The University of the West Indies Alumni Association (Florida Chapter)

www.uwiaafl.org uwiaafl@gmail.com

December 2026

Editors: Sandra Schrouder, Rupert Rhodd & Peter Smith

From the President, Dr. Cheralee Morgan

Dear Members and Friends of the UWI Alumni Community in Florida,

On behalf of the UWI Alumni Association in Florida, thank you for your continued support this year. Your generosity, your time, and your commitment to our mission have made a real difference.

Because of you, we were able to award **10 scholarships this year, totaling $9,250**. Each one represents a student whose path is a little brighter because of this community. We are proud of what we have accomplished together.
We still have some unfinished work, and we are hoping to pass the **$10,000 mark before December 2026**. Here is how you can help:

- **Scholarship raffle:** The raffle is still open. Please buy tickets and encourage your friends and family to do the same.
- **All Alumni Walkathon:** We are assembling a strong walk and fundraising team. Join us, form a team with your classmates or friends, or help us raise pledges.

Please also mark your calendar:

- **General Meeting (via Zoom):** Saturday, November 21, 2026
- **All Alumni Walkathon:** Saturday, December 5, 2026

You will find more information on both events in our newsletter. We would love to see you at the meeting and on the walk.

Thank you again for all that you do. Together, we are making a lasting impact. And although it is a little early, we wish you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving, filled with good health, good food, and good company.

With sincere gratitude,

Dr. Cheralee Morgan
President, UWI Alumni Association in Florida

Can you solve these? Answer on the last page.



SALUTATIONS FROM THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF UWI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to **Milton J. Samuda**, Chair of The Wolmer's Trust, **Professor Densil A. Williams**, **Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies**, **Dr. E. Dale Abel**, the Williams S. Adams Distinguished Professor and Chair of the department of medicine in the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, **Richard Byles**, Bank of Jamaica Governor**, Professor Evan Duggan**, former Executive Director of the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM) and former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at The UWI Mona, **Mrs. Maxine Henry-Wilson**, **Dr. Colin Abel**, and other UWI graduates who received Jamaica's National Honors recently.

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WELCOME Dr. Melissa Tennant-James, a graduate of the University of the West Indies Medical School to our group. A specialist in psychiatry, she just wants to be a member/volunteer of the chapter to help make life better for persons with mental illness in Florida and elsewhere.

UWIAA

The University of the West Indies Alumni Association
Florida Chapter

2026 Annual General Meeting

Join Us Virtually!

DATE & TIME	Nov 21, 2026 07:00 PM – 08:30 PM
VIA ZOOM	Meeting ID: 2286162454 Access Code: 638085

- 2026 Year in Review
- Jan 2027-Dec 2028 Board Nominations
- Bingo Fun Time!

www.uwiaafl.org | uwiaafl@gmail.com | 954-773-1891

THE COALITION OF JAMAICAN ASSOCIATIONS OF FLORIDA (CJAAF)

ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026

9 AM – 3 PM

MIRAMAR REGIONAL PARK

16801 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, FL 33027



SPECIAL GUEST

ANGELLA ROSE HOWELL

Jamaica Consulate General, Miami



GRAND MARSHAL

ALLISON WATSON

President, NAVS

National Association of Volunteers in Sports, Jamaica



FEATURING

DJ UNCLE KEV

Resident DJ for the Walkathon for more than 10 years

JOIN US! SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT!
MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE JAMAICAN ALUMNI COMMUNITY IN FLORIDA

FOOD • MUSIC • COMMUNITY • PRIZES

RUN. WALK. CONNECT.

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JOIN THE UWI ALUMNI GROUP AND HELP OUR FUNDRAISING DRIVE

2026 – 2027 UWI Alumni Scholarship Recipients



Please accept my sincere appreciation for selecting me as a recipient of the **Dr. Marlon Clarke Scholarship for the 2026–2027 academic year.** Your confidence in my potential is a meaningful source of encouragement as I complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science at The University of the West Indies, Mona.

