

# THE COALITION MONTHLY



*A Monthly Newsletter for Jamaican Alumni Associations in Florida*

[www.cjaaf.info](http://www.cjaaf.info)

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## **New Education Minister to Focus on Underperforming Schools**



*Minister of Education, Hon. Ronald Thwaites, emphasizes a point during his address to staff at the Ministry's National Heroes Circle offices on January 9, 2012, where he discussed areas that will be given focus during his tenure.*

Minister of Education, Hon. Ronald Thwaites, says he will be placing focus on underperforming schools, noting that he will be visiting these institutions to assess their needs and provide them with the necessary support to get up to par. "I want to go

to see how all of us can help to improve them and to encourage the school community not to despair but to (strive towards) higher effort," he stated. Mr. Thwaites, who was addressing staff of the Ministry at his National Heroes Circle offices, said that the assistance provided to these schools, must be based on their specific needs. "I think we have to be specific to each institution. Some may have challenges of physical infrastructure, some may have challenges of inadequate pedagogy, and some may have challenges of nutrition," he pointed out.

"We do not yet know the capacity of the Ministry to assist but what one can do and must do is to affirm that what they are doing is worthwhile even if it is not adequate, and that they must know that we do not consider them as failures, but rather needing additional assistance to do well and to fulfill the purpose of this Ministry "that every child can learn and every child must learn", he stated. Mr. Thwaites said effort will also be concentrated on advancing the early childhood sector through a working plan "which offers practical possibilities for the registration of our pre primary institutions, their better governance and as far as possible, steps forward to have at least one trained early childhood teacher introduced over a period of time in each institution."

Other priority areas include funding for tertiary education; research and development; and review of the Grade Four Literacy results and the Education Transformation Program. The Education Minister told the members of staff, which included Acting Permanent Secretary, Grace McLean; Chief Education Officer, Clement Radcliffe; Acting Deputy Chief Education Officer, Dr. Mary Campbell, and heads of agencies, that he intends to encourage the continuation of useful initiatives implemented under the previous administration to improve the education sector.

"Education is not an issue of partisan divisiveness. There must be a working consensus on education, which is going to surpass the life of any political administration and the incumbency of any Minister. There will be changes that we will all hopefully agree on and when that time comes, we will deal with all that with full understanding," he stated.

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***(New Education Minister to Focus on Underperforming Schools, From Page 1)***

Minister Thwaites said he was “anxious” to schedule meetings with the various departments within the Ministry, “so that I can get to know what you are doing and I can more than anything else, listen to you tell us how we are going to improve our outputs and our outcomes within existing resources.”

The Education Minister will also be meeting with members of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association (JTA) on Tuesday (Jan. 10) at the Ministry, where several matters of importance will be discussed. He informed that he is to receive a report on the opening of the new school term by this afternoon through the regional offices.

The start of the Easter term had to be pushed back by four days to facilitate the December 29, 2011 general election and to ensure that school administrators would have enough time to put everything in place to accommodate students.

*By Latonya Linton, JIS Reporter*

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**Honorable R. Danny William Addresses JC Old Boys’ Association, Florida Chapter**



Chairman of the Jamaica College Foundation, the Honorable R. Danny William addressed the Jamaica College Old Boys Association (JCOBAFL) at their Annual General Meeting in Miramar, Florida, January 14th, 2012. Mr. Williams provided an update to the JCOBAFL members of the efforts by the Jamaica College Foundation and school board to continue to improve the school.



He admonished members to continue to play a role in helping the school as they try to educate young men who will eventually play a crucial role in nation building. “You can play a part in molding these young men,” said Mr. Williams, as he discussed the difficulty facing many students who are from single parent homes with no male figure to guide them in their formative years.

He further elaborated on the school's welfare program and the cadre of guidance counselors, social workers and the Dean of discipline, which are required to attend to the ever-increasing demands of the student populous exposed to the ills of a society that they are a part of. The main area of need is that of the challenges faced by students due to absentee fathers and overburdened mothers.

