



UWI Alumni (Florida) Newsletter

July 2026

Editors

*Sandra Schrouder, Peter Smith
Rupert Rhodd*

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From the President's Desk:



Dear Fellow UWI Alumni,

Warm greetings to you and your families.

It is an honor to serve as President of the Florida Chapter of the UWI Alumni Association. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the values of excellence, leadership, and service that define our alma mater.

I am delighted to report that our Scholarship Fundraising Picnic in May was a tremendous success, both socially and financially. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and attendees, we have raised sufficient funds to add at least two additional general scholarships, expanding educational opportunities for deserving UWI students.

I extend heartfelt thanks to the benefactors who have established and supported our named scholarships. Your generosity continues to transform lives and strengthen the UWI legacy. I also express my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors and Executive Committee for their dedication, leadership, and tireless service.

A special shout-out goes to our alumni and friends in West Palm Beach for their enthusiasm and engagement. We look forward to increasing our presence there through additional meetings and a picnic later this year.

While much of our work happens quietly behind the scenes, exciting initiatives are underway. Plans are being developed for a Costa Rica alumni trip in March 2027, and there is growing interest in a family weekend trip to historic St. Augustine. We also remain committed to giving back through our partnership with Feeding South Florida, and I encourage members to participate in these meaningful service opportunities.

As we continue to expand our scholarship program, I encourage everyone to support our Scholarship Raffle. Every ticket purchased helps us provide greater educational opportunities for future UWI students.

The Florida Chapter remains committed to fellowship, networking, mentorship, community engagement, and educational advancement. I encourage every alumnus and alumna to become actively involved as we continue building a stronger alumni community throughout South Florida.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we are preserving a proud legacy while creating new opportunities for future generations.

With warmest regards,



Dr. Cheralee Morgan (President)
Florida Chapter, University of the West Indies
Alumni Association (UWIAA)

"One UWI. One Alumni Family. One Shared Legacy."

A RECENT SUCCESS

This year's picnic netted over \$2000 which was enough for 2 general scholarship awards.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Sending comforting thoughts and condolences to our sister **Colleen Brown-Palmer**, whose mother **Peggy Brown** (also a UWI alum) died earlier this month in Jamaica. Colleen, we pray for comfort for you and family.

**ANNUAL RAFFLE: \$1,000 FIRST PRIZE**

The UWI Alumni Association is excited to host its annual raffle in support of scholarships for bright, hard-working students at the University of the West Indies!



Your participation helps keep a proud tradition alive as over the past 4 years more than 25 deserving students received scholarships thanks to generous supporters like you. This year, you can help us make an even bigger impact while also having a chance to win!

 **Prizes up for grabs:** **First Prize: \$1,000** **Second Prize: \$500** **Third Prize: \$250**

Every ticket you purchase is more than just an entry—it's an investment in the future of UWI students who are ready to shine but need a little financial help to achieve their dreams. 

Get your tickets, spread the word, and let's keep making a difference, one scholarship at a time!

Click on the link below to enter:

<https://go.rallyup.com/uwialumniflorida2026>

SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION MILESTONE

Congratulations to **ANNETTE CARDOZA** who recently completed her **Doctorate in Education (Ed.D)** specializing in Organizational Leadership, at Nova Southeastern University

UWI FLORIDA ALUMNI SHIRTS

Various Sizes
Male & Female
White & Red

Text 754-305-5636 to order your shirt

\$30

CAN YOU GUESS THESE MEMBERS OF OUR UWI COMMUNITY?

1. Both went back and taught at their high school immediately after graduating from UWI. They missed their "high school teachers".
2. Won a number of trophies as a volleyball player, supplemented income by cutting hair as a barber.
3. Would most likely have been a successful baker if the person had not attended UWI.
4. Has been to more than 60 countries, lived in 6 spanning all continents except Antarctica.
5. You do not want to accept an invitation to visit this person's residence if you are scared of iguanas.
6. This trio attended Central Branch Primary School;
7. Played violin with the legendary Mrs. Foster-Davis in Jamaica?
8. A cadet, and a "marksman" at rifle shooting.

Enid Jones; Cheralee Morgan; Miriam White; Sandra Schrouder; Peter George Smith; Rupert Rhodd; Rupert Rhodd; Justin Peart; Kendra Merchant; Grace Watson; Carmen Nicholas

CONGRATS TO OUR DR. BEVERLY FRAY

Dr. Beverly Fray will be the guest speaker at Barry University's Nursing "Pinning Ceremony" on **July 30, 2026**. She also spoke at St. Thomas University's College of Nursing Community Advancement & Engage Webinar, **July 9, 2026** on the topic "Artificial Intelligence in Nursing".

