Government shutdown "voice" to address leadership crisis at 2013 PELC Sunday night "fireside chat"

Oakwood alumnus and U.S. Senate Chaplain Dr. Barry Black, who rose to international acclaim with his piercing daily Capitol Hill morning invocations during the recent 16-day federal government shutdown, will address "Leadership in Crisis: Speaking Truth to Power," during a special "fireside chat" on Sunday, December 8, 8:30 p.m., Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church, to open the annual Pastoral & Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) conference, the SDA world church's largest continuous annual gathering of pastors.

According to PELC director/OU religion professor Dr. Jesse Wilson, "For this open-to-the-public session, Barry Black will be unpacking for us his recent role in the federal debt ceiling crisis, in an interview entitled, 'Leadership in Crisis: Speaking Truth to Power.' His remarks will gel perfectly with our 2013 theme, 'Greater,' as our goal is for God to prepare us for greater works of ministry and service."

Wilson outlined the Sunday opening session as follows:

- 6:00 pm- Musical mini-concert
- 6:30 pm- Inaugural Service Awards Ceremony, presenting

U.S. Senate Chaplain Dr. Barry Black offers prayer at the Capitol.
1. Lifetime Achievement Awards to George Earle, Charles Joseph and Robert Woodfork.
2. Pastoral Leadership Award to Calvin Preston.
3. Evangelism Award to Patrick Vincent.
4. Administration Award to Joseph McCoy

- 7:00 pm - Worship Service - speaker, Dr. William Cox, Columbus, OH, and musical guests, the 2012 World Choir Games champion Oakwood University Aeolians Choir
- 8:30 pm - Dr. Barry Black's presentation, "Leadership in Crisis - Speaking Truth to Power."

The nightly services will be streamed, and for more information, go to www.pelc.cc.

A Holiday Greeting from our family to yours
**NAD endorses OU Education Department for another six years**

by Dr. Donaldson Williams

Faculty members in the Department of Education are praising God for their special accomplishment on November 12.
The North American Division Accreditation Team arrived on campus as scheduled. Following hours of detailed scrutiny, they declared a full term (six years) of accreditation for the Teacher Education Program.

The declaration was made at the conclusion of the team's exit report. One of the commendations made by the visiting team was that the Education Department intentionally integrates faith into the curriculum. Department chair Dr. James Mbyirukira proudly reminded his faculty that: "We did not just pass but we exceeded the requirements on most of the measures."

We all agree that the challenge was great but the reward encouraging. To God be the glory!!

Strategic Plan Overview, 2013-2017
Installment 4 (amended by Dr. Prudence Pollard)

At its annual meeting in October, the OU Board of Trustees approved Oakwood's direction for the next five years, called "The Strategic Plan Overview." OU? Oh, Yes! is presenting, in installments, the Organizational Priorities for each division. You are also welcome to view the document in its entirety on the Oakwood website.

Priority 4: Research and Employee Development.
The Research and Employee Services Division will facilitate development of our research infrastructure and assure exceptional performance of faculty and staff through the utilization of best-in-class talent acquisition, management and employee development.

The Division currently is in year one of the University's five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to develop critical thinking, and will add seven other initiatives to its strategic goals listed below.

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

1. Increase grant writing and funding through research;
2. Recruit diverse talent to fill vacancies and fulfill the mission of Oakwood University;
3. Establish a completely electronic hiring process;
4. Design and implement a system-wide program of customer care that distinguishes Oakwood University from its competition;
5. Set parameters and guide the process for hiring faculty and staff (internal and external);
6. Develop policies on internal hiring in order to develop talent within the campus (includes faculty and staff); and
7. Design and implement a state-of-the-art excellence-in-employment developmental system.

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**Faculty Development Grant Program awards announced**

The Offices of Faculty Development and Research & Grants held a Welcome and Orientation Supper for the awardees of the Faculty Development Grant Program (FDGP) on October 31, 2013, in the Faculty Resource Center in Cunningham Hall. The event kicked off the third year of the internal grant, funded by Oakwood University, providing seed money for research, teaching, and service related projects designed to enhance the effectiveness of individual faculty members.

With one of the University's seven new priorities being the development of a research infrastructure and assurance of the development of the faculty, the Faculty Development Grant serves as a critical strategy in the fulfillment of this new priority.

