

# UWI FLORIDA BULLETIN

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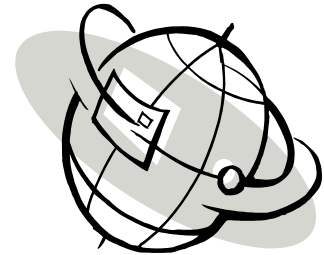
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## *Christmas Message from the President*

### Dear UWI Graduates and Friends:

There are many things in life that I am proud of, including being numbered among the hundreds of *graduates of the University of the West Indies*. The years that I attended this great institution not only gave me the solid background to live and work in a foreign country, those years also created a spirit and a willingness to help build Jamaica through service to the University of the West Indies Alumni Association here in South Florida. There is also the added pleasure of serving as president of a great group of UWI graduates. As I look at the roster of UWI graduates in this chapter, I am truly proud of your accomplishments. Through your professions you are helping to spread the word that the University of the West Indies is a world class institution, and as members of the South Florida Chapter, you are helping to keep the UWI flag flying in the United States.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate the Birth of Christ, and for many of us we also take time to celebrate family through the usual Christmas dinner gathering and the exchange of gifts. Christmas is also a time when we celebrate friendship by sending cards and calling friends that we have not seen recently. We are truly blessed because of the opportunities we have to celebrate in this manner.



As a chapter we have much to celebrate. We are about to pass the \$1000 mark in our scholarship fund, we have maintained our status as a non-profit organization, we added new members to our roster that now lists 148 members, and we are meeting our financial obligations. I am certain that many of you received birthday cards from the Chapter, and this we do because you are special.

As we celebrate Christmas and look to the new year let us reach out to members of our UWI family and celebrate the bond of friendship. Let us also pledge to double our efforts in serving our chapter and alma mater. We may not be a rising light from the west (**Oriens Ex Occidente Lux**), but we can certainly be light of joy, celebration, and friendship in South Florida.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!

*Rupert Rhodd*

## *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>



*“Microsoft Jamaica partners with UWI, the Government of Jamaica, JNBS, and other organizations to stimulate a sustainable local software economy”*

*“Taking Jamaica from personal success to national prowess”*

*Stay  
Connected  
To Your  
Alma  
Mater!*

## English-speaking Caribbean's first Microsoft Innovation Centre headed to UWI Mona

Harnessing the wave of innovation budding in Jamaica, Microsoft is partnering with The University of the West Indies, the Government of Jamaica, Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS), and other organizations to open a Microsoft Innovation Center in Jamaica. The mission of the Microsoft Innovation Center Jamaica (MIC Jamaica) is to cultivate a talented technical community in Jamaica, fostering local innovation and stimulating a sustainable local software economy.

Acknowledging that Jamaica's impact on the world is significantly larger than the relative size of its population, the MIC Jamaica hopes to attract significant investments and national focus in the area of technology to augment the underlying talent of the local developer community.

Microsoft Executive Sponsor for Jamaica, Jacky Wright, and Marcelle Smart, Microsoft Jamaica Country Manager, along with UWI Principal Prof. Archibald McDonald, JNBS General Manager, Mr. Earl Jarrett and State Minister of Technology, Hon. Julian Robinson, hosted an Innovation Luncheon at The Jamaica Conference Centre on Wednesday (December 18) to showcase local talent and kick-off the bid for private sector sponsorship of the MIC Jamaica. Following the event, the MIC Jamaica team sought to recruit top talent to run the Microsoft Innovation Center and attract outstanding developers to make the MIC Jamaica a leader in developing software, with an initial focus on sports technology applications.

Marcelle Smart said: “Jamaicans have a highly innovative and creative capacity. The MIC Jamaica is an opportunity for us to harness this capacity for Jamaica in the realm of software development to drive GDP through the expansion of the local software economy. The Innovation Luncheon is just one of many milestones in the journey towards the launch of the MIC Jamaica in 2014.”

Center provides the Jamaican economy with an opportunity, and the much needed capacity, to foster stronger and a more utilitarian relationship between the growth and development of our nation and its innovative and technological advancement. The University of the West Indies, along with our public and private sector collaborators, fully supports this new and ground-breaking initiative that will certainly enhance the prospects of Jamaica's socio-economic redevelopment for years to come.”

In preparation for a successful endeavor, the MIC Jamaica team has been working closely with developers, providing support to help them realize their full potential. An early indicator of the level of success possible from the MIC Jamaica is the success of NCU student Nicolas Brown's Windows Phone game, Jungle Escape, which showcases the exceptional technical and creative talent of local developers. In response to the support he has received from Microsoft in creating Jungle Escape, Nicolas said: “Microsoft's tools made making this game really easy.”

Jacky Wright, Vice President for Microsoft IT Strategic Enterprise Services, added: “This partnership creates tremendous opportunity for the Jamaican community. In addition to creating local access to the latest technology, it will be very exciting to see how the people of Jamaica will leverage these opportunities to innovate and contribute to the nation's success in the future. Microsoft is excited to be a part of their effort.” According to Warren Robinson, NCU student and CEO of local start-up Ajure Ltd, “The Microsoft innovation center is an initiative that we wholeheartedly welcome. What makes this most exciting is the opportunity for us as start-ups to widen our network, learn valuable skills needed to make our products successful, and do cool stuff. We are excited about the bright future with the MIC Jamaica.”