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:****GRACE WATSON*****A LIFE BUILT ON STATISTICS, SERVICE, AND STRONG FRIENDSHIPS***

For **Grace Watson**, the University of the West Indies (UWI) wasn't just the start of a career. It was the beginning of a lifetime of connection.

Grace grew up in Kingston, Jamaica, in what she describes as a tight-knit Christian household, raised alongside a brother and sister and surrounded by an extended circle of "adopted aunts" who helped shape her early years. That foundation of family and community would carry through everything that came after, including her decision to attend UWI, Mona, where she pursued a BSc in Economics before going on to earn an MS in Statistics from George Washington University in 1977.

"I saw it as an opportunity for personal development and a pathway to fulfilling my career goals," Grace

says of her choice to attend UWI. This decision would prove foundational to both her professional path and her personal life.

A Career Shaped by Data and Service

Grace's UWI education translated directly into a career defined by research, analysis, and public service. She went on to serve as a Director at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, and later as Director of Research and Evaluation at the Children's Services Council in Palm Beach County. These roles drew directly on the analytical foundation she built at Mona.

One course, in particular, stands out in her memory: her final-year statistical methods class under Professor Mark Figueroa. "His patience in teaching this course was remarkable and really stands out," Grace recalls, a testament to how much a single dedicated lecturer can shape a student's path.

Beyond the classroom, her UWI years produced something just as lasting: friendships. "Forming lasting friendships that exist even today" is how she describes one of her fondest memories of the UWI community, bonds that have followed her well beyond graduation.

Community, Then and Now

Grace's connection to UWI didn't end at commencement. Her sense of service, nurtured at Mona, has shown up throughout her life, including ten years on the board of the Palm Beach County Healthy Start Coalition and ongoing involvement in church communities in both Jamaica and Florida. She credits her time at UWI with directly shaping that instinct toward community involvement.

Her formal reconnection with the UWI community came through the UWI Alumni Association Florida Chapter, which she and her husband, Ben, himself a UWI graduate, joined at the invitation of Rupert Rhodd, then president of the Association. "The mission and the goals of the association resonate with me, as it seeks to support our students as well as the local community," Grace explains.

Now retired, Grace and Ben spend much of their time traveling, both within the U.S. and abroad, and treasure time with their children and grandchildren. But their involvement with the Alumni Association has remained constant, offering what she calls "the ability to participate in meetings whenever we are in town."

Asked what excites her most about the effort to build a UWI community in Palm Beach County, Grace points to the bigger picture: "It is the only institution that links and supports the development of Caribbean communities through its world-class educational, research and training opportunities for the people of the Caribbean."



TRIBUTE TO VINCENT STEPHEN FRANCIS, OJ UWI GRADUATE, VISIONARY COACH, AND ARCHITECT OF JAMAICAN SPRINTING GREATNESS



The Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association joins Jamaica, the Caribbean, and the global sporting fraternity in mourning the passing of **Vincent Stephen “Franno” Francis, OJ**, one of the most influential track and field coaches in history and a distinguished graduate of The University of the West Indies, Mona.

Stephen Francis, who passed away on July 5, 2026, at the age of 64, leaves behind a legacy that transcends medals, records, and championships. He was a visionary whose unwavering belief in Jamaican talent transformed not only the careers of countless athletes but also the trajectory of Jamaican athletics itself.

Vincent Stephen Francis earned a **Bachelor of Science degree in Management Studies** at the University of the West Indies before completing an MBA in Finance at the University of Michigan. Although equipped for a distinguished career in business and finance, he made a courageous and consequential decision to dedicate his life to coaching. That choice would alter the history of track and field.

Stephen Francis' remarkable achievements in athletics were grounded in a foundation of academic excellence. His years at UWI helped shape the analytical mindset, discipline, and strategic thinking that would later become hallmarks of his coaching philosophy [jamaicaobserver.com].

At UWI, Francis developed a reputation as an exceptional thinker and problem-solver. The intellectual rigor of his Management Studies training equipped him with a deep understanding of planning, performance measurement, leadership, and organizational effectiveness—skills that he would later apply with extraordinary success in the world of elite sport. His coaching methods were often described as scientific, data-driven, and meticulously structured, reflecting the strong academic foundation he cultivated during his university years. The values that defined Stephen Francis' life, discipline, excellence, innovation, and a commitment to nation-building were evident throughout his UWI years and remained central to his life's work.