The process began at Colloquium 2013, where faculty members were invited to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to respond to the Request for Proposals (RFP) via the Faculty Development web page. Proposals were due on September 16th and were externally reviewed. Awards were based upon the consideration of five priority criteria: Significance, Investigators, Innovation,
Approach, and Environment.

This grant year eight research projects were funded totaling over $5000 dollars, representing four schools and five departments. The research projects are listed below:

- "Factors Influencing Successful/Unsuccessful Matriculation at Oakwood University: Requisite Data for Creating a Mentoring Program" by Dr. Olivia D. Beverly
- "The Effect of Machiavellian Thinking on Willingness to Use Ethically Questionable Business Tactics among University Students" by Dr. Faye Brathwaite, Principal Investigator, and Drs. Theodore Brown and Malcolm Cort
- "An Exploratory Study of Perceptions of International Social Work Among Social Work Students Attending an HBCU" by Dr. Samson Chama, Principal Investigator, and Dr. Octavio Ramirez
- "Eat - Pray - Move: Health & Wellness Study III for Oakwood University Students" by Dr. Maxine Garvey, Principal Investigator, and Drs. Finbar Benjamin and Jocelyn Peterson
- "Young People's Perceptions of a Group Home's Efficacy: A Retrospective Study" by Dr. Octavio Ramirez, Principal Investigator, and Dr. Samson Chama
- "Integration of Faith & Learning at Oakwood University: A Quantitative Analysis" by Dr. Pauline Sawyers, Principal Investigator, and the Oakwood University Research Society
- "The Prevalence of Divorce Among the Parents of Seventh-day Adventist College Students and the Impact on their Future Relationship Formation and Membership in the Church" by Dr. Eva Starner
- "Investigating Best Practices in Accessibility for the Disabled on College Campuses" by Ms. Mishael Williams, Principal Investigator, and Dr. Maxine Garvey

"We are excited and applaud the work of the faculty to advance their scholarly work through research," says Dr. Prudence Pollard, Vice President for Research and Employee Services. "It is no small task to think about one's research, submit a proposal, take the constructive criticism of the blind external review, and then go and do the actual work of research."
Mrs. Lucy Cort (standing), Proposal Specialist, presented "Tips to Becoming Externally Funded." The FDGP process mirrors the application process for an externally-funded grant.

The Orientation and Supper was an opportunity to celebrate the award recipients, as well as orient them to the grant process for the upcoming year. The funded researchers congratulated each other while enjoying a supper of soup, bread, salad, and assorted desserts.

The FDGP will culminate with the 2014 Faculty Research Symposium on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. This fourth year of the annual Symposium will include presentations of papers and posters of the research of University faculty and students including the 2013-2014 FDGP awardees and is chaired by Associate Professor, Mrs. Paulette Johnson, Director of the Eva B. Dykes Library. Dr. Sherine Brown-Fraser, Assistant Professor in the Nutritional Sciences Program at Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, is scheduled to be the keynote presenter.

December Southern Tidings features OU's "AGAPE Day"

The December 13 Southern Tidings features OU's AGAPE Day, and the Media Center groundbreaking ceremony. See page 33 to read the articles.
Department of History and Political Science visits the other "Oaks"

Fifty-six students boarded the bus for the Department of History and Political Science's field trip to Tuskegee, Alabama, on November 15, to visit museums and historical sites of interest in the African-American experience.

At Tuskegee University, students toured the home of Booker T. Washington (also known as "The Oaks"). The tour guide discussed: the home's architecture; the fact that it was constructed by students; its modern (at the time) amenities; as well as Washington's eminent status as an educator and African-American leader.

The group also viewed the Tuskegee chapel with its unique acoustics and decorative stained glass windows, highlighting the stories in Negro Spirituals. Near the chapel is a small cemetery, where students saw the gravesites of Washington and George Washington Carver (the famous African-American inventor, educator and botanist).

Oakwood students viewing the statue of Booker T. Washington figuratively removing the veil of ignorance from a freedman.

During the students' tour of the Tuskegee Airmen's Museum, they received a brief history of the Army Air Corps' Program to develop black pilots during the Second World War. Afterward, they viewed the various artifacts displayed at the museum.
A tour highlight was being allowed to dress in authentic Tuskegee Airmen’s uniforms.

Overall, everyone agreed that the trip was educational, fun and entertaining. Students that participated are thankful for the continued support given by Dr. London and the Department of History and Political Science. In the future, the Department hopes to sponsor additional field trips to enhance the learning experience of Oakwood University students.

