



AGE Notes

XLCR Alumni Association of FL Inc.

Issue No. 15

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Notes from the Editor

Happy New Year! Best wishes and blessings to the Alumni community and all our friends and family.

The face of the newsletter has been modified as the customary graduation cap that graced the title for the past 14 issues has been appropriately replaced with the XLCR logo.

Let's take some personal time to review the events of 2006 – our personal triumphs and challenges, our happy and sad moments...let's reflect, self assess, be honest with ourselves, and make the necessary adjustments to our lives that reduce stress and shape us into humble and gracious human beings.

We are constantly reminded of our vulnerability with the passing of loved ones that we spent our formative years with...building those memories that we oft draw upon to sustain us. The recent passing of Donald "Duck" Williams, avid basket ball player in the

70's at XLCR strikes close to home for a lot of us. We give up prayers especially to his wife and their two young sons as they face a new life without a husband and a father.

Our condolences to all who has recently suffered the loss of loved ones.

There is a lot to report on in this issue and I am burning to tell you all about the happenings since November - Highlights of the 75th anniversary Homecoming, the "wickedest XMAS Bashment" and lots more...

Nuff labrish fi tell yuh...

75th Anniversary Homecoming Report

What a blast! What a fun-filled week! What an experience! Alumni came from every where – Sweden, Canada, UK, USA...to re-kindle friendships, recreate pleasant memories and most of all to inspire and encourage a new generation of Excelsorians. The "Ohhs" and "Ahhs" could be heard throughout the week as faces were recognized and the words of Louise Bennett rung out in my mind...

Dis long time gal a neva see yuh, come mek mi hold yuh han'...

The planning committee must be commended as they pulled out all the stops and ensured the activities went smoothly. From the initial reception on Sunday evening to the yesteryear fete on Saturday, attendees were treated to a whirlwind of fun and enjoyment getting

little time in between events to rest.

The Sunday evening reception which kicked off the weeklong events gave attendees a first glimpse of the XLCR campus and an opportunity to reminisce and rekindle old friendships. Attendees spent time buying souvenirs, looking at old school magazines, enjoying the finger foods and just chatting and catching up on each others lives since leaving XLCR.

Monday was Retro day. We shared in the worship with the students and some students from the class of 1980 even performed a song for the students! Past students were transformed into teachers and public speakers. We were whisked off to classes to teach lessons in subjects such as Spanish, Math, Business, Social Studies and English. The students anxiously greeted us and seemed happy for a change from their regular teachers.

We had a breather on Tuesday probably well orchestrated by the planning committee so we could get ready for the Sports Extravaganza on Wednesday. Whew!

Mi still outa breath...

Past students meet present students...what a concept...what an age difference...what a challenge. There was netball, soccer, flat races,

hockey...I still feel tired just thinking about it. The winning was not important but the participation and the fun we had as spectators – jeering (I mean cheering) on our sistrens and brethrens. There was noticeable limping from some of the “athletes” for the rest of the week.

The banquet on Thursday was phenomenal. It was well attended. The presence of stalwart teachers such as Miss Morgan, Mr. Wong, Miss Whiteman, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Logue gave credence to the event. The Master and Mistress of Ceremony – Owen “Blacka” Ellis and Claudette Pious kept the audience tickled with their humor. The featured speaker Dr. Marcia Livingston kept the audience engaged and involved throughout her speech. The multiple awards that were presented highlighted the contributions of alumni families and individuals to the XLCR community.

The three active Alumni chapters were well represented. We especially salute our Alumni friends from Florida that shared and participated in the events.

Congratulations to the New York Chapter with their donation of J\$750K to be used in the building of the Science Lab!

With Friday being a rest day, we were able to get some rest, massages and

vitamins to revive ourselves.

Of course, I did not want to miss out on any event so the President of the Florida chapter – Corneld Lindo and I attended the Class of 1981, 25th Reunion Dinner Dance at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. It was a wonderful experience and I got such pleasure and joy to see classmates enjoy each others company, mire themselves in events long past, retell jokes and pranks that occurred during those good old school days and pay respect to special teachers. I am happy I was able to witness and share in the event.

And then the Manning Cup buzz was on ...Coach Halliman and his team had secured a place in the finals. This created an unplanned but well appreciated event in the already exciting week. What an excitement! The game was played in the National Stadium – our old stomping ground for Girls and Boys Champs and Manning Cup matches in the past... stirring memories of the old days of cheering, wearing the green and gold colours, eating shrimps, drinking “bag juice”, getting into arguments with opposing spectators and just having a nice time. Even though the XCLR team was defeated, in our hearts we had won as we had the opportunity to sit in the stadium and acknowledge that the tradition of cheering and camaraderie

had been passed on to the current generation. The spirit of XLCR lives on...

Mi still hoarse from di cheering...

