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THE COALITION OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS
OF FLORIDA



The Coalition Monthly

Editors

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Dear Members of Our Alumni Community:

How are you? How are members of your organization, your family, your friends, your neighbors, and your colleagues at work? We ask these questions and hope that your response will be one that makes us smile. However, we know that there are members of our community that have been affected by COVID, but we are still able to smile as we have heard of their recovery. We are also smiling because of the continuous flow of successful remote events. *THE FIRE IS STILL BURING IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR OUR ALMA MATER!!!*

Are we having a Walkathon this year?

Every December for the past 10 years we have organized the annual walkathon. While this event serves as a major fundraising activity for many alumni associations, it also serves as a time for camaraderie, fun and togetherness for all of us. We would love to continue the tradition this year, but we are mindful that there are members of our community who may not be able to attend because of underlying medical conditions, and other that may not feel comfortable attending because COVID is still infecting members of our community. We do not want to plan an event that will not be supported. Therefore, we will be seeking your opinion through a short survey that will be sent to the leaders of the alumni groups by Tuesday. We are hoping that your response to the survey will help us determine if there will be enough support for the 2020 Walkathon, or a similar event early next year.

The Passing of a Remarkable Educator.

On September 8, 2020, the Jamaica Observer reported the death of **Ms. Jeanette Grant-Woodham**. In her comments to the Observer, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, the Hon. Olivia Grange noted that "Jamaica has lost a woman who made an indelible mark on education and politics". For those of us who knew Ms. Grant-Woodham professionally, there is no doubt that she was such a person as her involvement in education includes the following:

- First principal of Tivoli Comprehensive High School where she served for 23 years.
- Senior Programme Officer for the Tertiary Level Institutions Unit (UWI),

- Executive director of the Jamaican Institute of Management.
- Coordinator of the University of Jamaica (UTECH).
- Chairperson of the Council of Community Colleges.

Ms. Grant-Woodham was also the first female president of the Senate of Jamaica, and at one point served as the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council on Women, and the Executive Director of the Caribbean Women for Democracy.

Ms. Jeanette Grant-Woodham will long be remembered through the **Jeanette Grant-Woodham foundation** that was started in 2012 by a group of her former students to honor her legacy. We mourn with our sisters from **Westwood High School**, her alma mater, the passing of this outstanding educator, and we celebrate her remarkable life and accomplishments.

Other News

- **The Jamaica College Old Boys' Association of Florida (JCOBAFL)** is well on its way to achieving its goal to contribute \$24,000 to its alma mater for COVID relief. Congratulations to JCOBAFL for reaching the halfway mark of \$12,000! Every little bit helps, so please follow JCOBAFL and donate to your alma mater. You can also donate to other associations like JCOBAFL, that have funds set aside for COVID relief. ([Read more about JCOBAFL's effort on page 4](#))
- **Kudos to Andre Gray** (Wolmer's Alumni – AGE QUOD AGIS), for an outstanding remote effort to raise funds through on-line party. At one stage, over 125 persons were online, and this certainly helped to bring in the thousands of dollars that were raised.
- Congratulations to **Cornwall College** on its defeat of Jamaica College to win the 2020 National Tourism Debate competition. Cornwall College received J\$100,000 for winning the competition. ([More on page 5](#)).

Other Features of this Newsletter

- [Wolmer's Alumni COVID 19 Relief Virtual Telethon \(Page 6\)](#)
- [Victoria Mutual First Diaspora Web-Expo \(Pages 7-8\)](#)
- [Alumni Association Information \(Pages 9-12\)](#)

Stay Safe!
Sandra & Rupert



UWI ALUMNI - FLORIDA RAFFLE



\$5

per raffle ticket

RCA 55"
4K
TELEVISION

\$5

per raffle ticket

Closing Date

October 3, 2020

Drawing

October 10, 2020

PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKET
ON LINE AT WWW.UWIAAFL.ORG
BY PHONE: 954-732-3821; 954-242-25629

PROCEEDS TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS
ATTENDING UWI

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JC OLD BOYS DONATE US\$12,000 TO HELP SCHOOL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Jamaica Observer
September 8, 2020



The Jamaica College Old Boys Association of Florida (JCOBAFL) has, to date, made a total donation of US\$12,000 to help the school with the funding necessary to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Florida chapter had previously donated US\$6,000 in June of 2020, and in August 2020 the Chapter donated the additional \$6,000.

The donations will help the school pay its operating expenses, which had been funded from several revenue streams that have dried up due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of revenue from sources such as renting the school's auditorium, sporting, lunch sales from the cafeteria, and the minimum collection of outstanding fees from parents, has imposed serious financial pressures on the school, a release from the association said.

JC has also had to decrease staff, cut pay, and reduce hours in order to maintain the existing online classroom technology required to continue teaching during the pandemic with tablets, laptops, software, and Wi-Fi data access.

It said the school's supplemental teachers and administrators, a critical part of JC'S effort to elevate its academic standards and who are paid directly by the school rather than by the Ministry of Education, have been most affected by the funding shortfalls. As such, the combined JCOBA chapters in Jamaica, New York, Florida, and Canada have joined to address the crisis by creating the JCOBA Big Brother COVID-19 Rescue Plan. Under the plan, each chapter is asked to generate at least US\$2,000 per month for the period of one year, beginning at the end of May 2020, to offset JC's financial shortfall.