Renovated, expanded OU Bookstore now awaits you!

Student photojournalist Jyremy Reid recently interviewed the Bookstore Manager, Mark Taylor, to get some of his thoughts.

Q: What was your main purpose for updating the bookstore?
A: To add more space in order to create a more pleasant shopping environment.

Q: What's now different about the facility?

A: We've got new floors, new walls, new fixtures, new lighting, etc.; so structurally, everything inside is completely new.

Q: To date, how have faculty and students have received these changes?

A: They are all extremely overwhelmed. They love it because, with bigger space, we can carry more items and keep more of the textbooks in stock. What's in here is for the students, but it's also for the entire school. Mainly, though, this is for the students; this is their spot.

Q: Any future changes to expect?

A: We may add a small sitting area in the front with benches, and maybe some umbrellas to cover the seating. I want something that will be inviting to the students during the spring and summer months, and that's probably it for right now!
**OUPD officer elected chaplain of police academy class**
*by Lewis A. Eakins, Director, OUPD*

Officer David Clarke, currently a cadet in the Montgomery Police Academy, was recently elected to the position of Chaplain for his class. According to academy sources, Officer Clarke was elected to this position based upon his maturity level and the exceptional spiritual leadership qualities he has exhibited.

As class chaplain, Officer Clarke will be responsible for mediating disputes, providing spiritual counseling, and providing invocations at training sessions and for the final graduation ceremony.

Officer Clarke joins the ranks of Sergeant Shawn Byrd who served as the chaplain for his class at the Northeast Law Enforcement Academy in Anniston, AL, in 2012.

According to Chief Eakins, "the officers we have sent to police academies throughout the state have served as ambassadors for Oakwood University and role models for their fellow classmates. I am extremely proud of how they have represented God, Oakwood University, and our department."

Officer Clarke will complete his 480 hours of academy training in January 2014.

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**OU to present second annual "Live Nativity"**
"Living Christmas card" features live animals, Bethlehem marketplace

WHEN: Friday, December 6, 6-7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Millet Activity Center ("the MAC"), OU campus
ADMISSION: Free

According to OU Student Activities director Raymond King, "The purpose of the 'Live
Nativity' is to give to the community a living Christmas card, expressing why Oakwood as a Christian institution celebrates the holiday season.

"Our goal is to give our visitors a glimpse of Bethlehem on the night that Christ was born. This year, we have added a marketplace featuring shops and items that would be typically sold during that time era.

"We will have live animals, which were a hit last year. Oakwood students and employees will be dressed as the biblical characters from that day."

The Live Nativity is scheduled for Friday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Millet Activity Center due to the predicted rain.

"It is free to everyone and it will be an experience that you will never forget."
Oakwood University

“Living” Nativity

Thursday – December 5, 2013 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday – December 6, 2013 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Located on the campus of Oakwood University
at the “Millet Activity Center“
7000 Adventist Blvd

For More Information Call 256-726-7384
Aeolians annual Fall Concert to debut "Aeolian-ology 101" CD/DVD products
by Jyremy Reed, Aeolian "newbie"

The 2012 World Choir Games champion Oakwood University Aeolians Choir's annual Fall Concert (Saturday, December 7, 5:45 p.m., OU campus church) will feature:

- Twenty-two "newbies" of the 42 eight-part harmonizers;
- Various new musical pieces by Stacy Gibbs, Ken Burton and Stephen Murphy (2013 graduate); and
- The sales debut of its "Aeolian-ology 101" CD/DVD products.

Every year the question, "Will the choir be just as consistent as the previous years?" looms. Director Jason Max Ferdinand opined, "Each year, the group takes on a different personality, derived from the individuals composing the ensemble. This group has been a breath of fresh air. We have 22 new singers, and they have come in with a 'no nonsense' attitude.

"With the leadership of our old members, I must admit that I have never had an Aeolian group that is so tightly bonded and on one accord. Two weeks ago, we sang at the American Choral Directors Association Collegiate Festival and afterward, the clinician walked up to one member of the group and pointed, and said: 'I can tell you care about the person singing next to you - over and beyond the music!'"
With each passing year, the Aeolians' standards and expectations become clearer. Each new Aeolian joins with some awareness to the work ethic code. "Each time they have presented this semester, the growth has been noticeable," added Ferdinand. "Singing at the Oakwood Church has been excellent." The Aeolians' first full concert was an unforgettable experience, he added. "At the end of the first half, the choristers were all in tears from the overwhelming sensation from the song 'Someday.' The intermission turned into something of a consecration service; it was amazing for all present."

