



The Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida

11th ANNUAL

X-Mas Bash

2013



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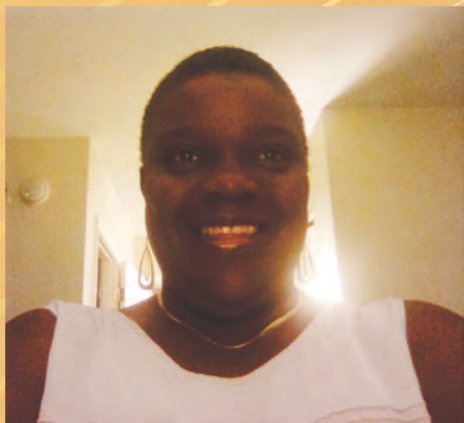
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Message from the President Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida

Althea Brown-Robinson



The Board of the Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida sends blessings to all our friends, supporters and fellow Alumni near and far. We are excited to host our 11th XMAS BASH which continues to be a staple and select event during the holiday season. This event is our only fundraiser each year and we have been fortunate that it yields funds that have allowed us to give away more than US\$50K to XLCR that has helped to refurbish bathrooms, fund scholarships, offer sponsorship to the Athletic program (DASH), remodel the Dance studio, celebrate with high performing Math students and offer general mentorship to students. In addition, we have not forgotten our South Florida local community and have supported the "Neighbors 4 Neighbor" and the Friends of Good Shepherd programs.

For 2013, the Association participated in the High School graduation ceremony. The key note address encouraged the graduates as they enter the alumni community to reach back and offer a helping hand to the school so we all can sustain and preserve the institution that nurtured us. Graduate, Brittney Morris, was presented with a Community Service Award from our Association, as her activities and involvement exemplified and demonstrated commitment to giving back and assisting others in the community.

Congratulations to all the Alumni Associations for all their efforts as I know it takes a lot of hard work and passion to keep the light burning for our alma maters. It gives me real pleasure to see the expression of pride from the representatives and applaud the support we offer to each other in our common quest to improve our respective high schools. The students of Jamaica are better for the work we all are doing. We have a lot of work to do and cannot do it alone. We must find ways to encourage recent grads to join these organizations and become active.

This is a call to all Excelsorians to think about the many ways you can contribute and give back to your school. We all have benefited from the work and sweat of others whether directly or indirectly. We all have something to give back and share. Each of us can make a difference. I am asking you all to join the Alumni Association... we have hundreds of Excelsorians in South Florida and surrounding States. Can you imagine if we each sacrificed \$10 each year? This is made easy by going to our website at www.xlcrflorida.com and signing up to be a member and make an annual donation of \$10 which is less than \$1 per month. It is tax deductible as we are a 501C organization. We urge you to sign on, we need your names and correct contact information. We want new ideas and new faces in our organization as we must keep the momentum of giving going. We cannot fail our current students. They are our future and we must ensure they get what they need to develop and be prepared to take the baton to carry on the legacy of a wonderful institution called XLCR. We will hold our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014 from 6 pm to 10 pm at the Kiwanis Center located at 3730 W. Oakland Park Blvd, Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311. Elections of new officers will be held and we all will get an opportunity to enjoy a meet and greet session. Please come out and participate, be ready to take on some of the leadership responsibilities so the organization can benefit from new ideas.

The day is breaking on 2014 as 2013 slips away into the sunset. Our task of finding funds to give back to our alma mater continues with fervor and zest...all because we see the benefits it yields to the XLCR students and community.

Thanks to our dedicated sponsors that continue to partner with us and give generously to this cause. We continue to seek and welcome other partners from our community. The last 3 years our organization has committed and will have contributed more than US\$8K to the DASH program by January 2014. We will be looking for other gaps at the School that we can support going forward. The need never stops and so we call on you all to renew your commitment...get involved...be engaged. Remember that we are our brother's keepers. Thanks to all our patrons. Let's party with a purpose. Sincere thanks for your support.
Age Animo!





Message from the Principal of Excelsior High School Deanroy Bromfield



Greetings

It is indeed a privilege for me to extend on behalf of the students and staff of Excelsior High School, greetings to you, the Florida Chapter of the Excelsior Alumni Association, on the occasion of this year's eleventh staging of what has now become an Excelsior institution, the annual Christmas Bash. It has indeed become a much anticipated event and we expect that this year's effort will result in tremendous success.

We are happy for this symbolic opportunity to indicate our support for this venture that has been ongoing for a decade.