The talk was well received by the attendees, with many pledging to renew the scope & extent of their involvement with the Florida chapter and to do their part in advancing the welfare of Jamaica College, and by extension, Jamaica.

The Jamaica College Old Boys Association Jamaica College Foundation presented Mr. Williams with a check for \$1000 (US) for the Jamaica College Foundation.



**ABOUT THE JAMAICA COLLEGE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA**

The Jamaica College Old Boys Association of Florida established in 2004 as a 501(c) (3). The Jamaica College Old Boys Association of Florida is committed to uphold the traditions of excellence of Jamaica College as one of the foremost educational institution in the country of Jamaica and to support the school in the development of its students

JCOBAFL  
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## US Students Refurbish Westmoreland Schools

Thousands of students in Westmoreland are benefiting from extensive refurbishing works, carried out at their schools by students from **New Hampshire University** in the US. The 18 students, who vacationed in Westmoreland during the recent Christmas holidays under the parish's "village tourism project", provided the material and funding to refurbish unfinished classrooms, sanitary facilities and roofs, giving a facelift to schools such as Cooke's View, Ferris and Petersfield Primary, as well as the Galloway Early Childhood Institute. The students, also brought volumes of educational supplies and other related material and equipment for the schools, and did extensive voluntary work with the Citizen Action for Free and Fair Elections (CAFFE) during the recent General Election, observing proceedings in the parish.

Deputy Mayor of Savanna-La-Mar, Councilor Paul Wilson, speaking at the January 12, 2012 Council meeting, congratulated local coordinator of the group, Matthias Brown, for making the visit possible. "I certainly hope that your trip was enjoyable and profitable. Thanks very much for the work carried out at our schools, and thanks for visiting at a time as this, so you could participate in our recent elections," The Deputy Mayor told the US students.

Mr. Brown indicated that other students had visited the parish to commence the refurbishing of the schools, and these students decided to come and complete the project. "They have done a tremendous job in completing the classrooms and (the) painting works, so that our students can have more comfort as they learn," Mr. Brown said.

*By Glenis Rose, JIS Reporter*

## Alpha, Kingston College and St. Georges College to assist Holy Trinity High School

The Minister of Education, the Honorable Ronald Thwaites is to approach top-performing schools in Central Kingston to work closely with Holy Trinity High School in a bid to improve the standards of the institution. The newly appointed education minister assured staff and students of Holy Trinity High School that they were not failures, but the school was merely performing below the expected standards due to various shortfalls. As a result, he said, he would be convening a meeting with the administration of Kingston College, St George's College and Alpha Academy so that they could work closely with the school beginning in September when the new school year begins. Thwaites walked from his Heroes Circle-based ministry office to tour the Kingston-based institution and promised to work closely with the school in order to raise the standards. "In my mind and in the mind of the new administration, there are no schools, no students and no staff members who are failures. Our visit is to plan a program of help, our purpose is to strengthen you in the difficult task of educating the students," Thwaites added.

Holy Trinity High is one of the four schools former Education Minister Andrew Holness singled out for intervention as it was failing academically. The other schools are Glengoffe High in St Catherine, Balaclava High in St Elizabeth and Marcus Garvey Technical High in St Ann. "Why don't we make this area of South Camp Road, George Headley Drive and North Street a centre of educational excellence, collaborating faculty students facilities so as to lift the morale at Holy Trinity and to inculcate in those other institutions a hearty sense of the sharing and the generosity and spirit," he reasoned.

Thwaites said in the short term, he would also be expanding the school's library, which was inadequately equipped. The information technology facilities would also be improved to assist the 1,600 students on roll. He said the quality of students entering the school would be addressed, in the long term, through the ministry's emphasis on improving early-childhood education. Sadpha Bennett, principal of the institution, said he hoped the emphasis that the ministry was placing on the institution would help to transform the school into a centre of excellence.