This support comes at a time when my family has been navigating difficult circumstances, including hurricane-related challenges and my grandfather's hospitalization. In the midst of these experiences, this award is a reminder that compassionate individuals and organizations continue to stand behind students working toward their goals.

I currently serve as External Affairs Chairwoman of the Faculty of Science and Technology Guild, leading initiatives in community outreach, volunteerism, charitable partnerships, mentorship, and sustainability. My previous leadership roles include Deputy External Affairs Chairperson and Deputy Block Representative of the Sorority of Falconia, Taylor Hall. These experiences have strengthened my conviction that education and leadership should translate into tangible service.

Professionally, I aspire to become a technology entrepreneur who creates practical solutions for Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. I founded SkillMatch Jamaica, a developing digital platform intended to connect people with employment, internship, freelance, and career-development opportunities based on their skills and aspirations. My goal is to expand access to opportunity, particularly for young people entering the workforce. Project website: https://skillmatchjamaica.com/.

Thank you for helping ease the financial demands of my education and for demonstrating the lasting impact of UWI alumni giving back.

Amoya Morris (B.Sc. Computer Science, The UWI, Mona; External Affairs Chairwoman, FST Guild
Recipient of the Dr. Marlon Clarke Scholarship for Studies in Information Systems



I am writing to formally accept and express my sincere gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the **Dr. Enid B. Jones Scholarship for the 2026-2027 academic year**. I was both surprised and deeply honoured to receive your letter.

Being chosen for this scholarship means more to me than I can adequately express. As a student who is committed to academic excellence while balancing financial responsibilities, this award is not only a tremendous financial support but also a powerful affirmation that my hard work, perseverance and educational aspirations are being recognized and encouraged.

This semester, I am enrolled in four courses as I continue my journey toward completing my degree and achieving my long-term career goals. Throughout my studies, I have remained dedicated to maintaining a strong academic performance while actively developing the knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective professional and leader within my field.

Receiving the Dr. Enid B. Jones Scholarship is especially meaningful because of the inspiring story and legacy behind it. Learning about Dr. Jones' commitment to investing in human capital and creating educational opportunities for others has motivated me tremendously. Her belief that education serves as a foundation for achievement resonates strongly with my own experiences. As someone who understands the transformative power of education, I am deeply grateful to benefit from the generosity and vision that led to the establishment of this scholarship.

This award will ease some of the financial challenges associated with pursuing higher education and will allow me to devote greater attention to my studies, research activities, and academic development. More importantly, it serves as a source of encouragement during a period of intense academic work and reminds me that there is a community of alumni and supporters invested in the success of current UWI students.

Beyond academics, I strive to serve and support others whenever possible. I value opportunities that promote personal growth, leadership and community engagement. As I continue my studies, I hope to uphold the values represented by this scholarship through dedication, integrity and a commitment to giving back to future generations of students, just as Dr. Jones has done throughout her life.

Please convey my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Enid B. Jones for her generosity and commitment to supporting students like me. I am sincerely grateful to the Scholarship Committee, the UWIAA-FL Board, and all those involved in making this opportunity possible. Thank you once again for your confidence in me and for investing in my educational journey. I look forward to honouring this opportunity through continued academic excellence and future service to my community.

Samantha Wallace BSc. Management Studies Candidate (Vice Chapter Chair – Antigua Guild UWI Global Campus
Recipient of the Dr. Enid B. Jones Scholarship for Studies in Economics



It is with sincere gratitude and humility that I accept the **Dr. Eric Chiang Achieve Scholarship for Studies in Economics**, valued at US$750, for the 2026–2027 academic year. I am deeply honoured to have been selected and extend my heartfelt thanks to the UWIAA Florida Chapter, Dr. Eric Chiang, and everyone who has contributed to making this opportunity possible.

As a full-time Bachelor of Science in Financial Management student at the University of the West Indies Global Campus, my foremost goal is to continue my studies without interruption or a gap semester and complete my degree successfully.

