

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, FLORIDA CHAPTER
REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 25, 2013
JEPa'S PLACE, LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA**



The meeting was called to order by the president Dr. Rupert Rhodd who focused on the unique opportunity available to UWI Alumni Associations to assist in the continued development and growth of the University of the West Indies. This he noted is important because of the numerous needs of the institution and current students, who are finding it difficult to pay their tuition. Along the same path, Rupert also noted the ongoing effort of the American Foundation of the University of the West Indies (AFUWI), and shared information with the group on the AFUWI's upcoming fundraiser at the Broward Convention Center on September 28, 2013. He noted that the Chapter is expected to play a role in this event and that he will be requesting more information and guidance from Ms. Ann-Marie Grant the Executive Director of AFUWI on how the Chapter can contribute to the success of this event. The event will be a joint effort with Riddims Marketing.

The Executive Board

Rupert Rhodd, PhD
President

Ella Gooden
Vice President

Geli Eldemire, JD
Vice President

Andre Gray
Treasurer

Justin Peart, PhD
Secretary

Sandra Schrouder, PhD
Public Relations

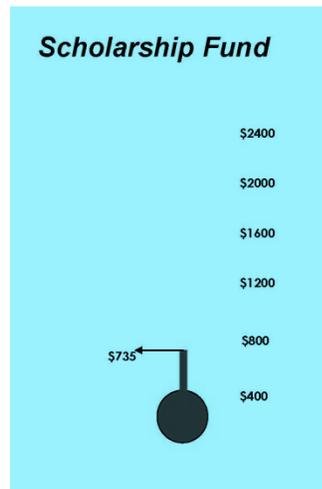
Margaret Barrett
Immediate Past Pres.

NEWS FROM UWI

The following recommendations were approved at the annual business meeting of the Council of the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica:

- For 2013/2014, tuition fees will remain the same as for the current academic year for the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados
- Fees for the Mona Campus for all Faculties to be increased by 5.5% for 2013/2014 over the current academic year. Students will pay an annual tuition fee of J\$252,164 for the Faculties of Humanities & Education, Science and Technology the Social Sciences and for Advanced Nursing programs; J\$606,905 for the Faculty of Medical Sciences; and J\$274,407 for the Faculty of Law.
- For 2013/2014, tuition fees at the St Augustine Campus in Trinidad & Tobago will remain at the level approved for the 2012/2013 academic year: TT\$12,425 for the Faculties of Food & Agriculture, Humanities & Education and the Social Sciences; TT\$16,216 for the Faculty of Engineering; and TT\$13,689 for the Faculty of Law.
- The schedule of fees for undergraduate, pre-University and postgraduate programs at the Open Campus will remain unchanged. Open Campus students pay fees in the local currency of the site of registration on a per course basis. Tuition fees for the undergraduate and pre-University programs would remain at US\$300 per 3-credit course and US\$550 per 3-credit course for Specially Admitted and Graduate Programs.

FINANCIAL REPORT



The financial report shows the Chapter year-end balance of \$813.38 with the current balance being \$1,293.15, of which \$735 is earmarked for scholarship to be given later this year to a needy UWI student. For 2013, the association has only received dues from 10 members, totaling \$300. Please remember to mail your dues of \$30 to UWI Alumni Association, P.O. Box 970313, Coconut Creek, FL 33097. You can also pay your dues via PayPal at www.uwiaafl.info

OUTREACH/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

The public relations report noted that the Chapter added 6 new members to our alumni list, and that 46 birthday cards were sent to members between November 2012 and May 2013. On December 8, 2013, Rupert and Sandra coordinated the All Alumni Association Weekend in which Jamaica's Minister of Education was the honored guest. Rupert thanked all the other members who participated in the Walkathon especially those who used the walkathon as a fundraiser. The association collected \$220 from the Walkathon.

The Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Association is seeking the Chapter's support for two (2) big projects: refurbishing a library at Belle Castle Primary School (Cost \$500), and building two 4-stall bathrooms to replace pit latrines at St. Mary's primary school in St. Elizabeth (Cost - \$5000). So far, Wolmer's Alumni, Alpha, Camperdown, St. Georges, and Alpha have pledged their support.

PROPOSALS FOR FUNDRAISING PROJECT

The following items were discussed as possibilities for fundraising.

1. Dance
2. Raffle
3. Auction (on the web site) of items donated by members and others
4. Sponsorship

The association will be moving forward with the raffle and hopefully there will be three major prizes.

Also, members are encouraged to include in their budget a tiny portion for the scholarship fund. Rupert suggested that if each member budgets \$5 per month for 1 calendar year (\$60), and if 50 members made this sacrifice, the association could reach its scholarship goal of \$3000 per year for our alma mater. This is seen as a better alternative to having a dance or banquet from which we often make less than \$3000. Geli Eldemire (Vice President) noted that the association is still trying to repay the loss from the banquet held 3 years ago.

*Show your
Pelican
Pride by
supporting
UWIAA
Florida!*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/LISTENING TO OUR MEMBERS

- Reicland Anderson introduced the topic of getting UWI retirees more involved in the community and encouraged members to include the UWI Foundation in their will. He noted that many US universities and colleges have benefitted immensely from large sums of money bequeathed by alums.
- Many of the association's members are self-employed and it was suggested that the association creates an expert list to be included as a page or link on the website. Member's professional website could also be linked to their names on the expert list.
- Sandra Schrouder encouraged the association to become more pro-active in reaching out to members and proposed dividing the membership list into calling blocks. She will be asking for volunteers to help in her outreach campaign.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S SUMMARY

Thanks for supporting the UWI Alumni Association in Florida and by extension our alma mater. Your effort is truly appreciated and we pray God's continued guidance and blessings on all that you do.

Congratulations to those among us, their children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends that have completed a successful period of study. Congratulations to those among us that have been recently promoted in our jobs and others who have found new jobs. Please remember to reach out to others who are unemployed and those who are seeking jobs, and help them in ways that you can.

Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of the raffle.

Sandra Schrouder, PhD
Public Relations Officer

www.uwiaaf1.info
P.O Box 970313
Coconut Creek, FL 33097