



Years of Independence

Scholarship Awards Celebration

& Debutante Ball

◆
Celebrating Jamaica's Diamond Jubilee!

A Night of Excellence & Elegance-Raising The Bar

Rosen Plaza

9700 International Drive

Orlando, Florida 32819

Saturday, August 6, 2022

P.O. Box 680355, Orlando, FL 32868

JAAOCF.COM



“Out of Many, One People”

JAAOCF.COM

COMING SOON!

LAUNCH OF THE JAMAICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S MUSIC SCHOOL!

**Saturday's 10:00 am -12:00 pm
Silver Star Christian Church
7510 Silver Star Road
Orlando, Fl 32818**



Our Vision: We envision a vibrant, imaginative, and creative community of young, musicians, who will be skilled, and inspired to realize their full potential in music. Our hope is that students will learn to use music, to build self-confidence, and develop skills that will assist them in reaching their goals.



Our Mission: The Jamaican American Association of Central Florida (JAAOCF) desires to create and develop a dynamic, comprehensive Music School that embodies and supports the integrated arts approach to learning, as well as specialized music training and expression from a trained, professional music teacher.

Limited space available!

Visit our website @ JAAOCF.COM, our Facebook page, or call 407-292-3719 to learn more and obtain an application.

Parents be sure to complete an application.

P.O. Box 680355, Orlando, FL 32868, 407-292-3719—JAAOCF.COM

Source: Goggle



"Out of Many, One People"

JAMAICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

THANKS TO OUR 2021 & 2022 SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Cal Allison

Asia Atkinson

Jean Bailey

Hugh Balfour

Gail Brown

Jay Brown

Marjorie Brown

Caribbean Sunshine Bakery

Dawne Coleman

Dr. Herbert & Dr. Barbara Dawkins

Dr. Bryan Dawkins

Joan Edghill

Dr. Phillip & Mrs. Karen Lee Fatt

Grace Hanson

Karen Hunter

Patrick Johnson

Caribbean Rhythms Radio

Adrianna Clark &

Louis Witter

KUOMagazine, Mea Allman

**Tim Leith, First Choice Wealth &
Retirement**

Eulee Mead-Bennett

Angela Nelson

Dr. Mulva Pearson

Paulette & Millie Poplin

Postell's Mortuary

Grace Powell

Publix

—Jacksonville Corporate Office

Veronica Reid

Dorothy Russell

M & O Sharrieff

Margaret Tate

Etnie Tonge

D & K Wells

Lionel & Karen Williams

WOKB:

Lady D & Andrea Jackson



“Out of Many, One People”

JAAOCF.COM

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	<i>Dr. Barbara Dawkins</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Dr. Mulva Pearson</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr. Lionel Williams</i>
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr. Carroll Grant</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Mrs. Margaret Tate</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	<i>Ms. Tajana Bogle</i>

Entertainment & Fundraising Committee

Joan Edghill, Chairperson

Tajana Bogle

Carroll Grant

Cannetta Patterson

Grace Powell

Maisie Thomas

Lionel Williams

Barbara Dawkins, President—Honorary Member



Our Vision Statement

To Be Ambassadors of Jamaica in providing a forum for education and support that empowers people to promote a better world.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Jamaican American Association of Central Florida, Inc. is to preserve, enhance and promote our cultural heritage. Our focus is on education, youth, community service and emergency assistance both locally and internationally.

Our Core Values

Integrity
Commitment
Strength
Culture
Information

A Proclamation on National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, 2022 | The White House

BRIEFING ROOM

A Proclamation on National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, 2022

MAY 31, 2022 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

America's strength has always been rooted in our diversity. Since our Nation's founding, generation after generation of immigrants have helped build this country, and the prosperity and opportunity that draw so many immigrants to America would not be possible without the contributions and legacies of Caribbean Americans. Today, millions of Caribbean Americans strengthen our country through their vibrant cultures, traditions, languages, and values. In recognition of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we honor the immeasurable ways Caribbean Americans have added to our American dream.

This month, our Nation also celebrates the extraordinary leadership and achievements of Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black American of Jamaican heritage to hold this high office. I am also honored to celebrate alongside brilliant and dedicated public servants of Caribbean heritage — including Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice.

Every day, we see the invaluable contributions Caribbean American communities have made to our country. Our Nation has seen the persistence and character of generations of Caribbean Americans who have fought for equity and equality despite continued discrimination and hardship. In addition, public servants like our Nation's first Supreme Court Justice of Puerto Rican descent, Sonia Sotomayor, and the late General Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants and the first Black Secretary of State, have made essential contributions to American society and blazed new trails in service to the American people. Caribbean American entrepreneurs, scientists, medical professionals, teachers, artists, police officers, athletes, and contributors in every field have also left a lasting impact on our society.

In spite of innumerable achievements and undeniable contributions, too many Caribbean Americans continue to face systemic barriers to success. Caribbean Americans have been impacted by systemic racism and disparities in opportunity. My Administration has taken a whole-of-government approach to advancing racial justice and equity in order to begin healing those wounds and strengthening opportunity for all. We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to ensure that every American — no matter who they are or where they come from — has equal access to the American dream.

During this National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we honor the generations of Caribbean Americans who have built our Nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our national character.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2022 as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I encourage all Americans to join in celebrating the history, culture, and achievements of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

P.O. BOX 1393, 201 SOUTH ROSALIND AVENUE, ORLANDO, FL 32802-1393
PHONE: 407-836-7370 • FAX: 407-836-7360 • EMAIL: MAYOR@OCFL.NET



June 27, 2022

Greetings!

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to “Jamaica’s 60th Independence, Scholarship Awards, and Debutante Ball – A Night of Excellence and Elegance”.

I applaud the Jamaican American Association of Central Florida for 35 years of committed service in Central Florida. Your organization’s dedicated board and volunteers are commended for preserving, enhancing and promoting Jamaica’s rich cultural heritage through education, youth development, and community service programs. As you celebrate Jamaica’s Independence and a night of excellence and elegance, I hope you reflect on the many accomplishments achieved as your service in the community continues to grow.

Orange County prides itself on being a welcoming community to the broad array of cultures and Diasporas that call Orange County home. We are fortunate to have community partners like you who help us foster a culture of collaboration and inclusion where there are opportunities for all.

Once again, welcome, and I wish you all the best for a successful and memorable event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry L. Demings".

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor



Greetings and Welcome to Jamaica's 60th (Diamond) Independence, Scholarship Awards and Debutante Ball, hosted by The Jamaican American Association of Central Florida (JAAOCF).

As Florida's first Jamaican-American State Attorney, I am thrilled to join you in celebrating our rich Jamaican heritage and culture. From world renown cuisine, Gold Medal Olympians, award-winning artists, outstanding academic accomplishments, and community advocates and leaders, I am so proud of the impact that Jamaicans have had on American culture. I am thankful for all of the leaders who have come before me and provided inspiration for my path to elected office.

I commend the JAAOCF on more than thirty years of leadership in the Central Florida Community, and its commitment to education, positive engagement for the youth, community service, and emergency assistance. As State Attorney, I am extremely thankful for JAAOCF's active focus on providing community support, especially in the present time when it is most needed.

Congratulations to the scholarship award recipients for this hard-earned accomplishment. Continue to reach for the stars and never settle for anything less than your best. You have the potential to achieve anything that you can believe in. Never accept limitations on your potential for greatness, and know that I will be right there rooting for you.

As I have had the pleasure of attending several of these banquets in years past, I can say confidently that we are in for an enjoyable evening. Out of many, One people.

Yours in justice,

Monique H. Worrell

MONIQUE H. WORRELL, STATE ATTORNEY





The Jamaican American Association of Central Florida

Out of Many – One People

Presidents Through the Years - Thank You For Your Hard Work.



Mrs. Marjorie Brown, Founder & 1st President



Mr. Lancelot Scales, 2nd President



Dr. Moulton Poplin, 3rd President



Mrs. Cynthia Lee, 4th President



Mrs. Hyacinth Bulgin, 5th President



The Jamaican American Association of Central Florida

Out of Many – One People

Presidents Through the Years - Thank You For Your Hard Work.



Dr. Herbert Dawkins, 6th & 10th President



Mr. Dennis Hall, 7th President



Ms. Sandra Fatmi, 8th President



Dr. Phillip Lee Fatt, 9th President



Dr. Patricia Smith, 11th President



"Out of Many, One People"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**JAMAICAN AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
JAAOCF.COM**

**Dr.
Barbara Dawkins**

On behalf of The Jamaican American Association of Central Florida (JAAOCF), the premier Jamaican American Association in Central Florida, I am exceedingly grateful to you for joining with us in recognizing the diamond anniversary, the 60th, of Jamaica's independence. To our generous sponsors, state and city officials, community leaders, faithful supporters, distinguished guests and committed members, I thank you for your participation in this year's activities honoring our scholarship awardees and debutantes. You may recognize that a part of our theme for this year's celebration is "Raising the Bar"! We hope that this year's event will raise the bar not just on elegance and festivities but on expanding our positive impact on education and socialization of our young people. We are hoping to also raise the bar on the level of funds we obtain, so we can more adequately meet the needs we see arising from our community.

About two years ago, suddenly life became very different. You may recall that it was in 2019 that we last gathered in person attending our annual Jamaica Independence Anniversary and Scholarship Awards ceremony. The restrictions and challenges of 2020 and early 2021 adversely affected our in-person gathering, resulting in the cancellation of many annual activities and our attempts at a modified semi-formal luncheon for scholarship awards and recognition of Jamaica's 59th independence anniversary.

As the JAAOCF leadership recognized new needs arising from the community because of the lock down, the Association responded with a spirit of innovation and resilience and pivoted to virtual platforms such as ZOOM, in working to continue the mission of the JAAOCF. We were steadfast in continuing our annual scholarship awards to students in Florida and Jamaica with a record number of scholarships in 2020 and 2021. This included laptops and tablets offered to students who did not meet the criteria for a regular scholarship but needed a device to continue their education. The needs within the community prompted the Association to organize and include state certified medical doctors, pharmacists, registered nurses, and other personnel in hosting two COVID19 vaccination drives in Orlando. The work of the JAAOCF extended to delivery of no-charge Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Christmas gifts and supplies to families in need.

