Oakwood's Board of Trustees retreat, reenergize for continued service

Prior to the annual fall Board meeting on October 21, 2013, members of Oakwood's Board of Trustees spent a few days together for learning, relaxation and fellowship, at the nearby Lake Guntersville State Park and Resort, at the Board Retreat. The retreat theme was: "Keeping the Promise of Mission: Oakwood in the 21st Century."

Guests included Dr. Belle Wheelan from Oakwood's regional accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and Mrs. Leslie Marquard, a consultant with Marble Leadership, the group that conducted the Strategic Actioning Session in September, 2012.
SACS President Dr. Belle Wheelan educated the Board on its role in the success of Oakwood University.

Leslie Marquard (from Marble Leadership) helped Trustees envision Oakwood University in the 21st Century.

**The Board of Trustees Retreat Recap: From the Student's Perspective**

*by Jyremy Reed, student writer*

On October 23, President
OU sophomore Mallory McHenry provided special music during the Sabbath evening, lakeside, worship.

Dr. Leslie Pollard and the Administration updated the staff on the weekend's Board of Trustees Retreat.

Various topics were presented concerning Oakwood's future, the most important of which was the confirmation of the Strategic Plan for the next five years.

President Pollard also mentioned the renovation of Carter Hall. This freshman female residence hall's complete renovation will have a tremendous long-term impact on our young women for years to come. It is Oakwood's desire to nurture the minds and spiritual lives of the students, as well as to provide them with the necessary living environment. This grand project of $5.5 million will be completed by spring 2014.

He also discussed the transformation of Ford Hall, which is necessary to consolidate the Communications Department, as its offices, studios, labs, and classrooms are now located in multiple campus buildings. The projected nine-month construction of the 11,700 sq.ft., $4 million Media Center will enrich the academic lives of our students, by providing an environment where art and technology come together. By expanding the Center's Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN), we will be able to share the story of God's love to all the corners of the Earth. This is the first step in spreading the gospel message to places that others cannot reach.

The President also presented Oakwood University's revised:

1. **Mission Statement**: The mission of Oakwood University, a historically black, Seventh-day Adventist institution, is to transform students through biblically-based education for service to God and humanity;
2. **Vision Statement**: Oakwood University graduates leaders in service to God and humanity; and
3. **Goals** (now referred to as the "Seven Organizational Priorities at Oakwood University," and within each, seven five-year goals are enumerated).

While Oakwood's Motto "Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve" remained unchanged, the Aim was modified to "God First!".

These revised Mission, Vision, Goals and Aim statements resulted from:

1. The three-day Strategic Actioning Retreat, September 18-20, 2012, which produced a wide range of recommendations; and
2. That Retreat's subsequent mandate for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness
to present specifically for feedback and recommendations to senior administration the mission, vision and goals statements to the various stakeholder groups.

As students, we are looking forward for many exciting things to happen on Oakwood’s campus; but all of this requires a financial investment. Last year, it was reported, there was a five percent increase to the LEAP tuition, to insure a growing program. This year, a three percent increase will be added across the board for all students, and a three percent rebate for those students living off-campus. With all the building projects, employee raises, and the need for a revitalization of campus industries, the three percent will help maintain tuition for the following: on-campus students - $16,000; off-campus students - $16,700; and LEAP students - $10,000.

Oakwood is moving in a very good direction. For example the establishment of the new Division of Research & Employment Services, led by Dr. Prudence Pollard, voted to commission a grievance policy which will avert any conflict of interest. All of the other campus Divisions gave outstanding reports from the Board of Trustees Retreat. President Pollard then had everyone in the audience read the covenant that the Board signed:

"In fulfilling the mission of Oakwood University, we will pursue dreams that will never materialize, goals that we will never reach, and plans that are destined to fail; except for divine intervention."

We are all to embrace this same covenant, because this is what God will do through us and our ministry on a daily basis here, as we contribute to the momentum of Oakwood University.

* Click here to read the complete Oakwood University Strategic Plan Overview Fall 2013.
North American Division President, and OU Board of Trustees Chairman, Dan Jackson (left) shares an observation with George Ashley, Assistant VP of Academic Administration.
The Board of Trustees votes on Oakwood University business and "game changers."

Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarships Awarded

The Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc. recently completed the Calendar Year 2013 Scholarship Awards Cycles after providing scholarship assistance to nine (9) Oakwood University (OU) students.

For the Spring-2013 and Fall-2013 Semesters, funding assistance was provided to five students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing: Veeron Fleming, Stephanie Harris, Anisa Ogboeniyia, Antonia Primus, and Adrian Rolle. Assistance was also given to four students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Music: Justin Brown, Eleejah Kitchell-Bush, Alain Gervais, and Devin Morrison.