In many ways, Francis embodied the mission of The University of the West Indies: using knowledge, expertise, and leadership to transform Caribbean societies. His subsequent success as a coach became a powerful example of how a UWI graduate could influence not only a nation, but the entire world. [jamaicaobserver.com].

Vincent stands as one of the University's most distinguished alumni, a scholar whose brilliance extended far beyond the classroom and whose vision helped establish Jamaica as the global standard for sprint excellence. His legacy serves as an enduring inspiration to current and future generations of UWI students, demonstrating that Caribbean talent, developed through Caribbean institutions, can achieve greatness on the world stage.

Vincent Stephen Francis represents the highest ideals of alumni achievement: intellectual rigor, innovation, leadership, service, and an unwavering commitment to nation-building. His life demonstrated how education, vision, and perseverance can combine to create transformational impact for generations.

Today, as we reflect on his extraordinary life, we celebrate more than a legendary coach. We honor a nation-builder, a mentor, a visionary, and a proud son of UWI whose work elevated Jamaica and inspired the world.

Rest in peace, Vincent Francis, OJ. You will remain an inspiration for generations to come.



HOSTED BY:
VICE-MAYOR
CARSON "EDDY" EDWARDS

THE CITY OF MIRAMAR

Presents



CONSUL GENERAL OF JAMAICA, MIAMI
OLIVER MAIR

An Evening with

THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

A CULTURAL EXCHANGE



JULY 25 & 26, 2026 | 7:00 P.M.

GET YOUR TICKETS @ MiramarCulturalCenter.org

BALCONY
\$45

GENERAL
\$55

VIP
\$80



MIRAMAR CULTURAL CENTER
2400 CIVIC CENTER PLACE
MIRAMAR, FL 33025





Research Paper Advancing Academic–Industry Collaboration Earns International Award

July 2, 2026 (Cave Hill Campus News)



The University of the West Indies (UWI) at Cave Hill has received international recognition for its readiness to engage in meaningful academic-industry partnerships. A team of UWI researchers, working alongside Barbados Dairy Industries Limited, received

an international award for developing a framework that helps transform research and innovation into industry applications.

Dr. Kim Quimby (**above**), on behalf of co-authors Professor Clive Landis, Professor Winston Moore, Dr. Dion Greenidge and Eden Augustus from The UWI, as well as representatives of the company Khadija Marshall and Shafia London, was presented with the Industry–Academia Engagement Award at the 8th Research and Innovation Forum, held in Athens, Greece.

Ongoing academic-industry partnership

This work stems from an ongoing academic-industry partnership focused on the development of low-calorie meal replacement shakes for diabetes. Co-conceptualised by Dr. Quimby, the product is intended to help address the growing diabetes challenge in the Caribbean, a condition associated with high morbidity and increased mortality. Recent population studies indicate that diabetes affects approximately 20 per cent of the Barbadian population, while overweight and obesity prevalence stands at nearly 66 per cent.

Last year, the Campus signed a licensing and distribution agreement with Barbados Dairy Industries Limited to facilitate production of the shake, which will feature indigenous Caribbean flavours derived from local tubers and fruits. Work on the shake has been progressing behind the scenes.

The award-winning paper, **Conceptualisation of the Innovation to Industry (I2I) Framework to Facilitate Commercialisation in Universities**, authored by Dr. Quimby and her colleagues extended beyond product development, and focused on proposing a

structured framework to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry.

“The shakes themselves were not the only focus,” explained Dr. Quimby, a senior lecturer in Immunology at the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre. “What was new about this work was the effort to develop a framework that encourages and enhances the relationship between academia and industry.”

She described the award as both surprising and encouraging given that her academic background is primarily in medical research.

“This was my first venture into a forum heavily focused on business, technology, and innovation,” she said. “I was one of only a few participants from the health sciences, so to receive an award on my first entry was unexpected, but very gratifying.”

Global stage

Dr. Quimby added that the recognition places The UWI on the global stage and demonstrates the University’s readiness and capacity to engage in academic commercialisation.

“While we may not yet have a formal technology-transfer office, we have the expertise and products in the pipeline. This award signals that UWI is serious and capable of engaging in meaningful academic–industry partnerships.”

Referencing comments made by Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles at a recent Campus Council meeting, Dr. Quimby emphasised the importance of consistent and strategic collaboration.

