

Life is like a Journey on a Train...

Life is like a journey on a train...
with its stations...
with changes of routes...
and with accidents !

We board this train when we are born and our parents are the ones who get our ticket.
We believe they will always travel on this train with us.
However, at some station our parents will get off the train, leaving us alone on this journey.

As time goes by, other passengers will board the train, many of whom will be significant - our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life.
Many will get off during the journey and leave a permanent vacuum in our lives.

Many will go so unnoticed that we won't even know when they vacated their seats and got off the train !
This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, good-byes, and farewells.

A good journey is helping, loving, having a good relationship with all co passengers...
and making sure that we give our best to make their journey comfortable.
The mystery of this fabulous journey is :
We do not know at which station we ourselves are going to get off.
So, we must live in the best way - adjust, forget, forgive and offer the best of what we have.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to leave our seat... we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life."
Thank you for being one of the important passengers on my train... don't know when my station will come... don't want 2 miss saying: "Thank you"

APPRECIATIONS

Appreciation is expressed to our Pastoral Team, Church officers, Church staff, medical teams, and volunteers for their faithful service to us weekly.

We are thankful for the many friends who contributed to this Newsletter. To Mrs. Vivian Brown, we say "thank you" for your time, talent, and energy in designing the Senior Express Newsletter.

Did you know that prior to my (Dr. Jessie Bradley) teaching in the Department of Education at Oakwood University, it had been my privilege to serve as **Principal of OAA, K12?**
Both Mrs. Allston and Mr. Lang were teachers at OAA at that time.

Expressing thanks has no expiration date!



In His Service,
Dr. Jessie Mary Godley Bradley,
Senior Adult Ministries, Leader





Dr. Jessie G. Bradley
Editor

July—September 2022

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church

Pastor Debleaire Snell, Senior Pastor

Rejoice, Summer is here! O.U. and OAA graduates, time is over. Vacation time—schools closed.

It's time to celebrate and be happy. Yes, but there are many families in distress all around us.

Our hearts are broken by the gun violence in our country.

Think of the children who watched the news and woke up afraid to go to school—a place that should be a delightful place where they feel safe.

We cannot accept that kids may go to school and never come home.

Our hearts cry out in anguish and anger against this unbelievable act.

It's been over a month since a gunman stormed into the Robb Elementary school in Uvalde, leaving sorrow and pain. Families will be faced with a long, difficult reality of life without their loved ones. We have an epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Teachers are being asked to be armed with guns; kids with bullet proof backpacks.

Have you had a light bulb moment? Are you an instrument of encouragement to others? Zoom calls, face masks and social distancing has been the norm for the past two years, and has lead many of us to continue to be sensitive to our health.

WE NEED LEADERS at every level who will back efforts to keep our communities safe and welcoming. **Can we depend on you to get involved?**



Many citizens gathered in parts of our country to celebrate Juneteenth, which marked the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.



2022-2023
Open and Extended Enrollment

ENROLLMENT FEES are NON-REFUNDABLE

Open Enrollment (Feb 11 - June 1, 2022)
New Student Application: \$85.00
New International Student Application: \$150.00
Registration for New and Returning Students: \$300.00

Extended Enrollment Begins June 2, 2022
New Student Application Fee: \$105.00
New International Student Application: \$185.00
Registration for New and Returning Students: \$400.00

All fees are billed and payable in FACTS.
Open Enrollment is \$300 and Extended Enrollment is \$400
PER STUDENT WITH THE
4TH AND EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD FREE

Registration Link:
[CLICK HERE](#)

Contact: registrar@myoaa.org

Scholarships
Alabama Opportunity Scholarship and Rocket City Scholarship

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Zeola Bell Germany Allston

My mother is a teachers' teacher. She started at a young age teaching children. Being number eight in a family of 14 in Fairfield Alabama you would think she had a school house in her house, but it was the neighborhood children that flocked to her porch to be schooled as if it were playtime.

However during her high school years at Fairfield Industrial High School drama was her obsession. Her goal was to be a Hollywood actress. However during the end of her high school years, her father was introduced to Adventism and her goals changed drastically.