Ferdinand continued, "At the ACDA Collegiate Festival, the protocol is to have each choir sing each entire set (of several songs) before the audience is to applaud. In the last few years, however, that had not been the case when the Aeolians hit the stage. This year, the students' performance, again, resulted in standing ovations between the songs!

The clinician then proceeded to ask us questions (he is to give suggestions on the performances). One of his questions to the choir was, "What do you all try to represent when you sing?" - one of our students quickly replied, "God!"

The Aeolians' latest CD/DVD project, "Aeolian-ology 101" features 21 tracks, intended to be a blessing.

No, the Aeolians are not in a rebuilding stage, but in the words of Ferdinand, "My (Los Angeles) Lakers are in a turnover year, but these Aeolians are on it!"
OAA to celebrate grand opening of new Multi-Educational Complex

"This is a truly a dream realized and a vision of excellence that has come to fruition. We are thankful to God for everyone who made it possible," said Mrs. Sharon Lewis, principal.

A nearly three decade-long dream has been realized for Oakwood Adventist Academy as they prepare to open the newly constructed Multi-Educational Complex for their PreK-12 grade programs. The grand opening will take place on Sunday, December 8, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
The 3.5 million dollar complex is a labor of love and sacrifice that was made possible, in large part, by the sacrificial giving of the nine local SDA churches that form the HASDA (Huntsville Area Seventh-day Adventist) Constituency, the school board and the support of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The 33,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility hosts an AHSAA regulation gymnasium with full service locker rooms (with a seating capacity of 500), a commercial-grade kitchen and cafeteria/multi-purpose room, and four large classrooms.

"This facility is a crucial addition to our school that will facilitate the continuation and enhancement of our mission to DEVELOP, NURTURE and AFFIRM our students in mind, body and spirit as we prepare them for a lifetime of service to God and humanity," Lewis concluded.
Strategic Plan Overview

Keeping the Promise of Mission:
Oakwood in the 21st Century
Note from the President

Since its founding on November 16, 1896, by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Oakwood University has prepared students for service to local, national, and international communities. Standing as one of the historic landmarks of the city of Huntsville, Alabama, Oakwood University enjoys a beautiful natural setting on 1,185 acres of choice real estate. Approximately 105 acres comprise the campus, with another 500 acres under cultivation.

Oakwood University is committed to the spiritual nurture and character development of each student with the goal of developing servant leaders. Beginning with only 16 students, Oakwood originally existed to provide, on the basis of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and worldview, a wholistic Christian education for those who were then called “colored students.” Oakwood today reflects a diverse geographical, cultural, educational, and socioeconomic environment. And yet, the original purpose continues—Oakwood University specializes in the delivery of transformational Christian education.

This strategic plan sets out a vision for the future. It provides guidance for decision-making that will have a profound and positive impact on our University. It elevates academic and scholarly excellence. It inspires spirituality. It reinforces the Oakwood Experience. It recovers a base of industry. And this plan highlights the service mission to which Oakwood has been called—to prepare students for service in this world, and for wider service in the world to come.

Sincerely,

Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA
President, Oakwood University
A Glimpse of our Future . . .

The Oakwood University Strategic Plan for 2012-2017 reflects our vision of transformational education. The plan includes the input of a wide variety of participants, beginning with the historic Strategic Actioning Session (SAS) of September, 2012. This session brought together a cross-section of Board members, administrators, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community leaders tasked with the mission of recreating Oakwood for the 21st century. The implementation of recommendations from that historic session formed the basis from which to envision the future. This resulting document includes many of the “game changing” initiatives that will strengthen and expand the mission of the institution. The goal of this plan is to maximize and deepen the famous “Oakwood Experience” by making improvements at the University that will enhance, not simply the four years of a student’s Oakwood educational journey, but the forty-plus years of their service life.
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.

Vision: Oakwood University graduates leaders in service to God and humanity.

Aim: God First!

Motto: Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve

Oakwood University commits to the following values . . .

God First: Oakwood seeks to advance the kingdom of God by transforming lives. The value of putting God first expresses the primary reason for Oakwood University’s existence.

Respect: Oakwood esteems others as worthy of human dignity, deference, and service.