I have worked hard to finance my own education, making sacrifices to meet tuition and online learning expenses. However, being unemployed while managing these financial responsibilities has made the journey increasingly challenging. This scholarship therefore means far more than financial assistance; it offers relief, encouragement, and renewed hope that I can continue pursuing my education without having to put my dreams on hold because of financial hardship.

My academic goal is to develop strong expertise in financial management, data analysis, and strategic decision-making. I believe finance is the engine that drives a business forward, and I aspire to become a trusted strategic partner who uses financial data to identify opportunities for growth, improve performance, and manage risk responsibly. Ultimately, I hope to build a successful career within a leading organisation while contributing meaningfully to Grenada and the wider Caribbean.

Beyond the financial support, this award is a powerful reminder that perseverance and dedication matter. Being recognised by the UWI alumni community motivates me to continue striving for academic excellence and professional growth. I hope that, in the future, I will be in a position to give back by supporting other students who are working hard to overcome financial barriers and achieve their educational goals.

Thank you once again for investing in my education and future. I will cherish this opportunity and approach it with gratitude, determination, and a strong sense of responsibility. I look forward to sharing updates on my academic progress as I continue my journey at UWI.

Ree Fleming, BSc Financial Management Student; University of the West Indies Global Campus Grenada
Recipient of the Dr. Eric Chiang Achieve Scholarship for Studies in Economics



I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for selecting me as the recipient of the prestigious **UWIAA-FL General Scholarship for the 2026/2027 academic year**. It is an incredible honor, and I am genuinely humbled by the support and confidence you have shown in my potential. Your generosity will significantly impact my journey as I continue to pursue a BSc. in Radiological Sciences. My career goal is to become a Diagnostic Radiographer with specialty in MRI.

This award is more than just financial assistance; it is a profound source of inspiration for me. It motivates me to work even harder, ensuring that I contribute meaningfully to the innovations and advancements in this crucial sector. I promise you that I will dedicate myself wholeheartedly to my studies, striving to make a tangible difference in healthcare.

Please rest assured that your decision to choose me will not be one you regret. I am committed to upholding the values and standards that this award represents, and I will do everything in my power to live up to the faith you have placed in me.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and belief in my potential. I look forward to making a positive impact and contributing to the field in a way that honors this incredible opportunity.

Ryan Jackson: Radiological Sciences, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences; Faculty of Medical Sciences.
Recipient of a Florida UWI Alumni Association General Scholarship



I am writing to formally accept the Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association's **Dr. Carmen Amos-Nicholas Scholarship**. I am profoundly grateful to be selected as a recipient of this scholarship and thankful for the opportunity it has provided.

This scholarship comes at a very crucial time especially as I have recently lost a close family member and the news of receiving this scholarship has encouraged me to maintain focus on my studies during this time. I am currently in the final year of the BFA Animation programme and as such I am in the process of completing my thesis animation. I truly believe Jamaican culture is important and just as good as any other and I want to use my skills in animation to help the younger generation to appreciate it before it is lost or overtaken by foreign influences.

This scholarship will help push me one step closer to my goal and I am extremely grateful for the support you have provided. Thank you for believing in me and helping to push me on in my academic endeavours.

Troy Tyrell: BFA Animation
Recipient of a Florida UWI Alumni Association's Dr. Carmen Amos-Nicholas Scholarship

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I would like to express my gratitude towards this association for selecting me to be a recipient of the **UWIAA-FI General Scholarship**. I am truly honoured, and I appreciate your generosity in supporting my medical education.

As a second year MBBS student, I recognise the importance of opportunities and support that make it possible for students to pursue their academic and professional goals. This scholarship will aid my tuition and living expenses and allow me to focus on my studies and professional development.

