

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (FLORIDA)

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THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Caribbean Jazz-Matazz, a Huge Success

The performers were excellent, the music was goods, and the turn-out, although it could have been better, it was enough to be called a "lively crowd". Thank you so much for your support, for attending the Caribbean Jazz Matazz on June 8, 2014 at the Broward Convention Center. Your attendance and support helped to put the University of the West Indies Alumni Association, Florida, on the map in a big way and generated some new interest in the association. Special thanks to Ann Marie Grant, Bridget and Eddie Edwards, Celia Davidson Francis, Minna Israel (who came from Jamaica for the event), and AFUWI Chairman Wesley Wainwright for their continued support of the University of the West Indies and its chapters in North America.

Rupert Rhodd (President)



Stay connected with happenings on all campuses. Subscribe to

Alumni Online

<http://www.uwi.edu/alumnionline/index.php> and read the latest

UWI CONNECT

<http://www.uwi.edu/alumnionline/component/flippingbook/book/35-uwi-connect-june-2014/1-current-issue.html?tmpl=component>, that has the news and information of UWI alumni associations.

Annual Membership Dues

Please remember to pay your annual dues of \$30. Make checks payable to **UWIAA, Florida Chapter** and mail to **UWIAA Florida Chapter, P.O. Box 970313, Coconut Creek, Florida 33097.**

You can also pay by PayPal on the association's website <http://www.uwiaafl.info>. The dues that you pay help the association to meet its recurring expenses and annual contribution to our alma mater for



INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAMAICA



Once again, Jamaicans at home and across the world will celebrate that signal moment in our history when we gained our independence from Great Britain. Of course, many persons who fought for and observed that glorious transition on August 6, 1962, are no longer with us. But the passing of time and generations has not diminished the significance of that date to all Jamaicans. Let us also recall that we will be celebrating the 180th Anniversary of Emancipation, marking the end of slavery.

As we mark these two milestones, we reflect solemnly and thankfully, on the road travelled, and the experiences that have shaped us as a people and a nation. We have established a record of political stability and democracy in the Western Hemisphere; we are highly respected in the international arena for our principled foreign policy stance on issues of regional, hemispheric and global importance; and we have continually demonstrated to the world that we are a great country capable of achieving the pinnacle of success through the hard work and achievements of our people in sports, entertainment, politics, business, the arts and academia.

While it is recognized that there is much work to be done to raise the living standards of all our people, and to achieve socio-economic development commensurate with targets articulated in the National Development Plan Vision 2030, we rise to the challenges ahead, looking forward assuredly with determination, hope, and pride to a brighter future, always with the triumphant colours of the “black, green, and gold” representing the aspirations of our Nation.

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I am pleased to acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, the contributions made by many organizations within the area of jurisdiction of the Consulate-General to the celebration of this defining instant in Jamaica’s history. Through your actions, we are reminded of the indomitable spirit of an independent Jamaica which serves to inspire all Jamaicans, whether at home or abroad.

At the same time, I take the opportunity to acknowledge the many expressions of friendship extended to our people in the United States of America, where the cordial and respectful relationship between our nations and peoples continues to flourish.

I encourage all of you, to continue to pay homage to our nation’s forefathers and to the land of our heritage, not only during this “Emancipendence” season, but throughout the year. By so doing, we renew and reinforce our identity to the world as a sovereign people, proudly reflecting the sentiments expressed in the theme for this year’s celebration, “This is Jamaica, my Jamaica”.

Franz Hall

Consul General of Jamaica to
Florida, the Southern United States
The Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands



Dr. Dennis Bailey, UWI Mona discovers anti-cancer properties in yams



Research conducted by Dr. Dennis Bailey, for his Doctorate Degree, has revealed the presence of anti-cancer properties in indigenous varieties of yams cultivated in Jamaica, namely the *Dioscorea alata* cultivar more popularly known as St. Vincent Dark night and Moonshine Yams.

Bailey confirmed the anti-cancer potency of the yams by conducting research at the cellular level, inside the body of rats and in test tubes, using cancer cell lines in the breast, colon and skin. He found that their cancer reduced in size dramatically in comparison to the control group of rats.

According to Bailey, “purple yams contain potent phytochemicals which slow down the growth of cancer cells. Assessment of these tubers has revealed several anthocyanins and high antioxidant properties which prevent the proliferation of cancer cells.” Bailey noted that about 90 per cent of the rats used as control died within 10 days of the experiment as their cancer kept spreading, while those fed with the anti-cancer yam extract lived. Their cancer sizes were greatly reduced or stopped growing during the study period. He also used the same extracts on normal cell lines and found that it did not affect the normal cells but destroyed the cancer cells. He added: “The extract effect on the cell was concentration dependent. We were able to find a specific dose that was very effective against the cancer cells.”