We congratulate the team of persons who have been responsible for its success; not only in providing the opportunity for Excelsorians, their family and friends in the Florida area and perhaps even beyond to socialize, network and have great fun but also in terms of the funds that have been raised which are used to great effect in the continued development of Excelsior High School. In fact we are grateful to all the members of the Florida Chapter and anyone who supports them because as we often say, words cannot adequately express our appreciation for a group of persons who give so much of their time, effort, money and other resources to plan, execute and support initiatives and activities aimed to further develop this school. The refurbishment of the Dance Room is just the most recent of a long list of projects that you have undertaken.

Those of us who are presently at Excelsior can do no less than work to the very best of our abilities, to ensure that this school continues on a path of improvement and development so that you can be justifiably proud of its contemporary position and in so doing further the vision of our Founder, the Hon. A. Wesley Powell.

Once more we wish you all the best for the Xmas Bash and pray that this festive season will be a blessed and happy one.

Age Animo.

Deanroy Bromfield





Message from the President Of The Excelsior Alumni Association of New York



Season's greetings from the executive committee and members of the New York Chapter of the Excelsior Alumni Association, on the occasion of your 11th Annual Xmas Bash.

We would like to applaud your executive committee, members and supporters for your dedication, sacrifice, loyalty and commitment over the years to our alma mater Excelsior High School. Your continued effort in improving the students' school experience and lives through the various projects so that they can become better young ladies and young men, and assets to our country Jamaica.

We wish you continued success in all your Association's endeavors and look forward to the continued collaboration with the Florida Chapter and all the other stakeholders' initiatives to benefit our collective goal of enriching the lives of Excelsior students.

We would like to wish your executive committee, members, their family, and supporters, a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Age Animo!

Donald Chinshue
President
Excelsior Alumni Association – New York



Message from the President Of The Excelsior Alumni Association of Canada



Greetings from members of the Canadian chapter of the Excelsior School Alumni Association, on the occasion of your 11th Annual Xmas Bash.

Xmas Bash appears to have evolved to become more than a great fellowship and fundraising event for Excelsior past students. It now may be fully embedded in south Florida's cultural tradition for the Holiday Season, having reached well beyond the Excelsior family. We applaud this great achievement by your Association.

We are proud also of the impact that the South Florida Association has had on students at Excelsior by funnelling fundraising proceeds into meaningful projects at the School. We pray for continued success in this mission.

Congratulations on your significant ongoing contribution to secondary education in Jamaica and best wishes for another memorable Xmas Bash fundraising event this year.

Age animo

Hurb Jackson Kumaasi
President, Excelsior School Alumni Association (Ontario)





**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE
CONSUL GENERAL OF JAMAICA – MIAMI**

Fellow Jamaicans,

It is a well-known fact that Christmas has a special meaning for Jamaicans, both at home and abroad. It is a time for celebration, sharing, good food, and renewing bonds of friendship and community. Wherever in the world we find ourselves, Jamaicans enjoy the Season in our own unique way, with the usual church services, parties, seasonal culinary delights and spending time with loved ones.

This will be my first Christmas in the capacity as Consul General, and I use this opportunity to thank you for the support and encouragement that has been shown to me and the staff of the Consulate-General since I assumed the position in October.

I am sure that we could agree that 2013 was an eventful year for Jamaica. We had our fair share of triumphs and positive developments, accompanied by several persistent challenges that often appeared to be insurmountable. Despite these challenges, Jamaicans continue to demonstrate their resilience in the face of adversity. That we can still hold pride of place globally, especially in sports and entertainment, attests to the natural talent, skill and ability of our people.

Looking ahead to 2014, Jamaicans overseas will continue to play a great role in the development of our beloved homeland – some through private events and others through the more formal structure of the Diaspora Movement. Whether through private philanthropic activities, support for education, health, the arts, or commercial/business activities, I express, on behalf of the Government of Jamaica, sincere appreciation for your unfailing support over the years and we look forward to your positive engagement in the future.

As we prepare to celebrate this Season, let us be thankful for the blessings that we have received even as we may be faced with our own challenges. Let us remember the spirit of the Season and extend a helping hand to those who are less fortunate than us. The positive impact of your actions may not be readily evident to you, but your act of kindness will be appreciated and may help to change a life.

Best wishes from the Consulate-General for a joyful holiday Season filled with peace, love, goodwill and cheer and a prosperous New Year!

Franz N. Hall
Consul General of Jamaica to
Florida, the Southern United States,
The Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands



Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida, Inc.