## English-speaking Caribbean's first Microsoft Innovation Centre headed to UWI Mona *(cont'd)*

Microsoft Innovation Centers (MICs) are technology facilities for collaboration on innovative research, technology or software solutions, involving collaboration across government, academic and industry organizations. There are more than 100 Microsoft Innovation Centers worldwide. ([www.microsoft.com/mic](http://www.microsoft.com/mic))

The MIC Jamaica will be a department of UWI Mona, reaching students and developers across Jamaica. Plans are underway to open the physical facility in early 2014. For more information, please visit our website: [www.micjamaica.com](http://www.micjamaica.com).

### About our Partners

**About Microsoft:** Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. ([www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com))

**About UWI:** The University of the West Indies is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth

Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua/Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands. ([www.uwimona.edu.jm](http://www.uwimona.edu.jm))

**About JNBS:** Jamaica National Building Society is ranked among Jamaica's largest financial institutions, offering financial services and mortgage plans to customers living in Jamaica, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and The Cayman Islands. ([www.jnbs.com](http://www.jnbs.com))

If you would like more information please contact Shemiele Da'Briel at +1 876 848 4020 or via email at [sdabriel@microsoft.com](mailto:sdabriel@microsoft.com).



## UWI Mona to Expand Western Jamaica

The University of the West Indies Mona's Western Jamaica campus is to be expanded and upgraded to international standard, Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Archibald McDonald has announced.

Principal McDonald made the disclosure during his inaugural speech at his Induction ceremony on October 29. He said it his intention to expand the scope of programmes being offered at The UWI Mona Western Jamaican Campus (WJC) in order to attract more international students to the University.

The new Principal said three properties in Montego Bay which are owned by the Mona Campus along with another property being acquired will be developed to international standards through

partnerships with local and international bodies.

"It is my view that the WJC should be more than just an extension of the Mona Campus", Professor McDonald said. He added that the WJC should provide opportunities to explore new approaches and to develop a range of new programmes that are attractive to local, regional and international students. "My term as Principal will see the UWI significantly increasing its presence in Western Jamaica.

"Professor McDonald is the 13th Principal of The UWI Mona Campus. He succeeds Professor Gordon Shirley who has been seconded to the Port Authority of Jamaica.

<http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/marcom/newsroom/entry/5372#.UrepBLSwWh4>



HONORARY CHAIRS  
Answorth A. Allen, M.D.  
Hon. David N. Dinkins

GALA CHAIR  
Janet Rollé

DINNER PATRON  
Kaye Foster-Cheek

Invite you to attend the



AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

“The Legacy Continues”  
17TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

The Pierre, New York City  
61st Street between Madison and 5th Avenues

Reception 6:00 p.m.

Dinner, Program, and Dessert Party 7:00 p.m.

BLACK TIE ATTIRE



HONORARY PATRON  
Dr. The Hon. Harry Belafonte, OJ



AFUWI BOB MARLEY AWARD  
Jessye Norman

CARIBBEAN LUMINARY  
AWARD  
Gail E. D. Brathwaite  
Michelle Elie  
Velma Scantlebury-White, M.D.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
Nick Charles  
Elinor R. Tatum  
Dwight E. Williams, D.D.S.

MASTER/MISTRESSES  
OF CEREMONIES  
Maurice DuBois  
Lori Stokes  
Susan L. Taylor

For more information about tickets or the Foundation, please call 212-759-9345 or visit [www.afuwi.org](http://www.afuwi.org).



The American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI), established in 1956, is a non-profit organization which serves as the primary vehicle for The University of the West Indies (UWI) in its fundraising efforts in the United States.

## UWI'S HILARY BECKLES APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVISOR TO BAN KI-MOON

Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies' Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, Sir Hilary Beckles, has been appointed a Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. The UN's top official wrote to Sir Hilary inviting him to be a member of the recently established Scientific Advisory Board which will advise the Secretary General and executive heads of other UN organisations on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.



"This is a great personal honour indeed and signal recognition for the university," Sir Hilary said of his appointment. "I have worked for many UN organisations over the years, but to be an advisor to the Secretary General, in this new way, on sustainable development is special."

Sir Hilary will join with internationally renowned scientists drawn from the fields of natural, social and human sciences, on the board which has been mandated to "strengthen the linkages between science and policy, and to ensure that the latest scientific findings are reflected in high-level policy discussions within the United Nations systems".

His appointment to the board is for a two-year period with the possibility of renewal for a further two-year term. It comes at a time when he is spearheading a science and technology drive at the campus as it transitions towards becoming a research-oriented university.

*Jamaica Observer, November 13, 2013*

Read more: <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/UWI-s-Hilary-Beckles-appointed-special-advisor-to-Ban-ki-Moon#ixzz2oGYEKlx3>

## COALITION OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF FLORIDA 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WALKATHON

Thanks to those who contributed to our effort in the recent Coalition of Jamaica Alumni Associations' Walkathon. With your help we raised \$299 and this increased our scholarship fund to \$1034. Special thanks also to those who participated in the Walkathon and completed the 5-mile course.

Victoria Mutual Building Society was a Major Sponsor of the Walkathon.

The 2014 Walkathon is scheduled for December 6, 2014 at Tree Top Park in Davie. Please save this date. Let us try and win the team competition in 2014.

Sandra Schrouder



As with the previous years' walkathon, The event was organized by Rupert Rhodd and Sandra Schrouder, members of the University of the West Indies Florida Chapter Executive Board, and the Co-Chairs of the Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations in Florida. Others UWI graduates with multiple duties at the walkathon included Jamaica's Consul General to the Southeast USA, the Honorable Franz Hall who served as the Grand Marshall, and Suzette Rochester the Manager for Victoria Mutual Building Society in Florida.