Bailey also foresees tremendous potential in purple yam production. His ultimate desire is to see purple yams becoming staple crops which would aid in the reduction of cancers, diabetes and arthritis. “We would like purple yams to be exported so that Jamaica could earn more foreign exchange. The export potential and the pharmaceutical impact are great” Bailey said.

Bailey commenced his research on purple yams in 2002, leading to the award of the doctoral degree in 2013, following transfer of his MPhil registration to PhD registration in 2007. He was supervised by Professor Helen Asemota, the current Director of the Biotechnology Centre, The Yam anti-cancer extract is currently being considered for the award of a US patent.

UWI Mona’s extensive Yam Research pedigree

Research on yams began at the Biotechnology Centre in 1991 in an attempt to find solutions to the local yam production problems. The current Director of the Centre, Prof. Helen Asemota, started the Yam Group in 1993. She heads the current group of 15 yam researchers and has, to date, supervised 28 Ph. D and two M. Phil theses on yam research. Based on studies of 25 Jamaican yam varieties, the group has looked at yam as a food, medicine and as industrial raw materials. The research has also fostered capacity building in Research and Development in the country. “We have trained many yam experts and they are dispersed in various sectors of society for research and development’. Dr. Andrew Wheatley is one of these experts who in 1995 devised a micro propagation system suitable for the sustainable production of yams, in his PhD studies. The findings were patented locally.

Dr. Dwayne Stennet also completed his doctorate on the role of yams in lowering cholesterol in the blood, from which a USA provisional patent was received. Dr. Cliff Riley characterized all of the starches from the 25 varieties yams for his Ph. D. study. From the results of Riley's work, Dr. Alexia Harvey worked on the chemical modification of some of the starches to produce a starch of superior excipient quality to corn starch. This recent study – The Chemical Modification of Yam Starches and their Potential Use in Pharmaceutical Formulations - won for Harvey the 2013 Most Outstanding Ph. D. Thesis Award in March, 2014. These research efforts of the UWI Yam Biotechnology Group have proceeded in collaboration with other departments. The Centre works in conjunction with the Scientific Research Council and the Ministry of Agriculture's Research Station at Bodles on yam research. “... In addition to anti-cancer uses, yam has anti-diabetic, anti-cholesterol and anti-inflammatory properties,” Prof. Asemota said. “From the amount of research done on yams in this country, there should no problem with yam production. We just need to use our findings through supporting policies,” she added.

(cont'd on Page 4)

Dr. Dennis Bailey, UWI Mona discovers anti-cancer properties in yams (Cont'd from page 2)

Other key Yam researchers trained within the UWI Yam Group are Dr. Curtis Green, whose PhD research resulted in UWI's first USA patent; Dr. Kathleen Lobban, Lecturer at UTECH, Dr. Samson Omoregie, Chair of Biology & Chemistry Department at NCU, to mention a few.

[Story originally published in UWI Mona Now](#) - the bi Monthly Newspaper of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

Cave Hill's Economic Impact on Barbados

CAMPUS NEWS, CAVE HILL

JULY 24, 2014

In the academic year 2012/2013, the UWI Cave Hill campus had a total student roll of 8,634 persons, almost evenly spread between full-time and part-time students, but largely consisting of students pursuing degrees in the areas of Humanities and Education, Science and Technology as well as the Social Sciences.

In addition to its role as an educator, the Campus impacts the society and economy of Barbados because of the other roles it plays: employer, research hub, international gateway, purchaser of goods and services and centre of knowledge for specialized areas of study.

[Click here to read the full study](#) of The UWI Cave Hill's Economic Impact on Barbados.

UWI Toronto and UWI MONA mourn the Passing of the Hon. G. Raymond Chang

The University of the West Indies, Mona is saddened by the passing of honorary graduate and outstanding business leader and philanthropist, the Hon. G. Raymond Chang. A passionate advocate of continuing education and young adult learning, Mr. Chang was a major donor to The UWI. He served as Patron of the UWI Toronto Benefit Gala, which raised funds for university scholarships and awards to outstanding Caribbean students.



Mr. Chang provided significant support to the Family Medicine Postgraduate Program offered through the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry. Collaboration between the Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, at Ryerson University, Canada and The UWI, Mona facilitated the on-line delivery of the BSc (post RN) degree which aims to upgrade the skills of nurses who already hold or are potential holders of leadership positions in the health services of the region.

Mr. Chang was also one of the leading forces behind the CB Group UWI 5K Run/Walk which has, to date, raised some \$28 Million to fund scholarships for students who demonstrate outstanding ability in sports and academics.