Compassion: Oakwood manifests sympathy, empathy, care, and concern in our dealings with others.

Integrity: Oakwood demonstrates honesty, uprightness, moral virtue, and ethical rectitude in every relationship.

Excellence: Oakwood communicates the personal decision to perform at our highest capacity and to continually improve in work and service.

Service: Oakwood chooses to provide assistance, aid, help, caring, outreach, and ministry in response to human need.

Innovation: Oakwood is willing to break with precedent in the advancement of institutional mission by introducing new methods and major changes.
Strengths of Oakwood University

Situated in Huntsville, Alabama, a high-tech and international city of the South, Oakwood University resides on one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Since its founding in 1896, Oakwood University has been blessed with a number of historic strengths that have provided the foundation upon which its mission is built. The University constituency of alumni, churches, conferences, and supporters stand as advocates for and benefactors of Oakwood. Focused on the mission of our institution, these loyal supporters contribute both faith and finances.

Oakwood’s unique brand of spirituality, with its passion and substance, reflects another strength of the institution. This spirituality is reflected in the spiritual strength of our faculty, staff, and students. The internationally-acclaimed music of Oakwood reflects the “Oakwood Experience” which continues to provide a lifelong blessing to our graduates. A growing enrollment, competitively-priced tuition, a diverse student body, a lifelong “family” ambiance, a dedicated alumni, a highly-accomplished faculty, a caring and dedicated staff, and a committed Board of Trustees combine to make Oakwood a compelling and attractive place to study. Fiscal stability as well as a growing base of philanthropy provide strengths upon which Oakwood’s “God First” commitment guides the institution.
Seven Organizational Priorities at Oakwood University

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.

Priority 2: Educational Effectiveness.
Oakwood University’s Academic Division will ensure academic effectiveness in teaching and learning.
Goals across the next 5 years include:
1. Expand traditional delivery by creating an online delivery system for instruction;
2. Develop an academic master plan that takes into consideration the changes in the academic and professional climate;
3. Design and implement an Honors Program to attract academically-gifted scholars;
4. Strengthen the freshman advising and retention program;
5. Expand graduate degree program offerings
6. Enhance degree program in Communication Media with the addition of a TV production/recording studio; and
7. Review and update existing programs.

Priority 3: Learning-Supportive Environments.
Oakwood University’s Division of Student Services will facilitate a nurturing environment that is sensitive to the needs of students and supportive of the academic mission of the institution.
Goals across the next 5 years include:
1. Develop a career-preparation and workforce-tracking program;
2. Design, implement, and facilitate an immersion into the Oakwood Experience;
3. Provide a customer service call center;
4. Provide online career assessment testing;
5. Create a website to identify and promote mentorships between alumni and current students;
6. Provide online career services (e.g., career development plan, funding resources, test preparation, internship opportunities); and
7. Create a database for tracking student progress after graduation (in coordination with alumni services).

Priority 4: Research and Employee Development.
The Research and Employee Services Division will facilitate development of our research infrastructure and assure exceptional performance of faculty and staff through the utilization of best-in-class talent acquisition, management and employee development.
Goals across the next 5 years include:
1. Faculty Development and Research will increase grant writing and funding through research;
2. Recruit diverse talent to fill vacancies and fulfill the mission of Oakwood University;
3. Establish a completely electronic hiring process;
4. HRM will design and implement a system-wide program of customer care that distinguishes Oakwood University from its competition;
5. HRM will set parameters and guide the process for hiring faculty and staff (internal and external);
6. HRM will develop policies on internal hiring in order to develop talent within the campus (includes faculty and staff); and
7. HRM will design and implement a state-of-the-art excellence-in-employment developmental system.

Keeping the Promise of Mission: Oakwood in the 21st Century
**Priority 5: Advancement and Development of the University.**

Oakwood University’s Division of Advancement and Development will secure the University through increased philanthropy, contracting, and fund development. The Division's professional staff will raise financial resources from alumni and non-alumni sources to fund the educational and capital needs of the institution.

**Goals across the next 5 years include:**
1. Federal contracting will increase each year. This means that Oakwood will leverage its ISO 9001 certification to become prime or sub-prime contractor on major contracts;
2. Cultivate relationships with alumni, board, and external partners to identify projects, secure re-investment in the institution, and increase fundraising outcomes;
3. Increase and enhance pre-alumni activities;
4. Create a new operational model that enhances the relationship between the University and the Alumni Association;
5. Coordinate donor recognition activities (e.g., giving clubs, donor wall);
6. Utilize the “Oakwood Experience” for more effective marketing of the University; and
7. Develop and implement marketing standards (e.g. email signature, graphic standards manual, announcements) designed to enhance the institutional brand.

