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“The Oakwood Woman Is…”  
Nurturing Our Collegiate Women  
by Marjorie Robinson – Residential Life Coordinator

The idea of ongoing mentorship for collegiate women at Oakwood University has been an important endeavor. Within the past few years, the Residence Hall Deans and the South Central Conference Women’s Ministry have teamed up with the South Central Women’s Ministry to organize several very special mentoring events. These events include a “White Purity Banquet” for sophomore women, which emphasized maintaining virtue; another event was the Collegiate Women’s Tea; and yet another event where community women were paired with students in mentoring teams. A tremendous bonding experience resulted. Several of these mentoring relationships continued beyond the school year. Ultimately, as a result of these relational events, many life lessons have been learned and lasting friendships have been formed.

Fall semester 2010, the residents of Wade Hall enjoyed fellowshipping at the Black and White Welcome Back Celebration. Guest speaker, Pastor Lola Moore, Associate Pastor of the Oakwood University Church shared a message of the rewards of remaining pure and true to the “Oakwood Woman Is…” creed. The event was sponsored by Wade Residence Hall Directors Marjorie Robinson, Assistant-Camille Kibler and hosted by the SCC Women’s Ministries.

The women enjoyed a Hollywood red carpet entrance and group glamour shots. Musical sounds promoted the theme of empowerment, integrity and being unstoppable women of Oakwood. Every woman received a large diamond replica in a drawstring satchel to remind them that they are but diamonds in God’s hands. We have truly been blessed by beauty and the wisdom of the women who have participated in these programs over the years.
INTRODUCING ASPA’S ORGSYNC COMMUNITY!

- As a member of ASPA have you ever wanted more ways to connect with other ASAP members?
- Ever needed advice from people who have similar work challenges as you?
- Have you wanted to share your thoughts and plans with other ASAP members?

If you answered yes to any of the above…then I say “WELCOME TO A NEW WORLD.” What world is it? OrgSync…Finally ASPA has a place where we can all connect! Our ASPA OrgSync Community is here for you to look up past Window issues, ASPA Constitution & Bylaws, register for ASAP membership as well as conventions, including Dean’s Workshop West, receive news posts, share pictures, have discussions, take polls, and much more.

Interested?
Log on to www.orgsync.com

- Click “Register”–top right hand corner
- Find “Adventist Student Personnel Association”–near top
- Create your account/profile – think of this like a ASPA Facebook
- Once you have done this you will be in the community!
- Go to your home.
- Click the “My Orgs” (top bar) and this will take you to the ASPA Community.

Once you are in we will group you (school and occupation) and send you instructions on how to use your account. If you are joining us at the convention we will be presenting more information about the community. In the meantime join and check out your ASPA community!

Have a great rest of the quarter/semester,

Kim Canine
Your ASPA Financial V.P.

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**Educating for Eternity**

by John Willis

The role of a boarding academy dean is unique in that we not only manage a facility and all of its staff, but we are responsible for our residents. Just like a parent we make sure they get to class, keep their room clean, encourage a positive attitude, listen to their triumphs and problems, encourage and lead them to have a closer walk with Christ, and on occasion discipline them. When you think about it that way it can be overwhelming. How can we do it all? There is so much other stuff that also needs to get done. Keeping our dorm clean, calling parents, room check, meetings, just the day to day “stuff” can take up so much time. It can be very easy to lose sight of our primary responsibility, parenting our residents. That is why we all do what we do, because we have a calling and a passion for our kids.

There are some great tools available to us and we all have access to them. First, I encourage you to keep your daily walk with Christ a priority. I know personally how hard that can be. The lack of sleep that sometimes comes with our job can really make personal study and prayer time a challenge. Try to fit it in where you can, and remember He is only a prayer away when we rush out the door in the middle of the night.

Second, take a look at the book “Education.” We have all read this at some point. This school year we are reading through this book as a staff and discussing it at staff meeting. I have found that I have forgotten some of the great things in this book. One of the main themes throughout the book is that education is a partnership between educators, parents, and the church. Each has a role to play in the development of our youth. Again as Deans we represent all three of these groups. We are part of the collective faculty of our schools, but we are also the student’s primary guardian at school, and we are part of the ‘adult’ church that they see week in and week out as an example. Another theme in her writings is that the work of education and redemption are one. How we educate and what we teach has such an impact on eternity. Another great point is that we should educate the whole person; academics alone will not equip our youth, rather education of their mind, body, and spirit. There are so many great ideas in this book that I couldn’t begin to cover them all. I encourage you to read through it again and think about how you can apply your findings to Deaning.

