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UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FLORIDA CHAPTER

Christmas Message from the President, Margaret Barrett



On behalf of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association, the Florida Chapter, I wish for you and yours a very merry, holy and safe Christmas, and all best wishes for the year 2010. The good thing about Christmas is that it allows for families and friends to connect and remember each other whether through the exchange of greeting cards or gifts. I hope that just as the spirit of the Christmas grows more and more each day, the special bond that we share as graduates of the University of the West Indies will also grow stronger in the years to come as we endeavor to help our alma mater, Jamaica, and the community in which we live.

We are going through challenging economic times. However, the hardships which we experience also help us to remember that there is a Supreme Being. Often, as we achieve and acquire, we get caught up in materialism and forget to be humble and give thanks. Use the hardships that we are experiencing as a springboard for the future. Learn from this experience. What we are managing without today means that we can adjust our lifestyles and still live a wholesome life in the future.

As the New Year approaches, take time to assess your achievements and set-backs over this past year. Use your failures to set goals in areas of your life such as spiritual, financial, educational, and political. Remember, your achievements demonstrate to you that YOU CAN and your failures the starting point to new and more worthwhile adventures.

The year 2009 can be viewed as the formative year of UWI Alumni Association in Florida although it has had previous existence. A group is now coming together. We thank all of you who gave your support in one way or another. We have lots of plans for 2010 which we hope to achieve with your support.

May your Christmas be enjoyable and the essence of Christmas remains with you throughout this holiday season and in the years to come.

*God Bless.
Margaret Barrett*

Notes from the UWI Alumni Association Presidents' Meeting on December 15, 2009

The meeting was presided over by Celia Davidson-Francis, Director of Alumni Relations at the University of the West Indies, and among the issues discussed were the following:

1. First Caribbean International Bank UWI Visa Card will soon (early 2010) be available in Belize and OECS countries.
2. Activities planned by the different chapters in 2010 include the following:
 - The annual luncheon by the Toronto Chapter is planned for May 30, 2010 (with May 16, 2010 as a back-up date). The exact date will be confirmed ASAP.
 - Washington DC is planning another *Frolic in the Spring* for 2010 and will provide a date soon.
 - The Jamaica Chapter is having their Pelican Awards on the same day as the Flag Raising for Mona's Commemoration and members will participate in a campus community project in the August Town Area.
 - The Florida Chapter is planning a Dinner/Dance in April 2010.
 - The UWI Foundation gala will take place in Toronto, Canada on February 27, 2010 and in New York on January 28, 2010.
 - The CEC 2010 will take place in Nassau, The Bahamas on March 25 and 26, 2010.

Other "Tidbits" from the UWI Community

- ✚ *The UWI Mona Campus now has an Engineering Program and will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Engineering. Additional programs will be introduced in 2010, focusing on areas like energy management and engineering, biomedical engineering and renewable energy.*
- ✚ *UWI graduate, Judge Patrick Robinson, was re-elected to serve a new two year term as President of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, based in the Hague, Netherlands. He is also the author of the book "Jamaican Athletics - A Model for 2012 and the World".*
- ✚ *The Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of UWI (Mona), Professor Gordon Shirley, received the 2009 Gleaner Honor Award for excellence in education on October 21, 2009 and was credited with steering the Mona Campus on to a transformational and modernized path. He was also conferred with the Order of Jamaica two days earlier on October 19, 2009.*
- ✚ *The new Vice President of the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) for 2009/2010, Grantley Stephenson is a UWI graduate.*
- ✚ *The first Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Open Campus, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald was inducted in St. Lucia on October 16, 2009. The inaugural Presentation of Graduates ceremony for the Open Campus took place on October 17, 2009. The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) was conferred on Mr. Dunstan St. Omer and the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) was conferred on Dr. Peggy Antrobus.*

- ✦ *Judith Gildharie-Mursalin*, a graduate from the Hugh Wooding Law School has been awarded the Guyana Government prize for the best performance by a Guyanese student for the year 2009.
- ✦ The former Prime Minister of Barbados and Ambassador Designate to the People's Republic of China, *Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford* was one of four persons who received an honorary doctorate from the UWI, Cave Hill Campus on October 24, 2009. Sir Lloyd, a diplomat, politician, educator and author, served as the fourth Prime Minister of Barbados. He was also President of the Student Guild in 1958.



Celia Davidson-Francis, Director of Alumni Relations at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica (third from left), poses with members of the executive of UWIAA, Florida on a recent visit to Florida



Mrs. Jerome Miller-Vaz, head of the Western Region, Open Campus, at the University of the West Indies, and immediate past president of the Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association has been recognized as a Diamond Honoree by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Foundation for her exceptional contributions to education. Through its Diamond Honoree program the Foundation annually recognizes a small group of educators who have made significant contributions of leadership and scholarship to their institutions, to ACPA and to students.