Oakwood College became her next step in the journey of life and following graduation she taught in Louisville Kentucky, at the Magazine Street SDA School. That only lasted two years, since during the summer between she

was invited to Boston for the summer, and met my father Thomas Allston and they fell in love. June 17, 1951 they were married and began their life together in Boston. During the next 3 years Dawn and then Thomas, Junior (Tim) were born and once again she was teaching children. Her own this time. When I started Kindergarten there in the local school I already knew the Kindergarten lessons, because my mother already taught them to me. Although Tim was a very active little boy, he picked up his fair share of learning as well. Once we became school age, my mother returned to the classroom, teaching church school in Boston and Stoneham, Massachusetts.

Being the child of a teacher was fun, although at the time I thought it was normal. My mother made all my clothes and of course I learned to sew as well. Even Tim would make outfits for his soldiers. Each of us was taught to knit and crochet. Living in Boston far from most of my mother's family our visits to them involved many car hours. We anticipated these trips because we always got a new book to read. Tim would get a historical biography and I got a girls book like The Bobbsey Twins or the likes. We would each read the entire book on the way to our destination and the return ride home we would trade books.

Ten years after Tim was born, Ivan was born and not wanting him to be by himself Tonya was born. It became a packed house, but full of fun.

Family was important to my parents and when they moved to Huntsville, it allowed them to buy a house big enough for all and then some more. That some more became over 40 college students through the years that needed housing, usually because of financial necessity. A few of these students are still hanging in as adopted children.

As I reflect on my mother's life as she just turned 95, I am grateful for all that she has done. Even though we had to share her with others, we were never shortchanged. With the support of our father she was able to circle the world teaching in places like Russia, Belize, China and places in the United States as well. We were always most important to our parents but God gave them big hearts so they could love us and others. She is a mother of 4, a grandmother of 6 and great-grandmother of 1. Even today sometimes my mother thinks that she must go and teach a class, direct a school program or give the children's story.

YOU WANT TO LIVE A LIFE THAT PLEASES GOD AND GIVES HIM GLORY?

by Elder Katherine Davis, Chaplain

A study of the powerful Word of God will do just that -- 'twill build your faith, will deepen your relationship with God and dramatically impact every area of your life. As we study God's Word, He is speaking to us and we will experience an encounter with Jesus which will

- 1) light our way, giving wisdom so we can clearly see which way to go,
- 2) help us grow in faith and Christ-likeness,
- 3) transform our characters (the only thing we'll take to heaven)
- 4) make us complete and equipped for every good work,
- 5) bring reconciliation,
- 6) keep us from falling for Satan's persuasive lies, and
- 7) reveal to us earth's final events.

Oh how powerful the Word of God is! You can be victorious in your walk with God.

Dear ones, you are encouraged and challenged to give God the opportunity to do something amazing in your life.

DON'T WAIT! DO IT TODAY! EMBRACE THE WORD OF GOD!

Study the Word of God with Dr. Toussaint Williams on Monday nights at 6 p.m.

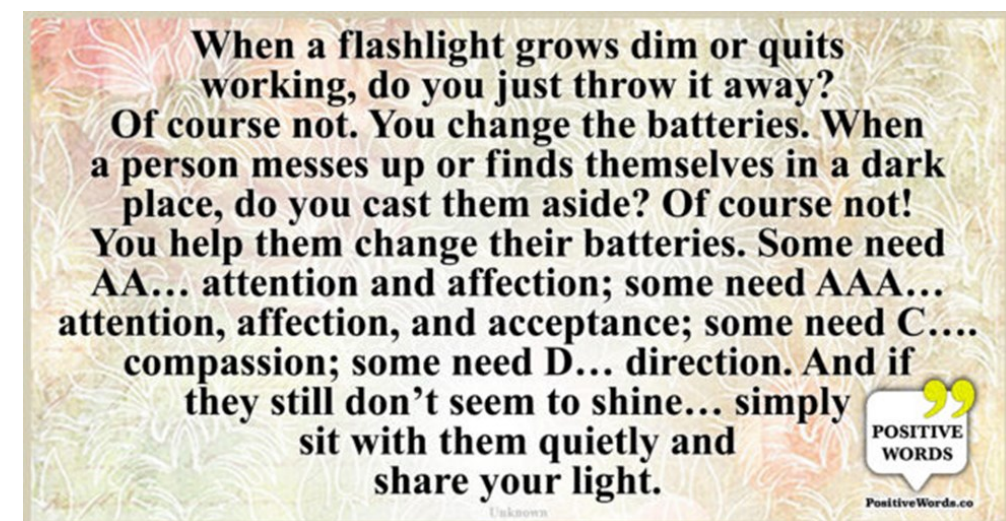
Register at twilliams@oucsda.org

Order and study one of the following FREE Bible Study Lessons:

