

## Oakwood Captures Year 19 Championship



*Oakwood University celebrates their first championship (l to r): Dr. John Anderson, Marcus Cooper, Sherwin Faria, Monique Pinnock, Alesis Turner, Dr. Rennae Elliott (Coach), Michael Vance and Dr. Delbert Baker (President)*

For the second year in a row, a first time champion captured the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship. Oakwood University won the title and a \$50,000 institutional grant for their university. In fact, all four semi-finalists were in pursuit of their first championship title.

Oakwood triumphed after a thrilling three round face-off against the well-prepared team from Alcorn State University. The championship literally came down to the last few seconds as Alcorn heroically struggled to earn a game-tying 10 points on the last bonus question of the match.

The exciting finale was the culmination of 28 rounds of gameplay for all 64 teams. From the round robin games through the play-offs, the 2008 tournament was filled with nail-biting finishes, including a few "sudden death" stunners.

The HCASC program includes months of preparation, practices, campus tournaments, online games, and expanding participation in Pre-NCT tournaments. Because teams spend most of the year

participating in the program, the "Strong 64" are increasingly competitive each year.

Oakwood maintained great discipline and focus in their journey to the winner's circle. Dr. Rennae Elliott, Oakwood's veteran coach, worked tirelessly with her team throughout the year. Months later, the team's dedication and hard work was rewarded with a national championship. President Delbert Baker, as is his custom, was in attendance and proudly shared the team's accomplishment.

The closing awards banquet celebrated the achievements of all participants. Following the crowd-pleasing performance by Black Violin, Honda's Marc Burt introduced a new HCASC tradition: closing shout-outs from each of the round robin divisions. It was a perfect way to close another HCASC weekend in Orlando.

All eyes now turn to 2009, when HCASC celebrates 20 years of excellence that has inspired thousands of students, volunteers and Honda associates to become "Friends for Life."



*Black Violin displays their virtuosity in a rousing musical performance.*



*Honda's Marc Burt and Rosalyn Jones present the Ernie Jones Award to Marvin Norman of Texas Southern.*



*For the first time, All-Stars were split 50/50 between ladies and gentlemen.*





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## Hall of Fame Class of '08

The Player Alumni Hall of Fame was established to honor former players who have succeeded in their careers and life paths. Hall of Fame honorees are recognized at the opening ceremony, and spend the weekend volunteering and mentoring the current class of HCASC players.



(l-r) Marc Burt of American Honda, Grace Lockridge, Randy Johnson

**Grace Lockridge** is a Langston University alumnae. Following graduation, Grace has pursued her passions for nursing, teaching and library science. She is active on several scholarship and awards committees which help prepare future generations of leaders.

**Randy Johnson** received his B.S. and Masters from North Carolina Central University. After earning his law degree, he directed a youth court diversion program. Randy has recently accepted a placement with the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General Corps.

## Sweet 16 Playoff Chart



## Honda Careers 411

By popular demand, Honda Careers 411 was back at the NCT with a tremendous presence. Inspired by the incredible achievements of the students of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Honda Careers 411 was an opportunity to share the wide range of career opportunities available at American Honda.

Associates representing 10 Honda divisions -- from R&D to manufacturing and from Corporate Affairs and Sales to Finance -- met with hundreds of excited students, answered questions, and distributed literature. The displays included information about internships as well as positions in engineering, marketing, human resources, sales and finance.

Stephanie Reynolds of Elizabeth City State University remarked, "It's great that



Associates from American Honda discussed career opportunities with HCASC students.

Honda is sharing this information with us. It's opening my eyes to some new options."

In addition to meeting future prospects, the Honda associates experienced the energy and excitement that is the HCASC NCT.



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