**Priority 6: Fiscal Growth, Responsible Management, and our Long-term Stability.**

The Division of Financial Administration will secure the fiscal health of Oakwood University by the creation of non-tuition revenue, by managing internal financial resources in harmony with the strategic mission of the institution, and by decreasing dependence on governmental sources of income through the recovery of industries appropriate for the 21st century.

**Goals across the next 5 years include:**
1. Increase revenue and decrease tuition-dependence through the creation and/or procurement of mission and values-compatible businesses;
2. Increase student employment opportunities;
3. Create an industry development endowment;
4. Repurpose and renovate facilities for new uses; and
5. Plan for the development of new and needed facilities.

**Priority 7: Operational and Technological Leadership.**

The Office of the Provost will facilitate the use of technology to improve operational efficiency and to create a seamless infrastructure capable of expanding educational and service opportunities. The Office will communicate the Oakwood mission and message to local, national, and international markets and constituencies through broadcast and online media. These actions will advance the efficiency and reach of Oakwood University.

**Goals across the next 5 years include:**
1. Complete the 11,700 square-foot media center and roll out Oakwood University Broadcast Network to share the message and mission of Oakwood around the world;
2. Deliver high quality and reliable technology services that support the learning needs of faculty, staff, and students;
3. Implement a campus-wide life safety and security system;
4. Support and facilitate continuous staff training in technology systems;
5. Increase the number of wireless outdoor access points across campus at specific locations;
6. Train students in media production; and
7. Provide technologically innovative support for the delivery of institutional services.

**Conclusion**

Oakwood University embraces plans that are destined to fail, except for Divine intervention! Thank you for your prayers and your support of Oakwood University.
GOD FIRST!
Oakwood University to Construct $4M Media Center

Oakwood University officials broke ground for one of its “game changers,” an 11,700-square-foot, $4 million Media Center on October 7, 2013, as part of its $9.3 million capital campaign, according to Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University.

“Oakwood University Media Center will be a game changer for us. We will produce our own products — our own talk shows, our own dreams, our own dramas, our own editorials, and religious newscasts — and market them on our own terms, in our own voice,” Pollard declared in his annual presidential address at the University’s First Chapel/Opening Convocation program, August 22, 2013, to the entire Oakwood campus, perhaps the state of Alabama’s only K-18 community.

“Oakwood University’s first couple, Pollard and his wife, Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., Oakwood vice president for faculty development and research, and professor of management in the School of Business, made the capital campaign’s first contribution of $10,000 in April 2013; thus, the Media Center conference room 330 will be named in their honor.

“The Media Center will be set between Ford Hall and the newly renovated Cunningham Hall, on the campus mall,” states Kisha R. Norris, Oakwood executive director of advancement and development. “Not only will it be a learning environment for our communication students, but we plan to begin telling our Oakwood story by forming Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN),” she continued.

“The Oakwood story of God-ordained ministry is something that needs to be spread to the corners of the Earth. We believe that this is the first step in blanketing the Gospel message to places that others cannot reach. This nine-month construction project should have this facility ready for use for the 2014-2015 academic year,” she concluded.

For more information about donations and naming opportunities, visit http://www.oakwood.edu/zPublic/advancement/building-on-the-past-brochure.pdf#

—BY TIM ALLSTON

Oakwood University Takes an “Agape Day” to Serve Local Non-Profits

With reference to the recent federal government shutdown, The Huntsville Times contrasted, “This [Agape Day] was a shutdown that did some good.”

On Wednesday, October 2, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oakwood students put down their textbooks, faculty walk away from grading papers, and administrators and staff shut down their computers to go into the Huntsville community to embody the school’s motto: Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.

“The University shuts down all classes once every two years, for this ‘Agape Day’ of service,” explained spokesman Tim Allston, Oakwood public relations director.

Roughly 2,000 Oakwood volunteers reached out to some 27 local schools, thrift stores, community centers, parks, shelters, and other non-profits; performed cleaning and small paint jobs; planted fruits and vegetables; and fed the hungry — as well as conducted computer research for the International Services Council.

—BY BRIANA FIGEROUX