Breath of Life - www.breathoflifestudy.com

It Is Written - www.itiswritten.study

Amazing Facts - www.amazingfacts.org



"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord." Eph 5:8-10

A Special Tribute to a Remarkable Woman of God:

Mrs. Myril Elaine Howell



Myril Elaine Howell was a phenomenal woman whose life touched and impacted thousands globally. She was a kind, caring, generous, compassionate, fun-loving Christian woman of strength and resilience who exhibited deep faith in God, whom she loved dearly. She devoted her life to sharing His love with her family, church, community, and others.

February 21, 2022, while completing an article titled "God Shall Wipe Away All Tears," I got a call from my brother Hal. Softly, he said, "Maah is gone." I screamed, "Maah is gone?" He responded, "Maah is gone." Maah, as we affectionately called our beloved mother, was gone.

The much-dreaded moment had come, and although she had reached the age of 106 and her health had declined, the finality struck like a hard blow to my chest; deep grief surged through my heart. I cried aloud. I would no longer hear her voice or sweet laughter. The article's scripture comforted me: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:4, NLT.

At her funeral, many individuals shared how she encouraged and inspired them to be the best they could be. A family friend wrote: "Ma Howell was everything to everybody, but to me, she was like Florence Nightingale, the lady with the lamp, the one that burns ever so brightly with the light that never dims, flickers, or dies. The sweet Christ-like charm that filled her space, her contagious smile and conversation, I will never forget or could anyone who knew her."

I believe that Maah's unspoken motto was, "If I can help somebody as I pass along, my living shall not be in vain."

Maah loved singing, praying, expressing gratitude, and repeating her favorite scriptures, Psalm 23 and John 14:1-3. She often recited a portion of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "A Psalm of Life." "Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time."

Maah left behind a rich legacy of loving, caring, sharing, and giant footprints for others to follow. May we do likewise. We thank God for her remarkable life and the precious memories we cherish. Soon, may we all hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Let's be there!

Shirley C. Iheanacho, firstborn daughter of the late Mrs. Myril Elaine Howell

Kings Daughters of Huntsville

The King's Daughters is the oldest Christian women's organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We were first organized in 1920 by Katherine Baker, a Bible Worker. Our chapter is affiliated with the Oakwood University Church, and we also have members from other SDA churches in the Huntsville area. We are part of the Eastern Region of the Federation of King's Daughters comprised of chapters located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Our Mission

The mission of the King's Daughters of Huntsville is to bond with our sisters, develop love and fellowship among the members, identify unmet needs of fellow believers and persons in the community, and assist them in meeting those needs. Our goal is to promote the Lord's work by giving service and support to the less fortunate, and the indigent in our community. Our **Motto** is "Lifting as We Climb" and our **Aim** is "Christian Ethics in Practice".

The King's Daughters also participate in the following:

- Weekly food distribution to those in need.
- Outreach to community shelters for battered and abused women and children.
- Sponsor a card, telephone, and visitation ministry that supports our senior citizens.
- Promote fundraisers to raise money for scholarships for graduating Oakwood Academy seniors.
- Provide school supplies for academy students.

Membership

Unfortunately, the pandemic has had a negative affect on our membership. We are actively recruiting new members. With new members comes new ideas to help us service and support our students and community.

Member requirements

- Be an Adventist woman who is a member of any SDA church in Huntsville, AL.
- Attend meetings. We meet once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month @ 1:00pm
- Adhere to bylaws
- Participation in outreach and fundraising programs
- Pay dues (\$50 a year)
- Acquire our Eastern Region uniform (navy blue suit and a soft yellow blouse).
- Support regional activities
- Serve on at least one local King's Daughters committee
- When feasible, attend the biennial regional conference.