This year, 2022 is a very special time. Restrictions are relaxed and we can gather again. This year our theme deliberately includes elegance because we endeavored to create an elegant atmosphere thanking you for rejoining us for 2022, as we raise the bar in our celebration. We welcome you to again gather with us in this special celebration of our scholarship awardees and debutantes as well as Jamaica's 60th. This year it is special because we are also celebrating surviving difficult times. We want to celebrate you and hope that you will have lingering pleasant memories when the night is over.

We invite you to visit our website "jaaocf.com" to learn more or to become a member. Thank you.

Barbara Dawkins, Ed. D., President

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Dwayne Dyce Founder & CEO Education Solutions International (ESI)

Author, Speaker, Teacher, Consultant, Entrepreneur, Educational Leadership Advisor

Dr. Dwayne Dyce is committed to using his skills and education to support the educational community in Jamaica, the US and around the world. Born in Kingston Jamaica, he grew up with his twin brother in the hills of St. Ann, parish on their grandparents' farm. Equipped with strong faith in God and belief in the power of education, Dr. Dyce earned a BA in Education from Catholic College in Mandeville. He received both a MA in Educational Leadership and a MEd in Teaching and Learning from St. Mary's University of Minnesota before earning his Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Management from St. Thomas University. Dr. Dyce has now been selected to participate in the renowned Summer Principal Academy (SPA) program at Columbia University Teachers College where he will earn a NYS School Building Leadership (SBL) Certification and Master of Education in Public School Building Leadership.

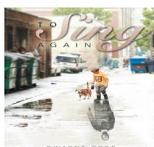
Dr. Dyce has over 16 years of professional experience teaching in K-6 classrooms and providing instructional training to teachers. At the onset of the pandemic, he conducted and facilitated over 20 virtual training attended by 20,000 teachers and administrators throughout the Jamaican Diaspora on topics including on-line platforms, instructional strategies, early childhood, differentiated instruction, on-line instructional and assessment tools as well as student and parent engagement. Dr. Dyce received the JTA Excellence Award for Distinguished Service to Nation Building and Education May 2021, and UJAA Diaspora Leadership in Education Award December 2021.

EXPERTISE

School Models: Charter, International Bachelorette Programs, Magnet, Montessori, Public, and Catholic Instructional Strategies: School Climate, Academic and Extracurricular Program Development & Implementation Training: Math curriculum, Science curriculum, STEM, Instructional Planning, Classroom Management, Leadership.

PRESENTATION TOPICS

School and Community Partnerships; Strategies for Effective Educational Leadership; Best Practices for Instructional Planning, School Climate and Culture; Student Engagement and Parent Involvement; In-School Mentoring Initiatives.



BARNES & NOBLE

JDTAN TV



Port Of Harlem
Magazine
Inclusive | Diverse | PanAfrican | 1995 - 2020



**Dr. Allan
Cunningham
Chief Strategist
Advantage 21 Inc.**



***Global Jamaica
Diaspora Council***

Greetings and salutations to all my fellow Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica especially those residing in Central Florida.

It is indeed a privilege to serve on the Global Jamaica Diaspora council representing all 13 southern states. I am deeply convinced that Jamaicans living in the diaspora are fully committed to the sustainability of Jamaica's social, political, and economic development. This evening's Gala represents the pinnacle event of our community of giving, sustaining, and maintaining. As Jamaica celebrates her 60th year of independence, I can't express my heartfelt joy and gratitude for your role in inspiring us both here in the diaspora and at home.

President Barbara Dawkins and your team, it is not only a privilege for me to understand the role of your organization but it is a pleasure to have shared space with such a prestigious and worthy organization. The Jamaican/American Association of Central Florida is a diamond in our 60th jubilee celebration. For over 37 years you have dedicated your time, talent, and influence for the betterment of all of us.

Your assistance to students especially K-12 is remarkable and we are eternally grateful. Your continued support and donations to schools both in Jamaica and Florida is the building blocks for your success and ours.

As you celebrate August 6th as a "Night Of Excellence and Elegance" please continue to celebrate on behalf of all those who are the founding pillars of this great organization. Please also celebrate for those who are less fortunate and are unable to celebrate this critical milestone.

Eric Donaldson once sang, "This is the land of my birth", please dance up a storm when this tune plays as you and I although in different spaces will be sharing similar feelings of pride for this celebration of who we are as a people. And so I encourage you to constantly be guided by the spirit and patriotism of our Jamaicans both here in Florida and in Jamaica.

Thank you for your service, thank you for your leadership, and thank you for your love.

Jamaica land we love!

A Brief History of Jamaica!

FACTS ABOUT JAMAICA

What is the capital of Jamaica?

Kingston is the capital of Jamaica. Founded in July 1692, Kingston is the largest city of the island in terms of both size and population, covering an area of 480 square kilometers (190 square miles).

The estimated population of the capital is approximately 2.9 million (2021).

www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-the-ethnic-composition-of-jamaica.html

Where is Jamaica located?

Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea to the southeast of the United States, nearest to neighboring Cuba and the island of Hispaniola. Jamaica has a total coastline of 1,022 kilometers (635 miles). The total area covered by the island is 10,911 square kilometers (4,212 square miles).



Who are the political leaders of Jamaica?

Monarch - Queen Elizabeth II

Governor-General - Patrick Allen

Prime Minister - Andrew Holness

What are the administrative divisions of Jamaica?

The Jamaican island is divided into **fourteen parishes** for administrative purposes. These parishes are part of one of three counties: **Cornwall** (5 parishes: Trelawny, Saint James, Hanover, Westmoreland, and Saint Elizabeth); **Middlesex** (5 parishes: Manchester, Clarendon, Saint Catherine, Saint Mary, and Saint Ann); or **Surrey** (4 parishes: Saint Andrew, Kingston, Saint Thomas, and Portland).

What is the official language of Jamaica?

English is the official language of Jamaica. Creole is an English-African language spoken by a large number of Jamaicans and, is also known as Jamaican patois.

What currency is used in Jamaica?

The Jamaican dollar is the official currency of Jamaica and is abbreviated as "J\$." The Jamaican dollar has been the national currency since 1969.



Source: Goggle

A Brief History of Jamaica!

The Jamaican National Symbols

The Jamaican National Bird

The "Doctor Bird" (*Trochilus polytmus*) lives only in Jamaica and is one of the most outstanding of all the species of Humming Birds. The feathers of the Doctor Bird are beautifully iridescent, a characteristic peculiar to this family.



National Tree - Blue Mahoe

Mahoe (*Hibiscus elatus*). This has been regarded as one of the primary economic timbers. It is currently much used for re-forestation and is a valuable source of cabinet timber. Of an attractive blue-green colour with variegated yellowish intrusions, it is capable of showing to advantage the variety of grain and colour tones.



National Flower - Lignum Vitae

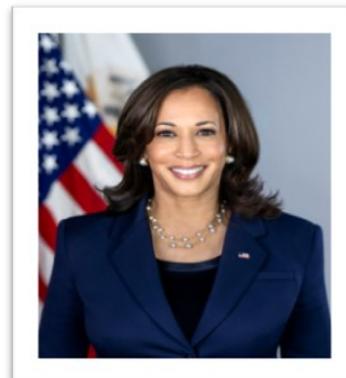
Lignum Vitae (*Guaiacum officinale*) is indigenous to Jamaica and was found here by Christopher Columbus. It is thought that the name "Wood of Life" was then adopted because of its medicinal qualities.



Flowers of Lignum Vitae

The Jamaican Coat of Arms

The original Coat of Arms granted to Jamaica in 1661, was designed by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, William Sanderoff. Apart from a partial revision in 1957, it remains virtually the same as was originally designed. The Arms shows a male and female Arawak, standing on either side of the shield which bears a red cross with five golden pineapples superimposed on it. The Crest is a Jamaican crocodile surmounting the Royal Helmet and Mantlings. The original Latin motto, "Indus Uterque Serviet Uni", which mean "The two Indian will serve as one" has been changed to one in English: "Out of Many, One People" on July 13, 1962 (The year of Independence)



First Woman Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, who is of Jamaican Descent.

