

## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (FLORIDA)

*“One Family, One Spirit, One UWI”*

### Dear UWI Alumni Family,

Blessings and warm spring greetings to each and every one of you.

As we continue our journey through this year, I want to pause and offer heartfelt thanks for the strength, unity, and spirit you have already shown. We began the year with both joy and sorrow — celebrating new possibilities while also mourning the loss experienced by one of our members’ families. In true Caribbean fashion, we wrapped each other in love, prayers, and support. That is who we are. That is the UWI spirit — resilient, compassionate, and always standing together.

Now, as we emerge from the Easter season — a time of renewal, reflection, and hope — we find ourselves smiling again, giving thanks for life, community, and the blessings that continue to unfold. The energy among our members is vibrant, and I feel deeply encouraged by the way we continue to show up for one another.

This year also brings new promise as we look forward to working closely with Ms. **Christina Plummer Wynn**, our new **Director of Alumni Relations at The University of the West Indies (UWI)**. Her role places her at the center of global alumni engagement initiatives and we look forward to interacting with her with great anticipation. Her leadership, vision, and commitment to strengthening alumni engagement will bring immense benefit not only to our chapter here in Florida, but also to our beloved alma mater across the Caribbean. Together, we will build stronger bridges, create new opportunities, and deepen the legacy of UWI excellence.

And speaking of legacy — one of our most joyful traditions is just around the corner: **our annual picnic**. This is more than an event; it is a homecoming. A space where we laugh loudly, share stories, enjoy

good music and Caribbean food, and connect and re-connect with UWI graduates and friends. It is also a good way to support our fundraising efforts while we are having fun. I encourage every member to come out, bring a friend, bring your family, and bring that unmistakable Caribbean joy.

As we celebrate, we also continue the important work of giving back. This year, I am encouraging all of us to make an extra effort to strengthen our fundraising initiatives. When we support the scholarship raffle, participate in the annual walkathon, purchase our chapter shirts, or contribute in any other way, we are investing in the next generation of UWI students. We are helping young people — many just like we once were — to dream bigger, reach further, and rise higher. The **“scholarship raffle”** will be launched at the picnic. We will focus on the **Walkathon** after our picnic.

Every contribution matters. Every effort counts. Together, we can make this one of our most impactful years .

Let us continue to be keepers of each other — checking in, lifting up, and staying connected. Our Caribbean heritage teaches us that community is not just a word; it is a way of life. And here in the Florida Chapter, we live that truth every day.

As we move forward, may God’s richest blessings be upon you and your families. May He guide our steps, strengthen our unity, and keep our UWI flame burning bright.

**“One han’ cyaa clap.”**

***We accomplish more when we work together.***

With gratitude, pride, and Caribbean love, working with a fantastic executive team and leading some exceptional UWI graduates and friends,

***Dr. Cheralée Morgan, President***

UWI Alumni Association – Florida Chapter



# UWI ALUMNI FLORIDA SUMMER REUNION PICNIC

Saturday,  
May 16, 2026  
Noon Start!

Fun, Food, Music, Games & More!



Chicken/Pork \$25  
Fish \$30 (preorder by May 9) \*  
Served with any 2 sides  
Rice 'n' Peas  
Plain Rice  
Festival  
Mac & Cheese  
Salad

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Soup \$5  
Pudding \$3  
Soft Drinks \$2  
Water

**WELLEBY PARK - PAVILION #7**

11100 NW 44th St., Sunrise, FL 33351

CALL: (954) 773-1891 FOR MORE INFORMATION

\*PRE-ORDER THROUGH ZELLE: [UWIAAFL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UWIAAFL@GMAIL.COM)

## WANT TO CONNECT WITH UWI ALUMNI IN FLORIDA?

If you're looking to:

- Join the Florida Chapter
- Find fellow graduates
- Attend events
- Network professionally

We can help you find the right contact info or upcoming events.

Check out the following:

1. Website: [www.uwiaafl.org](http://www.uwiaafl.org)
2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uwiflorida>
3. Email: [uwiaafl@gmail.com](mailto:uwiaafl@gmail.com)
4. Join the UWI Florida WhatsApp group with over 60 other members  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IIgmJXdIBTmAbu43poMWVb?mode=gallery>



## GLOBAL GIVING MONTH

*Emancipate, Educate, Donate*

**August is Global Giving Month!**

**August 1** is celebrated in many Caribbean territories as Emancipation Day, marking the freedom of enslaved Africans who were victims of the transatlantic slave trade.

While we honour and pay tribute to that past, the regional University recognises that education is one of the most critical means to freedom, particularly for the current generation of youth.

**UWI Global Giving** is a vital way that every member of the UWI community can make an impact at the University and contribute to Caribbean development by ensuring the future of the region's human resource capacity.

