After graduation from Oakwood, Kenesha Bennett plans to pursue a Masters in Education Policy. "I believe strongly in education as a means to better the lives of people and the community in which they live. I believe that all students, from all backgrounds, deserve the best education possible and I want to make sure that happens," Bennett says.

"We are admonished to ask so that we will receive, so our second prayer request is for victory."

The show on which Kenesha will appear is scheduled
to air sometime in February. Stay tuned to your local TV listings.

A Holiday Greeting from our family to yours

Oakwood University Holiday Greeting 2013

Click here to make your gift today!

Strategic Plan Overview, 2013-2017

Installment 7

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

**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 Provost's 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 (OUBN) 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.

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**al.com: "Oakwoodite sister" recounts Mandela funeral visit**

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- Jacqueline Galloway-Blake heard the drums beating from Africa.

They beckoned her to come home to dance and sing in celebration of the life Nelson Mandela lived. Circumstance, however, showed no favor to allow her to pay respects to the South African civil rights leader who died December 5.

[Click here to read the rest of reporter Paul Huggins' story on al.com.](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1111139991575/archive/1116092541402.html[12/31/2013 10:05:56 AM])
Galloway-Blake shared her story recently at the Oakwood University Church. Her sister is Oakwood graduate Stephanie Galloway-Baker, class of 1973.

"I wanted to sing in the streets and dance in the streets with the people." Galloway-Blake on going to South Africa to celebrate the life of Mandela.

#findteleka

While it may seem, to some, that the disappearance of Teleka Patrick (Oakwood, class of 2004) is an impossible situation, OU? Oh, Yes! believes that God specializes in "the impossible."

Click here to see a listing of the several media outlets covering the story.

Please continue your prayers for Dr. Patrick and her family as the search continues.
TELEKA CASSANDRA PATRICK

Missing From: Kalamazoo, MI
Date Missing: December 5, 2013
Age: 30
Sex: Female
Height: 5 Feet 7 Inches
Weight: 160
Build: Medium
Eyes: Dark Brown
Hair: Black
Race: African American

Circumstances behind Disappearance:
Teleka Patrick was last seen December 5 in the parking lot of Borgess Medical Center in downtown Kalamazoo, MI. Patrick was reported missing when she didn’t show up for work on Friday morning. Her car was found abandoned in Indiana by a State Trooper late Thursday, December 5 night on I-94 West, just east of the Porter/Burns exit in Indiana.

We are asking anyone who may have seen Teleka Patrick, possibly given her a ride, or has any information about her whereabouts to call the Indiana State Police at 219-696-6242 OR the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Department at 269-383-8748.

Find us on Facebook: #findTeleka
To make a donation: www.gofundme/findteleka
A closing thought for this last issue of *OU? Oh, Yes!* for 2013:

Progress is a nice word. But change is its motivator and change has its enemies.

~ Robert F. Kennedy (1925 - 1968)

We wish for you God's continued blessings as we're about to change the calendar to a new year. Just think -- one year closer to our Lord's return! Maranatha!

All the best,

*Team PR*

Oakwood University
TEAM PR'S THREE-PRONGED MISSION: 
TO CAPTURE AND TO CAPSULIZE '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.
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
GOD FIRST!

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
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.
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.

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.
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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.
Woman who marched with MLK tells Huntsville students about God-led trip to Mandela's funeral

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- Jacqueline Galloway-Blake heard the drums beating from Africa. They beckoned her to come home to dance and sing in celebration of the life Nelson Mandela lived. Circumstance, however, showed no favor to allow her to pay respects to the South African civil rights leader who died Dec. 5.

For starters, Galloway-Blake's passport had expired, and it normally takes two weeks to have it updated. And with just a day's notice, plane tickets were ranging in price from $3,000 to $7,000. Then a friend from Johannesburg told her all the hotel rooms were booked in her city.

The trip looked impossible, but she clung to a promise she had trusted since she marched on Washington, D.C., with Dr. Martin Luther King 50 years ago.

"When man says it's impossible, that's when God makes it a possibility," Galloway-Blake said.

It took just three hours to get her passport fixed, and three days later she was standing next to Mandela's casket after being escorted to the front of the line. Her cost for air travel and hotel was just $2,500, and her hotel was just a mile from the where Mandela lay in state in Pretoria's Union Building.

Everything just came together without any extra effort on her part, and the extraordinary way the trip became possible was typical of the adventure Galloway-Blake said she enjoyed.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she looked out over the Atlantic Ocean from her passenger seat and thought about her ancestors coming to America in chains. At the trip's conclusion, the great-granddaughter of a slave rode a Greyhound bus from Nashville to Huntsville and thought of the Nashville college students and other Freedom Riders who dared to challenge Jim Crow laws on a bus trip to Birmingham.

In between, Galloway-Blake got to see the bullet holes in the church walls where Mandela once led anti-apartheid
movements, visit the home where he lived his last days, kiss the soil of her native land, and form new friendships with strangers from around the world. Oh, and then there were the five international television networks that interviewed her, one of which videoed her kissing the ground in the gardens of the executive building.

Click here to see Jacqueline Galloway-Blake's three-day journal from Nelson Mandela funeral

In one word, it was "surreal," said Galloway-Blake, a Michigan resident who shared her experience Saturday at Oakwood University Church, where her children once attended. She is in Huntsville to spend the holidays with her son.

"The friendships. The people. Everyone was so open," she said describing the most memorable part of the trip. "They embraced me and invited me to their homes. I was never alone. I had people to eat with. People invited me to different events. Just the comradeship of mankind. It was coming home for me.

"And people from all over were there. It was like the event of the century," she said, noting South African residents invited her to return and a woman she met on a plane wanted her to spend the layover to Nairobi with her.

As a participant in America's civil rights history, Galloway-Blake said there was no way she could just watch Mandela's funeral on television.

"I wanted to sing in the streets and dance in the streets with the people. And God worked a miracle."

Galloway-Blake said she could feel God's presence throughout and noted repeated times God gave her opportunities she didn't expect. For example, while sitting on the curb to rest from bad leg cramps, a police officer told her she couldn't sit there, but then quietly nodded her to join a group of senior citizens being marched by to the front of the line. She was the last person in the group allowed to cut in, and it ended up saving her an hour of painful standing.

The grace and love that Mandela lived by inspired Galloway-Blake to live likewise, she said, and since Mandela was such an important mentor, she felt compelled to pay her respects in person.

"His life was so magnanimous. He was a giant in reconciliation and forgiveness," she said. "That you can spend 27 years unjustly incarcerated and come out without malice. That's such a gigantic lesson for all us to learn.

"He let his life be used for a higher calling and looking beyond the pain, that his people and his family endured. That inspired me to want to be a better person."

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