NATIONAL HEROES



Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante



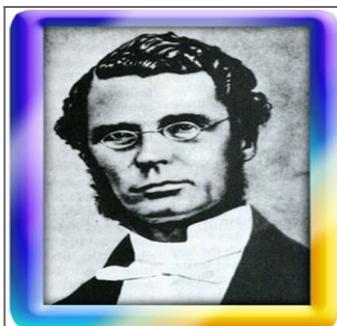
Rt. Excellent Samuel Sharpe



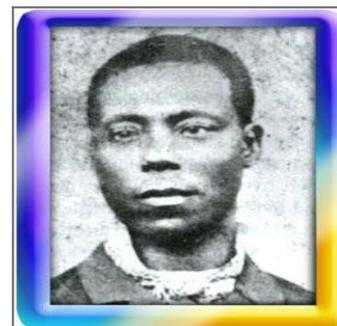
Rt. Excellent Nanny of the Maroons



Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey



Rt. Excellent George William Gordon



Rt. Excellent Paul Bogle



Rt. Excellent

Norman Washington Manley

Historical Dates

1494: Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica

1655: The English captured Jamaica from the Spaniards

1656-1661: Military Rule

1661-1664: Civil Government

1664-1865: Representative Government

1865-1938: Direct Colonial Rule

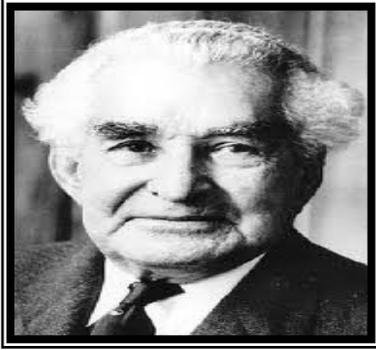
October 11, 1865: Morant Bay Uprising

May 2, 1938: Uprising at Frome, Westmoreland

1944: Granting of Universal Adult Suffrage

August 6, 1962: Jamaica gained her Independence

Jamaica's Prime Ministers Over the Years



Hon. Sir Alexander Bustamante

1st Prime Minister: 1962 to 1967



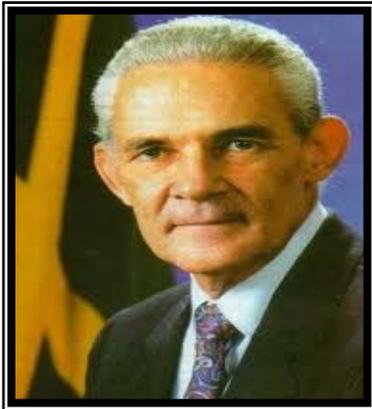
Hon. Sir Donald Sangster

2nd Prime Minister: 1967



Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer

3rd Prime Minister: 1967 to 1972



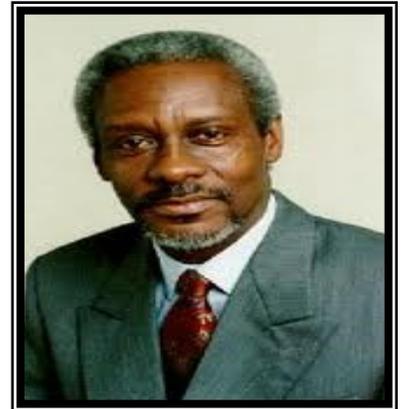
Hon. Michael Manley

**4th & 6th Prime Minister:
1972 to 1980 & 1989 to 1992**



Hon. Edward Phillip Seaga

**5th Prime Minister
1980 to 1989**



Hon. P.J. Patterson

**7th Prime Minister
1992 to 2006**



Orette Bruce Golding

**9th Prime Minister
2007 to 2011**



Portia Simpson-Miller

**8th & 11th Prime Minister
2006 to 2007 / 2012 to 2016**

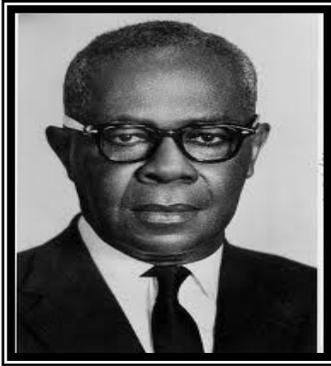


Andrew Holness

**10th Prime Minister
2011 to 2012**

March 2016 to Present

Jamaica's Governor Generals Over The Years



Sir Clifford Campbell

1962 to 1973



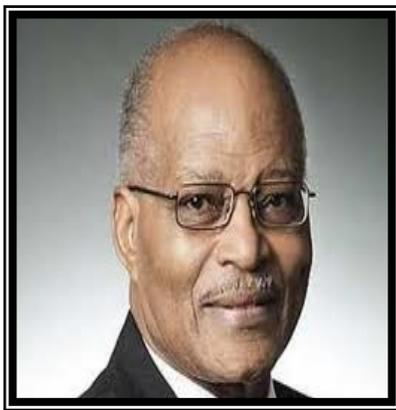
Sir Florizel Glasspole

1973 to 1991



Sir Howard Cooke

1991 to 2006



Sir Kenneth Hall

2006 to 2009



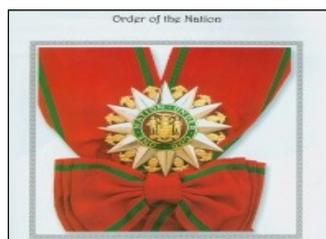
Sir Patrick Linton Allen

Current Governor General: Since 2009

National Awards



The Order of National Hero



The Order of the Nation



The Order of Merit



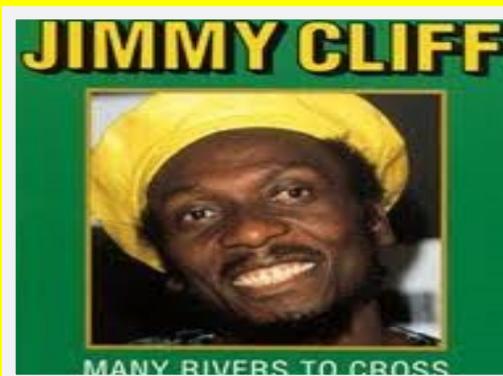
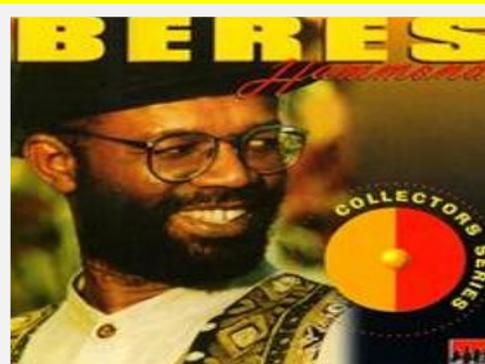
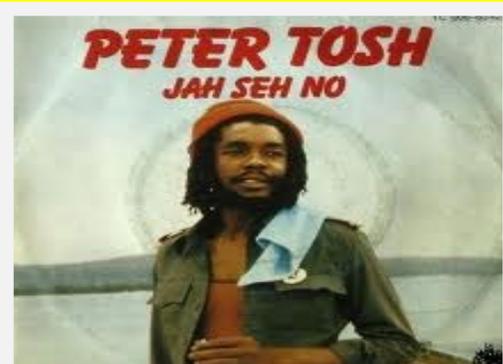
**The Order of
Jamaica**



**The Order of
Distinction**

Reggae Music

Reggae is Jamaica's soul music—a sort of tropical rock and roll with accents on the second and fourth beats. Reggae has become one of the most popular musical rhythms today. This music was popularized by Bob Marley, which made it an international sound. Other popular Reggae artists are Dennis Brown, Gregory Issacs, Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer, Marcia Griffiths, The I Threes, J. C. Lodge, Glen Washington, Beres Hammond, Ziggy Marley, Damon Marley, John Holt, Derrick Harriott, Jimmy Cliff, Burning Spear, and Dobby Dobson, to name just a few. Some of our most popular reggae bands are: Byron Lee and The Dragonaires, Fab Five, and Third World. Reggae music has become one of the fastest growing music in the world, and its popularity has permeated the Caribbean region, North America, Africa, and Japan.



The
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“Out of Many, One People”



**JAMAICAN AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
JAAOCF.COM**

Mr. JAY BROWN

**JAAOCF'S 1st
LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENT**

Mr. Jay Brown possesses the characteristics that best befits a candidate for the Jamaican American Association of Central Florida's Legacy Award. He is an esteemed and respected member of our association; and an elder statesman. He is honest, intelligent, conscientious, and reliable; traits we greatly admire. As a valued member of JAAOCF, Mr. Brown has served faithfully as Treasurer, Financial chair, and Executive Board member for many years.

He supports the association, and the community, in a number of tangible ways.

Soon after joining the association, he decided to become a 'Lifetime Member'! This decision at a crucial time in the history of the organization, cemented his loyalty to the association.

Mr. Brown displayed his commitment to helping the community by mentoring adults at the Central Florida Literacy League.

Currently, he supports a student in Jamaica who attends Calabar High School. The student lives in St Mary and found the costs for travel to school in Kingston financially difficult. The strain on his single mother's finances was substantial. When she reached out to our Association for help several years ago Mr. Brown immediately answered the call. He said that he could readily identify with the student's situation, having experienced challenges himself as a youth.

Upon learning the plight of this young man, Mr. Brown began sending (\$200 U.S) periodically to the student's mother in St. Mary to pay his boarding expenses. That student is now pursuing some 6th form education with the hope of getting into college.

As of this date Mr. Brown continues to lend support to this student. He also sponsors an annual scholarship in the name of his beloved son "The Geoffrey Brown Scholarship."

His contributions locally and internationally make him a worthy candidate for this award.

Mr. Jay Brown, the Jamaican American Association of Central Florida thanks you, and is proud to call you one of our own.



"Out of Many, One People"

**JAMAICAN AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

JAAOCF.COM

**2022
Community Service
Award Recipient**



**Dr. Andre Baptiste
Baptiste Orthodontics**

Dr. Baptiste and Baptiste Orthodontics has supported over 40 public schools in Orange County during the last 12 years. Every year he helps champion several Character/Student of the month, programs at several High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools. He also is a sponsor of Athletic Programs at seven high schools including: Wekiva High School (Home of the Baptiste Orthodontics Stadium Home of the Wekiva Mustangs), Ocoee High School, West Orange High School, Olympia High School, Evans High School, Lake Buena Vista High School, and Dr. Phillips High School. Yearly he donates over \$100,000 to the schools. Besides his financial contributions Dr. Baptiste is also big in giving of his time and allowing his staff members to volunteer at the schools. This year he worked with Oak Hill Elementary to start their Community/School garden. He worked with a group of 4th and 5th graders. He mentored them every two weeks as they prepared, planted, and learned to care for their garden. Every week he visits one of the partner schools helping celebrate and recognize students' achievements in the classroom and on sports fields.

He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Wayne Densch YMCA (switched from the Dr. Phillips YMCA, where he is a sponsor of the Basketball Courts). Baptiste Orthodontics supports the Wayne Densch YMCA with many of their community initiatives like the Back-to-school Backpack Community event. Besides the schools and the YMCA's Dr. Baptiste supports a myriad of community events like the Gift for Swimming 5k, Apopka Health Fair, Pine Hill Health Fair, Healthy Kids day with the YMCA just to name a few. His latest project involves the creation of a new company called Permaculture Life where he champions sustainable growing practices, learning to work with nature instead of against nature. He is known on Social Media as Andre the Farmer. He has a large following on TikTok and Instagram. Dr. Baptiste aka "Andre the Farmer" regularly posts informational videos on sustainable growing practices and tips for your garden or food forest and ways to be better stewards of our natural resources. He has started a line of sustainable-made apparel where proceeds of the sales go towards supporting Community Gardens.

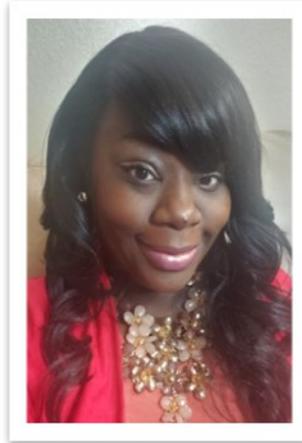


“Out of Many, One People”

JAAOCF.COM

2021

**Community Service
Award Recipient**



**Carla Lewis
CEO/Patient Advocate**

Carla Lewis is a devoted mother & advocate whose native background is from the Caribbean Island of Jamaica, West Indies. Carla Lewis is nationally recognized health advocate & public speaker with over 16 years' of experience. Carla is dedicated to leveraging her skills & expertise to amplify caregivers'/patients' voices to reduce healthcare disparities.

