

# **The Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida**

## *12th Annual X-Mas Bash*



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## Excelsior Alumni of South Florida

Message from the President Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida  
Althea Brown-Robinson



The board of Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida welcomes our patrons all across the world to our 12th annual XMAS BASH. This event heralds the Christmas holidays and gets us all in the mood to greet the festive season. It is our marquee fundraiser and has become a permanent event on the calendars of our alumni, friends and family. The board has been preparing all year for this event and we are very excited to get the party started. Our XMAS BASH continues to be a success due to the generosity of our many sponsors that embrace our cause and show steadfast support through cash and kind. The media has helped us to spread the word about the event and we are grateful for the exposure provided by 1170 WAVS, 880 AM, Hot 105 FM and the National weekly.

This year we are pleased to endow our Community Service award on Joy Thomas. Joy is an Excelsorian and an avid supporter of the South Florida Alumni and Caribbean community. Joy is the International Market Manager for Grace Kennedy and has skillfully used her position to contribute via sponsorships to many charities and events. Joy exemplifies the attributes of the award which seeks persons that consistently serve their communities. Our association has been a recipient of Joy's generosity for more than 12 years.

The Excelsior community continues to be at the forefront of our minds as we work fervently to raise funds to meet the many gaps that exist. For 2014, we have contributed up to US\$4K to the Excelsior community. We have launched a lunch program called Student Lunch Initiative Program (SLIP) which will provide daily lunch for students that are economically challenged. We believe that good nutrition promotes better learning and want these kids to enjoy at least one good meal daily. We continue to focus on the dance studio and have donated funds to secure a more state of the art music system. Sports continue to be important and the DASH program received funds to help defray expenses for their trip to Penn relays as well as the upcoming Wesley Powell track meet. The girls' soccer team will receive funds to defray the cost of their uniforms. Locally, we have made a commitment to donate funds to the CASA organization for the next 3 years. We continue to support the events of the other Alumni chapters as we all have the same goal.

The board continues to search for alumni in our community to serve and actively participate in the leadership of our Association. We have hosted 3 Meet and Greet events this year in an effort to reach our fellow alums. We have re-designed our website and it can be referenced at [www.xlcrflorida.org](http://www.xlcrflorida.org). We ask for patience as we complete our updates. Please note that the membership and donate features are enabled so go ahead and register.

On behalf of the board, I thank all our supporters and ask that as we dance to the sweet sounds of DJ Mark Swaby and enjoy the delicious foods and drinks, we are conscious that we are contributing to a good cause. We are helping the less fortunate...we are ensuring that the infrastructure of our alma mater remains intact to serve future generations...we are facilitating the learning of the students. Let's embrace the Excelsior culture to always reach higher.

Age Animo!



## **Excelsior Alumni of South Florida**

### **Message from the Principal of Excelsior High School Deanroy Bromfield**

#### **Message to the Excelsior Alumni Association, Florida Chapter (Xmas Bash)**



I am happy and privileged to be extending greetings on behalf of the students and staff of Excelsior High School to you, the Florida Chapter of the Excelsior Alumni Association, on this occasion of the twelfth staging of your annual Xmas Bash. This event has certainly become a signature event for Excelsorians, their family and friends. We pray and anticipate that this year's staging will be the most successful than one yet and pay tribute to your members who have worked so hard each year to produce this magnificent event.

At Excelsior we understand that while the Xmas Bash provides an opportunity for fun and social interaction, its fundamental objective is to raise funds in order to facilitate service to others. It is easy to understand this because the school has benefitted so much because of your generosity. In fact the extent to which members of your group have given back and continue to give back to the school is quite remarkable. You continue to inspire us and we feel that the very least we can do is make every effort to further develop this great institution, this legacy of Dr. the Hon. A. Wesley Powell so you may be proud of not only what has already been achieved but of present and future successes.

As Excelsorians, their families and their friends gather from far and wide to enjoy what I am sure will be a fun filled and memorable evening, we who are here wish them all the very best and pray that all will experience a blessed and happy Christmas. We continue to wish too for the members of the Florida Chapter, Excelsior Alumni Association, God's richest blessings and hope that all their individual and collective objectives will be realized in the upcoming year.

Age Animo.

Deanroy Bromfield



## Excelsior Alumni of South Florida

### Message from the President of the Excelsior Alumni Association of New York



As the holiday season approaches all thoughts are on Florida for the Annual Xmas Bash. Coming together to enjoy the warmth, comradery and reminisce the good times of our high school days. The renewal of old acquaintances and friends, some that were forgotten but will be renewed.

In this time of celebration and giving, let not forget our alma mater that is in need of help and assistance. With our help we can mold the next generation of Excelsiorian to attain their greatest potential and improving the students' experience at Excelsior High School through the projects that we participate in.

On behalf of the executive committee and members of the Excelsior Alumni Association of New York, on the occasion of your 12th Annual Xmas Bash 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 Excelsior High School Past Students Association



Increasingly, and certainly over the last decade, the extreme economic conditions in Jamaica have highlighted the need for stakeholders and particular alumni groups to be more relevant and supportive if schools are to be successful in this challenging environment. The current International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement has greatly curtailed the Government of Jamaica's ability to provide the requisite support to schools. Excelsior is no different and the Excelsior School Alumni Association (Florida) Chapter continues to rise to the task of responding in many different ways in the achievement of the school's objectives.