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana conferred an honorary doctorate on Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies and Principal of Cave Hill Campus Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, at a Special Congregation on Friday November 27, 2009.



For more information about the University of the West Indies Community including its alumni associations around the globe, please visit <http://www.alumnionline.uwi.edu/>

AFUWI 13th Annual “The Legacy Continues” Awards Dinner



The American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) will host its annual Black Tie Gala on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the Pierre in Manhattan, New York. The Patron of the event is Harry

Belafonte. Spike Lee will receive the **AFUWI Bob Marley Award**. Cocktails are at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:30 PM.

Four prime ministers from the region will receive **Legacy Awards**. They are the Hon. David J.H. Thompson (Prime Minister of Barbados), the Hon. Dean O. Barrow (Prime Minister of Belize), the Hon. Tillman J. Thomas (Prime Minister of Grenada) and the Hon. Patrick A. M. Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. **Luminary Awards** will be presented to Lowell Hawthorne, Earl Jarrett, Dr. Lesly Kernisant and R. "Danny" Williams. Dr. Edison O. Jackson will receive the **Leadership Award** and Air Jamaica and TCW will receive **Corporate Awards**. Sybil Chester, Dr. Karlene Chin Quee, Maxine Griffiths and Janet Rolle will each receive the **Vice Chancellor's Award**. For more information contact Ann-Marie Grant at (212) 759-9345 or email her at annmariegrant@afuwi.org

The University of the UWI Inaugural Toronto Gala *"The UWI - Spreading Our Wings, Celebrating Excellence in Canada"*



The inaugural ball of UWI Toronto will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Four Seasons Hotel, 21 Avenue

Road, Toronto, Canada. The event is designed to bring alumni of the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Diaspora, Canadians and corporations who have interests in the Caribbean together for a wonderful evening of great cuisine and entertainment which will also highlight opportunities for involvement and engagement.

Raymond Chang, the Chancellor of Ryerson University will be the Patron of the event and **the Hon. Harry Belafonte OJ** will be honored at the event. Other honorees will include the **Hon. Mayann E. Francis**, Lt. Governor of the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia (Antiguan and Cuban heritage), the **Hon. Jean Augustine** (Grenadian), **Austin Clarke** (Barbadian), **Dr. Herbert Ho Ping Kong** (Jamaican), **Maud Fuller** (Jamaican), and **David Rudder** (Trinidadian). The reception will begin at 6:30 PM and dinner will be served at 7:30 PM. For more information visit the website <http://www.uwitorontogala.com> or contact **Elizabeth Buchanan-Hind**, Office of the Vice Chancellor (876) 977-0052/0054, (email) iad.mona@alumni.uwi.edu



**UNIV. OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOC
FLORIDA CHAPTER**



DINNER & DANCE



**Saturday, April 10, 2010
7:00 PM – 1:00 PM**

**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
Sawgrass Mills
13400 West Sunrise Boulevard
Sunrise, FL 33323**

**For more information call
Margaret Barrett (954) 485-0444
Rupert Rhodd (954) 242-2529**

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University of the West Indies Alumni Associations (Contact Information)

The Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association is a part of a larger body as indicated by the list and their representatives below.

1. **UWIAA Bahamas**
President: Mrs. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter
amsp1@aol.com or psmns1@yahoo.com
(242) 356-7166
2. **Barbados Chapter**
President: Mr. Ricardo Knight
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3. **Belize Chapter**
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4. **British Virgin Islands Chapter**
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5. **Cayman Chapter**
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6. **Dominica Chapter**
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7. **Florida Chapter**
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(954) 485-0444
8. **Grenada Chapter**
President: Ms. Claudia Halley
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(473) 440-2451
9. **Guyana Chapter**
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Mr. Greogry Gaskin
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10. **Jamaica Chapter**
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11. **Montserrat**
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12. **Ottawa, Canada**
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13. **St. Kitts and Nevis**
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14. **New York Chapter**
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15. **Saint Lucia**
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16. **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**
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17. **Suriname**
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18. Toronto Chapter

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Mr. Michael Henville

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19. Trinidad & Tobago Chapter

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20. Turks & Caicos Island

Mr. Ivan B. Browne

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21. United Kingdom Chapter

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22. Washington DC Chapter

President: Ms. Shashana Crichton

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23. UWI Medical Alumni (UWIMAA)

Barbados Chapter

Chairman: Dr. Mike Hoyos

hoyosmd@caribsurf.com

24. UWI Medical Alumni (UWIMAA)

Jamaica Chapter

President: Dr. Aileen Standard Goldson

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25. UWIAA Engineering Jamaica Chapter

Chairman: Mr. Hopeton Henry

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26. UWIAA Engineering Trinidad & Tobago Chapter

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