Carla Lewis is a compassionate advocate for those living with sickle cell & rare diseases. Carla's advocacy journey began in April 2002 when she gave birth to her son diagnosed with sickle cell disease. In 2004, Carla started the first sickle cell support group at a local children's hospital in Orlando, FL which provided educational events, hospital visits, resources, & awareness to bridge a gap in the community. Today, she is the CEO & founder of Kids Conquering Sickle Cell Disease Foundation based in Orlando, Florida. The organization exist so children & families that strive to fight challenges with serious life-threatening hemoglobin disorders are empowered with education & resources.

Carla Lewis graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from York College in Queens, New York. She continued her education at Liberty University Public Health Administration Program. She also completed a Nonprofit Management Certification Program at the University of Central Florida. Carla earned her certification as a Hemoglobinopathy Counselor in 2016. Carla is also a trained National Sickle Cell Research Advocate Facilitator who had the pleasure of completing the training program for National Sickle Cell Advocate Network (NSCAN) developed by National Sickle Cell Association of America (SCDAA).

Carla has a love for her Jamaican culture & compassion to assist the Caribbean community. Through Kids Conquering Sickle Cell Disease Foundation, Carla has developed the One Love International Aid Program providing educational sessions & health care kits to sickle cell/ thalassemia warriors of Jamaica & other Caribbean Islands suffering in silence with minimal resources.

Carla Lewis is a patient engagement consultant & advocate that participates in meetings to impact interest & funding research for rare diseases. Carla actively meets with legislative advocates & partners with organizations such as Sick Cells, Rare Disease Legislative Advocacy (RDLA), & National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) to educate & promote legislation that encourages more effective, efficient, & up-to-date healthcare policies.

ERIN GRANT



2022 DEBUTANTE

ERIN WAS BORN IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA IN 2000, BORN TO NIGEL AND NATHALIE GRANT. NIGEL IS FROM MANCHESTER AND NATHALIE IS FROM KINGSTON.

ERIN IS 21 YEARS OLD, AND HAS AN OLDER SISTER, YORAN GRANT-GREEN, AND A BROTHER, NICHOLAS GRANT, WHO WILL BE HER ESCORT.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATED: RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

MAJOR: PUBLIC HEALTH

GPA: 2.5

CAREER GOAL: TO WORK FOR THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) AND TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL DANCER.

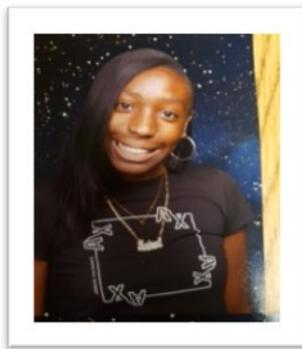
PROUD OF: HOW FAR SHE HAS COME IN THE SKILL OF DANCE. SHE HAS PROVEN TO HERSELF THAT HARD WORK DOES PAY OFF.

HERO: MISTY COPELAND, WHO HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF GIRLS, SPECIFICALLY GIRLS OF COLOR, TO BE ABLE TO DANCE PROFESSIONALLY IN BALLET COMPANIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD. SHE SHOWED ME THAT THROUGH HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, WE CAN REALIZE OUR DREAMS AND DO WHATEVER IT IS THAT WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT, AS LONG AS WE SET OUR MINDS TO IT.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE: ADVENT HEALTH: SPORTS REHABILITATION WARD.
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY TO PASS BILLS AND SECURE MORE FUNDING.
NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY TO CLEAN UP CAMPUSES.**

HOPING TO GAIN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE: TO GAIN MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE AND NETWORKING EXPERIENCE.

ANIYA RHODEN



2022 DEBUTANTE

ANIYA WAS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2006, TO TENESHIA THOMAS.

ANIYA IS 16 YEARS OLD. HER ESCORT WILL BE MR. JOSEPH ABBOTT.

ANIYA HAS A BROTHER, LAMAR RHODEN.

**HIGH SCHOOL: OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL
(CURRENTLY ATTENDING,
WILL GRADUATE IN 2024)**

COLLEGE CHOICE: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY (LSU)

MAJOR: FASHION DESIGNING

GPA: 3.0

CAREER GOAL: FASHION DESIGNER / TRACK & FIELD

PROUD OF: MY DEDICATION TO SCHOOL AND TRACK & FIELD.

**HERO: MY MOTHER BECAUSE SHE IS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME WHEN-
EVER I NEED HER.**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE: ASSISTING THE OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM WITH
EQUIPMENT AND OTHER NEEDS.**

**HOPING TO GAIN FROM
THIS EXPERIENCE: NEW INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A YOUNG ADULT, AND
DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALLY.**

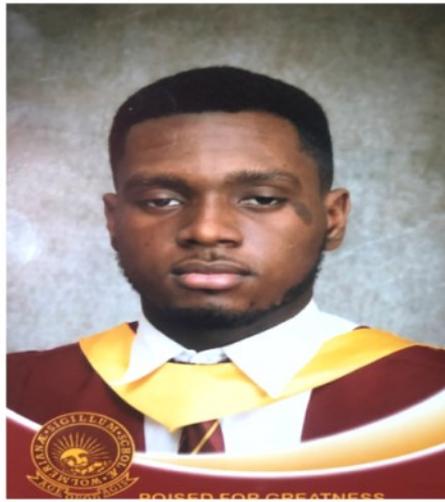


2022 Scholarship Recipient

Hyacinth Bulgin Memorial Scholarship

Jaheim Mullings

**University of Guyana College
Major: Medical**



Jaheim's Essay

Heritage refers to the features belonging to the culture of a particular society. The vital aspects of Jamaican heritage include: Music, food, language, customs and traditions, the visual and performing arts as well as sports. Jamaica's advancements, talents in addition to our achievements in these fields have gained the island worldwide recognition and notoriety especially in regards to our involvement in sporting activities. There is a certain attribute instilled in every Jamaican including myself which has made it possible for us to have such a significant impact on the world despite our small size and it is our "Likkle but we Tallawah" mentality.

"Likkle but we Tallawah" is a popular Jamaican proverb which has had significant implications on all our successes in various fields as a nation. The statement means that "even though Jamaica is a small nation, we're strong-willed, we're determined and we refuse to be restrained by the boundaries of our miniscule stature". This has been a mental booster for all Jamaicans as it prevents us from possessing an inferiority complex when we compete against other nations whether it be in sports, the arts or various fields of education. This allows us to utilize our talents to their maximum potential without mental constraints holding us back. Personally, this concept is more than just a phrase as I view it as a lifestyle. This is because I'm from the inner city and growing up my parents always made it abundantly clear that socio-economic status doesn't define a person nor is it an indication of their intellectual ability. This means that regardless of your wealth, the community in which you grew up or the circumstances impacting your life we are all able to achieve our goals. Throughout the years, this lesson proved to be true as despite being financially disadvantaged in relation to others in society by way of perseverance and determination I was able to reach far greater feats than my seemingly more resourcefully superior counterparts. Therefore, this phrase has paved the way so that upon completing my medical education, I may return to Jamaica and add to our perennially increasing healthcare system.

Consequently, through the process of helping and uplifting the well-being of citizens, the human-capital of Jamaica will consequently be augmented. Human-capital consists of the knowledge and health persons accumulate throughout their lives. Therefore, its improvement will allow persons to realize their potential as productive members of society. Additionally, this opportunity will also bolster my hopes of in the future spearheading projects to help distribute new equipment to existing and/or the establishment of new healthcare centers in inner-city communities as I've seen firsthand the damage that can be done to a district that lacks the resources to properly treat ill-residents. This will aid in enhancing physical-capital as well as the aforementioned human-capital. Physical-capital refers to the human-created tangible assets that are used to support the production of goods and services. This is an integral factor of economic growth and improving the physical-capital of the health sector even on a small scale will still be undoubtedly beneficial to Jamaica's economic development.

In conclusion, heritage consists of the various characteristics constituting a society's culture with Jamaican heritage mainly consisting of Music, food, language, customs and traditions, the visual and performing arts as well as sports. Over the years advancements within these fields would not have been possible without our "Likkle but we Tallawah" mentality ingrained in the Jamaican consciousness. This ideology has helped many Jamaicans achieve including myself and I strongly believe that this belief will help mold my doctoral dream into a reality in order to enrich not only myself but also the economic development of Jamaica through the improvement of Jamaica's human and physical capital by providing quality service in the country's health sector as well as spearheading projects for the improvement of various health facilities island-wide upon completion of medical education abroad.



2022 Scholarship Recipient

Dr. Herbert & Dr. Barbara Dawkins
Scholarship

Madison Brown

Florida A&M University
Major: Architecture

Madison's Essay

The phrase, "We likkle but we tallawa." is a common phrase that came from the island of Jamaica. This means that we may be small but we are strong and fearless. My Grandma had three strong character traits that would always shine through her personality, she was hard-working, caring, and innovative and those three traits can best explain what she was like while she was alive. Marva Martin (My Grandmother) was a short, witty, spontaneous, and faithful person during the time that I was able to know her. She has inspired me to become the person I am today and given me the drive to impact my community in a significant way.

One trait that I inherited from my grandmother was her hard-working spirit. Ever since I can remember I've had a strong interest in entrepreneurship. I would constantly come up with business plans and try to learn as much as I could about the topic and how one would go about starting your own business someday. After my Grandmother died in 2020, I learned that when she moved to America in the 70s she had her own nail business that she would do as a side hustle to make some extra money to send to her daughter (my mother), who was staying with her parents in Jamaica. Learning about this made me appreciate her sacrifices and fueled my passion for entrepreneurship. My passion for entrepreneurship has helped me to do more acts of service for others. After the pandemic, I began to get more involved in community service. I wanted there to be more community service opportunities for people who wanted to get more involved in their community. It is because of this that I have decided to focus on sustainable architecture when I become an architect so that I can help the environment. I also hope to one day provide seasonal tiny homes for homeless people through a non-profit organization that I want to start. My Jamaican heritage has inspired me to be the best I can be and it has shown me that with my gifts I can always do more for the people around me.