**Nadisha Hunter, Staff Reporter, Daily Gleaner**

## Campion sweeps Government scholarships

Students of Campion College won six out of seven scholarships offered by the Government to universities for 2011, underscoring the school's status as one of Jamaica's leading secondary institutions based on academic performance. The outstanding students from Campion and the scholars won are:

- Kory Jaggon, Jamaica Scholarship (Male)
- Brittany Bromfield, Jamaica Scholarship (Female)
- Melissa Munroe, Jamaica Independence Open Scholarship (open to both genders)
- Stefan Serju, Jamaica Independence Scholarship (Male)
- Peta-Gaye Phillips, Jamaica Centenary Scholarship (Female)
- Jessica Simpson, Jamaica Adult Suffrage Open Scholarship (open to both genders).

Herona Thompson of Immaculate Conception High School was awarded the Jamaica Independence (Female) Scholarship, thereby denying Campion a clean sweep of all seven Government scholarships this year.

According to information from the Ministry of Education's website, students applied for the scholarships in March last year, and were required to submit copies of their exam passes to the ministry. The scholarships are open to students born in Jamaica or whose parents lived in the island for the past five years, if the student was not born here. Applicants for the scholarships were also required to list extra-curricular activities and positions held while at school, as well as references.

Philbert Dhyll, assistant chief education officer in the Ministry of Education, told Career & Education that the scholarship covers all tuition for whatever program of study the student is pursuing at university, along with a \$60,000-maintenance grant and a book allowance of \$15,000. He said most of the recipients are pursuing studies at the University of West Indies, Mona, but a few have gone to the University of Technology.

However, some scholarship winners have turned down the scholarships, opting instead to study abroad -- sometimes on more lucrative scholarships. Dhyll said students who choose to go abroad might be offered the equivalent scholarship money that would be paid if the student were pursuing studies here. He said the students were required to maintain at least a B average to maintain their scholarship.

Campion consistently leads the country in passes in the critical Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) done in fifth form of high school, and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency in Education (CAPE), written in both years of sixth form. But Campion's critics often cite that the school has a huge advantage, as many of the highest-performing students are placed there as a result of their Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) scores. Of 65 private sector and Government scholarship winners from the GSAT in 2011, 33 were placed at Campion

**LUKE DOUGLAS, [douglasl@jamaicaobserver.com](mailto:douglasl@jamaicaobserver.com)  
Sunday, January 29, 2012**



**UWI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
FLORIDA CHAPTER**

**“ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LIME”**

**A TIME TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH  
OTHER, "CATCH-UP" AND HAVE FUN**

**Saturday**

**February 25, 2012**

**4:00 PM to 7:30 PM**



**JEPA'S PLACE**

**7153 W. Oakland Park Boulevard  
Lauderhill, Florida.**

*(East of University Drive)*

*Bring your significant other or other family member and hang with us  
for some "small talk" and food!*

*If you are coming, please contact any of the persons listed below by  
February 18, 2012 as this will help us to plan the menu.*

*Phone contact for reservation*

*Rupert (954) 242-2529*

*Sandra (954) 709-1618*

*Or*

*You can respond by email to [rqecon@hotmail.com](mailto:rqecon@hotmail.com)*

Dinthill Technical High School Alumni Assoc. Florida Chapter

in association with

County Line Chiropractic Medical & Rehab Centers

invites you to their



10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Spring Ball

*A Formal Affair*



**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

**@ The Heron Bay Marriott Hotel**

11775 Heron Bay Boulevard, Coral Springs, FL 33076 . 954-753-5598

*Hosted By:*

**Oliver Samuels, OD**

*Dance to the*  
**Bare Essentials Band**  
*Guest DJ C-Roy the Entertainer*

*Cocktails @ 7PM*  
*DINNER SERVED @8PM - 9:30PM*  
**Contribution: \$80 per person**

Sponsored by:



**Gate Prize: 4 Days, 3 Nights**  
**All Inclusive Stay at**  
**the Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa**  
**For Info: 954-274-2602**

