No. 101 nationally among national public universities. That's an improvement of two spots over the 2013 rankings.

UAH also was ranked No. 181 nationally in National University Rankings - which includes both public and private schools with criteria that, in part, states, "These colleges are committed to producing groundbreakng research."

Alabama A&M University was ranked No. 20 among Historically Black Colleges and Universities, a two-spot jump over last year.

Oakwood University was ranked No. 23, a one-spot jump from last year.

State schools ahead of Alabama in the public universities rankings were Alabama (No. 36), Auburn (No. 40) and UAB (No. 81).

Tuskegee University, at No. 5, was the only state school ahead of Alabama A&M and Oakwood in the HBCU rankings.

The top-ranked universities, public or private, were Princeton at No. 1, followed by Harvard, Yale and Columbia with Stanford and the University of Chicago tied for fifth.

Top-ranked public universities were the University of California-Berkeley at No. 1, followed by UCLA, Virginia, Michigan and North Carolina.