2022 Scholarship Recipient



Scholarship in Memory of
Joan AnnMarie Currie

Kate Deviney

**Florida State University
Major: Political Science/Pre-Law**

Kate's Essay

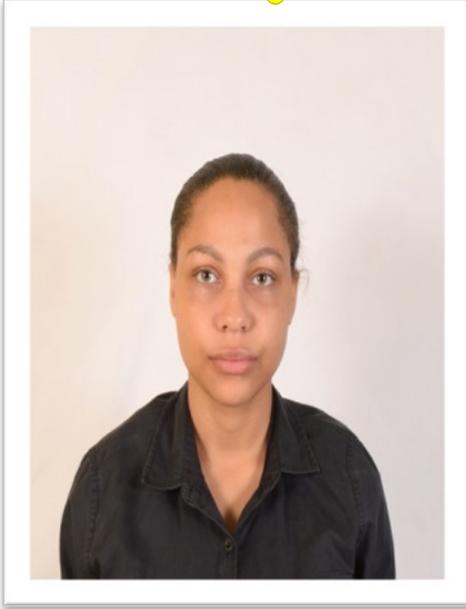
How My Jamaican Heritage Has Helped, and Will Help, Me Become Successful in Serving My Community

Though American by birth, I owe everything to my Jamaican heritage, which I fully credit and celebrate for my successes in academics, leadership roles, and service to my community.

In 1977, at age ten, my mother, along with her parents and two brothers, migrated from Jamaica to Florida, where they started new lives. In America, my grandparents continued to raise their children in accordance with high Jamaican standards. They worked hard at instilling traditional Jamaican values, including grit, tenacity, personal responsibility, proper behavior at all times, active involvement in church and community and scholastic excellence. My grandparents took ill when I was quite young and passed away ten years ago. However, my mother has never wavered in drilling their values and my Jamaican heritage into me. Her work has not been in vain.

Fueled by my Jamaican heritage and values, I recently graduated high-school as an AP (Advanced Placement) Scholar with Distinction, with a 3.8 unweighted—and 4.6 weighted — GPA. In high-school I earned memberships in several academic honor societies. I also spent 321 verified hours serving my community, including giving numerous solo violin performances at churches and community events, and volunteering at a food pantry. I also served my community as a member of the Mayor's Youth Council, and as an intern for a county commissioner.

This fall I will study Political Science on a Pre-law track at Florida State University, where I will continue to volunteer at a food pantry. Eventually, I will become a lawyer and servant-leader, donating my time and resources to community nonprofits that improve the lives of others. I will also do free legal work for deserving people who are unable to afford my services. Ultimately, I plan to become a judge—a position of public service. My Jamaican heritage and values will always inspire and motivate me to strive for excellence. We likkle but we tallawah!- Kate Deviney



2022 Scholarship Recipient

The Emeline Alvira Stevens Memorial Scholarship

Lukie-Ann "Jade" Peart

**University of South Florida
Major: Biomedical Sciences**

Lukie-Ann's Essay

As Jamaicans, we have often heard the expression "We likkle but we tallawah." Growing up, I didn't quite grasp the full meaning behind it, but now, having faced many hurdles in life, it is safe to say that I reflect on it quite often. I may just be one person, but I firmly believe that I can do anything I set out to do, and I can achieve all my goals. Oftentimes, people start to think that we can't make any changes because we are only one person, but they neglect to realize that we are each one person, but we are united in goals. I think of this when doing community service, or any task in general. We may each have separate tasks and abilities, but together, we can do so much without even realizing it.

I am immensely proud to be Jamaican. Growing up in Jamaica has helped me in so many ways. On one hand, I got to enjoy the rich culture and vacation areas that taught me the easy and good parts of life, on the other hand, I also got to see firsthand, the struggles of living in a third-world country. The poor healthcare, lack of access to running water or electricity, or even transportation in some areas. I saw it all, but I didn't quite understand how dire it was until I traveled.

The knowledge that a country so great should be suffering as it is now, drives me to try and make some changes - even on a smaller scale. Since high school, I have been committed to community service, and make an effort to complete at least fifty hours each year. While not all events have been in Jamaica or Jamaican-centered, I think in the grand scheme of things, all my experiences can turn results in something really beneficial to my country.



2022 Scholarship Recipient

Geoffrey Brown Memorial Scholarship

Andre Rattray, Jr.

**University of Central Florida
Major: Biomedical Sciences**



Andre's Essay

Both of my parents are from the beautiful country Jamaica. My father was born in St Andrew, and my mother was born in Montego Bay. They have both instilled great qualities and virtues that I will continue to practice throughout the rest of my life. Some of those great qualities include, working hard and giving back to my community and the less fortunate. Giving back to your community is one of the most wholesome and heart-warming things you can do for your fellow humankind. Since my eighth-grade year, I was moved to become involved and give back to my community, through volunteering and/or tutoring at University of Central FL and many local elementary schools. Throughout my time giving back I have had many memorable experiences where I thought to myself, "Wow. . . I just made that young child's day by sharing my knowledge." To be more specific, I remember doing math tutoring at Apopka Elementary School, and the children were learning about fractions and simple division. The teacher told me to assist anyone that seemed to be having trouble, and to try to make it easier for them to understand the concepts. I sat down at a table with 2 young boys who looked extremely confused and demanded my help. One of the boys told me, "I don't get how six divided by two turns into three." I remember the other boy sitting next to him simply nodding his head, as he was too embarrassed to admit that he didn't understand. I figured since the teacher's way of explaining division wasn't working, I tried to implement certain words and real-world objects to try and help them. I simply told them, "Let's pretend you two were sharing a pizza, and there are six slices. For you two to have the same number of slices, you would each get 3." I ended up drawing a small pizza with slices on a piece of paper to help them visualize what I was talking about. As soon as I was finished drawing it, it clicked; they had a complete understanding. Hearing them laugh and realizing that they finally understood the division problem was extremely gratifying. It was at that time I knew I had to do more of this because I was making a difference. It was small moments like these that made me realize that I enjoyed giving back to my community. During my high school years, I worked closely with the assistant principal as part of the Minority Leadership Scholars (MLS) organization. As part of the MLS, we held many food and clothing drives in which we gave back to the less fortunate. I also spearheaded a plan to start a community garden set up to specifically help an area where I realized was a food desert. There are no supermarkets that serve this South Apopka area and I thought this was one of the best plans to directly impact the lives of the families residing there. I believe that my parents' Jamaican upbringing and heritage has helped them to shape me into the individual that I am. They have demonstrated and stressed the importance of hard work, selflessness, dedication, and commitment. I am certain that my Jamaican parents' character traits and vision have set a solid foundation for me. Looking back at all that I have done and accomplished so far, my Jamaican heritage is the inspiration for my bright future.



2022 Scholarship Recipient

Dr. Herbert & Dr. Barbara Dawkins
Scholarship

Nateisha White

University of the West Indies
Major: Law

Nateisha's Essay

My Jamaican heritage, though once being something I overlooked, is now something I truly appreciate. The Jamaican heritage includes such a vast and diverse range of religions, customs, lifestyles and norms which work seamlessly to foster the growth and shape the lives of many Jamaicans. One way in which my Jamaican heritage will help me, is by assisting me with being of service to my community which has done so much for me. I believe that the Jamaican national pledge, something dear to all Jamaicans, is the best way to showcase just how my heritage will help me in being successful to my community.

The national pledge is a short but beautifully written piece which can motivate any individual to be of service as a citizen of Jamaica. It highlights many values that are good to have and can help me play my part in advancing the human race. Some include loyalty, wisdom, courage and strength, to name a few. These values are things ingrained into Jamaicans as they are a part of our heritage. Loyalty speaks to being committed and staying true to my goals. Wisdom will help me stay on the right path and lessen mishaps however it takes courage to start wandering on said path. Humans are the best resource but I cannot be of use to my community without strength and vigour. I will be of most service by standing up for justice as I aim to be a lawyer. The law will be my weapon. In a world where there is such a huge divide and chaos, my heritage motivates me to strive for unity and peace, "One Love" as Bob Marley's message said. Additionally, in order to play my part, I will need to be industrious, kind and true, so Jamaica may flourish and stay resilient. My Jamaican heritage, in all its uniqueness and brilliance, encourages me to be the best version of myself and give back to my community as that is what our culture promotes, just as many other legends with Jamaican heritage have done.

A Little Time Together



Ms. Joan Edghill and our friend, Ms. Andrea Jackson, celebrating support for Andrea's Jamaica Bible School; and Andrea's 6-year anniversary on WOKB radio.



Dr. Herbert Dawkins and Mr. Tim Leith, Financial Advisor
First Choice Wealth & Retirement
Scholarship Donor

Congratulations to our new

"Lifetime" Members

**Dr. Phillip &
Mrs. Karen Lee Fatt!**

Bronze

Lifetime Membership Achievement

August 6, 2022

Presented to:

Dr. Phillip & Mrs. Karen Lee Fatt

2018 Jamaica Independence Celebration!



US. Representative, FL
Val Demings



Mayor Jerry Demings
Guest Speaker with
2018 President,
Dr. Patricia Smith



Our Friend,
Heather Chisolm—
we miss you.



Andrea Jackson, a Community
Service Recipient with 2018
President, Dr. Patricia Smith;
and current President, Dr.
Barbara Dawkins.



Tajana Bogle gets
Recognized for her work
with the JAAOCF.



**We Celebrate Long-time and Dedicated
Jamaican American
Association
Member's
93rd Birthday!**



**MRS.
BERYL
HARTE**



Joan, Herbert, and Louis Witter at Caribbean & Floridian Association (CAFA's) Event



Thanksgiving Gift Baskets Prepared For Those In Need!