“If we are to prosper economically, we must be deliberate and sustained in our academic–industry partnerships,” she said. “This work supports a framework that enhances how industry and academia can work together more effectively.”

Dr. Quimby also revealed that several additional products are currently in development.

“Our next step is to identify suitable partners to bring these products to market,” she said. “At the same time, we want to foster a broader culture of innovation and commercialisation within academia, rather than responding on a case-by-case basis. That cultural shift is where much of my focus will be going forward.”

Source: [LINK](#)

**Need an unofficial copy of your UWI transcript?
JMD\$300.00**

Click on this [link](#) and follow the instructions.

The transcript is an unofficial summary of a student's academic performance. Transcripts of courses taken and degrees received at The University of the West Indies are maintained by the Office of the Campus Registrar.

Note 1: Applicants who graduated before 1980 and have never applied for a transcript before will not be able to get an express transcript.

Note 2:

- Delivery via courier is restricted to street addresses and cannot be sent to a P.O. Box address.
- When requesting transcripts for WES, it's important to include the WES reference number and choose the email delivery option. Please avoid paying for courier services.

Note 3: Express 3 days transcripts are not available if:

- You graduated from the Faculty of Humanities & Education prior to 1990 and this is your first request
- You graduated from the MBBS program prior to 2005 and this is your first request
- You graduated prior to 1980 and this is your first request
- You studied in a PhD/DM/MPhil program and this is your first request
- The transcript application is accompanied by an additional verification form, for instance CGFNS et.

**Join the UWI FLORIDA ALUMNI TEAM for the
2026 ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON**

Text: 754-305-5636 to join the team

**UWI ALUMNI (FLORIDA) FUN TRIPS**

Are you interested in ...

- 1. A Saturday day-tour of St. Augustine**
- 2. Five (5) day trip to Costa Rica (Easter Week 2027)**
 - *Volcano hike*
 - *Rain forest tour*
 - *Natural hot springs bath*
 - *Cultural night out including dinner*
 - *Visit to Limon (Jamaican neighborhood).*

Text us (754) 305-5636 your interest!



**CONSULATE GENERAL
OF JAMAICA, MIAMI**

*Save
the
Date*

64th Jamaica Independence

Annual Ecumenical
Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration

Guest Preacher
Pastor Omar Williams
Pentecostal Tabernacle International

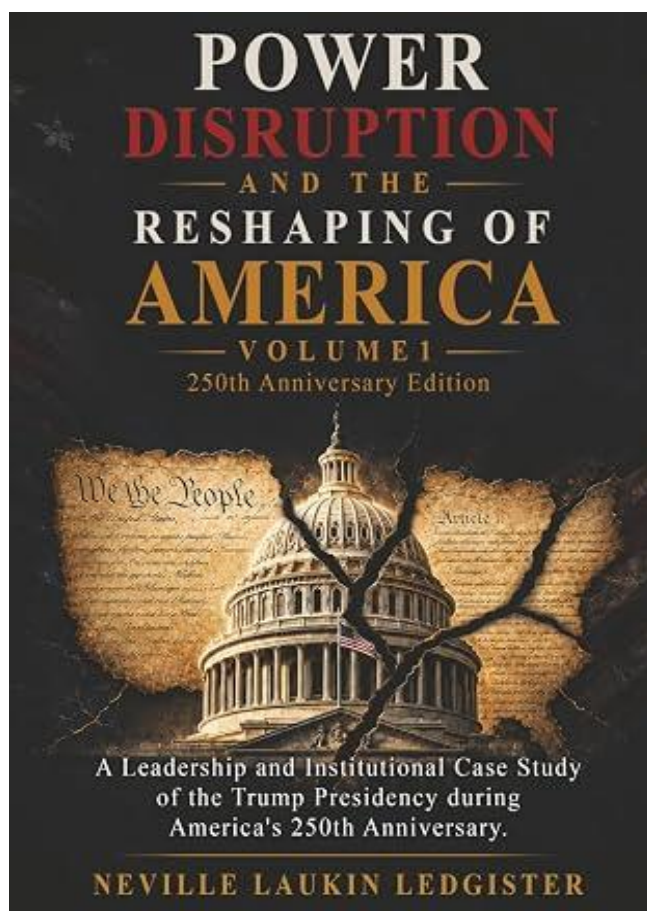
 VENUE: THE FAITH CENTER 5555 NW 95TH AVENUE, SUNRISE, FL 33351	 DATE: SUNDAY JULY 26, 2026	 TIME: 3:00 P.M.
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PLEASE REGISTER @ independencechurchservice2026.eventbrite.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

