



# UWI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (FLORIDA CHAPTER)

HELPING TO MAKE LIVES BETTER



## September-October 2025 Newsletter

**Cheralee Morgan, PhD (President)**

[UWIAALFC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UWIAALFC@GMAIL.COM); [WWW.UWIAAFL.ORG](http://WWW.UWIAAFL.ORG)

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

On behalf of the UWI Alumni Association, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support, dedication, and commitment to our alma mater. Your engagement—whether through your time, talent, or resources—has played a vital role in advancing the mission of the Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association and strengthening the bonds that unite us as a global alumni family. It is through your efforts that we are able to build a more connected, empowered, and impactful alumni network.

Your support not only uplifts current students and recent graduates but also helps to preserve the legacy of excellence that UWI represents across the Caribbean and the world. As the president of this wonderful association, I pledge to continue leading this association with passion, transparency, and a deep sense of responsibility. Together, we have made significant strides, and I am committed to guiding us even further as we explore new opportunities for growth, collaboration, and service.

Thanks for attending the General Meeting on September 6, 2025. I saw you on-line and in-person and was able to thank you individually and as a group. For those who were absent in body, I know you were there in spirit because like me, UWI is first in our hearts.

Let us continue to stand together in pride and purpose. The future is bright, and with your continued involvement, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

With gratitude and warm regards,

**Cheralee Morgan, PhD (President)**  
UWI Alumni Association (Florida)

### SUPPORT UWI ALUMNI FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING RAFFLE.

**ONLY 30 DAYS BEFORE IT CLOSES AND  
WE ARE FAR FROM OUR TARGET.**

**Use the link below to go directly  
to the Raffle to purchase tickets  
or to donate**

<https://go.rallyup.com/c8ef63>



Our applicant pool continues to grow and this year we had 40 qualified students applying for scholarships from our chapter. The applicants were from Social Science, Law, Humanities & Education, Medical Science, Science & Technology, and Sports; and they represent different locations: Mona, St. Augustine, the Global Campus (Antigua, Belize, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Grenada, St. Lucia and Jamaica).

Thanks to our benevolent donors, the association now has six (6) named scholarships.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of the Scholarship Committee for your untiring dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to our mission. Your thoughtful and tireless deliberations, and genuine care for UWI students have been the driving force behind the success of our committee's efforts.

To our generous friends and supporters—thank you. Your contributions have had a real and lasting impact on the lives of current UWI students. Because of your support, many deserving individuals have been able to pursue their academic dreams with greater peace of mind and a renewed sense of purpose. Your belief in the power of education and in the potential of our students reflects the very best of the UWI spirit. Together, we are not only easing financial burdens but also helping to shape the future leaders of the Caribbean and beyond.

Let us continue this important work with the same energy, compassion, and unity of purpose. The need remains great, but so too is our collective ability to make a difference.

With sincere appreciation,

**Carmen Nicholas, PhD**  
Chair, Scholarship Committee

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR FLORIDA UWI ALUMNI COMMUNITY

### KUDOS TO SAMANTHA COLLIE!



The Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida is proud to celebrate the achievement of **Samantha Collie**, who this summer completed her MSc in Translational Medicine at the Universitat de Barcelona at just 20 years old.

Her research examined CFTR modulation and its role in pancreatic cancer, an area of study with the potential to shape future treatments. She credits her success to the guidance of her mentor, Eva Vaquero, and the challenges of the project itself. Reflecting on the experience, Samantha said, "I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to take on this challenge early in my journey, and I'm excited to carry these skills forward into the long clinical road ahead." She is now applying to medical schools with the goal of pursuing a career in medicine.

Samantha comes from a family with deep educational ties to Jamaica. Her mother, Pat Montague Collie, is a graduate of Wolmer's and the University of the West Indies (UWI). Her father, Chris Collie, a graduate of Hocking College, Partner at Engaged Talent Solutions, and alumnus of Cornwall College, has also played an important role in shaping her commitment to learning. Their support and legacy have been central to her drive and success.

The Coalition congratulates Samantha on this milestone and looks forward to following her journey as she continues to make her mark in medicine.