Thanks To Members of the JAAOCF and

Dr. Wendi Wardlaw, Stoneybrook Dental, Winter Garden, Florida



'Straight Talk with Amazing Reality' Blessing Celebration Event with Miss Andrea Jackson



MS. JOAN EDGHILL AND MS. ANGELA NELSON



Dr.
Herbert
Dawkins
&
Grace
Powell



Mrs. Marjorie Brown,
Founder—JAAOCF

DR. BARBARA & DR. HERBERT DAWKINS

AT PALM BAY—CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



**Peter Daly, Caribbean Sunshine Bakery—
"island Moon Bar & Grill" Opening Night
and**

Ms. Joan Edghill



**Dr. Barbara Dawkins, Ms. Joan Edghill and Dr. Herbert Dawkins with Mayor Bryan Nelson of Apopka
At Jamaican Cultural Connection (JCC) Caribbean American Heritage Month Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.**





JAAOCF'S CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



Jamaica Independence Church Service



Jamaica Independence Church Service





2021 Scholarship Recipient

Hyacinth Bulgin Memorial Scholarship



Suen Chang

University of Technology—Jamaica

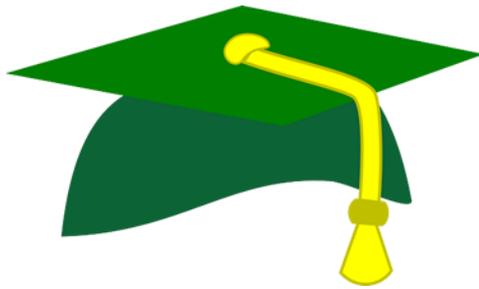
Major: Communication Arts
& Technology

Suen's Essay

'No wait till drum beat before you grine you axe' (Jamaican proverb meaning to be prepared for all eventualities). As a child my grandmother taught me to always carry a purse filled with everything I may need. At first it was thought to be unnecessary, a weight I could do without, or an excuse for a cute lunch bag. This lesson, however spilled into other portions of life, as I got older I realized its significance. A legacy of preparedness, occupies the streets of our island home, a history of people ready for all eventualities, eager to offer a helping hand and smile at every turn.

Learning to pack for the 'just incase', instilled in me the habit of foreplanning. I now mentally and physically equip myself with the resources, procedures and practices needed to push through. Creating processes and plans has become my specialty and every success I have had depended on it. In both my personal social outreach and corporate roles my ability to plan for unsuspecting outcomes lead to the creation of several projects. One such being the creation of the Kingston and St. Andrew Table Tennis Association's Sports Recovery Plan, which utilizes several pandemic safe strategies for players return to the table. Another such success being the planning and execution of meals for a team of missionaries, but whether it be huge successes like these or small victories such as being ready for a pop quiz my heritage has served me well.

Once a burden, I carry my bag filled with things those around me may need with pleasure. It has been the source of my successes and will continue to provide. It is not just filled with lip gloss and snacks, but also holds unending generations of knowledge, wisdom passed down from my grandmother's grandmother and hers before her. My Jamaican heritage has been a blessing upon my life.



2021 Scholarship Recipient

**Jamaican American Association
Scholarship**



MeKayla Garber

**Florida International University
Major: Marine Biology**

MeKayla's Essay:

My Jamaican heritage has helped me succeed in the past and will continue to in the future as I'm able to connect with different organizations and associates. Finding inspiration in my powerful heritage to move forward and strive for the best is my true motivation. A key factor of success through my Jamaican heritage is my grandmother, Andrea Jackson. With my grandmother's career in education, she took it upon herself to ensure I was given the best academic opportunities. I had a strong foundation to my academics as I attended the same elementary school my grandmother taught at. I aimed to be the best in my classes and achieve academic excellence just as my grandmother did. Andrea Jackson moved to America at the young age of 11 from Montego Bay, Jamaica and ultimately achieved a masters degree. With my grandmother being one of greatest inspirations and academic mentors, success in my life is ensured.

2021 Scholarship Recipient

Geoffrey Brown Memorial Scholarship

Lake Sumter State College
Major: Undecided



Nathan Harvey

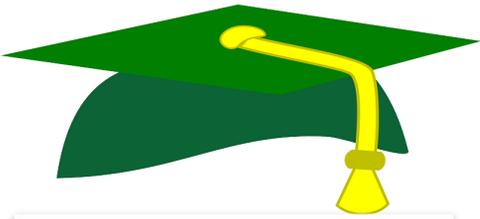
Nathan's Essay

Thanks to what I've learned through my Jamaican heritage, I have successfully been able to serve my community. Growing up with a father from Jamaica, I learned at an early age that Jamaicans have a unique way of problem solving and applying discipline into their lives.

Coming to the United States at 14, my father has kept the same principles and values he learned in Jamaica and has passed them on to me. Jamaican culture is an environment that teaches you to be very sensitive to other people's feelings and sympathize with what other people are going through. It is not a materialistic culture and is more about your values and principles and how you should function in life. I have learned to be able to work in the perimeter of my resources and to be creative.

When you grow up in an environment like this, it helps you to be able to think of new ideas when you have limited resources to work with. From a young age, I have participated in many community services projects through Boy Scouts and in high school. These activities exposed me to the inequalities within my own community and how my involvement, now and in the future, could help young people as well as adults.

The Jamaican motto, 'Out of Many One People' emphasizes the importance of putting aside your cultural differences to help one another. With the principles and values I have learned, I want to be able to help other people and inspire others through my actions.



Kadeen Hays

2021 Scholarship Recipient

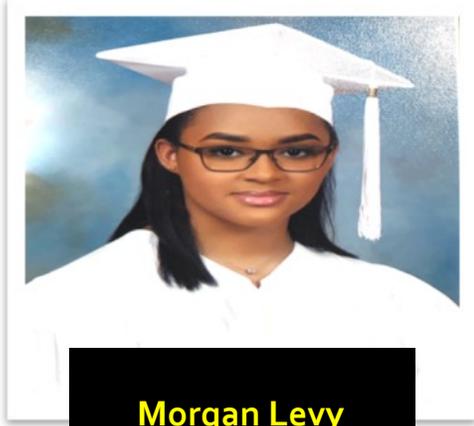
**Dr. Herbert & Dr. Barbara Dawkins
Scholarship**

**Florida Atlantic University
Major: Elementary Education**

Kadeen's Essay

My life has been greatly impacted by my Jamaican culture. My parents have instilled in me values that I will forever cherish due to the way they were raised in Jamaica. They have understood what it means to struggle and to make ends meet from a young age. Although my parents got married young, they worked hard to secure a comfortable life for themselves while living in Jamaica. They were not focused on living above their means but instead worked to set themselves up for the future. As a young couple they were dedicated to not only each other but growing and understanding what ways they could improve their lives and those of their children. In 2001 I was introduced to the world and my parents made sure to provide me with all that I needed. From a young age, I was enrolled in school to begin my education. My parents made sure to spend time with me outside of school and support me in my "big moments". With the absence of their parents, while they were young, they made sure to not repeat the same cycle with me. Such memories of my parents being there to support me has helped me to this point in my life. They continue to remind me that they are always in my corner no matter what challenges I may face. Reminders of my parents' life stories help me to cherish not only them but also what they have done for me.

As I have gone through high school and entered college, I have had the opportunity to interact and work with individuals from various backgrounds. Understanding my own culture has helped me to relate to my peers and find similarities between us. I also tend to associate with those of Jamaican culture to understand their perspectives on life based on their family and experiences. Doing so has helped me interact with other Jamaicans in my community in a more friendly and respectful manner. I continue to appreciate my culture because it has helped me to have a sense of belonging and a real connection with others just like me. Currently, as I pursue my bachelor's degree in education and work as a Teacher Assistant my heritage has helped me in my work and school community. Due to the state of society that we are in, many college programs are stressing equity and diversity classes. These classes are ones that I enjoy because I consider myself to be cultured. Being of Jamaican descent and growing up in South Florida I have come to understand how people from other cultures think and process different situations. Therefore, when I take these classes I already have background knowledge of my own. As for my work environment, many children are of Jamaican, Haitian, or Hispanic culture. I am able to see the similarities and differences in culture and teach kids accordingly while still making sure to treat everyone fairly. Children need to understand their own culture, the importance of it, and how it can benefit them in the future. I make it a goal to have conversations with different students teaching them such things. As a first-generation student earning my degree in a field, I am passionate about, warms my parent's hearts. My parents have raised me to be industrious and resourceful which has helped in multiple ways as I continue to grow in society. They have also pushed me to go the extra mile in my education and not stop until I have accomplished my goals. My culture has had a positive impact on my life and for that, I am forever grateful.



Morgan Levy

2021 Scholarship Recipient

**Dr. Herbert & Dr. Barbara Dawkins
Scholarship**

**Seminole State College
Major: Nursing**

Morgan's Essay

Growing up with a Jamaican way of life has greatly contributed to the person I am today. Its culture, beliefs and the nature of its people have influenced my life, goals and my way of thinking. I was not born in the beautiful island of Jamaica like my parents, but I lived there from the age of 2 to the age of 16. I graduated from Immaculate Conception High School with honors and 8 ones in my CXC regional exams. My time on the island is greatly missed but those experiences have continued to serve me till this day and will do so for many years to come.

The natural tendencies of Jamaican people have played an influential role in my life by their examples of hard-work, respect, cohesiveness and friendliness. This serves me today as I model these attributes and incorporate them into my everyday interactions. This helps me effectively communicate with persons of varied intellectual and economic backgrounds. Creating relationships with people since moving to the United States has become easier since being raised to have a naturally gregarious and approachable personality. A key tip to being successful is the way you interact with the people around you and creating strong bonds for formidable relationships. Another key stepping-stone that has led to my current success was my time spent in the Jamaican schooling system. This made formal early childhood learning mandatory from age 4, hence accelerating our learning trajectory compared to other developed countries. The heavy academic curriculum and disciplinary structure at Immaculate High School helped me to tow-the-line appropriately. This has played a role in my current success at Seminole State which led to my recent appearance on the Dean's List. This has shaped my mindset of never settling for less and putting my best work forward at all times.

My Jamaican heritage is the reason I am the person here today. I am extremely grateful to be a Jamaican and be able to say that I am apart of a strong, dedicated and hardworking group of people. The success that I have built and the success that is to come will be as a result of the firm foundation facilitated by my heritage.



2021 Scholarship Recipient

The Emeline Alvira Stevens Memorial Scholarship



Adia-Simone Rhoden

Florida A&M University
Major: Architecture

Aida-Simone's Essay

Both of my parents were born and raised in Jamaican. Although they are different in many ways, they both believe in the importance of education, working hard and doing your best. I was raised solely by my mother following their separation when I was age 2. I saw close up how hard she worked. As a lawyer and only black supervisor of the federal department for which she worked, she felt she had to work harder to prove herself and to never fail. "Do the work," "failure is not an option," "if you do the work and do your best you will succeed, you will not fail." This is what I hear from my mother all the time. This attitude or belief was instilled in her by her parents who did not have the opportunity to get an education but worked very hard to provide for their large family.

