Words from our founder

According to Dr. Mervyn Warren's *A Vision Splendid!*, Oakwood Industrial School was born on November 16, 1896. To commemorate our founding 117 years ago, let's hear again from our Founder:

Late June of 1904 is the first recorded visit of Ellen White to Oakwood in Huntsville, Alabama. Thanks in no small part to the counsel and efforts of Ellen White, by the time of her visit, Oakwood was off to a solid start. Mrs. White, her son Edson, and a small group of other church workers toured various fledgling Adventist efforts in the South in the trilogy of cities central and crucial to the Adventist work.

Ellen White spoke, shared counsel and admonished at the various sites she visited. Following her deliveries, she often grouped together her counsels for convenience, publication, and future reference.

On such a tour she made an historic visit to Huntsville and spoke for the first time at Oakwood. Two of her talks were transcribed. These speeches, delivered to the student body in the school chapel, are full of positive exhortations and high admonitions.
"I am so pleased to see the colored students who are here today. I wish that there were a hundred of them, as it has been presented to me that there should be. I wish there were many more here in training for service; for there is a large field to be worked among the colored people. To those who are here, I would say, "Seek to understand the Scriptures. God will help you. His eye is upon the colored race, and He will send His angels to open your understanding."

In regard to this school here at Huntsville, I wish to say that for the past two or three years I have been receiving instruction regarding it—what it should be and what those who come here as students are to become. All that is done by those connected with this school, whether they be white or black, is to be done with the realization that this is the Lord's institution, in which the students are to be taught how to cultivate the land, and how to labor for the uplifting of their own people.

"Those connected with the farm are to work with such earnestness and perseverance that it will bear testimony to the world, to angels, and to men, of the fidelity with which the land has been cared for. This is the Lord's land, and it is to bear fruit to his glory. Those who attend this school are to be taught in right lines, on the farm or in the schoolroom. They are to be taught how to live in close connection with God.

'The Lord says, "Work out your own salvation." How are you to do this? By doing the very things He wants you to do, that you may become intelligent in His service. He has given you talents to be improved. He has bestowed on the colored race some of the best and highest talents. He will bless in the work of transforming mind and character.

Students, there is something for every one of you to do in God's service. The Lord wants you to be His helping hand in reaching souls in many places. He wants you to have an intelligence so sharp and clear that you can grasp the most precious truths, and in the simplicity of Christ present these truths to those who have never heard them. There is great need for colored workers to labor for their own people. You can labor in many places where others cannot. White workers can labor for the colored people in some places. This
is why we have established our printing office in Nashville. In and near Nashville there are large institutions for the education of the colored people. The men who established these institutions have opened the way for the light of the gospel to go to the colored people.

"We want every one who comes to this school, to try to get some other one to come. There should be one hundred students in attendance at the next session of the school. Will you not try in every way possible to swell the number to one hundred? And when the school year is over, these students should not be sent out to go where they please. They are to be trained and educated till they are able to go out into the field to work successfully for the Master."

From *A Place Called Oakwood*, pp. 3-5.

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**With your help, we can reach our $50,000 Phonathon goal!**

Oakwood will conduct its annual phonathon to raise funds for the institution. Student callers will participate by receiving training in order to make this event a successful one. Student photojournalist Jyremy Reid recently interviewed the Phonathon coordinator, Lewis Jones (pictured), in the Advancement and Development Office.

Q: What is the purpose the Phonathon?

A: The Phonathon is a way that we raise money for the institution. Proceeds go
toward our annual fund and that helps with institutional goals, scholarships, and things of that nature.

Q: How can a person support it?

A: Approximately 7,000 pieces of mail were sent to individuals (alumni and friends), making them aware of the Phonathon, and asking them to "be kind, be generous when you get that call" because that would be very helpful. When the students call and ask for your support, you must support your alma mater. You could be either an alumnus of the institution, or a friend of Oakwood University.

Q: What is the financial goal for this event?

A: The annual fund goal is around $100,000, and we try to at least raise a good portion of the funds during our Phonathon. We're trying to raise at least $50,000 this year.