This school year, I became the events coordinator for Irvine Hall Sign Language Club and an active member of the Irvine Hall Volunteer Hub. I helped with a deaf seminar that took place in September at Irvine Hall, and I volunteered at the Strathmore Children's Home in Spanish Town, St. Catherine. I plan to maintain my position on the dean's list this year to maximise my chances of securing a dermatology residency in the future. Beyond my personal achievements, I aspire to establish my own scholarship in the future to support students' higher education and cease financial challenges that may hinder their progress.

Thank you for investing in my education and for your commitment to supporting students in our academic pursuits. I grant permission for my photograph and my profile to be published on the website and newsletter. Furthermore, I am grateful for this opportunity and hope one day to make meaningful contribution to Jamaica and the wider Caribbean through my work in medicine.

Thank you once again for your generosity and confidence in me.

Nezha Robinson: Medical Sciences, Mona
Recipient of a Florida UWI Alumni Association General Scholarship

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I write to formally accept the **UWIAA-FL General Scholarship** for the 2026-2027 Academic Year and to express my utmost gratitude and appreciation to the scholarship committee for selecting me as a recipient of this honour.

As I navigate my final year of the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) programme, I face many challenges that are largely linked to financing. However, this award is undoubtedly a significant relief. As I look to the future, I am committed to completing my LL.B. with First Class Honours,and thereafter matriculating to the Norman Manley Law School. This path will equip me with the requisite knowledge and skills to make a meaningful contribution to the legal profession and education sector as I work towards my goal of becoming an Attorney-at-Law and educator.

This is an opportunity that I will always cherish. Once again, thank you for the investment not only in my future but also the myriad of students you have impacted and will continue to impact.

Tajhaun Bennett:LLB Program (Barbados)
Recipient of a Florida UWI Alumni Association General Scholarship



I am truly honoured and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the **University of the West Indies Alumni Association of Florida General Scholarship**. I am pleased to formally accept this award and sincerely thank you for investing in my education and future.

This scholarship comes at a particularly meaningful time, as I was working to secure the remaining funds needed to complete my tuition payment for this semester. As a Doctor of Pharmacy student from a low-income family, financing my education has presented significant challenges. Your generosity has therefore brought me tremendous relief, eased a considerable financial burden, and allowed me to continue my studies with renewed peace of mind and determination. Beyond the financial assistance, your support is a meaningful reminder that my hard work and perseverance are recognised and that others believe in my potential.

I remain committed to making the most of this opportunity by graduating with a GPA of 3.7 or higher and maintaining strong academic performance throughout my remaining semesters. As I enter a year of clinical rotations, I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have acquired, growing as a future Clinical Pharmacist, and contributing meaningfully to the healthcare team while providing safe, patient-centred care.

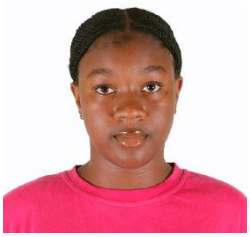
Volunteerism has always been a cornerstone of my life and a guiding principle in my commitment to serving others. Although my clinical rotations may limit my physical presence on campus, I intend to remain actively involved in Pharmacy Student Association health fairs and other community initiatives. I also continue to support scholarship foundations that have contributed to my education, whether in the past or presently, as a way of giving back and helping to sustain the opportunities that have helped shape my journey.

My long-term aspiration is to become a Clinical Pharmacist who contributes to improving medication safety, patient outcomes, and healthcare delivery in Jamaica. I hope to honour your investment not only through my academic and professional achievements but also through continued service to my community and support for other students pursuing their educational goals.

Thank you once again to the Association, its Board Members, and generous donors for your kindness and commitment to empowering students. Your support has made a tangible difference in my educational journey, and I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to continue working towards my aspirations.

Thank you for believing in me and for being a meaningful part of my journey. I look forward to making you proud through my continued dedication to academic excellence, professional development, and service to others.