Total scholarship assistance provided from the Foundation for OU students during the Calendar Year of 2013 amounted to $25,500. During Calendar Year 2012, OU students
received $18,500 in assistance from the Foundation.

The Nathan L. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation is an independent, private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) foundation incorporated in 2010, in memory of Nathan L. Anderson. In his short, but remarkable, lifespan Nathan was by profession a Computer Scientist, a Lieutenant in the United States Public Health Service, a licensed Private Pilot, and a formally trained, gifted musician. He was a 2005 graduate of OU, as are both of his sisters, Nicole A. Anderson, B.Mus. (2008), and Nichelle G. Anderson, BSN, R.N. (2011).
The Foundation is primarily focused on providing scholarships to support students pursuing college degrees in Computer Science, Nursing, Music, and Aviation. The Foundation's secondary focus is providing grant support to educational institutions that Nathan, Nicole, and Nichelle attended, including the George E. Peters Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Hyattsville, Maryland.

The foundation is funded by donations given in memory of Nathan. Proceeds of a dual CD set of Nathan's music "Love Lifted Me," available online at iTunes, Amazon.com, and CD Baby, are helping generate funding for future scholarships.

Further information regarding donations, scholarship eligibility, or CD sales is found at http://www.rememberingnathananderson.com.

---

**Oakwoodite Lectures in South America**

Adriana Perera, associate professor of Music at Oakwood University, was invited as a guest speaker and lecturer for the 150th Anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the University of Peru, and for the VII Symposium of Music and Worship at the University of Bolivia, October 16-20, 2013.

Mrs. Perera's lecture topics were: "Biblical Bases for Music and Worship in the SDA Church," "Keeping Christ in the Center of Worship Service," and "In Spirit and in Truth: Looking for Balance in SDA Contemporary Music and Worship."
(L-R) Elder Williams Costa, Jr. (Director of Communications and Media, General Conference of SDA); Mrs. Perera; Dr. Merlin Burt (Professor of Church History, Andrews University).

Mrs. Perera also promoted her recently-published book *In Spirit and in Truth* (Pacific Press, 2013), and her recent CD "Textify," which is being sold in the ABC stores (US and Canada).

---

**Only Adventist NAACP chapter wins honors**

by Jordan M. Harris, Health Chair, Alabama Youth and College Division, NAACP

During the Alabama National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) State Convention in Talladega, Alabama (October 11-13, 2013), the Oakwood University NAACP Chapter was awarded for being Alabama's Most Active College Chapter in the state.
Chartered in March 2012, Oakwood's NAACP college chapter is the only Seventh-day Adventist chapter in the world. Although it was the newest organization on campus, it became the largest student-led organization and the one that completed the most community service hours.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the Oakwood NAACP sponsored many campus workshops, such as the self-defense class for our Oakwood ladies taught by a local karate instructor, a "Know Your Rights" workshop lead by three Huntsville attorneys, and a resume-building workshop, just to name a few. The Oakwood NAACP chapter's involvement outside of campus also made a huge impact on the community. The NAACP is the largest and the oldest Civil Rights organization in America. With a mission to create equality for all persons, the NAACP has been aided by many legendary Civil Rights leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., W.E. B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, Carter G. Woodson, and countless others.

**WAAY-TV: OU chief fundraiser answers, "How should you ask for monies?"**

WAAY-TV Channel 31 anchorwoman Meredith Wood interviews Kisha Norris, Executive Director of Advancement and Development, as Oakwood's subject matter expert for "Ask the Experts," the midmorning segment on WAAY-TV Channel 31.

In the October 22 segment, Miss Norris outlined how to make "the ask" for specific amounts in fundraising.
Oakwoodite, Former "First Son" writes in Adventist Review

Dr. Benjamin Baker, son of former OU President Delbert Baker, recently published an article in the Adventist Review, entitled "Ellen White, 1888 and Black People."
A Marriage Made in Heaven
by Jeffrey Brown, President, Bermuda Conference

On October 21, in the Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center's Chaplain Joseph Powell Auditorium, junior and senior theology students met with Regional Conference presidents, in search of "a match made in heaven."

The "best man" was Pastor Bill Winston, Chair of the Regional Presidents' Council. The "officiating pastor" was Pastor James Lewis, Director of the Office of Regional Conference Ministries and an adjunct professor of theology. The "wedding coordinator" was Dr. Mervyn Warren, Dean of the School of Religion and Theology, and "guests" included Drs. Finbar Benjamin, Keith Burton, Trevor Fraser, Russell Seay and Jesse Wilson.