 **954-559-3955**  **info@jamaicacgmiami.org**





Power Disruption and the Reshaping of America

by

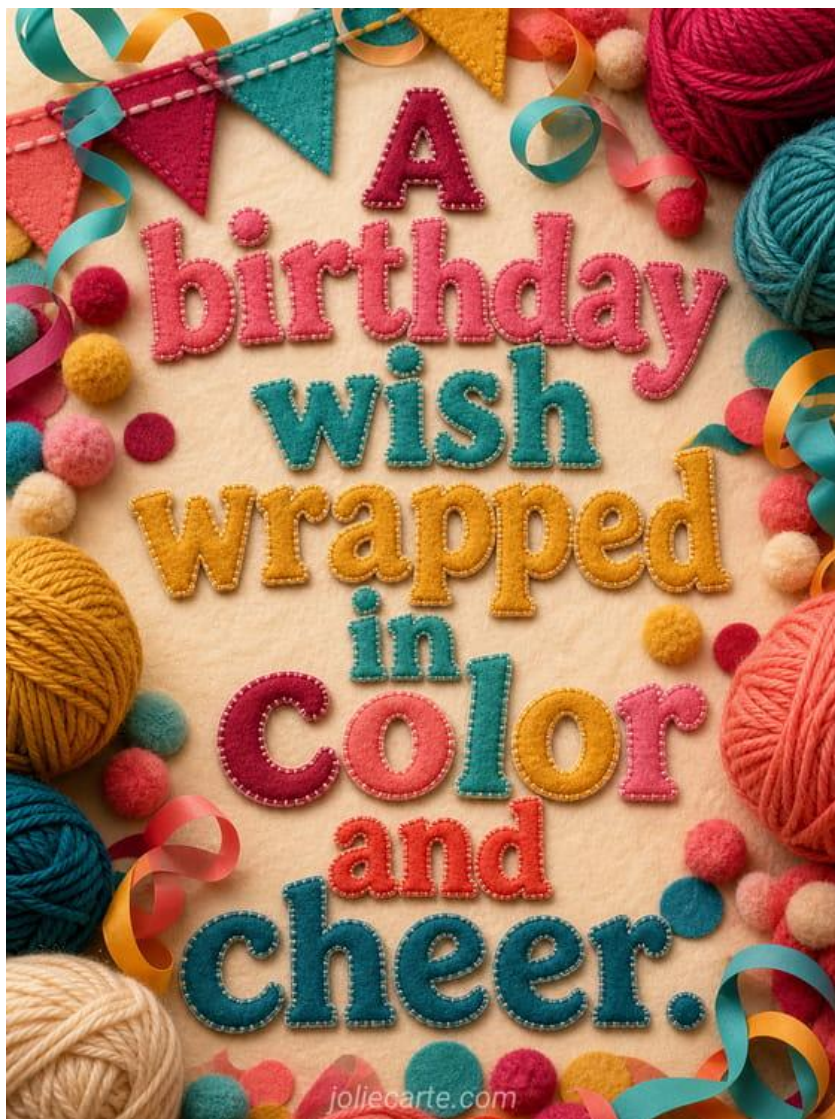
Neville Laukin Ledgister (Author)

Power, Disruption, and the Reshaping of America is a rigorous, multi-disciplinary academic case study examining the second Trump presidency and its impact on American governance, institutional behavior, and democratic structures.

This volume situates the Trump presidency within a broader framework of leadership theory, political science, constitutional analysis, and democratic governance. Rather than offering opinion-based interpretation, it provides a structured, evidence-based examination of one of the most consequential and contested political leadership cases in modern American history.

The book does not aim to persuade or advocate a political position. Instead, it seeks to analyze, contextualize, and interpret leadership behavior and institutional transformation through established academic frameworks and primary-source evidence.

[Link](#) to the book on Amazon



Belated Birthday Wishes

It has been a while since our April 2026 newsletter, but we have not forgotten those who celebrated birthdays in May, June, and July!

Please join us in wishing a very happy birthday to:

Maxwell Beckford

Roxanna Brown

Michael Carter

Pauline Chin

Geli Eldemire

Lloyd Finlay

Pauline Grant

Eric Hammond

Cheralee Morgan

Carmen Nicholas

Diane Roberts

Garth Rose

Angela Smith

Grace Watson

Christine Wayne.

Happy Birthday to all and we hope your day was filled with joy!