Third, we can be a huge resource to each other. One of my favorite things about ASPA is the camaraderie and mentorship we give each other. Don’t be afraid to give another dean a call or email and say, “Things are hectic this week. Will you pray with me?” Don’t hesitate to ask another dean for advice in a situation. That is what we are all here for, to support and encourage one another.

Remember, God gave you the gifts to do this job and called you to do it. Stay close to Him and He will see you through. Take a look at the book True Education with new eyes. And reach out to others for support. “Call to Me, and I will answer you.” “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will guide you with My eye.”

Jer. 33:3;
Ps. 32:8.
How well I remember the sense of shock and numbness that engulfed me the day I learned my favorite cousin, Linda, had been killed instantly in a head-on collision with a drunk driver. I was 17 at the time, a junior in academy. She had turned 17 the day before, and died on Mother’s Day. The news of the tragedy overwhelmed me, made even more surreal by the fact I could not attend her funeral. It felt as if my childhood had been stolen; our lives had been intertwined through most of our early years, and it seemed I had lost my best friend. The sense of loneliness and grief was intense. My family was 400 miles away and none of my school friends knew my cousin. There was no one with which to share my memories, my pain and my anger about the unfairness of her death.

Hunkered in my room with no desire to do or see anything or anyone, I heard a soft knock on my door. Enter the wise one, Miss Metz, an enigma to most students, was quite formal and proper, and did not spend time in frivolous chit chat or emotional displays of affection. She was direct and firm and most decidedly intimidating to those who did not think the rules applied to them. So I was quite amazed to see her in my doorway, and even more surprised when she asked if I had eaten anything. I had not, and numbly let her lead me to her apartment where she served me breakfast: waffles, fresh strawberries and whipped cream. I had never been inside her home before and was so stunned by her kindness that for a few moments I forgot my grief.

Loss is one of the inevitable realities of life. As some students would say, “Life sucks!” And whether it be the loss of a pet, the divorce of parents or the loss of a meaningful relationship, it hurts! Many of our students have experienced deep loss with the death of a parent, grandparent or sibling.

People, no matter their age, need to know there are people who care and who will be there in support for them.”

Since last semester, four of our dorm residents have lost parents. Some have lost multiple family members. One young lady has lost six family members in the past several years. These experiences leave many students depressed, anxious, confused and angry. If they do not have support and guidance through the grief process, reactions may include lack of motivation, lethargy and a sense of being overwhelmed. Class work suffers and some simply stop attending classes, often skip regular meals and become withdrawn and irritable.

Escape behaviors such as oversleeping, computer games or constant TV/DVD viewing become easier than facing the pain they are experiencing. Alcohol or drugs may become the medication of choice.

How can we help those who grieve? For most teen-agers and young adults there are no easy remedies. If we enable them to take some time away from school to spend time with family, it is sometimes helpful—providing the student can keep up with studies at home. A referral to the school counselor or chaplain may be indicated. Little kindnesses, practical ways to show concern and caring, such as strawberry waffles or a fuzzy stuffed animal may be meaningful to one who feels their world has been shattered. Training resident assistants to understand the grief process and to find ways to show support and caring will also increase the support for students who experience loss.

Every person grieves in their own unique way and while there are some general grief stages, people go through them in different ways and at their own pace. Some need to talk about their loved one and others don’t. Some enjoy lots of attention and drama while others need to grieve alone. But one universal need is apparent; people, no matter their age need to know there are people who care and who will be there in support for them.

Forming a grief support group in the residence hall can also give students support and can ease the sense of isolation that many in grief experience. Co-leading a grief support group using a senior resident assistant or psychology/social work major as co-leader can have the dual impact of mentoring a leader while supporting several students at one time. The group process has...
Recently, I overheard some students making fun of an executive director at a local community theatre program here in Atlanta. The students were 18-years-old, and they had been a part of this program before. Now, their entertainment was at the expense of this director. I felt badly for her, but the laughter sparked a question in me. How did this leader lose her authority with her students?

She isn't unlikeable. She has a good sense of humor and can be fun to be around. So how did she plummet from a leader students respect to the brunt of a joke?

**What Do We Mean by Authority?**

Authority is a fuzzy word. It conjures up all kinds of emotions inside of us when we hear it. Here, I am defining the term as an inward, moral authority that comes from the life a leader lives, not just his or her position. It's clout. It is inward power earned by the leader—not automatically included with a title. As parents, it's what we all want with our kids; as coaches, we want it with our players; as teachers we hope for it with our students; and as employers we desire it with our staff. Perhaps the best way to describe how it is earned is to list how it's lost by so many leaders.

### How Leaders Lose Authority with Students

**Hypocrisy:**

Failing to live up to what you say.

