

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear UWI Alums and Friends:

Your UWIAA-FL Chapter is aspiring to be a dynamic body of inspirational leaders and a powerful force for change. We are working hard to transform the lives of UWI students, alumni and community, while advancing the tradition of excellence in education of the University of the West Indies.

In the first general meeting of 2017 held on February 11, members were united in the resolve to increase engagement and fellowship among alums from all UWI territories and age groups; support fundraising efforts to increase giving and financial support for scholarships and other UWI needs; and improve collaborative service and partnerships with organizations in Jamaica, other territories served by UWI and Florida. To this end all grads and friends are being called to get involved as follows:

- Pay your annual membership fee of \$30. The goal is 100 paid up members by the end of the year and we are at 15 at this time. While this is a small membership fee, you are encouraged to give generously.
- Purchase and encourage family, friends, and neighbors to attend the April 1 Simply Myrna Concert and/or seek sponsors.
- Keep up with the happenings of the organization and support other fundraising, social events and other events.
- Encourage alums from all age groups and UWI territories to become involved with UWIAA-FL initiatives.

I know that many of you share my pride in the institution that has created so many prominent scholars and leaders in all fields, many of whom are serving right here in South Florida. Congratulations to all of

all UWI grads who are making great contributions in our local community! UWIAA-FL chapter is depending on you to ensure that young people of the Caribbean become what only a great education can accomplish.



In February, I also travelled to New York City to attend the American Foundation of the University of the West Indies Gala. The gala was lovely and for me, apart from representing the chapter and interacting with UWI graduates and others who are committed to supporting our alma mater, I was reacquainted with Chancellor Sir George Alleyne whom I actually worked for him as his lab technician years ago. *In the picture above from left to right is Dr. Gerald White-Davis (President of the New York Chapter of the UWI Alumni Association, Dr. Carmen Nicholas (President of the Florida Chapter of the UWI Alumni Association) and Ms. Celia Francis Davidson, the director of UWI Alumni Relations*

Sincerely,

Carmen A. Nicholas, PhD
President, UWIAA-FL Chapter

*“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”
John Quincy Adams*

SIMPLY MYRNA 2017 CONCERT

The Partners for Youth Foundation
Presents
Simply Myrna

MYRNA HAGUE IN CONCERT
SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS

BRAZILIAN VOICES
ERNIE SMITH

Saturday, April 1st - 8:00 p.m.

Miramar Cultural Center
2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025

For Tickets & Information: Carmen Nicholas (954) 732-3821
Margaret Barrett (954) 536-6105
Tickets at Miramar Cultural Center box office or miramarculturalcenter.org

Benefiting the UWI Alumni Association Florida Chapter
Produced by Riddims Marketing and LDC Enterprises

The UWIAA-FL Chapter is pleased to support the April 1, 2017 *Simply Myrna Concert* as a portion of the proceeds will be used to provide scholarships and fund other projects at our beloved alma mater, the University of the West Indies.

For UWIAA Florida to benefit from this event, tickets must be ordered through the UWIAA. The prices are as follows:

- VIP (pre-concert reception with artistes and preferred seating): \$65
- Orchestra: \$45
- Balcony: \$40.

Talented, but needy UWI students are depending on you to support this event. Please plan to spend an elegant evening with friends and family. You may call Margaret (954-536-6105) or Carmen (954-732-3821) and we will be happy to reserve your tickets and make

sure that they are delivered. Members of UWIAA Executive and fundraising committee may also be calling you if we don't hear from you.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

The Executive Committee

RONALD & MIRIAM WHITE SCHOLARSHIP

In preparation for the awarding of the Ronald & Miriam White Annual Scholarship, the Florida Chapter of the UWI Alumni Association has decided on the following:

Objectives:

1. To honor the contribution of Miriam and Ronald White to the Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association
2. To assist with the financial needs of a student who is successfully transitioning through the University of the West Indies

Deadline & Number of Awards Annually:

July 31, XXXX: One (1)

Value of the Award: US\$1,000.00

Maximum Tenure: One (1) year

Eligibility:

1. Caribbean National;
2. Matriculated in the Faculty of Social Sciences;
3. Pursuing a 3-year undergraduate degree;
4. First time in-college student

Criteria:

 Award will be based on the following:

1. Sustained academic performance that is supported by an above average grade point average (GPA \geq B or \geq 3.0)
2. Financial needs (Preference will be given to students who have not secured other bursaries or scholarships that assist with tuition cost.