**UWIAA**  
The University of the West Indies Alumni Association  
Florida Chapter

## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FLORIDA CHAPTER

PRESENTS

### *the Pelican Awards Luncheon 2025*

**Saturday, October 25, 2025**  
11.30 a.m.

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church Hall  
7801 NW 5<sup>th</sup> St., Plantation, FL 33324

TICKETS: \$60.00  
DRESS: SEMI-FORMAL

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## UWI TO HONOUR MARCIA GRIFFITHS WITH DOCTORATE

Jamaica Observer  
September 12, 2025



The University of the West Indies (The UWI) is set to continue its tradition of recognizing exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to their fields.

During the 2025 graduation ceremonies, 11 distinguished graduates will be awarded honorary degrees.

Veteran reggae artiste Marcia Griffiths will receive the honorary Doctor of Letters degree (DLitt) for her work in music, culture, and the empowerment of women. Hailing from West Kingston, Griffiths has left her mark on the reggae scene over a span of six decades.

One of reggae's most celebrated and enduring voices, Marcia was crowned the Queen of Reggae for her artistry, innovation, and commitment, which helped shape the genre from its early days to the global stage. **To read more, click the [link](#)**

## 2025 PELICAN AWARDS October 25, 2025

### Category Awards

1. UWIAA Pelican Award
2. Professional Excellence Apex Award
3. Service Excellence Pinna-  
cle Award
4. Advancement Zenith  
Award

### Nomination Process

1. Nomination Form to be sent out for nominations by September 30, 2025
2. Nominator: Graduate of UWI living in Florida; can self-nominate
3. Supporting Documentation: Resume or curriculum vitae, recommendation letters, media coverage, etc.

## Projects - Outreach

### ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Date: May 17, 2025

Venue: Welleby Park, Sunrise

Raised funds for scholarships

Close to \$3000

Good turnout



### STETHOSCOPE PROJECT

Our chapter coordinated with Washington, New York and Toronto chapters to support the project to raise funds to purchase stethoscopes for Class of 2028 medical and dental students at the University of the West Indies



### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNITY EVENT PARTICIPATION

Date: August 9, 2025

Venue: Feeding South Florida

Members helped sort donated food items

12,000 lbs. sorted, providing almost 10,000 meals,  
Exceeded the target!



I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to members and friends of UWI Alumni, Florida for their untiring efforts and steadfast commitment to community outreach and to the broader mission of the UWI Alumni Association, Florida Chapter. Your passion for service, your generous spirit, and your willingness to represent UWI with pride and purpose in the Florida community have not gone unnoticed. Whether it's through volunteering, organizing events, mentoring students, or supporting our initiatives, your contributions have made a meaningful and lasting impact.

Thank you for being true ambassadors of the UWI legacy. Your continued support strengthens our chapter, uplifts our communities, and reinforces the powerful network that binds us together as proud graduates of the University of the West Indies.

Let us keep the momentum going as we work together to build bridges, inspire others, and expand the reach of our association.

With sincere appreciation,  
**Peter George Smith, PhD**  
Outreach Director



## 2025 COALITION ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON

November 22, 2025  
Miramar Regional Park  
9:00 AM Until 3:00 PM

Walk with other Alumni Associations,  
each raising funds for their alumni  
association

**COALITION OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF FLORIDA**

**2025 WALKATHON**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2025 - 9 AM until**

**MIRAMAR REGIONAL PARK**  
16801 Miramar Parkway - Miramar, FL 33027  
9 AM - 3 PM  
CORPORATE PAVILION

**COME AND WALK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR ALMA MATER!**

**DJ UNCLE KEY  
FUN, FOOD & PRIZES**

**FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION:**  
Email: [Rgecon@hotmail.com](mailto:Rgecon@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 954-510-6265  
Website: [www.cjaaf.info](http://www.cjaaf.info)

**PARTICIPATION FEE  
\$75 PER GROUP**

**EVERY STEP YOU TAKE MEANS A LOT!**

## THE ALUMNI PLEDGE

As a graduate of The University of the West Indies, I commit myself to uphold the ideals and goals of my alma mater.

My conduct and voice shall reflect the commitment to excellence of the "Light Rising from the West", as I fulfill my social and professional responsibilities and serve my community and region.

I will strive to ensure the UWI's place as a Caribbean icon: the catalyst for Caribbean development and leadership. It is a legacy that I will proudly help build for future generations.

**The UWI - First in our hearts and first in our region!**