This issue came up first with students. The quickest way leaders lose their moral authority with students is to fail to live the life they demand of others. Your words and your actions don't match. It's funny. Kids may put up with this in their peers, but not their leaders.

**Cowardice:**

An unwillingness to demonstrate courage.

Regardless of how brilliant or unspectacular you are as a leader, if you fail to show any courage when times are tough, students’ respect for you will usually diminish. When a decision must be made or a step taken—they expect the leader to step forward and take it, not shrink as a coward.

**Posing:**

Pretending to be someone you are not.

This one is huge with kids today. When adult leaders “pose” as someone they’re not in reality, it’s not only a turn-off, it’s a joke. For students, the only thing worse than being uncool is being unreal. When adults try to act young or hip, and it’s forced or comes across inauthentic—it’s a death sentence for student respect.

**Irrelevance:**

Having no current success stories.

Students lose respect when all they ever hear from their leader is stories from “back in the day.” At first these stories work, but if teens don’t see current stories lived out in front of them, eventually they don’t take you seriously. They begin looking for someone who can do it now. Something current.

**White lies: Exaggerating the truth.**

This is a double-edged sword. Most students today admit to telling little white lies. Yet, those students lose respect when adult leaders do it. When asked to report on how a game, a project or a performance
turned out—they admire leaders who tell it like it is, and don’t make the stats elastic or plastic.

**Incompetence:**
*
The inability to hone your gift and excel.
*
This is true for followers of all ages. Leaders lose their moral authority when they can’t demonstrate they have developed their gift or talent and become excellent. This doesn’t mean they expect leaders to be good at everything, just something. It’s the law of respect: Folks follow leaders who are stronger than they are.

**Fuzziness:** Failure to focus the team on the primary goal.
*
Finally, you’ll lose authority if you are scattered and cannot focus your instruction to your team. This is why leaders are necessary. Some of your students are smart—but they need you to direct them with clarity. When you don’t, you have a hole in your pocket and you lose a little moral authority.

Keep in mind—it is possible for you to be liked by students as a friend, but not respected as a leader. We all must decide what we want most: Buddies to hang out with or young people who follow our moral authority to a worthwhile destination.

It’s your call.

You can follow Tim Elmore’s personal blog and learn more about developing the next generation in his latest book: “Generation Y: Our Last Chance to Save Their Future”

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**ASPA 2011 Schedule Pacific Union College**

**Sunday, March 13**
- 3 p.m. Shuttle from airports
- 6 p.m. Registration
- 8 p.m. Opening reception

**Monday, March 14**
- 8 a.m. Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. General Session I
- 11 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Breakout Session I
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch

**Tuesday, March 15**
- 8 a.m. Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. General Session II
- 11 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Breakout Session III
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Departmental Round Table II
- 3 p.m. San Francisco Excursion
- 9 p.m. Games

**Wednesday, March 16**
- 8 a.m. Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. General Session III
- 11 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Breakout Session IV
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Breakout Session V
- 3 p.m. Business meeting
- 6 p.m. Closing reception

**Thursday, March 17**
- 9 a.m. Breakfast
- 10 a.m. Shuttle to airports

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**Farewell, Dean Howard**

*In memory of Betty Ann Hogan Howard May 19, 1933 – December 2, 2010*

Known as Betty Ann, Bunch of Daisies, Nurse Howard, Bet, Mrs. Howard, Dean Howard, Dean, Dr. Howard, Mom, Top Banana, Aunty Betty, Ma Howard, ‘M-I-L’, and Grandma Betty, she was a point of entry for God’s goodness into this world and champion for the rights of those ignored, excluded, or abandoned. Loved by many and possessing Love for many, her impact will last for generations. We will surely miss her.

Professionally, she was Nurse, Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Educator, Dean of Women, Dean of Students, and Professor of Education. Educated Alabama College at Montevallo, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Atlantic Union College, Columbia Union College, Andrews University, and University of Maryland, she served at Southern Missionary College, Columbia Union College where she developed CUC’s Academic Resource Center. In 2006 she was named Columbia Union College’s Alumnus of the Year. As a founding member and early president of the Association of Adventist Women, she was honored in 2001 as the Adventist Woman of the Year for her lifetime of achievement.

Memorial celebrations were held Dec. 28, 2010 in the Campus Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Loma Linda, Calif., and Jan. 29, 2011 at 3 p.m. in The Atrium at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Md.

Follow and post comments and pictures on Facebook (Betty Ann Hogan Howard) or email to fdh4@aol.com or frankdavishowardiv@gmail.com
Save the Date!

Plan now to attend the
2012 ASPA Convention
at
Oakwood University