P.O. Box 970313

Coconut Creek, Florida 33097

www.jaasf.info

Message from the Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida



Heartiest congratulations to Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida on the completion of another successful year of activities. Rounding off the year as you usually do with your signature event, the XMAS BASH certainly adds the “icing” on the cake of activities for which you must be proud. Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of this glorious milestone. By asking us to write this congratulatory note, you have given us the opportunity to not only thank the members of Excelsior Alumni Association for the support given to the Coalition, but also



to highlight your accomplishments and praise the association for its philanthropic efforts in this community and in Jamaica.

The history of Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida is one of vision and hard work, and what you have achieved in your years of existence in Florida speaks volumes of the lessons and the values that were instilled while you attended that magnificent institution. Like your founder, the Honorable A. Wesley Powell, O.J., (remember he started the journey with 5 children on a verandah), even when the future seemed uncertain in the early years of the organization, the drive and determination to serve kept you going and today you have a great success story to tell. You should be proud of what you have accomplished through your continuous effort to produce citizens of the world, promote continuous learning, and develop communities in Jamaica and Florida. We applaud your effort as you continue to give back to your alma mater and the communities in Florida even when the economic conditions are unfavorable.

The activities of alumni associations are often referred to as “journeys to change the lives of students”. For the Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida, many lives have been changed to make this world a better place. By your action you are proving that the sound education you obtained in your years at Excelsior-EXED not only gave you the academic tools to survive in the world today, it also helped you to build character, gave you a sense of purpose, and made you aware of the mission to help change lives.

We encourage you to continue to live by the lesson learned from your alma mater’s motto, *Age Animo – “Do it with thy might”*, as it will continue to increase your ability to make a positive impact in Jamaica and Florida. Also remember, success happens when you’re bold, when you never stop dreaming, and when you trust yourself to make your dreams come true. We pray that the soaring eagle with open wings and with eyes towards the sun in your alma mater’s crest will always inspire you to excel.

The Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations expresses its sincere appreciation to Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida for its support over the years, and salutes you on this special occasion, your 2013 XMAS BASH Celebration of another successful year. Best wishes for the future as you follow your dream.

Rupert Rhodd PhD & Sandra Schrouder PhD (Co-Chairs)

Excelsior High School Track & Field Program

Excelsior High School, located in Kingston, Jamaica has had a long and glorious history in local Track and Field. We Produced Jamaica's first Olympic gold medalist, Arthur Wint, as well as 400 meter medalist, Gregory Haughton (Sydney 2000). Excelsior was also the first co-ed school to win Boys Champs and the first to win both Boys & Girls Champs; one of only two to date to accomplish this feat. Unfortunately from atop the heap in both boys' and girls' track and field some years ago, the program had been on virtual life support until 2010; being beset by waning interest, lack of resources, and a general apathy towards the once vibrant discipline at the school. This resulted in Excelsior being unable to gain even a single point at Boys Champs for seven years, prior to 2010. The girls were just marginally better, with one athlete gaining a few points in intermittent years.

To arrest this situation the then new school administration, in 2009 invited a group of former Excelsior athletes to develop and implement an athletic program with the objective of reviving the sport at XLCR and once again place the school among the elites in Jamaican track and field.

DASH Athletics, the organization of the former athletes, located both in Jamaica and New York developed and implemented a three-tiered program of academics, athletics, and personal development, at the school. They have been able to attract support for this program from many Excelsior Alumni, both individuals as well as Alumni Associations in New York, Florida, and Jamaica.

Working with the school's administration, the DASH managed program has resulted in tremendous improvements over the past three seasons in the sport at Excelsior. Champs 2013 saw Excelsior finishing in the

mid-teens at Champs (both Boys & Girls). The Boys placed 14th out of over 114 participating schools, while the girls were 17th out of 104 schools. Also with DASH's input the annual Wesley Powell T&F Meet has been revived and last year was held on a totally refurbished 9 lane 400 meter grass track, the only one of its kind in Jamaica.

Excelsior returned to the Penn Relays for the first time in 15 years. The school also had two National Junior representatives this year, Shanice Love, the Carifta under 17 Discus Champion and Philippe Barnett who represented Jamaica at the Central American and Caribbean Age Group Championships. Jonah Morgan also won the Junior Championship in the 400 meter hurdles. Additionally 2 of our athletes Rayon Black and Candice Higgins have been offered T&F scholarships to US Division 1 Universities.