- Record of community involvement including more than membership in high school alumni association.

Method of Selection: Committee of evaluators from the Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association. Selection will be based on the criteria above.

How to Apply: On-line: The Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association: www.uwiaafl.info

Special Requirements: On-line application must be accompanied by

- A one-two page essay on the applicant’s educational and professional goals
- A certified copy of applicant’s birth and registration certificates
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (one character and the other academic)
- Most recent UWI transcript that indicates the student is in good standing
- The high school transcript along with CAPE and CXC results and letter of acceptance if the applicant is newly admitted.

- Help students and communities achieve their best, through its involvement in educational and social activities in the UWI service area and communities in Florida. As part of its core commitment UWI Alumni Association (Florida Chapter) is dedicated to fulfilling its mission through
 - The provision of scholarships
 - The provision of financial and other support to UWI to assist in the growth of academic and other priorities
 - The fostering of fellowship and ties to our alma mater through a variety of social, fundraising and other alumni sponsored activities
 - Open and continuous communication/dialogue with our stakeholders
 - Collaborative service and partnerships with organizations in the University of the West Indies service area and Florida

VISION STATEMENT: Our vision is to assist in transferring knowledge as well as transforming the lives of UWI students and members of the community as we seek to become responsible citizens in a challenging global village.

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**PROVIDING MORE FOCUS FOR
UWI – FLORIDA**

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**TWO US HONOURS FOR UWI VICE-
CHANCELLOR, SIR HILLARY BECKLES**

To improve the focus of the Chapter, to establish its brand, and make the chapter more visible in the community, the Florida Chapter of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association, is rewriting its mission and vision statements. These are presented below. These statements are not finalized and the executive board will be happy to receive your input.

On Tuesday 28th February, 2017, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, was honoured with the internationally prestigious Amistad Award from Central Connecticut State University. The presentation was made by President of the University,

MISSION STATEMENT: The University of the West Indies Alumni Association of Florida (UWIAA-FL) was founded in 1995. Its purpose is to

Dr. Zulma Toro, who spoke of the role played by Vice-Chancellor Beckles in international university leadership and in particular, public education in the Caribbean.

- Foster, maintain and support a mutually beneficial relationship between alumni of all UWI territories and cohorts and the University of the West Indies

The award states that: “The Amistad Award is conferred in recognition of his outstanding contributions to historical knowledge and the struggle for human rights and social justice”.

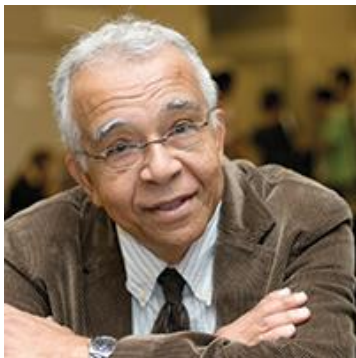
In 1839 the Slave Ship "Amistad" arrived in the USA with 53 Africans. With the help of anti-slavery activists, and the legal advocacy of former President of the USA, John Quincy Adams, the captives were able to litigate to gain their freedom. A Federal Judge in the state of Connecticut ruled that they were illegally brought to the country and had a right to rebel against their captors. The trial of the Amistad 53 became the most famous law case in American history. The State, and its university, mark this historic moment and honour the men and women aboard the Amistad for the tenacity and courage in gaining their freedom. Vice-Chancellor Beckles in accepting the award, thanked President Toro, and the Amistad Committee, for their collegial generosity and pledged his continued support for global civil rights and the quest for greater human dignity in the face of the corrosive challenges of everyday life.

Mayor of the City of Hartford in Connecticut, Luke Bronin also declared March 2nd, 2017 "Sir Hilary Beckles Day". The proclamation comes following a series of public engagements in the city by Vice-Chancellor Beckles. In reference to the honour, Mayor Bronin cited Vice-Chancellor Beckles' "global service in the cause of to social justice, peace, and sustainable development".

See more at: http://cavehill.uwi.edu/News-Events/News/?release_id=718#sthash.NWtM-IOs8.dpuf

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UWI, MONA HONOURS PROFESSOR DON ROBOTHAM



The University of the West Indies, Mona honored Jamaican anthropologist Professor Don Robotham, during the annual Homecoming Celebrations on February 12– 17, 2017 at Mona. The Homecoming Cele-

brations have traditionally been dedicated to an indi-

vidual who has excelled at the local, regional or international level, or who has made a significant contribution to the institution. Robotham is a distinguished member of the Class of 1967 which will celebrate its Golden Anniversary on the Mona Campus from September 20-24, 2017.