The presidents spoke about the type of person that attracted their attention. Students listened attentively, some hurriedly scratching notes. Pastor Winston counseled students not to limit their gifts to pulpit performance because the South Atlantic Conference is looking for well-rounded individuals. Pastor Dana Edmond shared that women pastors are very welcome in South Central Conference.

Pastor Maurice Valentine urged students to begin to cultivate good habits now because the Central States Conference wants pastors who will attend their own prayer meeting. Pastor Samuel Green testified that he had graduated "without a call" and did not possess the Southwest Region Conference connections that others had, but God makes all things beautiful in His time. Pastor Jerome Davis (Lake Region Conference) urged students to take marriage preparation seriously.
Theology juniors and seniors, along with Drs. Finbar Benjamin, Keith Burton and Mervyn Warren, listen to counsel from Regional Conference Presidents.

A student asked, "What things can derail a person's ministry?" Pastor Henry Fordham urged students to take their vows seriously, both the vow to sexual faithfulness and the vow to faithful tithing.

When Pastor William Cox shared a personal and intimate story illustrating the need to nurture your own pastoral marriage, you could hear a pin drop. Students were immediately drawn to this caring "groom" of the Allegheny West Conference. Dr. Daniel Honore informed the students that he had waited 10 years before his union with Northeastern Conference. "It's not always love at first sight," he said.

Dr. Jeffrey Brown shared suggestions on how students could make themselves attractive to the Bermuda Conference "in the meantime" by deepening their devotional life, pursuing the M.Div. degree as well as other branches of study, and engaging in colporteur work, Bible work, or volunteer ministry.
The overwhelming sentiment from this marvelous event was that constant communication may lead to a long and lasting union.

*Pastor Hubert Morel assured the students that the presidents were faithful to Oakwoodites, and that the Southeastern Conference has already employed a 2013 Oakwood graduate. Morel poses here with aspiring pastors.*
Women's game  7:00 p.m.
Men's game: 9:00 p.m.
Admission:  $10
For further details, contact Oakwood alum Chris Batson (410) 979-2885
Coming soon -- PELC 2013

In less than two months, pastors, Bible workers and lay leaders from around the world will be coming to Huntsville for the annual Pastors Evangelism and Leadership Council (PELC). The dates are December 8-11. Don't be among the group that is still kicking itself because they missed William Houston Curtis and an amazing 2012 lineup. As good as it is on tape, nothing compares to the live experience of Evangelism Council.

This year, look for:

· Stacy Spencer from the New Directions Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, named by Outreach Magazine as the "Fastest Growing Church in the United States - 2012."

· A number of young experts who will address Church Growth and Leadership in the Hip-Hop Culture

· An all-star panel of pastors and theologians will bring an informative presentation on Women's Ordination.

And then there are the speakers, super-plenaries, and boot camps!! There is something for everyone. So meet us December 8-11 on the beautiful campus of Oakwood University.

For more information, visit the PELC website: www.pelc.cc
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.

Try it FREE today.
No one could have predicted it at the time, but the 1888 General Conference session was to be a turning point in the history of black Adventism. The impact of Alonzo Jones’ and Ellet Waggoner’s “most precious message” of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ was clearly not lost on one particular attendee. Ellen White, although traumatized by the rancor at the session, came away with a renewed focus on Christ, evidenced by the list of her publications in the years following: *Steps to Christ* (1892), *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* (1896), *The Desire of Ages* (1898), *Christ’s Object Lessons* (1900), and *The Ministry of Healing* (1905). But just as significant is the way in which the message revolutionized her missiology.

**Ellen White’s Sea Change**

Prior to 1888 Ellen White had been rather quiet on the church’s halting efforts on behalf of African Americans in the southern United States, then in dire need. The dynamic of emancipation at the close of the Civil War left some three million people bound one day, and free the next, with no place to go, no jobs, no money, no shelter, no food, and no education. To make matters worse, new varieties of slavery quickly emerged, lynching was common, and other kinds of terrorism haunted the everyday lives of blacks. Largely illiterate and uneducated as well as being psychologically ravaged by slavery, this was a crisis period for African Americans. The need was tremendous. Some historians posit that it was unprecedented in history on such a large scale.

But after 1888 there was something like a sea-change in the emphasis of Ellen White’s communications, the senior citizen prophet writing some 400 pages and delivering dozens of talks urging her church to 1) do all they could to reach blacks with the message of salvation, and 2) to help with their pressing temporal needs. This focus emerges before publication of any of the many titles listed above that so well define her uplifting of Jesus in the years after 1888. What is most interesting about this development is the reason White provided for the church’s need to evangelize blacks. Her address to a special delegation at the General Conference just three years after Minneapolis in 1891 entitled “Our Duty to the Colored People” encapsulates the reason for her urgency. A hint: in her talk “Christ” is mentioned 36 times; “Jesus” 21; “Lord” 14; “Christian” 8; and “Savior” 3.