In May 2014, The UWI, Mona signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Caribbean Broilers (CB) Group and the Raymond Chang Foundation to facilitate research to support the introduction of sorghum as an ingredient of animal feed to replace in part, imported corn in local animal feed.

In light of Mr. Chang's death, the UWI flags will be flown at half-mast on Monday, July 28, 2014 and on the day of his funeral.

Camille Bell-Hutchinson, Campus Registrar

ANNUAL ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON SAVE THE DATE!!

**DECEMBER 6, 2014; 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
WALK, EXERCISE, & RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR
ALMA MATER!**



**VENUE TO BE
ANNOUNCED**



ELECTIONS UNDERWAY FOR NEW DIASPORA ADVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN USA

- The voting process opened yesterday (Aug. 4) for the position of Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board member for the Southern USA. Elections will close on Friday (Aug. 15) at 8:00 p.m.
- The person securing the majority of votes will be declared the duly elected Diaspora Advisory Board Representative, on Monday (Aug. 25), according to interim Diaspora Board coordinator for the Southern USA, Reverend Horace Ward of the Holy Family Episcopal Church in Miami Gardens.
- Three Jamaican nationals are vying for the two-year volunteer position serving the thirteen (13) Southern States of the United States of America, including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.
- The three candidates are **Wayne C. Golding, Sr. Esq., resident of Orlando, Florida; Courtney G. McFarlane, resident of Atlanta, Georgia, and Alexander A. Williams, Esq., resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.**

Sharing information regarding the conduct of elections, Rev. Ward encouraged all Jamaican nationals residing in the Southern USA to participate in the election process. Given the wide geographical area of that region, voting will be conducted electronically and via mail-in ballots submitted to Holy Family Episcopal Church, 18051 NW 7th Avenue, Miami, FL 33169. All voters will be limited to one ballot by selecting one of the three listed candidates.

To learn more about the candidates, and for further information and instructions, on the voting procedures, persons can visit the Jamaica Diaspora election website (www.JamaicaDiasporaElection2014.com). All ballots received will be checked, tabulated and verified by an Independent panel before announcing the successful candidate.

The Diaspora Advisory Board arose out of the first Biennial National Diaspora Conference held in Kingston, in June 2004. The total of seven Board members is required to represent the interest of Jamaican Diaspora populated communities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, while maintaining close relationship with the Jamaican foreign missions and embassies in those regions as well as the Government and people in Jamaica.

In preparation for the election process to elect a new advisory board representative, Rev. Ward reiterated that he is interacting with community associations, media and faith-based leaders in the Diaspora communities to create awareness and interest to the "Diaspora movement to which each of us as Jamaicans residing overseas, is a member" he added. The position has been vacant since last November.

Contact:

Interim Jamaica Diaspora Coordinator: Rev. Horace Ward - Tel # 305-652-6797

Email: info@jamaicadiasporaelection2014.com

*Show
your
Pelican
Pride!*

*Support
UWIAA
Florida!*

Alumni Associations' Events

EVENT	DATE	PAGE
VERE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI FISH FRY	August 8, 2014	2
CALABAR ALUMNI 2014 SUMMER PARTY	August 23, 2014	3
CLARENDON COLLEGE ALUMNI "LABOR DAY WEEKEND" EVENTS	August 29-31, 2014	7-8
WOLMER'S 4 th ANNUAL SOCCER REUNION & AFTER PARTY	September 13, 2014	9
QUEEN'S ALUMNI "WHITE AND GRAY END OF SUMMER" DANCE	September 30, 2014	10
TRENCH TOWN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI 5 th ANNUAL BALL	October 11, 2014	11
TITCHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL BANQUET	October 11, 2014	12
MT. ALVERNIA HIGH (CENTRAL FLORIDA) HOMECOMING	October 10-12, 2014	13
TARRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEEKEND	October 16-19, 2014	14
MONTEGO BAY HIGH SCHOOL INT'L ALUMNI 4 th ANNUAL GALA	October 17, 2014	15
FRIENDS OF KINGSTON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PARTY	October 25, 2014	16
CORNWALL COLLEGEALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEEKEND	Oct.31- Nov 2, 2014	17
ALPHA ALUMNAE WHITE NITE OLDIES DANCE	November 8, 2014	18
MUNRO-HAMPTON ALUMNI OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTUMN FEST	November 15, 2014	19

For more information, visit the Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations website
<http://www.jaasf.info/Events.html>

Send information that you would like to include in the newsletter (success stories, promotions, etc.) to the editor, Sandra Schrouder, sansch33@yahoo.com