President Leslie Pollard will be the Divine Worship speaker at Oakwood University Church Sabbath, January 18, at 11:00 a.m. His sermon is titled "How God Shapes a Leader."

The award-winning Aeolians, under the direction of Jason Max Ferdinand, will provide the ministry in music.

Approximately 30 of Oakwood's Administrators, School Deans, Department Chairs and their spouses are preparing to host their counterparts from Southern Adventist University for the DEEP Leadership Retreat, January 24-26, 2014. The two institutions take turns hosting the weekend retreat over alternate years.

As Huntsville is also known as "The Rocket City," the focus of this year's retreat is God's powerful display of diversity in the universe, under the theme "HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS."

The guest presenter is Dr. Mervyn Warren, Dean of the School of Religion, at Oakwood University.
Oakwood Online University Highlighted in Southern Tidings

The approval to launch Oakwood Online University is reported on page 32 of the January, 2014, issue of Southern Tidings. Click on the cover to read the entire issue.

Oakwood Alum Remembers pre-Civil Rights Act Conditions

M. Farook Sait, alumnus of Oakwood College, spoke on January 15, 2014, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. observance at the McNamara Headquarters Complex (Defense Logistics Agency).

Sait, former director of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, spoke to employees about the challenges he faced as an immigrant living in the southern United States in the 1960s. (Click on photo at left to read more.)

As the first non-African-American to attend Oakwood College, Sait became the unofficial representation of minorities for the school's activities. (Photo by Teodora Mocanu)

Sait as pictured in the 1964 Acorn (yearbook)
**OU Music Professor Presents at Music and Worship Conference**

Adriana Perera was invited to the Andrews University Worship and Music Conference, January 9-11, 2014.

At Sabbath morning's general session, Perera presented: "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed: Paul's Effective Formula for Congregational Singing." She also conducted two workshops on "Music Styles in Light of Scriptures" and "Piano Accompaniment Formulas for Congregational Singing."

Perera is currently an Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Oakwood University.

(L-R) Jiri Moskala, Dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Mrs. Perera, and R. Clifford Jones, Associate Dean of the Seminary.

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Oakwood's Ambassadors and Lady Ambassadors will host teams from Knoxville College, Selma University and Washington Adventist University, in the **5th Annual Oakwood University Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Classic** -- to be held in the Ashby Gymnasium - beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2014. Click [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1111139991575/archive/1116235354882.html[1/19/2014 4:50:42 PM]) for the schedule of games.

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MLK event speaker: ‘Deny justice to one, … denying justice to everybody’

1/16/2014
By Amanda Neumann

The right to education, fair housing and health care are some of the essential strides minorities have made for equality, but the accomplishments of the past should not be forgotten, a former federal government official said Jan. 15 at a Martin Luther King Jr. observance at the McNamara Headquarters Complex.

M. Farook Sait, former director of civil rights at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service and the special counsel to the assistant secretary for civil rights at USDA, spoke to the audience about his firsthand experience living in the southern United States as an immigrant in the 1960s.

A native of Bangalore, India, Sait’s childhood was filled with images of America that he watched daily on television and in Hollywood movies. But after seeing movie newsreels filled with stories from the civil rights battles brewing in Little Rock, Ark., Sait began to question his concept of America. Even so, he still dreamed of studying in the United States.

After traveling by bus from New York to Huntsville, Ala., to attend Oakwood College, Sait encountered segregated water fountains as soon as he stepped off the bus. He soon realized that was just the beginning. After repeated attempts, Sait was unable to get a taxi from town to the historically black college and had to resort to calling the college’s administrator to pick him up from the bus station.

“It was quite an introduction,” he said. “And I say that to you because what I learned very early on is that this issue of discrimination is a very irrational issue. We frequently think that education is the solution. Perhaps to some degree but education cannot overcome irrationality.”

As the first non-African-American to attend Oakwood College, Sait became the unofficial representation of minorities for the school’s activities. As such, he was often pushed to attend local speaking events at churches and functions throughout the South, often performing alongside musician and singer Little Richard, who had given up his singing career to become a minister.

“I had the opportunity to travel around in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and I saw things that were just unbelievable when it came to the concept of what America was,” he said. “How could a country that subscribed to the most fantastic ideal of freedom and equality and provide phenomenal assistance and support to bring that to other parts of the world have such a violation in its own borders?”

Soon Sait started to read up on the issues of the law and the push that the marchers were engaging in. Living in and around the giant strides of civil rights, he noticed the vast majority of those marching were women and children, he said. He watched as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, addressing the issues of discrimination.

“It was not easy, but the Civil Rights Act was passed,” Sait said. “Having the opportunity to apply for a job or having the opportunity to go to a hospital which is receiving federal assistance without the threat of being denied service, was a step forward. But until you have access to the ballot box, you will always have an inequitable and uneven society.”

In 1972, Sait began his work in as a civil rights lawyer, working on cases involving housing, food stamp programs and farm loans. Although he saw change, there’s still more to be done, especially in education, he said.

“Much has changed, but much still needs to change,” Sait said. “So as we learn about things, we come to learn about these things, let’s talk in terms of the future of civil rights. Where do we go? What do we do with the phenomenal legacy of individuals like Dr. Martin Luther King? What do we do with the martyrs like Emmett Till? So many of them who have paid so much, where do we go from there? One of the things that was emphasized is education; it’s an imperative. We have to make sure folks have access to education. ... And the thing that Dr. MLK emphasized so much was that you really don’t have freedom if you don’t have economic strength.”

For Sait, keeping major issues in the forefront is essential to preventing the injustice that has been prevalent in the past.

“We have to think in terms of how we address these issues,” he said. “We have to make sure that this irrationality doesn’t come back and that’s the responsibility of each one of us. As an immigrant, I’m proud as an American. My son served in the U.S. Navy, and I served this country 40 years in the civilian government. I firmly believe that this country is probably the best thing that has happened in this world for a long time. But we need to address certain things, ... because if you deny justice to one, you’re denying justice to everybody.”
MLK event speaker: ‘Deny justice to one, … denying justice to everybody’
# Martin Luther King, Jr. Classic

**5th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Classic**

**January 18-20, 2014**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td><strong>January 18</strong></td>
<td>6:30 pm (women)</td>
<td>Oakwood University</td>
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<td>8:30 pm (men)</td>
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<td><strong>January 19</strong></td>
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<td>4:00 pm (men)</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>January 20</strong></td>
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