I believe that the humble upbringing of my Jamaican parents and their parents made them the strong, determined, "hard work pays off" people they are and who I too have become. Much like her parents, my mother expects me to do my best, even if my best does not result in A's or B's all the time. If a C is my best (once in a while, lol) that is acceptable to my mother. She believes in me and knows I'm capable of mostly A's and B's. My father practically raised himself. He was forced to leave school at age 14 and get a job. With roommates, he was able to provide for himself, get his GED and become a licensed plumber.

My Jamaican parents are strong, they are fighters, they don't believe in giving up or taking no for an answer. I feel that their strength and perseverance are deeply rooted and related to their Jamaican heritage. I am very connected to my Jamaican heritage and although I was born and raised in the U.S. I say I am Jamaican, because I am. I have traveled to Jamaica for vacation seven times and have stayed all over. I love the people, the culture and the food. My mother's cousins who continue to reside there are successful and my fellow Jamerican cousins who reside in the US are successful. Being of Jamaican heritage is an asset. The values are deeply instilled and as I go off to FAMU to pursue Architecture, I know there is no limit. Although I needed 20 volunteer hours to meet my graduation requirements, I earned 250-hours. I truly enjoyed my volunteer experience and plan to continue throughout college. There is no limit to volunteering to make life better for others. I am grateful for the Jamaicans that raised me that make up my village, family and family-friends alike. I will continue to make them proud. Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship.



2021 Scholarship Recipient

Jamaican American Association
Scholarship



Hailey Williams

University of Central Florida
Major: Biology

Hailey's Essay

As a first generation American born to Jamaican parents, I am exposed to Jamaican culture daily. There is a huge difference between Jamaican and American cultures from the foods we eat, the music we vibe to, the dialect, patois we were raised hearing, the significance of the must have Jamaican black cake at Christmas and most of all the way Jamaican women parent. From an early age I was raised hearing the importance of getting good grades in school and that college was not an option, it was a requirement.

My Jamaican heritage is something that has been ingrained in me since I was young, especially the little sayings that my family members would sometimes say. My family lives by certain values that has been ingrained in us, such as the importance of the family, respecting the elders, keeping in touch and giving back to our families back home in Jamaica, the importance of hard work that will bear fruits in the long run. My mother preaches to me the importance of having a continuous drive to strive for success. She always encourages my sisters and I to do our best, whether it be in our schoolwork or extracurricular activities.

I have seen not only in my parents, but in my other Jamaican family members. These values are something that I wish to carry on in the future as I strive for my success. Putting in the hard work in order to reach the goals at different milestones in my life, like graduating college and setting up my path for my future career. I also continue to have a relationship with my siblings and relatives, supporting them in their own endeavors as they support me in my own. The value of family support stems from these relationships. Support is something that I have seen in my family and in the Jamaican community. From supporting their relatives in their endeavors to cheering on their home athletes in the Olympics, the basic ideal of support is something that I feel will help me to succeed. I continue to support others, especially since I plan to go into the medical field, where I will support patients and colleagues.

2021 Scholarship Recipient

Dr. Phillip & Mrs. Karen Lee Fatt
Scholarship



Alyssa Wilson

Duke University

Major:

Psychology / Global Health

Alyssa's Essay

My name is Alyssa Wilson and in October of the year 2000, I was born in Kingston, Jamaica. Seven years later, I would emigrate to America with my mother who had hopes of creating a new beginning for her family. It's been years since we left what used to be our home, and in that time, things have not been simple or easy. We've struggled to keep a roof over our heads, put food in the fridge, fight sickness and ailment—the list goes on. In the face of difficulty though, I believe we were able to overcome so much because of the assistance of those in our community dedicated to service, our faith, and the wealth of strength based in our heritage we were able to draw from.

Ever since I was a child, my mother has taught me that our culture is based in resilience and power, and one of the more prominent heroes she would use to drive this point home is Queen Nanny of the Maroons. She told me of Nanny's resistance and command, the huge role she played in Jamaican freedom and history, and the huge role she still continues to play. What's more, past the stories of ancestral strength I've used to inspire faith and perseverance, I knew I wouldn't have been able to become the person I am today without the help of those in my community who believed in me: who helped me apply to colleges and for scholarships, who introduced me to volunteer opportunities and instilled in me the importance of giving back.

My heritage is one that is laden with tenacity in the face of hardship, and I make it my mission to apply this in all areas of life. Now I'm a rising senior at Duke University majoring in Psychology and minoring in Global Health, with hopes of one day establishing an affordable practice for mental health counseling in lower income communities. My ultimate goal is to pour into the community the same way I feel I've been supported and poured into my whole life. I want to serve my community as best as I can, and I believe it's my calling to do so in this way. When I look in the mirror, I strive to see someone that my mother and the ancestors that came before me would be proud of; I want to be someone that doesn't just live for themselves, but for all the people I may be able to help along the way.



2021

**Dr. Herbert & Dr. Barbara Dawkins
Special Award for Education
in Jamaica**



Shaneka Collins

**MICO University
Major: Education**

Shaneka's Essay

Jamaica is known for its colourful culture. The music that makes you want to dance is ideal for chilling in the sun or evening in the calmest weather conditions. The food is delicious, from the jerk chicken from the jerk pan man on the corner to the fish and bammy at Hellshire Beach, or even the curry goat patty down by Devon House and not to mention our KFC is said to be the tastiest around the world, it's finger-licking good. Yet, its richest resource is its people. Jamaica's rich and lively cultural background allows its citizens to experience difficulties and success.

A part of the Jamaican culture includes the belief that yam, dasheen and coco (Taro) are the healthy foods that make our bodies strong. From an early age, we are encouraged to eat what we grow and plant what we eat. Our culture teaches us that "by the sweat of our brow, we shall eat bread. We, in turn, have to work assiduously to ensure that our well-being is taken care of. We are also a creative and poetic people who will "take our hands and turn make fashion," therefore, what may be considered garbage to others, we use it to make creative art creating another way of income.

Our island is beautiful. There are enticing white sand beaches and many hotels that promote our culture. People travel from all over the world to enjoy what nature has blessed us with. However, each country has its difficulties. Our difficulty is that inflation cost is high. Though our country is beautiful, we, the natives, most times are unable to access this beauty or even adventure in our country because we cannot afford to do so. Thus, I have been working hard not just to live to pay the bills but also to enjoy what the land has blessed us with. I want to be able to take care of my physical, spiritual and mental well-being. By working hard and smart, I will be able to do this. I also want to be able to help persons in need.

I have garnered the skills of being creative and the wisdom that whatever I want to achieve, I must work hard to gain. I will be a skilled teacher who also has legitimate creative ways of becoming successful. I understand that the hurdles I face now will come in other areas, but I wholeheartedly believe that when life gives me lemons, I should turn them into creative art and make lemon bouquets.



Our 2020 Scholarship Recipients



Miss Jiveen Griffiths

Black River, Jamaica

2020

Albert Miller, Sr.

Scholarship Recipient



Miss Actavia Lovelace

Manchester, Jamaica

2020

Albert Miller, Sr.

Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Narkel Norlando Nelson

St. Ann, Jamaica

2020

Dr. Phillip & Karen Lee Fatt

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Taiyacia Slatter

Ocoee, Florida

2020

Hyacinth Bulgin

Scholarship Recipient



**Ms. Shanese Carter
Kitson Town, Jamaica**

2020

Dr. Herbert &

Dr. Barbara Dawkins

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Jadeen Roberts

St. Ann, Jamaica

2020

Geoffrey Brown

Scholarship Recipient



JAAOCF Music Academy

Orlando, Florida

2020

Geoffrey Brown

Scholarship Recipient



Coffee Grove Basic School

Manchester, Jamaica

2020

Dr. Herbert &

Dr. Barbara Dawkins

Scholarship Recipient



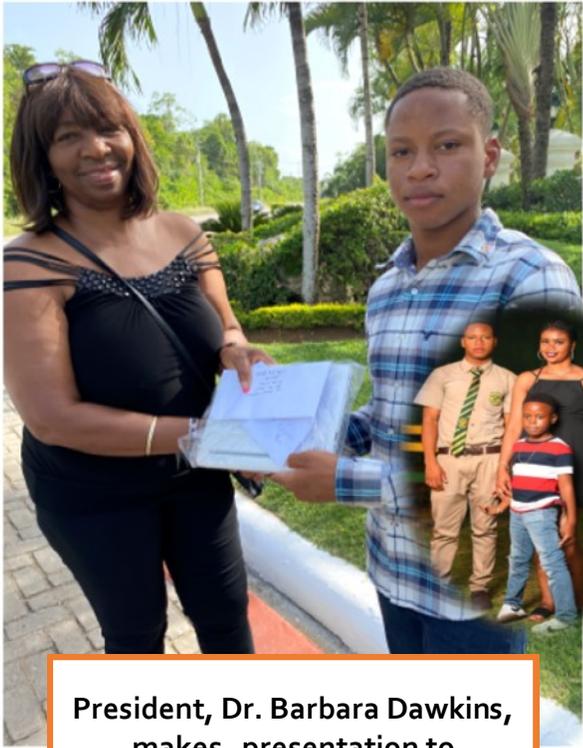
A Gift For Teaching

2020

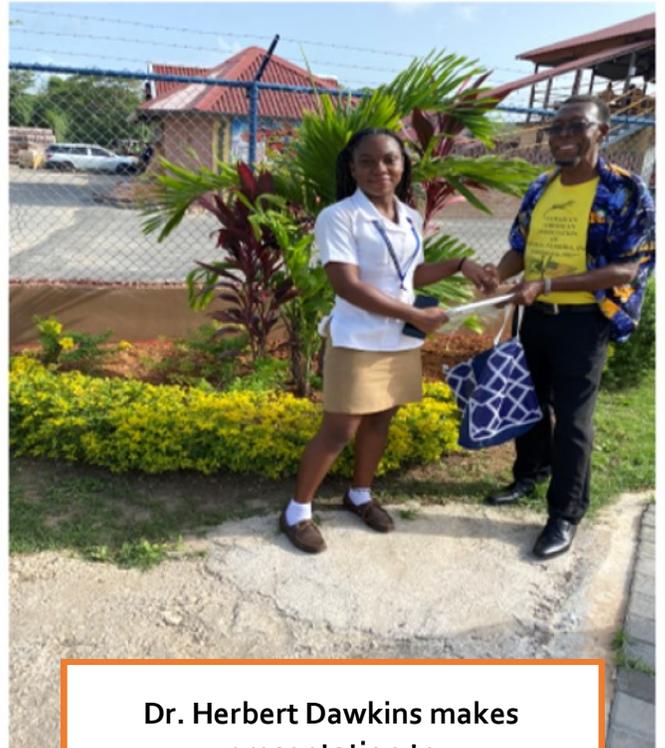
JAAOCF

Scholarship Recipient

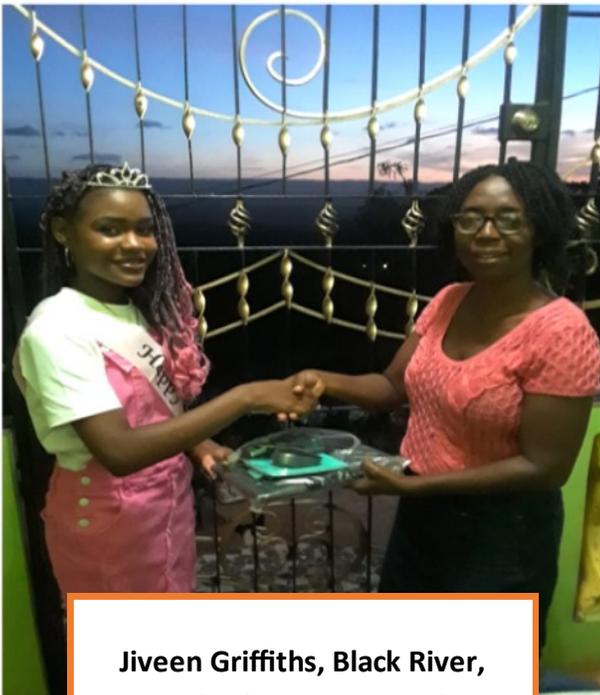
2020 Scholarship Recipients who Received Laptops in Jamaica



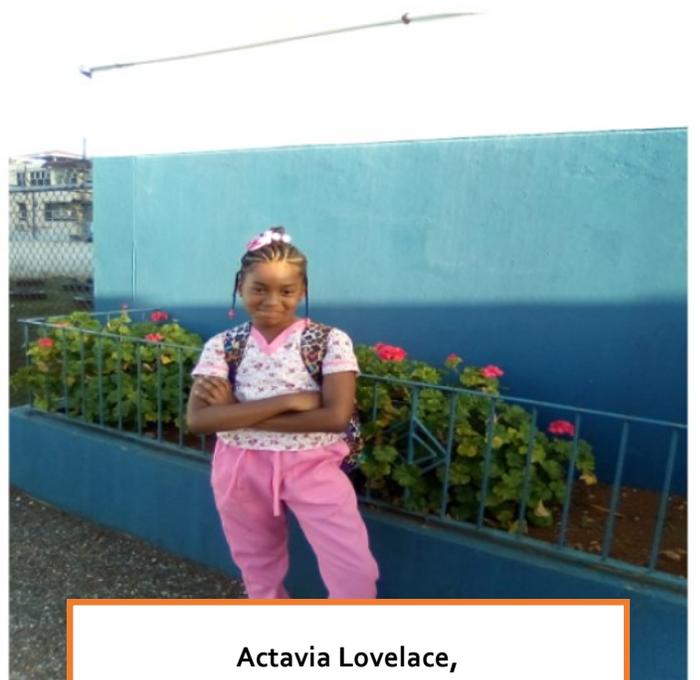
President, Dr. Barbara Dawkins,
makes presentation to
Narkel Norlando Nelson
St. Ann, Jamaica



Dr. Herbert Dawkins makes
presentation to
Jadeen Roberts
St. Ann, Jamaica



Jiveen Griffiths, Black River,
Jamaica is presented with
laptop on behalf of the JAAOCF



Actavia Lovelace,
Manchester, Jamaica, also
received a Laptop



Our 2019 Scholarship Recipients



Mr. Justin Whittingham

2019

Geoffrey Brown

Scholarship Recipient

Ms. Jae-Ann Smith

2019

Hyacinth Bulgin

Scholarship Recipient

Ms. Lamara Scott

2019

JAAOCF

Scholarship Recipient

Thanks For The Support To Our Sister Organizations!
We Stand With You, Always!





Our 2016 / 2017 / 2018 Scholarship Recipients



Ms. Madison Fern
2016
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Sarah Tai
2016
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. KaiYanna
Tsehay-Washington
2016
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Casey Cargill
2017
Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Elijah Thompson
2017 Jay Brown
Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Jeremiah Benjamin
2017
Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Colin Lamar Robinson
2018 Jay Brown
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Tena Gordan
2018
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Joanna Dempster
2018
Scholarship Recipient



Our 2013 / 2014 / 2015 Scholarship Recipients



Mr. Zachary Codner
2013
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Chantay Gray
2013
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Kristen Medley
2013
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Katherine Taylor
2014
Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Christopher Lee Fatt
2014
Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Jeremy Smith
2014
Jay Brown
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Leona Hodges
2015
Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Kimberly Morris
2015
Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Joshua Woolery
2015 Jay Brown
Scholarship Recipient



Our 2006 – 2012 Scholarship Recipients



Ms. Zania Carty

2006

Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Bryan Dawkins

2007

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Tiffanie Williams

2008

Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Joshua Daye

2008

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Jessica Williams

2009

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Marlene Daley

2009

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Nicole Craig

2010

Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Myron Bryant

2010

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Jenna Lyons

2011

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Javeen Thomas

2011

Scholarship Recipient



Mr. Aston Steele

2012

Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Shannon Larmond

2012

Scholarship Recipient

2013 JAAOCF Scholarship Recipient Makes Us Proud!

Kristen Medley



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"Out of Many, One People"

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**All Praise and Thanks to God
From Whom all Blessings Flow!**



Margaret and Fitz Tate

This year we celebrate with the JAAOCF

Our 27th Wedding Anniversary and 8 years of Retirement.

**Because of you, Fitz. I have laughed a little louder
cried a little less, and smiled every day.**

**Because of you, I've felt the warmth of a special relationship
and a gift of your love and kindness.**

To God be the Glory. We are Blessed.

Margaret



**Dear Members of the Jamaican American
Association of Central Florida,**



**We take this opportunity to express our gratitude
for your gracious support during our illness!**

From

Jay & Debbie Brown



Dr. Keith Gray, MD
Internal Medicine
100 W Gore Street
Ste 303 Orlando, FL 32806
407-423-9920

Dr. Keith Gray, MD is an Internal Medicine Specialist in Orlando, FL and has over **42** years of experience in the medical field. He graduated from Howard University College of Medicine medical school in 1980. He is affiliated with Advent Health Orlando. Be sure to call ahead with Dr. Gray to book an appointment.

Hours:

Sunday	Closed
Monday	7AM–5PM
Tuesday	7AM–5PM
Wednesday	7AM–5PM
Thursday	7AM–5PM
Friday	7AM–5PM
Saturday	Closed



Since Mom passed, the void that we experience is inexplicable, but when we remember her grace, dignity, love for all, and especially her love for God; we cannot help but hold her close to our hearts. She is thought of fondly as the memories live on. Gone but never will be forgotten. May her soul rest in eternal peace!

Love Always, Maisie, Joan, Carmen, and Sandra



The Honorable



Barbara Gloudon

Our Condolences to Family and Friends.

Barbara Gloudon [OD](#), [OJ](#), [IOJ](#) (5 February 1935^[1] – 11 May 2022) was a Jamaican journalist, author, playwright and theatre chair. As well as having a distinguished career as a journalist, in which capacity she was honoured with two Seprod Awards from the Press Association of Jamaica and as an officer in the [Order of Distinction](#), Gloudon began working in 1969 as a scriptwriter for Jamaica's Little Theatre Movement (LTM)^[2] and also wrote radio drama. She hosted a radio talk show for thirty years and became chair of the LTM. Having received numerous awards and honours, Gloudon was granted the [Order of Jamaica](#) in 1992 and became a fellow of the [Institute of Jamaica](#) in 2012.

Source: Wikipedia

Mrs. Gloudon was our Guest Speaker at a former Jamaica Independence
Scholarship Celebration!

**LONG-TIME AND
DEDICATED
MEMBER OF THE
JAMAICAN
AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION**



Mrs. Joyce Allen

CONDOLENCES TO JOYCE'S FAMILY. WE MISS YOU, JOYCE!

In Memory of Mrs. Lilybell Fields



Dear Mom,

I am so blessed to call you mom, and I proudly celebrate the life you lived. I miss you terribly, and mourn your loss, but hold sweet memories in my heart. It is a testament to the mother you were, that although you lived for 92 years, I am left desiring more time with you. Throughout your life, you loved unconditionally, and gave unselfishly. You were many things to many people; to me, you were mother, role model, supporter, confidante, and friend. It gives me much comfort to know, that just as you were with me in my first moments on earth, even so I was privileged to be with you during your last days on earth. I loved you in life, and will love you in death. Mom, I look forward to seeing you again in glory, and thank God for eternal hope, in Christ Jesus.

Your Daughter, Joan



In Loving Memory of Dr. Moulton Poplin

*3rd President of the
Jamaican American Association of Central Florida*

And

*Highly Respected Professor of Mico Teacher's College,
Medgar Evers College, and Educator at Orange County
Public Schools.*



You Are Forever Loved In Our Hearts!

Millie and Paulette!



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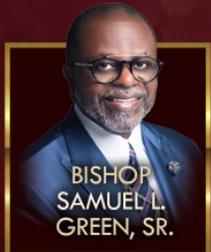


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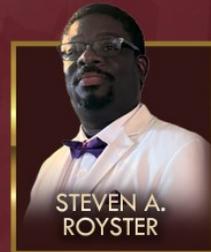
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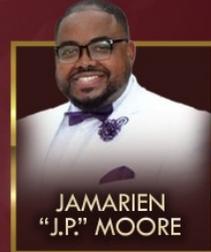
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