Q: So how does it work, the process?

A: We put information about applying to be a Phonathon caller online. Students go online, fill out the application, the company (Wilson-Bennett) interviews them and signs them up for the Phonathon. There's a training that takes place on Monday, November 18, and the Phonathon will start that evening. Students will be calling individuals, letting them know the different dates and things that are happening on the campus of Oakwood University. Maybe they'll talk about Alumni Homecoming Weekend; the new media center we are building, and the renovations that are going on in the bookstore - because people like to give to causes.

Q: Can I, as an individual, contribute before the Phonathon starts?

A: You most certainly can! You can contribute online on the Oakwood website. Go to the Advancement and Development page, and there's a big button that says "donate."

Q: Excellent! And last question: What are the Phonathon dates?

A: We'll start on November 18 and go through the 26th. The specific days are November 18, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 26.
Oakwood dedicates University Bookstore renovation
Barnes & Noble funds $150,000 four-week construction

While the four-week renovation project continued ahead of schedule and sales operations continued, OU officials and staff, B&N representative, and students paused to dedicate and showcase the Oakwood University Bookstore renovation construction project. "Our purpose here today is not merely to celebrate a construction project - as there are so many occurring right now in the City of Huntsville, as well as here at Oakwood - but we are here today to celebrate the continuing ministry of the Bookstore," explained OU President, Dr. Leslie N. Pollard.

"Our Barnes & Noble bookstore at Oakwood University speaks directly to the mission of Oakwood, through its dissemination of knowledge (with textbooks and other resource materials), but it also carries and makes accessible the 'emblems of Oakwood' - our paraphernalia and our healthy food choices, for example. All of it helps us tell the story of Oakwood."

According to B&N rep and bookstore manager Mark Taylor, the four week construction project originally scheduled for November 18th completion, "is already ahead of schedule. We will now go from 1,100 sq. ft. to approximately 1,800 sq. ft.; from three to four cash registers; installed track lighting; a concierge desk to better facilitate textbook purchasing;"
"For us, it's all about the students," Barnes & Noble/OU Bookstore Mark Taylor said. Taylor is pictured here with student employees Brianna Holiday (left) and Tiffany Taylor (right, no relation)

**AHS Information Session with OU's Business Students**
*by Vern Gohanna, Beat Reporter - School of Business*
Oakwood's Business and Information Technology Department welcomed (l-r) James English, Vice President-Revenue Cycle Financial Operations, Florida Hospital; Leah Brandon, Finance Resident-Revenue Cycle, Florida Hospital; David Ellis, Finance Director, Florida Hospital East Orlando; and Norman Miles, Leadership Development Director, Adventist Health System.

Oakwood’s Business and Information Technology Department was privileged to have representatives from Adventist Health Systems (AHS) present an information session for its students on October 23, 2013. This was an opportunity for the students to be informed about the standard and structure of AHS, and to ask questions.

The following day, several students took advantage of the chance to be interviewed by the AHS representatives regarding internship and residency opportunities.
Leah Brandon (right) informs students about the standard and structure of AHS during the information session.

AHS guest David Ellis, right, answers students' questions.
OU students greet and question Deputy Keith A. Reed from the Madison County Sheriff's Department on November 7.

**Deputy Reed discusses 'the dangers of bullying'

Approximately 200 interested students, faculty and community guests gathered in the C-100 Auditorium of the McKee Business & Technology Complex on November 7, 2013, to listen to Deputy Keith A. Reed of the Madison County Sheriff's Department. The Department of History and Political Science hosted the event.

Miss Tori Allen, a freshman Pre-Law major, opened the evening with prayer and welcomed the attendees. Dr. Samuel London, Chair of the Department of History and Political Science, introduced the guest speaker.

In his presentation, Deputy Reed discussed the dangers of bullying - focusing on the various forms of intimidation used by bullies, the symptoms exhibited by victims of bullying, the tragic consequences of bullying, and ways of combating the scourge of...
bullying. Reed talked about Operation Making a Difference, an organization he established for at risk youth. He appealed for mentors to participate in his program.