Xavier Murphy, president of JCOBAFL, stated, *"The pandemic and the resulting effects on schools in Jamaica is an unprecedented event. We felt that we as past students at Jamaica College had to step up and make an unprecedented effort to help. Our goal is to raise US\$24,000 by the end of 2020."*

CORNWALL COLLEGE TAKES NATIONAL TOURISM DEBATE TROPHY

By Mark Cummings
The Jamaica Observer



CEO of 1Luv Communications Michelle Tulloch (left) presents a cheque for \$100,000 to principal of Cornwall College Michael Ellis (right) after the Montego Bay-based school's debating team defeated Jamaica College in the final of the 2020 National Tourism Debate competition recently. Sharing in the moment are team members (from left) Deandre Haughton, Devin McIntosh (captain), and Donniver Haughton.

The Montego Bay based-Cornwall College recently emerged winners of the 2020 renewal of the National Tourism Debate after defeating Jamaica College in the final, which was for the first time conducted using the videoconferencing tool Zoom , due to the coronavirus pandemic. The two schools debated the moot: 'The US issuing a level 3 advisory on travel to Jamaica is an unreasonable stance.'

“The COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home order forced a sudden need to improvise on the organisers of the debate, which would normally take place with live audiences in various venues, like hotel...the situation was further complicated by the fact that many of the students that had been preparing for the debate were in their final academic year,” said CEO of 1Luv Communications Michelle Tulloch, the organiser of the debate. “But in spite of this, the debaters insisted on being able to compete and so 1Luv Communications, the Montego Bay-based outfit known for its innovative ability, quickly committed to using a digital platform and decided to use Zoom's conferencing platform,” added Tulloch. She said the tech-savvy students took to it immediately and, as it turned out, the event was able to add a substantial number of viewers from overseas to its local audience.

“We were very pleased with the result, as it turns out, this could well be the format we may use going forward,” she stressed. According to Tulloch, the concept of the debate was developed to enable the tourism and hospitality sectors. “It served to help young people who were soon to leave school to get a better fix on career options in the industry and help to make them more conversant with tourism matters,” Tulloch told the **Jamaica Observer West**.

The competition, which started 10 years ago, attracted 16 high schools from across the island this year, and should have ended in April after starting two months earlier, but due to the pandemic, it concluded at the end of last month. As the winning school, Cornwall College was presented with a cheque for \$100,000, along with a trophy and other sectional prizes, including Chukka Adventure Tours, gift certificates from Margartaville Caribbean and dinner at Marguerites; prizes from YelloJm, while the coach received a weekend for two at Royalton Negril. Captain of the Cornwall College team Devin McIntosh told the **Observer West** that the team members “feel absolutely enthused and ecstatic for the win”.

“As a team, we had entered the competition last year where we dropped out prematurely which left us disheartened and disappointed to say the least. This left us on a just search for redemption which we received with this win. Hence, we are deeply appreciative,” he said. He added that the team also entered several competitions along the way leading up to the final.

WOLMER'S ALUMNI COVID-19 RELIEF

VIRTUAL TELETHON



LIVE STREAM ON WWW.WOLMERS.ORG



SUN OCT 25

4pm - 8pm EDT 3pm - 7pm JA Time

TO BENEFIT THE WOLMER'S SCHOOLS, CENTRAL BRANCH PRIMARY,
ALPHA PRIMARY & ALLMAN TOWN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.



VICTORIA MUTUAL TO STAGE ITS FIRST DIASPORA WEB-EXPO

The Victoria Mutual Group will be spreading happiness across the Jamaican Diaspora with the staging of its virtual VM Diaspora Web-Expo, on October 3, 17 and 31, 2020. The event promises to provide participants in the Diaspora with a wealth of information and practical advice on how to achieve their dreams of acquiring real estate in Jamaica. They will also learn about exciting wealth creation opportunities.

“At Victoria Mutual it is deeply rooted in our DNA to help Jamaicans achieve financial wellness and this Expo is designed to provide the tools to do exactly that,” said Peter Reid, CEO Building Society Operations, VMBS. “These are certainly unique times, but our mission continues. We have adapted and have created an awesome virtual experience to assist our Members and as we continue to execute on our commitment to deliver life-changing financial education and the best products and services in the most convenient ways.”

Leighton Smith, Chief Representative Officer for Victoria Mutual in the Diaspora, said participants are in for a real treat.

“We had our first online staging in July, primarily for our local target audience in Jamaica but recognised the strong need to engage our fellow Jamaicans who are living overseas who also have a goal of one day owning a home in Jamaica and to realise financial stability. Through our Overseas Representative Offices in the United States and United Kingdom, we continue to make strides, and this Web-Expo is another arm for reaching even more persons. Now, more than ever, we want to equip our Members and the wider Jamaican Diaspora with the knowledge they need to make the best investment decisions possible in Jamaica by exploring what exists and how to achieve them. “

The event will be streamed via Zoom and will also allow participants to engage housing developers in break-out rooms to get details on new and existing developments.

Victoria Mutual’s partners for this series are the National Housing Trust, National Land Agency and the Jamaica Stock Exchange. Housing Developments being featured include Stonebrook Manor, Surreal at the Sugar Mills, Dream 36, Pyramid Pointe, Out of the Blue and Moorland Development. There will also be presentations from VM Wealth Management and VM Property Services as well.

To be a part of this exciting event, persons may register at: <https://bit.ly/vmdiapora>

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OWN YOUR *Happiness* IN JAMAICA

Victoria Mutual DIASPORA WEB-EXPO



- Let's talk**
- Owning your island home or investment property in Jamaica
 - Wealth Creation Opportunities
 - New and Upcoming Housing Developments

**SATURDAY
OCT. 03**
11AM Canada & USA
4PM UK

**SATURDAY
OCT. 17**
Canada & USA 11AM
4PM UK

**SATURDAY
OCT. 31**
11AM Canada & USA
4PM UK

Register at: bit.ly/vmdiaspora

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