As you celebrate your 12th Xmas Bash in support to our alma mater, the Excelsior Past Students Association would like to congratulate you and commend you for your tremendous, tireless and unselfish efforts in helping our school to return to its primer status in Jamaica. This is evident as there are growing requests for transfers at all grades levels, especially Grade 7, and increasing demand for our 6th Form programme indicates that we are a school again in demand. Our CAPE and CSEC passes have improved and our young generation of students are again excelling in the academics, cultural and sports arena.

We recognize that this would not have been possible without our united efforts in lending support in many different ways to our school. Together we must continue to increase our partnerships and to broaden our contributions to our school in more creative and innovative ways.

Continue the good work and the greatest of success from us to you. A peaceful and blessed Christmas and Prosperity for 2015.

Age Animo

Lt Cdr Anthony D NELSON, JP, MSc, BSc (Hons)  
President  
Excelsior Past Students Association  
President



## Excelsior Alumni of South Florida



### MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAMAICA IN MIAMI ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXCELSIOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA INC 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISING XMAS BASH



There is nothing like a Christmas in Jamaica - we fondly recall the white washed tree trunks, feverish cleaning of the house, sorrel drying in the sun, the fruits soaking for the pudding, attending Church, visiting with family and sharing the typical holiday fare.

As we relive the traditions of the Season, let us not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas – it is a time of renewal, hope, gratitude, sharing and generosity. Let us also remember the less fortunate, the vulnerable and the marginalized persons in our communities during the festive Season.

In keeping with the spirit of gratitude inspired by the Season, I commend the Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida, Inc, for its continued support of the growth and development of the students and infrastructure of your alma mater. Through your efforts, you continue to honour the legacy of the institution, while also maintaining relationships that have been borne from a common experience of attending Excelsior High School.

On behalf of the Consulate General of Jamaica, I wish for you and your families, a Merry Christmas and prosperity and good health during this holiday Season and throughout the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Franz Hall".

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**Excelsior Alumni of South Florida**

# *Community Service Award*

**JOY THOMAS**

**Grace Foods (USA)**

**Market Manager, South East USA Region**



The board of the Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida has selected Joy Thomas as the recipient of our Community Service Award. The Community Service Award recognizes alumni from the Excelsior community as well as others who has given outstanding and continuous service to their communities. Joy is an Excelsior High School alum and her extensive and sustained service and commitment to the South Florida and Caribbean communities meets our Community Service Award criterion.

With an extensive, progressive sales experience spanning four decades, Joy Thomas has built a reputation in the Sales Industry, for being steadfast, resolute and committed.

Throughout her seventeen years tenure with Grace Kennedy, Joy has helped to leverage sales partnerships and secure the Brand loyalty of customers in the region she serves as the International Market Manager for Grace Kennedy Foods (USA). In this capacity, Joy has increased Sales year over year phenomenally.

Joy holds a degree in Institutional Management from the University of Technology, Jamaica. She holds Certificates in Computer Studies, Effective Sales Presentations and Public Speaking.

Always passionate and committed to the service of others, Joy volunteers at the Broward Outreach Homeless Program on a monthly basis and is also a Board Member of the Jamaica USA Chamber of Commerce. Joy is very liberal in her contributions to the South Florida community especially the various Alumni Associations, and has effectively used her platform at Grace to give back. For many years, our Alumni Association have received charitable donations in the form of cash and grace products which have had a large impact in defraying the cost of our fundraising events. We applaud and recognize Joy's spirit of giving back.

Congratulations to Joy on all her achievements and thanks for her continued support to especially the South Florida alumni community.





## Excelsior Alumni of South Florida

### Message from Excelsior School Alumni Association (Toronto)

Merry Christmas to the Excelsior alumni family in warm Florida!

In the spirit of continuing to serve our beloved alma mater, we salute the pioneering work of the Florida Chapter.

It has been another successful year for the Excelsior School Alumni Association (Toronto). We held our two major fund-raisers as customary: Firstly, our dance that kicks off the exciting summer party scene in June which saw just under 200 friends and family keeping the dance floor of Delta Toronto hotel shiny as we "dropped foot" Age style until the wee hours of the morning. Secondly, and most recently our annual "Laaf N Nyam" brunch held the first Sunday each December was again a huge success. At Laaf N Nyam we had the pleasure of hosting Miss Peanie to the delight of past students in the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza hotel!

The fun and camaraderie aside, our greatest accomplishment is the growing of our Breakfast Program this year and the reports from 137 Mountain View that this program continues to be a popular and well needed addition to life at Excelsior High!

As we wrap up another calendar year, we wish the Florida Chapter good health and lots of joy – we are proud of our association with your membership and as we approach 2015 in service to Excelsior – Age Animo!

Norman Nelson  
President,  
ESAA (Toronto)



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**Congratulations Joy Thomas**



**W**e send our heartiest congratulations to Joy Thomas, Market Manager – Southern USA Region, Grace Foods USA, who was among a group of 25 women honoured at a celebratory lunch hosted by Miami's 'Legacy' Magazine. The women were given due recognition by the South Florida magazine for their leadership, excellence in their chosen field and contribution to their community.



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