The annual Homecoming Celebrations provided an opportunity to celebrate the founding of the University and recognized its regional nature, while assisting to engender a greater sense of belonging and develop a feeling of camaraderie among staff, students and graduates. This year's Homecoming activities was staged with the theme *Re-Igniting the Pelican Flame*, as part of an effort to reinforce and strengthen a sense of pride about the Mona Campus among members of the UWI Community, and to identify and showcase achievements from individuals or groups who exemplify the UWI tradition of excellence.

The Mona Homecoming Celebrations begin on Sunday, February 12, with the annual *Commemoration Service* at the University Chapel. The *University Parade* of alumni, staff and students took place on Thursday, February 16, beginning at 3.00 p.m. from the Students' Union, and culminating at the Assembly Hall with the *Flag Raising ceremony*, which begins at 4.30 p.m. The ceremony included a Grand Showcase of Pelican Pride, during which high achievers and the 2017 Honouree was recognized as they participate in a 'walk of pride'.

The celebrations continued on Friday, February 17, with the *Caribbean Day Festival of Food and Culture*, featuring cuisine, displays and cultural performances, reflective of our diverse Caribbean culture. The Festival of Food and Culture started at 12:00 noon on the lawns behind the flagpole area, across from the Assembly Hall.

The day ended with the delivery of a public lecture by Professor Robotham, entitled "*Getting to the Root of our Crime Problem: University Research and Public Policy.*" The lecture was held at the Faculty of Law, Lecture Theatre 2.

Donald Robotham is a graduate of The University of the West Indies and obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1987. Since September 2008, he has served as executive officer of the Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity Programs (OE-ODP), a project that provides services to all graduate students enrolled at CUNY, but particularly those from underrepresented groups. Since May 2012, Robotham has also been serving as inaugural director of the Graduate Centre's Advanced Research Collaborative. In this capacity, he works directly with GC research centers, institutes, and interdisciplinary committees to "foster connections between the research activities of CUNY faculty at the colleges and GC research programs and seminars, and provide a home for outstanding visiting scholars, postdocs, and others to collaborate with faculty and students.

Prior to joining CUNY, Don Robotham served at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus as Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Work as well as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (1992-1996). While Dean, he managed the reform of the undergraduate degree resulting in the establishment of a new system of Majors and Minors. He also managed the increased enrolment in the Faculty, making it the largest in the University system.

Professor Robotham later went on to serve as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Pro Vice Chancellor, (1996- 2000) at The UWI, responsible for establishing the Graduate School and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

ON THE PASSING OF FAMED ECONOMIST AND FORMER LECTURER, SIR DWIGHT VENNER.



Sir Dwight Venner was the longest-serving governor of any central bank, monetary authority, or federal reserve, having served faithfully since 1989. He was an economist by training and was educated at the University of the West Indies, Mona, where he obtained

both the Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Economics.

Institution-building is a difficult task anywhere, but especially so in the Caribbean where institutions are often undermined by particular interests, or fall into desuetude for lack of commitment or funding, or both. Dwight Venner, who died in St Lucia on December 22, was an institution builder. He took the reins of a mere currency board and transformed it into a sub-regional central bank which took its rightful place alongside other central banks in the region. *(Terrence Farrell for Trinidad Express)*

It goes without saying that Sir Dwight was a pioneer and among the most respected men in our region and has served the Caribbean and the financial fraternity with distinction. He is a genius in his own right and is especially dear to us in Saint Lucia because of his role in the early development of our country following Independence. He was one of the key architects of government, intricately involved in our financial framework and the public service. Few men can claim to have had the impact that Sir Dwight has had and thankfully his legacy and ideas will live on in the great works that he has written. He was a visionary and an unparalleled genius of a man. *(The Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and Grenadines, the Honourable Allen Chastane)*

The legacy of Sir Dwight will serve as an inspiration to, not only leaders in the financial services sector but all leaders who are entrusted with the responsibility of fostering the growth and development of our small island states *(The Caribbean Association of Banks)*

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For information on events of Jamaican alumni associations in Florida, click [here](#).

Editors:
Sandra Schrouder, PhD
Rupert Rhodd, PhD

Please send comments to rqecon@hotmail.com