**Her Motivation**

The motivation for evangelizing African Americans was to be the incarnation and sacrificial death of Christ. White says: “There has been much perplexity as to how our laborers in the South shall deal with the ‘color line….’ The Lord has given us light concerning all such matters….The Lord Jesus came to our world to save men and women of all nationalities. He died just as much for the colored people as for the white race.

While on earth, Jesus’ status was much like that of blacks in the post-emancipation South: “The Redeemer of the world was of humble parentage. He, the Majesty of heaven, the King of glory, humbled Himself to accept humanity, and then He chose a life of poverty and toil…. He dwelt among the lowly of the earth. To all appearances he was merely a humble man, with few friends.

To Ellen White, the only real Christology was an inclusive Christology. Adventists were to consider blacks in the same social stratum as Jesus, to seek them out as Jesus sought out the socially unpromising, and to “open their hearts” for Jesus to reproduce his earthly life in them. “If Jesus is abiding in our hearts we cannot despise the colored man who has the same Savior abiding in his heart. When these unchristian prejudices are broken down, more earnest effort will be put forth to do missionary work among the colored race. The message of the incarnation of Christ was a message of identification with marginalized humanity. One could not accept “Christ our Righteousness” while ignoring the suffering of others. The two were inextricably linked. To ignore those in need was to reject Christ Himself.

Her 1891 speech reflected the Adventist understanding of salvation that emerged most clearly after 1888: “The Lord Jesus came to our world to save men and women of all nationalities. He died just as much for the colored people as for the white race…. The ignorant and the wise, the rich and the poor, the heathen and the slave, white or black--Jesus paid the purchase money for their souls. If they believe on Him, His cleansing blood is applied to them. The black man’s name is written in the book of life beside the white man's. All are one in Christ.

**Salvation was full and free, irrespective of the human constructions of race, nationality, class and education.**

**Undaunted by Challenges**
As with the emphasis of Christ Our Righteousness in 1888, White feared that her message on meeting blacks where they were would result in the same ostracism and division that occurred at the session: “I know that which I now speak will bring me into conflict. This I do not covet, for the conflict has seemed to be continuous of late years; but I do not mean to live a coward or die a coward, leaving my work undone. I must follow in my Master’s footsteps.” The year that White delivered “Our Duty” she was sent by the church to Australia. However, instead of ceasing to talk about blacks, she ramped up her statements and activism and did not desist until her death, even then providing for the black work in her will. The twin messages of 1888 and 1891, Christ our Righteousness and mission to blacks, were the defining messages of Ellen White’s later years—and the messages were one and the same.

Progress
Admittedly, the church was still slow to venture south after 1891. Endless appeals and prodding were required to spur even cursory efforts. But things did begin to pick up when Ellen White’s son, Edson, discovered her 1891 talk in a pamphlet and formed the Southern Missionary Society several years later. In 1892, James Patterson left for Jamaica, the church’s first black missionary. Oakwood, the denomination’s school of higher learning for blacks, was founded in 1896. Other educational enterprises followed. *Gospel Herald* (later *Message*) appeared in 1898, one of the oldest religious periodicals for African Americans. In 1901 the first black camp meeting took place in Edgefield Junction, Tennessee. That same year Anna Knight became the first black woman to serve as a missionary in India. Adventist churches began dotting the South in the 1890s and early 1900s. Fundraising campaigns for the program in the South were undertaken by the General Conference. The Negro Department of the General Conference was organized in 1909. Adventist families relocating to the South steadily increased in number. Perhaps most importantly, the black work in the South helped lay the foundation for Adventist mission to people of color around the globe. Concomitant with the growing work in the southern United States was the beginning of efforts for blacks in South Africa. Today, the majority of Seventh-day Adventists are people of color, and nearly a third of the membership resides on continental Africa.

Conclusion
The pivotal years of 1888 and 1891 will forever be joined by an uncomfortable and life-altering confrontation with Christ—in 1888 through the acceptance of His righteousness, and in 1891 through the new relationship to humanity that His righteousness inspires. The message of those two sessions is that righteousness by faith is not merely a doctrine. It is a transformation in our hearts which profoundly affects how we relate to the person of Jesus in the least of these.


2. Ibid, 10.

3. Ibid, 14.

4. Ibid, 12.

5. Ibid, 10.

*Benjamin Baker, PhD, is the assistant archivist at the General Conference.*