Contact Information:

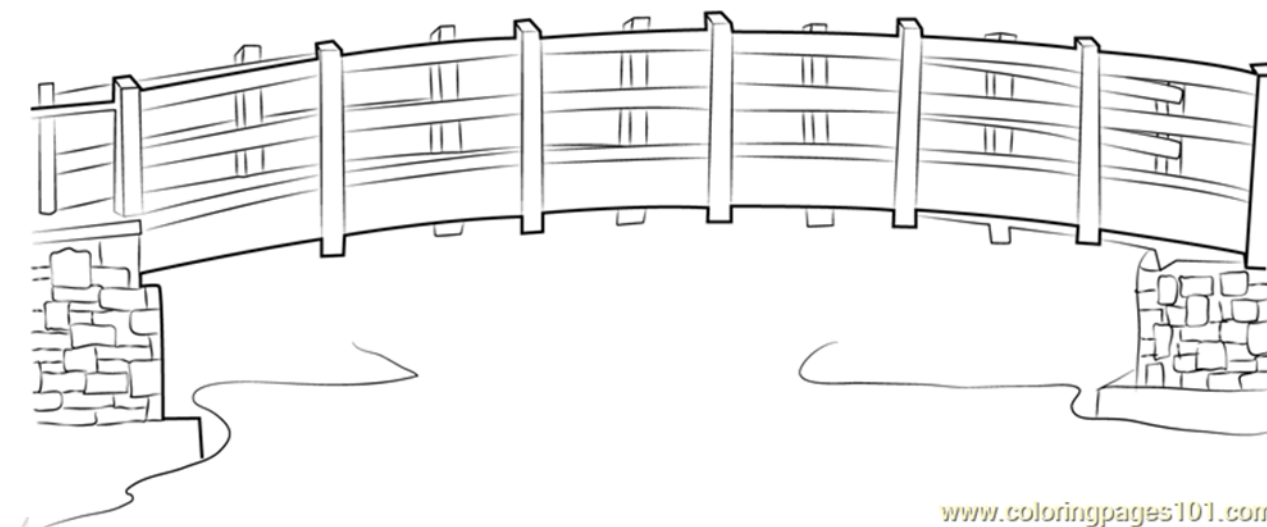
If you are interested in becoming a member, please email us. KingsdaughtersofHuntsville@gmail.com

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES' BUILDING CARE TEAMS FOR.....

THOSE WHO WANT TO CARE

AND.....

THOSE WHO NEED THE CARE



WHAT IS A "CARE TEAM"?

- A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MINISTERS WORKING TOGETHER TO OFFER PRACTICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH HEALTH CARE CONCERNS OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS.

Lynn Ross, Sr

I was born to the union of Theodore and Emma Ross in the year 1939, Dayton, Ohio. My twin brother, Leonard, and I were born at home rather than the hospital.

After coming to Oakwood College for the first time for alumni homecoming, while Dr. Arnold Dean was playing the organ in the Ashby Gymnasium for a skating party, I met Glen Howell, who was the director of the Physical Plant.

After talking for a short time, I was asked what I did for a living. When I told him what my trade was, he became very interested in me, and I was invited to work for the College. I met the president of the College (Dr. Calvin Rock) and in 1972, I became an employee of Oakwood College, and started to work right away.

When I reviewed the procedures of the Physical Plant, I found that the college was being charged thousands of dollars unnecessarily. It would take too long to explain just how much was saved. In total, I worked for the college for 34 years before retiring in 2005. It was a joy working for Oakwood for so long and I wouldn't trade my experience for anything.

Work was not the only thing I did. I am an avid golfer, and have won over 200 trophies over the years. I also managed the school's Golf Tournament through the Alumni Office, for over 30 years, earning thousands of dollars of student scholarships.

I have been married to Janice Ross since December 3, 1960. We have three wonderful children, Lynn Jr. (Valerie), Gailyn (Craig) and Lance, with two beautiful successful, brilliant granddaughters, Anye and Savonne McNeil.

