

Notes from the Alumni Society Meeting  
held  
Wednesday, November 7, 2012  
In the  
Conference Room, Harry C. Moore Library & Information Center

In attendance were: Chairman Marcus, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Wence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Tamischa, Treasurer Jana, Grand Bahama Chair Veronica, Directors: Andrea and Larissa

Late: Immediate Past Chair Troy

Apologies: Director John

Absent: Directors Tomas and Dario

Guests: Davinia Blair X98 (representing John), Shawn Christie, Violet Perpall '90, Kordero Storr, Shanyse Inniss '97, Nolan A. Johnson '09, Alden Gibson and Dominic Kikivarkaris, The Honorable Gregory Moss

**1. Call to Order:**

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and invited the board members as well as guest to introduce themselves. Following the introductions, the Chairman briefly outlined the goals for the 2012-2013 year which includes:

- Alumni Reclamation & Alumni Register
- Calendar of Events – to be made available to everyone. Must ensure that this includes both College events and the Alumni Society events
- Fundraising & Friendraising goals – must set realistic targets
- Becoming active in the transition of COB to UOB by meeting with the University Transition Secretariat to find out their plans and the role alums can play.
- Internal Committees – focus particularly on reestablishing the Hall of Fame to make it a self-run event that can continue to grow bigger and better every year.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes From Previous Meeting:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman Wence moved that the minutes be accepted as read via email. This was seconded by Grand Bahama Chair Veronica

**3. Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Marcus noted that he was officially invited to attend Council Meeting scheduled for November 14, 2012. He further stated that he is meeting with the Council Secretary later in the week. As this will be his first meeting, the Chairman remarked that he would like to present something tangible to the Council; this will include the goals and the executive team bios in brief.

Davinia Blair recommended that the Chairman finds out from the Council how open they are with reviewing changes to the legislation. She suggested that a special team be formed to review the current College Act and to come back with recommendations.

Wence noted that he sent an email requesting meeting location and time so he may attend the UTS group meetings that is tasked with reviewing of this legislation. Director Andrea answered that she is a part of the committee and that they meet Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. but she is unable to confirm a venue.

**4. College Council Report:**

Deferred to next meeting

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Director Jana reported that she received a statement which stated that the current balance on the account was \$1,551.25. This amount includes the \$300 deposited for membership less deductions for service fee (\$10) and cheque clearing (\$.50).

Immediate Past President Troy was a bit concerned that the balance was a bit high in light of the fact that two cheques in the amount of \$500 and \$800 for the Keva M. Bethel Memorial and the Science lab Workstation respectively should have been cleared. It was noted that the \$500 was cleared however, the \$800 was not. Jana also noted that from the \$300 deposited, \$150 of it has to go to the library for library fees associated with the alumni card.

Following Jana's report, a discussion ensued on the Alumni Card and its benefits. Kendra reported on behalf of John that the Admission's Office card machine was still not working. Davinia noted that the AR&D Office just needs a prototype of what the Society would like for the card to look like and the Office will do it's best to find a way for it to be produced. She commented further that the library must have found an alternative means for producing the cards and that we will look into it.

Another suggestion for the card was to identify and list alumni businesses on the back of the card. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair recommended that a form be designed and sent to various places to solicit business names and discount information. Guest Violet Perpall noted that it would be good if as part of the benefits, access to the library, gym and other preferred discounts that students would get could be included. ChapterOne Bookstore was also suggested; however Davinia cautioned the group that this option may not be viable. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair will follow-up on the recommendations and provide update at the next meeting.

The Chairman will address the benefits of the card i.e. Library, Wellness Center etc. with relevant persons.

## 6. Committee Reports:

### *Public Relations & Marketing Committee:*

Director Larissa reported that for the Mix & Mingle they will look at using all free advertisements including Bahamaslocal.com, Nassau and Bahamas Newsweekly and she will look into getting a radio show to do a live liner. Director Veronica noted if Larissa would send a blurb to her she would do a live liner during her show. For the post event, she suggested that photos and maybe a write-up be submitted to the Punch and other newspapers. It was also recommended that we explore the option of Cross Marketing by getting another business to promote their business at our event. Larissa also proposed that the society explore other avenues for general public relations through sponsorship. She suggested that with big events instead of money for sponsor, we offer service. An example given was Marathon Bahamas. The society will still receive recognition (free advertisement) as a result of working the event.

Director Veronica who works on the Marathon Bahamas committee noted that she will accept our participation. She commented that they need volunteers to work the water stops on the Sunday. She further stated that Mother Pratt is her guest this week on her show Our Time on 96.9 fm.

Contributing to the discussion, Hon. Gregory Moss suggested that a good way to get advertisement is to allow different businesses to advertise the event under their name and to allow each business 5 minutes to give a sales pitch at the actual event.

### *Fundraising Committee:*

**Uniforms** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Tamischa announced that she contacted the Uniform Experts with regards to obtaining shirts that the executives could wear as uniforms to be visible at events. The design for the shirt is free once the shirt is purchased from them. She commented further that the board must decide on a style and color and suggested taking on inventory for resale; as polo shirts are cheapest. The idea of providing hoodies to sell was also presented however; Tamischa noted that she would not wish for us to compete with ChapterOne Bookstore. She will email the group with an invoice of the different types of shirts and design. Each committee member will have 3 shirts.

Davinia suggested the use of the Alumni Society logo on the shirts as this will increase visibility and may raise some funds. A few individuals express concern over taking on inventory for resale for fear of having a bunch of stock on hand. It was suggested that it may be best to get preorders. Hon. Gregory Moss proposed that he will sponsor the shirts once he can place his company's logo somewhere on the shirt. A recommendation was made from the floor that the society try and have the shirts around graduation weekend to sell or to have the cost of the shirts included as part of the graduation package. A discussion ensued about whether to include the price win the graduation cost v.s. selling the shirts via table at the graduation meetings.