**The Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association encourages its members and supporters to make a special contribution to the Scholarship Fund during AUGUST, our Giving Month.**

A gift of as little as US\$10 can help to make a meaningful impact.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER ANDREW HOLNESS

The American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) will pay tribute to the Most Honorable Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica, with the Legacy Award, one of the organization's highest honours, at its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual "The Legacy Continues" Awards Gala on Friday, April 17. The event takes place in New York City.

## Kudos, Birthdays & Well Wishes

1. **KUDOS TO BEVERLY FRAY** who heads the committee to honor Elgeta Thompson on May 31, 2026. This will be a well-deserved tribute to a woman whose contributions to the South Florida community over many years have been profound, generous, and enduring. Please support Bev's effort by attending the tribute. **See Page 8 for more information**
2. **BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES** to those whose birthday was in March:
  - **PAT MONTAGUE**
  - **COLEEN BROWN-PALMER**
3. **BIRTHDAY WISHES** to those whose birthday is in April:
  - **DAVID ESPUET**
  - **BEVERLY FRAY**
  - **HEATHER GRAY**
  - **KIM ISANG**
  - **MARVA McCLEAN**
  - **ETHLYN WILLIAMS**
  - **MIRIAM WHITE**
  - **LEIGHTON TAYLOR**
  - **KENDRA MERCHANT**
4. **CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARON PORTER & FAMILY** on the marriage of their son. The chapter wishes the "newly-weds" happy years ahead.
5. **THE ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON** will take place on **December 5, 2026 (Page 9)**. Sandra and Rupert have organized this event for over 10 years and must be commended for their effort to help alumni associations raise funds. The Florida Chapter will be out in full force.



**UWI Alumni (Florida) shirts are available.**  
**Order by Zelle: [uwiaaf@gmail.com](mailto:uwiaaf@gmail.com)**

**Price: \$25 plus \$5 Shipping**

## OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

1. **Father Holung and Friends Concert (Page 6)**

A spiritually uplifting and musically rich event that brings people together while supporting the poor and the needy in Jamaica. Father Holung’s mission is deeply rooted in compassion, faith, and service—values especially resonant during this Easter season.

2. **Jamaica Hi5 Walk/Run (Page 7)**

A successful annual event that is not only a joyful celebration of unity, wellness, and national pride, but one that strengthens community bonds while supporting clinics in Jamaica. **It would be ‘NICE’ to have your own team of walkers!**

## Feature Story

### **CAVE HILL GRADUATE HELPS DEVELOP GAME-CHANGING INNOVATION PAGE 10)**

A UWI Cave Hill graduate, Dr. Shima Holder, has helped develop **SaniHive**, a groundbreaking, waterless sanitation system designed for underserved communities. The modular, honey-comb-style toilet processes waste onsite—turning urine into fertilizer and feces into compost—without electricity or sewage infrastructure. The innovation improves public health, supports water-scarce areas, and creates economic opportunities through waste recycling. SaniHive won top awards at the 2018 UNLEASH global innovation lab for its sustainability and scalability.

## Important Links

**UWI MONA:** [HTTPS://WWW.MONA.UWI.EDU/](https://www.mona.uwi.edu/)

**UWI CAVE HILL:** [HTTPS://WWW.CAVEHILL.UWI.EDU/HOME/](https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/home/)

**UWI ST. AUGUSTINE:** [HTTPS://STA.UWI.EDU/](https://sta.uwi.edu/)

**UWI FIVE ISLANDS:** [HTTPS://FIVEISLANDS.UWI.EDU/](https://fiveislands.uwi.edu/)

**UWI OPEN CAMPUS:** [HTTPS://GLOBAL.UWI.EDU/](https://global.uwi.edu/)





# REJOICE MY SOUL

## FR. HO LUNG & FRIENDS

### “CONCERT SERIES”



**PLANTATION APRIL 19, 2026**

#### About Our Events

We warmly invite you to join us for a concert event, featuring the “Five Tenors”. *Rejoice My Soul* is an uplifting concert which promises to leave you feeling energized and full of praise. Proceeds to benefit Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica, the Homeless Ministry in Plantation and Miami Missions.

**MIAMI MAY 10, 2026**



#### Event Details

**PLANTATION APRIL 19, 2026, 6 PM** ◀  
Plantation United Methodist Church  
1001 NW 70 Avenue, Plantation, FL. 33313

**MIAMI MAY 10, 2026, 4 PM** ◀  
The Upper Room Assembly of God  
19701 SW 127 Avenue, Miami, FL. 33177

**TICKET PRICES** ◀  
Adults: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door  
Children (11-17): \$15  
Children under 10: Free

**GET TICKETS NOW**



#### Contact us

Janice: 954-632-4105  
Lacie: 305-763-7341



#### Website

[frholungandfriends.org](http://frholungandfriends.org)





THE JAMAICA HIGH5 FOUNDATION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAMAICA, MIAMI  
PRESENT

# JAMAICA HI5 5K RUN/WALK



**OLIVER MAIR**  
CONSUL GENERAL  
OF JAMAICA, MIAMI



**WAYNE MESSAM**  
MAYOR OF MIRAMAR



**MAY 9TH**  
2026  
RACE TIME 7:00 AM

**MIRAMAR REGIONAL PARK**  
16801 MIRAMAR PKWY, MIRAMAR, FL 33027



**RACE AMBASSADOR**  
**Ky-Mani Marley**



POST-RACE CELEBRATION • FINISHER MEDAL • FREE REFRESHMENTS  
REGGAE MUSIC ALONG THE RACE ROUTE

BENEFITING THE ADOPT-A-CLINIC INITIATIVE.