Proceeds to benefit  
**Dinthill Technical High School - Jamaica**  
**& Local Charities**



# True Blue Weekend

March 16, 2012 – March 18, 2012



The True Blue weekend festivities include the following events:

## True Blue Mixer & Sound clash with "JC deejays vs. St George's deejays"

March 16, 2012; 7:00 PM  
 American Legion  
 9081 SW 51<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Cooper City, FL 33328  
 Admission: \$20.00



## Ziadie Cup

Jamaica College Alumni vs. St. George's College Alumni Soccer Match  
 Ansin Sports Complex,  
 10801 Miramar Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33025 (Phone 954-602-3175)  
 Saturday March 17, 2011  
 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM



## True Blue Brunch

Sunday March 18, 2012  
 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
 Irie Isle Jamaican Restaurant  
 1480 SW 101st Terrace  
 Pembroke Pines, FL 33025



**If you are a JC old boy interested in playing please contact one of the following:**

Jimmy Sinclair (954-961-1589; [jsinc15@aol.com](mailto:jsinc15@aol.com)) or Ray Stephenson (305-505-3008; [regs75@bellsouth.net](mailto:regs75@bellsouth.net))

**For people travelling to the event, possible local accommodations are:**

1. Courtyard by Marriott Fort Lauderdale Miramar (954-450-1801)  
 14500 Hotel Rd, Miramar, FL 33027  
 Website: <http://www.marriott.com>
2. Wingate Inn Miramar (954-441-0122)  
 2800 SW 149th Ave, Miramar, FL 33027  
 Website: <http://www.hospitalityamerica.com>
3. Hilton Garden Inn Ft Lauderdale Southwest Miramar (954-438-7700)  
 14501 Hotel Rd, Miramar, FL 33027  
 Website: <http://www.ftlauderdalewmiramar.gardeninn.com>



**ARDENNE ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION  
V E T E R A N S A S S O C I A T I O N

PRESENTS

# DECADES

(MUSCAL HITS FROM THE 80'S TO THE PRESENT)

Saturday, March 31, 2012

10:00 pm until 4:00 am

at

**Genesis**

6455 West Commercial Boulevard

Tamarac, Florida 33319

Music by DJ Capone & D'Wayne Extacy from NYC

Admission: \$20.00 pre-sold

\$25.00 at the door

Refreshments on sale

All proceeds to benefit Ardenne's Homecoming 2012

For ticket information contact:

954-682-9218

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

June 23 – July 1, 2012

**HOMEcoming 2012**

**JAMAICA**

# JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS IN FLORIDA

1. **Convent of Mercy Academy “ALPHA”**  
Pat Lee (President) (305) 389-8605  
[alphflchapter@aol.com](mailto:alphflchapter@aol.com); [frstflit19@gmail.com](mailto:frstflit19@gmail.com)
2. **Ardenne Alumni Organization of Florida**  
Judith Lawson-Keane (President) (954) 483-0833  
[Jkeane208@aol.com](mailto:Jkeane208@aol.com)
3. **Calabar High School Alumni (Florida Chapter), Inc**  
Michael Schloss (President) (754) 422-3307  
[sylqueue@yahoo.com](mailto:sylqueue@yahoo.com); [www.cbarfla.org](http://www.cbarfla.org)
4. **Camperdown High School Past Students’ Association, Florida Chapter**  
Allan Cunningham, DBA (President) (954) 914-4533  
[allcunningh@gmail.com](mailto:allcunningh@gmail.com); [cdownpaststudent@gmail.com](mailto:cdownpaststudent@gmail.com); [www.camperdownfl.org](http://www.camperdownfl.org)
5. **Campion College Alumni Association**  
Toni Brice (President)  
[bricetoni@yahoo.com](mailto:bricetoni@yahoo.com); [www.campionflorida.com](http://www.campionflorida.com)
6. **CAST/UTECH Alumni Association – Florida Chapter**  
Dr. Marilyn Morrison-Padilla (President) (954) 578-5858  
[mluem@yahoo.com](mailto:mluem@yahoo.com); [dr@morrisonrx.com](http://dr@morrisonrx.com)
7. **Clarendon College Alumni Association**  
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[Bethpow06@aol.com](mailto:Bethpow06@aol.com)
8. **Church Teachers’ College Alumni Association, Inc.**  
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<http://www.ctc.edu.jm/alumni/default.aspx>
9. **Cornwall College Alumni Association of South Florida, Inc.**  
Lance Gibbs (President) (954) 600-5915  
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10. **DeCarteret College Alumni Assoc. of Florida, Inc**  
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11. **Dinthill Technical High School Alumni Association**  
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12. **Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida**  
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14. **Garvey Maceo Alumni Association**  
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15. **Glenmuir Alumni Association of South Florida**  
 Fitzroy Benjamin (President) (305) 588-0521  
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<http://www.glenmuiralumni.com/ghs-associations/south-florida.html>
  