I am a lover of God and by God's grace, I'm bound to heaven with Jesus Christ! Hopefully my short story means as much to you as it did for me. God Bless!



Congratulations to

Officer Maurice Staples, Interim Chief of Police of O.U.
Pastor Kimberly Mann, our new Pastor for Youth Ministries of the OUC.
Elder Katherine Davis who celebrated her 90th birthday on June 26
Elder Jimmie Brown who celebrated his 90th birthday on July 19
All newlyweds, birthdays, births, baby blessings, baptisms, and wedding anniversaries

A New Chapter in the Life of Operation ReachBack, Inc.

Kaven Ible/Interim Chapter President



I believe we all can agree that “A mind is a terrible thing to waste”—but, so is a life. There are many young people in our communities today who are meandering through life, because they have lost the vision once held by their great grandparents of a better life. A dream for which they fought and gave their lives, blood, sweat and tears. The Huntsville Operation ReachBack, Inc. (HORBI) chapter is embracing the challenge to revitalize that purposefulness by mentoring young black youth between the ages of 8-18 in our area. Operation ReachBack, Inc. (ORB) is the vision of Dr. Calvin B. Rock, a former president of Oakwood University, who is still actively involved in the leadership of the organization. ORB has been in existence for over 25 years with chapters in Orlando (Florida), Los Angeles (California), and Portland (Oregon). Several newer chapters have been added since January 2022; the Huntsville chapter is one of them.

Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream of one day seeing people of all colors being valued for the content of their character. HORBI believes that our younger generation needs encouragement and mentoring in pursuing a future filled with meaning and exemplifying good citizenship. The chapter will engage in activities that will include classes for learning test taking strategies, preparing for college and job interviews, dressing for success, Show and Tell events to help build participants’ confidence and Zoom events, to name a few. Fundraising activities will include scholarship and membership drives, matching gifts, and a T-shirt design challenge. Youth will be solicited through flyers, social media, church and school bulletin boards and personal contact.

Monthly meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month from 6pm-6:40pm (CDT) via Zoom to adhere to safety precautions while utilizing the time to establish our chapter. Can we count on you to help make this world a better place for our young community? To become a part of the team, send an email to kible6102@gmail.com to let us know the level of your commitment—whether financial, expertise or effort.

Thank you for considering your gift of ministry. We solicit your prayers and ideas as we embark on this mission.



WHAT DOES A CARE TEAM DO?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRANSPORTATION TO THE DOCTOR OR GROCERY STORE HOUSEHOLD OR YARD CHORES ERRANDS MEALS SOCIAL OUTINGS VISITS PHONE CALLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIME FOR CAREGIVER RESPITE BREAK • TEAM MEMBERS PARTICIPATE WHEN THEY CAN • WHAT TEAM MEMBERS DO IS BASED ON THEIR SKILLS AND INTERESTS • MAKE A 1-YR COMMITMENT AT A TIME • PRAYS WITH YOU AND FOR YOU |
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WHAT DOES A CARE TEAM NOT DO?

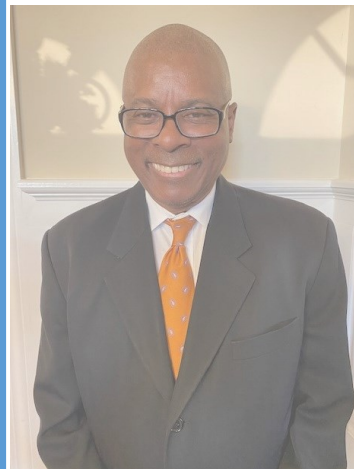
- A CARE TEAM DOES NOT OFFER ANY MEDICAL OR NURSING CARE
- DOES NOT DISPENSE MEDICATIONS
- DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL
- DOES NOT LOAN MONEY
- DOES NOT GIVE MONEY
- DOES NOT GOSSIP

If I need something a care team minister can do, how do I “sign up”?

EMAIL: karenwarrenanderson@gmail.com

OR CALL: 256-851-5577 and leave a message for Faith Community Nursing Service and we will return your call within 48 hours.