**REGISTER NOW AT**  
**JamaicaHi5KRun.com**



# An Evening of Gratitude



Under the distinguished patronage  
of Consul General Oliver Mair

# Honoring Mrs. Elgeta Thompson



Pioneer of the Annual S. Florida Jamaican Independence Ball

# She Lickle, But She Tallawah!

Attire: Casual Elegance in Something Red

Date: May 31, 2026

Start Time: 4:30 PM

End Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Colony West Golf Club

6850 NW 88th Avenue, Tamarac, Florida 33321

Tickets:  
\$75 per person, includes meal; free parking  
Zelle payments to 305-586-6753  
Cash App: \$rosesgardenofhope



More Information :

☎ 305-586-6753 | 954-295-8458

bfpsices@gmail.com  
Dr. Beverly Fray

# ALL ALUMNI WALKATHON

DECEMBER 5  
MIRAMAR REGIONAL PARK



JOIN US!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT!  
FUNDRAISING TARGET: YOUR DECISION

FOOD • MUSIC • COMMUNITY • PRIZES

RUN. WALK. CONNECT.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## CAVE HILL GRADUATE HELPS DEVELOP GAME-CHANGING INNOVATION



In areas like Khayelitsha, Cape Town, where proper sanitation is a luxury, many families share a single makeshift toilet, leading to health risks like waterborne diseases. Dr. Shima Holder, a chemical engineer from Barbados, has helped develop a groundbreaking solution, which addresses this and other issues.

SaniHive is an innovative approach to sanitation, built on a modular, honeycomb-inspired design that maximizes space in crowded urban areas. What sets it apart is that it does not rely on traditional sewage systems or electricity. Instead, it processes waste onsite by converting urine into fertilizer and faeces into compost, all without using water. This makes it perfect for water-scarce areas, reducing the risk of contamination and disease. Beyond solving a critical sanitation problem, SaniHive also has an economic impact. By creating valuable byproducts like phosphorus-rich fertilizer, it offers local communities an opportunity to recycle waste and generate income.

“The uniqueness in our solution is that the toilet hub is not connected to a conventional sewage network, needs no electricity, and can be scaled up or customized according to the community’s needs and natural design,” Shima explained.

“Furthermore, profits can be made from waste recycling, as this system separates the urine and faeces within the toilet while using no water. We also hope that this innovation would empower the communities by creating employment, as local people can transport the waste to mini-treatment plants where high-end products could be created. Phosphorous recovery from urine for fertilizer is one example of this.”

Dr. Holder was the only Barbadian selected and the sole female on her team, which was aptly named Savvy Sanitation Solutions. Their innovation was developed and presented at the 2018 UNLEASH global innovation lab in Singapore held from 30 May to 6 June 2018. It went on to win the Gold Award related to SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation, and the Global Scalability Potential award.

What makes SaniHive particularly impactful is its ability to transform the way we think about sanitation in underserved areas. It is not just a temporary fix, but a sustainable solution that empowers communities, creates jobs, and improves public health. For Dr. Holder, it is all about making a lasting difference where it is needed most.

“A lot of the times as engineers, we feel like we know what the problem is and we create a technology to solve the problem,” the former Lodge School student said. “But we don’t really know unless we go into the community and understand what the community needs ... We took at least two days to write the problem statement because every time we thought we had a good [one], the experts were drilling us, asking us if we were sure that was what the user needs.”

The chemical engineer credits mentors Dr. Emma Smith and Dr. Srinivasa Poruri for their assistance along her educational journey. She pursued a master’s in Civil and Environmental Engineering (specialization in Water and Environmental Engineering) in England and was awarded a PhD in Water and Environmental Engineering at Da-Yeh University in Taiwan.

“I was lucky to have had really good lecturers at The UWI ... They always pushed me to do more. I never thought of doing a master’s, but Dr. Smith told me she did her master’s in England and encouraged me to do so as well. After that was done, Dr. Poruri reached out to me about doing a PhD in Taiwan,” Shima stated. “The connections I made with lecturers at The UWI [led me to this point] because I never imagined myself doing a masters or PhD, and definitely those things led me to where I am today [and to my] working in Sweden. My only plan was to go to UWI and try my best ...” Dr. Holder hopes to continue her mission to create solutions that make a lasting impact. [\(Link\)](#)