After the game we had little time to prepare ourselves for the yesteryear fete at Peppers Night club. DJ Ivor Smith and his crew made it unnecessary for us to think about sitting as we were kept dancing under the stars all night long...

What a way to spend 7 glorious days!

Successful 2006 XMAS BASH in Florida

Our XMAS Bash on Saturday, December 16, 2006 was a winner.

Di party did wicked...

As the patrons left the XMAS Bash long after 4 am on Sunday morning, they all repeated the same sentiments...this was the best party, best music, best venue and we would be sure to see them at the 2007 XMAS Bash.

Thanks to everyone for the support especially to the other Alumni chapters in South Florida. We appreciate the sharing and the willingness to emphasize the FUN in FUNdrising.

Special thanks also to **Donald Chin Sue**, the Vice President of the New York chapter. Donald worked fervently and incessantly alongside the Florida chapter board members leaving little time for him to enjoy the party. Thanks Donald for being a part of our team!

The DJs Mark Swaby and Chappy kept us all in a state of euphoria. They kept the dance floor jammed throughout the entire night. When the lights went on at 4 am, the patrons did not want to leave and were begging for more. Groups of people congregated outside just chatting and trying to savor the moment...afraid for it to end.

The venue provided patrons with the opportunity to grab quiet moments on the patio by the lake away from the music and then when the sweet sounds beckoned, they re-joined the revelers in the intimate setting on the inside.

Our surprise guest was the Honorable Courtney Walsh – Hall of fame cricketer – fast bowler. Courtney worked the air waves for us, appearing on multiple radio stations for interviews as he helped us promote the event. Thanks to Courtney for taking time out of his busy Jamaica Tourist Board schedule as an ambassador at large to attend this event away from his home.

We had a surprise visit from the Honorable Minister Phillip Paulwell an alumnus of XLCR who also enjoyed the festivities.

Get ready for 2007. We have already started the planning for the 2007 XMAS Bash. Mark your calendars – the date will be Saturday, December 15, 2007 and we will be returning to the same venue – West Broward Hall. Listen out for details as we will be starting to distribute tickets earlier this year.

Florida Alumni donates \$3K for XLCR

After clearing expenses from the 2006 XMAS Bash, the Florida Alumni Association Board voted to earmark \$3K to support scholarships for students and purchase equipment for the girl's hockey team.

Debra Byfield represented the Florida Alumni Association at the Founder's Day event in Jamaica on January 19, 2007. Debra announced the Florida Hassle-Free Scholarships (FHFS) totaling US\$1,500.00 to be sponsored for the school year 2007 to 2008 and the US\$500.00 earmarked to assist the girl's hockey team with equipment. There will be 3 students selected for the FHFS on the basis of academics and economics. The students selected by the Association to receive the

3 FHFS will have attained high academic records and are from economically challenged families. The HFS will take care of every aspect of the student's school life – tuition, books, transportation, lunch money and uniforms. We expect that by addressing the total needs of the student, issues that impact learning such as absenteeism and nutritional needs will be reduced. These students will be tracked throughout the year by the Association. The girl's hockey team will be recipients of new hockey sticks. We have allocated US\$500.00 to spend in the purchase of the sticks.

Additionally, the Association responded to an appeal from a 2000 graduate of XLCR who is currently pursuing her Masters at a Florida University. The student needed assistance with tuition and after evaluating her circumstances, the board voted to contribute US\$1,000.00 towards her tuition.

Our accounting shows that since the Florida Chapter was revived in 2003, the Association has donated US\$11K to the XLCR community! Thanks to all our supporters.

One-Bathroom-at-a-time project continues...

Homecoming had a pang of disappointment for the Florida Alumni Board as the bathroom project was not completed as planned. However, we will not be deterred by delays but will forge forward and oversee the completion of the Project. No monies were allocated this year for the project as there is still a significant balance from our last donation in January 2006 of US\$3K which should complete the outstanding activities.

Since November, the 10th grade male bathroom now has the rotted wooden windows replaced by concrete slots and the open spots on the roof has been covered with sheets of zinc.

The 5th form block bathrooms for the female students and teachers remain outstanding as the roof is in disrepair, one tank in one of the toilets needs to be replaced, the shower needs to be refurbished and the entire bathroom needs a fresh coat of paint.

For the 8th and 9th grade female bathrooms there still remain 3 toilets to replace and the refurbishing of 1 face basin.

We will continue working with the Plant Manager, Mr. Collins as well as the

Principal, Mrs. Wilson until all bathrooms identified for this project are completed and all funds properly accounted for.

Re-establishing 6th Form at the High School

Plans are underway to re-establish the 6th form as part of the High School. More news to come on this in the next issue.

Mark Your Calendars...

- ✓ General meeting - Meet & Greet Session will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2007 from 3:30 pm to 8 pm at Marcia's Café
- ✓ 2007 XMAS BASH – Saturday, December 15, 2007 at West Broward Hall

CONTACT

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