Sponsored by the Oakwood University Church



Ronald Lang Retired Math Instructor

Oakwood Academy/Huntsville City Schools

Ronald Lang was born and raised in New York City. He received his early education in the public schools of Brooklyn, New York. He enrolled at Oakwood College in 1970 and graduated in 1974 with a B.A. degree in Math and minors in Biology and Chemistry. He met the former Marilyn Gadson while at Oakwood and they were married in March of 1975. They are blessed with two offspring, Robyn Traci and Ryan Devon.

Ronald worked briefly for Oakwood College in the Office of Institutional Research before the President (Dr. Calvin Rock) invited him to teach Math & Chemistry at Oakwood Academy. Ronald considers his time as a teacher at Oakwood Academy to be one of the most important and fulfilling chapters of his life. The relationship and experiences during his time there shaped who he was to become in a remarkable way. He earned a Master's degree in Math Education at Alabama A&M University while teaching at the Academy.

After 10 years at Oakwood Academy, he was invited to teach math at Huntsville High School. He was informed by the principal of the school that he was chosen over 20 other applicants for the position. He was also told that he would be the only Black male faculty member. This unique distinction remained for the nine years he taught at the school. He was selected as teacher of the month several times during his tenure at Huntsville High.

Ronald was also becoming more involved in church activities. He started teaching Revelation and Daniel Seminars with a good friend, Guy Juzang. He was ordained as an Elder of the Oakwood College Church by Pastor E. C. Ward. He then was selected to be Personal Ministries Director for the church. After serving in that capacity for six years, he was selected to be Sabbath School Superintendent, a position that he thoroughly enjoyed. His passion for teaching math was equally matched with teaching Sabbath School and Prophecy seminars.

During the 80's and 90's, Ronald was at his busiest. There was a time when Ronald was teaching at Oakwood Academy and at Huntsville High School at the same time. In addition, he taught two courses at Alabama A&M at night. He was also doing Daniel and Revelation seminars on the weekend while teaching sabbath school every Sabbath. This was during a time when he was Personal Ministries Director and playing tennis three to four times a week. For decades, tennis has been a part of his regular schedule as he partnered with several local pastors and other tennis enthusiasts in the area. His other passion is watching sports (baseball, basketball, tennis, hockey, and golf) on television.

After his rewarding tenure at Huntsville High, he started another significant chapter of his life at Johnson High School. He taught at Johnson High for 13 years. He became the Math Department Chair and values the students and relationships fostered there. After a three-year stint at Sparkman High School, Ronald could envision retirement looming around the corner. He retired from Lee High School in 2014.

In retirement, teaching remains a significant part of his life. He still teaches as an adjunct instructor at Oakwood University and Alabama A&M University and enjoys teaching Sabbath School Class #18 at Oakwood University Church. He is presently teaching Sabbath Afterglow (an afternoon Sabbath School class) and a Revelation Seminar class through Zoom.



Drs. Everett and Kem Roper are members of the OUC and have been married for 25 years. Their union started as college students while Kem was attending Oakwood College and Everett was at the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH).

Everett has been a member of OUC for over 40 years and has served the church in various capacities. He currently serves in the Treasury and IT Departments.

Everett is a 1988 graduate of Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA). He holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in engineering from UAH as well as a Masters of Business Administration (MBA)

from The University of North Alabama (UNA). Although currently a Product Director for the US Army at Redstone Arsenal, Everett was an Assistant Professor in the Business Department at Oakwood University for 14 years and continues to serve as adjunct professor there. In addition to business and engineering, Everett also enjoys real estate and for the last 20 years has been the sole owner of Siven Realty real estate brokerage.

Kem is a 1991 graduate of Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy (GAAA) in Atlanta, GA and earned a BA in Communications from Oakwood College; an MA in English from UAH and a PhD in English from the University of Louisville. She is currently the Writing Center Director at Alabama A&M University, but will begin a new assignment as Writing Center Director of Athens State University in August. She is active in the Women's Ministries Department at the OUC and hosts a podcast for women called Hey Girl.

The Ropers have two charming daughters—Eryn, a junior at Oakwood University and Edyn, a junior at OAA. Eryn plans to pursue a career in Speech Pathology once completing her undergraduate studies at OU, and Edyn, a talented baker, plans to major in business with dreams of one day opening her own bakery.