In her follow-up remarks, Dr. Cherryl Galley, Chair of the Psychology Department, shared her insights - based on knowledge of scientific research on the issue of bullying. She also highlighted Deputy Reed's advice to student of how to properly deal with bullying. Miss Leandra Joseph, a junior International Studies major and President of the OU Pre-Law Society, presented tokens of appreciation to Deputy Reed. Miss Marie Stephenson, a senior History major, concluded with closing prayer. Following the program, refreshments were served.

Enterprising student's internship experience

Enterprising senior Alanna Hunter (right) applied and secured a summer internship at *Black Enterprise Magazine* from June to August, 2013.

Hunter's print journalism classes at Oakwood gave her a good foundation for the experience. During her internship, she interviewed experts for multiple stories that appeared in the online edition of *Black Enterprise*, such as, "Google Helps Prepare Consumers for Digital Afterlife" and "6 Great House-Hunting Websites."

Hunter and the other intern researched Black Enterprise's exclusive list of Black board members of America's top corporations, which appeared in the July/August issue of the magazine. Her story, "Choosing the Right Student Bank Account," appeared in the September issue of the magazine. "Altogether I completed five stories along with several other small projects."

Hunter's goal after graduation in May 2014 is to
get a paid internship or job at a news organization as a reporter, or at a magazine as a contributor. We are confident that her four years at Oakwood will serve her well as she proceeds to graduate school to earn a masters in public communication.

**Strategic Plan Overview, 2013-2017**

**Installment 1**

As you recall from *OU? Oh, Yes!*’s October 25 issue, the OU Board of Trustees has approved Oakwood’s direction for the next five years, called "The Strategic Plan Overview." For the next several issues, *OU? Oh, Yes!* will present in installments the Organizational Priorities for each division.

You are also welcome to view the document in its entirety [on the Oakwood website](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1111139991575/archive/1115624047876.html).

**Priority 1: University Mission and Culture.**

Oakwood University's Office of Spiritual Life will produce students who model the mission of Oakwood University and promote the historic culture of faith and life-long service that defines our institution.

**Goals across the next 5 years include:**

1. Develop and implement the Spiritual Master Plan;
2. Facilitate and support high-quality worship programs;
3. Deliver spiritual care to off-campus students;
4. Provide cross-cultural exposure and global education through participation in local, national and international mission activities;
5. Provide faculty and staff with discipleship training designed to deliver ministry to students;
6. Facilitate the integration of faith and learning across the academic schools, departments, and co-curricular activities to cultivate moral, spiritual and biblical decision-making and critical thinking; and
7. Provide needs-based spiritual counseling to individuals and groups.

![Howard Weems, Ph.D.](image)

Special Assistant to the President and Senior Chaplain
Ladies sharing stories over a cup of tea.

Ladies and Gentlemen --

You are cordially invited to join Oakwood University, in support of the United Negro College Fund, for an afternoon of fun and inspiration, at The Ledges of Huntsville, for the UNCF Women's Leadership Tea on Sunday, November 17 at 3:00 pm.

The Women's Leadership Tea is a celebration of both strong women and higher education for young people.

Tickets ($25 for adults; $10 for students) can be purchased at the door.
Comparing hats helps make the Women’s Leadership Tea a festive event.

Stay tuned, for more information. . .
Coming soon -- Oakwood Adventist Academy & Elementary School Grand Opening and Dedication Service on Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 p.m.
For more information, visit the PELC website: www.pelc.cc

Holiday gift idea from 'the Oaks'
President Pollard awards an Oakwood afghan as a door prize to a satisfied alumnus at the "Oakwood On The Road" event in Washington, D.C. Oakwood afghans make excellent Christmas gifts!

Contact Oakwood's PR office at pr@oakwood.edu, or click here to download the order form.

If we have your paid order by December 18, we'll guarantee delivery by December 24 - at no extra charge.

Get yours today!