Britney McDonald: Doctor of Pharmacy Student, The University of the West Indies, Mona (Recipient of a Florida UWI Alumni Association General Scholarship)



It is with great honour that I accept the opportunity to be the receipt of the **Dr. Beverly Fray Bursary for the academic year 2026/2027**. I would like to thank the Board and all those involved in the selection process for this generous investment in my education and future.

Receiving this scholarship is both a privilege and a motivation to continue striving for excellence and personal growth. It aligns perfectly with my philosophy of greatness: the relentless pursuit of excellence that fuels the desire to learn and contribute.

My long-term career goal is to become a renewable energy engineer and energy analyst, contributing to the development of sustainable energy solutions that strengthen Jamaica's energy security and resilience. Growing up in a country that is frequently affected by hurricanes, I've seen how vulnerable our infrastructure can be, and I want to be part of creating systems that are not only more sustainable but also more reliable for future generations. To achieve this, I first plan to successfully complete my Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and continue building practical experience through internships and opportunities within the energy sector.

I also intend to pursue professional development and, eventually, postgraduate studies so I can deepen my expertise in renewable energy and energy systems. Beyond developing technical knowledge, I want to continue growing as a leader because I believe solving Jamaica's energy challenges will require collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to serving communities. Ultimately, I hope my career will allow me not only to contribute to national development but also to inspire other young Jamaicans to see engineering as a pathway to creating meaningful change.

Beyond academics, I actively participate in extracurricular and community activities that foster leadership, teamwork and personal development I current bring vim and vitally to the post of Representative for the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and Treasurer of the Jamaican Student's association in Trinidad and Tobago for which I am the Immediate Past

President. My engagement extends beyond leadership roles into serve-oriented initiatives through my involvement as pinned member of Rotaract Club of Piarco-UWI. Rotaract has instilled in me a strong ethos of “service above self”, which continues to guide my action.

I deeply appreciate the confidence the Scholarship Board has placed in me and will make every effort to uphold the standards and values associated with this award. I am committed to using this opportunity to further my education and to make a positive impact in my community and profession.

Thank you once again for this tremendous honor and opportunity. I sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to making the most of this scholarship.

Toneika Salmon: **Dr. Beverly Fray Bursary**



I am truly honoured and grateful to accept **the Ronald and Miriam White Scholarship for the 2026–2027 academic year**. Thank you for choosing to support me and for becoming part of my journey.

Knowing that I have been selected to receive this scholarship means a great deal to me, not only because of the financial assistance it provides, but also because it reminds me that there are people who believe in the potential of students like me and are willing to invest in our futures. I am grateful to become part of a legacy of generosity and support for UWI students, and I hope to carry that spirit forward in my own life.

I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at The University of the West Indies, with a minor in Criminology. I hope to continue my studies at the postgraduate level and eventually work in clinical or counselling psychology, while advocating for greater mental health awareness in Jamaica. It matters to me that young people feel supported, know that their struggles do not define their futures, and feel comfortable reaching out for help when they need it.

Outside of my studies, I have always valued opportunities to serve and represent others, from serving as Junior Mayor and participating in the Jamaica Prefects Association to my involvement as a National Youth Parliamentarian and in leadership roles at UWI.

These experiences have shaped the way I see service: not simply as holding a position, but as using the opportunities I have to make a difference for others.

Coming from a modest, single-parent household, I know that pursuing my ambitions does not always come without uncertainty, particularly when finances are a concern. There have been times when I have had to keep moving forward without knowing exactly how everything would work out.

Receiving this scholarship is therefore especially meaningful to me. It will help ease some of the financial pressure of pursuing my degree, allowing me to focus more fully on my education. More than that, it is a reminder to keep believing in what I can accomplish, even when the journey is difficult.

Thank you again for this kindness and for the confidence you have placed in me. I do not take this opportunity for granted, and I hope that, in the years to come, I will be able to extend the same encouragement and support to others that you have given to me. I look forward to sharing updates on my academic progress as I continue working towards completing my degree.