16. **Green Island High Alumni Association of North America**  
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[gihana@greenislandalumni.com](mailto:gihana@greenislandalumni.com); [www.greenislandalumni.com](http://www.greenislandalumni.com)
  
17. **Holmwood Technical High School Alumni Association**  
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18. **Holy Trinity Alumni Association**  
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19. **Immaculate Conception High School Alumnae Association**  
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20. **Jamaica College Old Boys Association of Florida**  
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21. **Kingston College Old Boys Association**  
[fortis\\_florida@bellsouth.net](mailto:fortis_florida@bellsouth.net); (954) 587-5257  
[www.kcobafll.org](http://www.kcobafll.org)
  
22. **Knox South Florida Past Students**  
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24. **Marymount High School Alumnae Association**  
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25. **Meadowbrook High School Alumni Association**  
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[info@mhsalumniassoc.org](mailto:info@mhsalumniassoc.org); [www.mhsalumniassoc.org](http://www.mhsalumniassoc.org)
  
26. **MICO Alumni Association of South Florida**  
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[eevans5686@aol.com](mailto:eevans5686@aol.com); [www.miconians.com](http://www.miconians.com)
  
27. **Montego Bay High School Alumnae South Florida**  
[Montegobayhighsfl@gmail.com](mailto:Montegobayhighsfl@gmail.com) (954) 330-4500
  
28. **Montego Bay High International Alumnae, Inc**  
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[www.mahscfl.org](http://www.mahscfl.org)
31. **Munro-Hampton Alumni Association**  
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32. **Northern Caribbean University Alumni Association (Central Florida Chapter)**  
 Vilma Campbell (President)  
[vdc@cfl.rr.com](mailto:vdc@cfl.rr.com); <http://www.ncucentralflorida.com>
33. **Queen's High School Alumni Association**  
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 Online store: [www.cafeshops.com/qhsafl](http://www.cafeshops.com/qhsafl)
34. **Rusea's Old Students Association, Florida Chapter**  
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36. **St. Andrew High Old Girls Association**  
 Deirdre Benka-Coker (President) (954) 805-6796  
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37. **St. Andrew Technical High Alumni Association**  
 David Jemison (305) 687-1677
38. **St. Catherine High School Alumni Association (SE Chapter)**  
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46. **The Alumni Association of Titchfield High School**  
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[taa@titchfieldhigh.com](mailto:taa@titchfieldhigh.com); <http://www.titchfieldhigh.com>
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49. **Vere Technical Alumni Association**  
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[carobinson@vere-tech.com](mailto:carobinson@vere-tech.com)
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[sfcwoga@gmail.com](mailto:sfcwoga@gmail.com)
51. **William Knibb Memorial High School Alumni Association**  
 Charmaine Shettleworth (President) (561) 396-0447  
[Knibb.william@gmail.com](mailto:Knibb.william@gmail.com); <http://www.williamknibbalumni.com>
52. **Windsor /Wilmar High School Alumni Association (North America Chapter)**  
 Indiana Robinson (President) (954) 665-9532  
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