For the new season, Coach Riley is still at the helm and added 2 new coaches - Michael Russell (formerly of KC) in charge of sprints & Patrick Johnson (formerly of Edith Dalton James High) in charge of middle distances. The new thrust is to develop track and field in the Excelsior Community, i.e. both the high school & college. Consequently both the high school and the college have agreed to collaborate in this new vision and in so doing, share resources.

The successes achieved to date could not have been possible without the assistance and contributions of numerous persons and organizations. Of particular note are the Alumni Association of Florida, NY and Jamaica, and the teams apparel sponsor, 361 Degrees.



Message from the Excelsior High School Past Students Association



Christmas is the occasion to extend the message of love, sincerity and care. Christmas is an only time when people get together and enjoy the season of good cheers. In doing so we are at all times to remember the less fortunate among us. As Christmas began in the heart of God Let us complete that love by extending our hearts to others.

The Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida is ensuring that those less fortunate are not forgotten as you again host your Annual X'Mas Bash 2013. As you reach out to each other during the festivities, do extend the message of love, sincerity and care to others around thereby bringing warmth to their hearts during this blessed season.

We the Excelsior High School Past Students Association wish you all a Christmas full of love and happiness and a new year full of chances and satisfactions as we continue the journey together to the benefit of our Alma Mata, Excelsior High School the institution that we all love dearly.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2014.

Anthony D. Nelson
President



Message from St. Hugh's

St. Hugh's Alumnae Association of Florida, Inc. (SHAAFL) is pleased to share numerous special moments with our extended family from Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida and we are committed to strengthening our strategic alliances for mutually beneficial gain. The swans will join you again this year at your Xmas Bashment to shake our tail feathers!

We take this opportunity to wish for you and your beloved the very best for the season. May you always have enough, energy to enjoy and the best luck in 2014. Abundant Blessings! As one of your famous alumna, Ms. Lou, would say it: All de bess fe de season to yu and yu boonoonoos! May yu belly always full, yu step lively an ongle good duppy falla yu inna 2014! Nuff, nuff bless up!

Fidelitas!
Dr. Sharon M. Smith
President 2013/14, SHAAFL
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floridaswan@hotmail.com

Excelsior Alumni of South Florida





2013 XLCR High School Graduation Ceremony (excerpt from key note address)

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20 verse 35). I will share the rule that I use when assessing my ability to give. I refer to it as PASS.

P for Passion – evaluate your inner drive - the craving to care, the ability to empathize and the drive to offer kindness.

A for Access – keep your contributions of time or kind within your reach, executing within your own parameters and being careful not to over-extend.

S for Select - identify where and how you want to help, making sure you feel comfortable with yourself.

S for Support – Do not try to take on an initiative all by yourself...seek help from others that share similar sentiments. My point here is not to make giving back a Chore but instead use good judgment and make it energize you. Do it because you want to and can.

The act of Giving is a serious commitment. It is an attitude that needs to be cultivated and continuously mulched and watered. It



is a consciousness and concern for the welfare of our fellow citizens. Giving is a personification of how we treat each other. Giving is an effort. Giving is real work. Giving is sharing. Giving is a learned behavior. Giving is Love. Giving energizes. My characterization of Giving is not meant to deter or scare you but to awaken your understanding of what it entails.

I encourage you to embrace the words of Philippians 2 verse 4 to keep us grounded in the reason for helping our fellow citizens... Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Remember that Giving is always Deserving!





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Annual General Meeting

Thursday

January 16, 2014

from 6 pm to 10 pm

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Dr Taylor and his staff congratulates Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida on their 11th annual Xmas Bash to benefit students of Excelsior High School. We are proud to lend our support.



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Congratulates

SELBOURNE GOODE, M.D.

2013 Award recipient and former Excelsior Physics Teacher, educator and caregiver;

recognizes our classmates

MARCIA P. LIVINGSTON, ED.D.

for achieving the status of a Top Educator in the State of Oklahoma,

NOVLETTE FELLOWS-RICKETTS

for her release of five singles on the music charts and,

CARLTON HARRIS, P.E.

2013 Doubles Champion, USTA Long Island NY Region (over 40, 3.0 Level)

and salutes

the Class of 1980's half centenarians.

May we continue to move from strength to strength in our support and encouragement of future generations of Excelsiorians.



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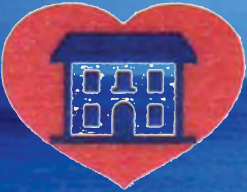
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