Honessa Clayton: Social Sciences, Mona campus, pursuing a B.Sc. in Psychology. **(Recipient of the Ronald and Miriam White Scholarship)**

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE STILL OPEN
CLOSES DECEMBER 5, 2026

Our UWI (Florida) Alumni Association Scholarship is still open and you can still purchase a chance to win one of the 3 cash prizes below. 🎓✨

- **First Prize: $1,000**
- **Second Prize: $500**
- **Third Prize: $250**



Every ticket you purchase is more than just an entry; it is 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! 🎟️

Use the link below to purchase your Raffle Tickets

https://go.rallyup.com/uwialumniflorida2026
(Buy raffle here!)

UWI NEWS

MSBM'S DIANE EDWARDS RECEIVES FRANCE'S HIGHEST NATIONAL HONOUR

Recognising a Distinguished Contribution to Jamaica-France Relations



Her Excellency Marianne Ziss, Ambassador of France to Jamaica, presented Ms Edwards with the insignia at a reception on October 15, recognising her longstanding contribution to relations between Jamaica and France.

Established in 1802, the Légion d'honneur is France's highest national honour. It recognises distinguished service, including contributions by foreign nationals to France and its international relationships.

Edwards' connection with France began at the Alliance Française at age fourteen and continued at The University of the West Indies, where she studied French, Spanish and German. A French Government scholarship subsequently enabled her to study International Relations at Sciences Po Paris.

Her professional journey has also included significant engagement with French business organisations and initiatives supporting economic development in Jamaica.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Ziss recognised Edwards' continuing contribution through her work at MSBM.

"You are still actively contributing to economic development through your position of Director of professional services at UWI Mona's business school, where you offer tailored training for corporate clients and institutions," the Ambassador said.

In offering congratulations on behalf of the School, Prof. Lila Rao Graham, Acting Executive Director, said:

"MSBM proudly celebrates this recognition of our colleague whose career reflects a steadfast commitment to advancing international business and national development. Ms. Edwards has enriched the School's management consultancy and executive education programmes with deep practical insight, helping businesses and public institutions strengthen their organisations and develop leadership capacity."

Prior to joining MSBM, Edwards served as President at JAMPRO, where her work included engagement with French business organisations and support for the development of a solar energy project in Westmoreland involving French company Neoen and Jamaican partner Soleco.

Reflecting on her return to The UWI through MSBM, Edwards highlighted the significance of her professional journey coming full circle.

"Today, my work at the Mona School of Business and Management through the Professional Services Unit has brought me back to the University of the West Indies, where so much of this journey began."

Edwards is among only three Jamaicans to have received this honour. The other two are Professor the Hon. Gordon Shirley, OJ, CEO of the Port Authority of Jamaica, and Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman, Chief of Defence Staff, Jamaica Defence Force. **Link to Story**

UWI RESEARCHERS TURNING FARM WASTE INTO FUEL AND FERTILISER

October 27, 2026



Graduate researchers (from left) De-Mar Browne, Tamaira Rowe and Nandi Yard

Three young scientists at The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus are working to tackle two costly challenges facing Barbados and the wider Caribbean: the region's dependence on imported fuel and fertilisers, and the growing need to produce more food while reducing agricultural waste.

Through research that turns discarded plant material into renewable energy and converts organic waste into nutrients for growing crops, the graduate students are exploring how Caribbean countries can make better use of resources already available to them.

Read more

WE DO GET AROUND!

Our Florida UWI Alumni Chapter Public Relations officer and Morant Bay High School Alumnus Dr. Peter Smith (2nd from the left) on October 12, 2026 at the Community Give Back Day at Easington Primary School in St. Thomas Jamaica.

For Dr. Smith, "this is where it all started!"



UWI Alumni (Florida) President Dr. Cheralee Morgan (far right) and friends showing support for Edwin Allen High School (formerly Frankfield Comprehensive High School) Florida Group by attending their fish fry



Answers to "brain Teaser" on Page 1



UWI
ONE FAMILY!