**Class Rings** – Tamischa reported that she also contacted Jostens to see if the Society could offer this as a service, however, she does not see how this could be done due to Josten’s individual process. There are hundreds of rings and styles which you review and choose from. Director Andrea suggested that we advise the alumni community that class rings are available should they wish to purchase.

*Family Island Committee:*

Director Veronica announced that she plans to visit Grand Bahama by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December. She would like to talk with John about contacting persons in Grand Bahama. She extended her invitation once again to those that expressed in the last meeting their intent to join her. She will circulate 2 propose travel dates shortly.

*Alumni reclamation/Membership Committee:*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Wence reported on the meetings he represented the Society on including: The Dr. Keva M. Bethel, Memorial Committee where he presented them with the \$500 cheque as part proceeds received from the Golf Skills Tournament. He indicated that due to the time of the meeting (10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays), he is unable to sit on that committee and invited others to volunteer. His second representation was at the Donor Reception. He noted that it was well organized and he was able to build a good relationship with a number of persons. He extended thanks to the Alumni Relations & Development Office. The third representation was at the International Cultural Festival. He noted that it was a good event and that they were able to build a small database. Furthermore, he stated that being there was beneficial in the long run because you meet persons that you normally wouldn’t meet.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair also revealed that he created a group Linked In page and invited the chair of the PR Committee to manage that paged. He indicated that he has already received responses from person in the Turks & Caicos, Canada, the United Kingdom and others. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair encouraged everyone to join the Alumni Facebook page. Davinia noted that Wence could utilize the email addresses the office has obtained to invite persons to join the Society’s Linked-In page. For the purposes of our guest, Wence noted that the goal of acclamation is to find lost alumni.

Honorable Moss suggestion for finding lost alumni was to have persons repost information relating to the lost alum on their Facebook pages.

A conversation ensued about the proposed alumni directory. Paid members will be listed in the directory. Davinia recommended providing a free few days of advertisement as a draw to be able to sell ads.

Wence spoke about the contributions of the late Dr. Kendal Stubbs and suggested that the Society pays a tribute by either purchasing a wreath, sending flowers to his family or attend the service. A recommendation was to take out a condolence ad. It was noted that the society should write a statement in a story form to be placed in the newspaper. Immediate Past Chair Troy indicated that a tribute could be placed in the next issue of the magazine. He informed that group about the position that is available on the Alumni Magazine Editorial Board and suggests that someone be identified to fill the post.

Honorable Moss encouraged the Society to create a 'soap box'. He stated that the country needs to have dialogue on issues which would assist in driving policies that are made. There needs to be a think tank and this society could help in developing and being that think tank. The democracy of the country needs to be deepened.

Larissa noted that she hopes to establish a home coming committee with the hopes that the event can be held in March. She would like to meet with the Office of Communications to determine which weekend is best and would also like to have a representative from Faculty and Students. Davinia recommended that Larissa chat with the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Eslyn Jones and find out how far they are with planning home coming and what the society can do to assist.

#### *Events Committee:*

Director Andrea verbally provided the listing of the UTS Committees, namely, Academic Plan, Research, Operations & Staffing, Legislative, Character & Core Values. The UTS is headed by Dr. Olivia Saunders.

Andrea also expressed her views that there should be some value added to events. She would like for the society to move away from mix and mingle to more networking. She further noted that there needs to be a look at the kind of events held and ways to make it more attractive. Some of her suggestions included: themed round table discussion with a small fee attached to it and the Golf Skills and Golf Tournaments.

The Chairman noted that we need to finalize the calendar, print it and bring it to each meeting. He commented that the calendar needs to be set in preparation for meeting.

The upcoming events include:

The Mix & Mingle – Friday, November 16, 2012 – The British Colonial Hilton's Bullion Bar, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Unfortunately, due to Phonathon being held the same night, John and Kendra are unable to make it. Davinia informed the group that another team member from the Alumni Relations & Development Office will be there to assist. The Chairman encouraged everyone to bring between 3-5 persons.

Holiday Concert – Thursday, November 22, 2012 – The Performance Art Center, College of The Bahamas. Persons are needed for the registration table. The Chair noted that he will be in attendance. Guest Noland Johnson also indicated that he is willing to assist at the Holiday Concert and 1<sup>st</sup> VC Wence noted tentatively.

Hall of Fame:

It was noted the committee was supposed to meet to plan this event. However that did not happen. Wence stated that he sent an email to Dario but did not get a response. Wence and Veronica will join Dario on the Hall of Fame Committee. It is expected that a report should be made by the next meeting.

## **7. Other Business:**

College Campaign:

Davinia noted that the College's Campaign is expected to start next year and that they are looking to convene a volunteer board that could assist the college with its fundraising efforts. She noted that the executive board would be a great start. She explained further what is required of the volunteers; each volunteer to submit minimum 5 names of persons that can be approached for a certain large gift. She will provide additional details as the Campaign approaches.

Exam Stress Reliever:

Kendra informed the group of the stress reliever event that the previous board did for the students as they prepared for exam. It was decided to defer this item until next year.

WTO Symposium:

Davinia noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wanted to see if the Society would be interested in partnering with them on a WTO Symposium. The event is to be recorded and aired at a different time. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will pay for the cost. Some of the speakers to include: Mr. D'Aguliar, Minister Ryan Pinder, Jaime Lewis. They would like for the Society to have a table there. Date for the event is December 6. Only 120 persons can be accommodated so the plan is to market it to alumni first. Registration will be conducted via the COB Website. Davinia will send out an official email.

Gambling Town Hall Meeting:

There is an upcoming Town Hall Meeting on gambling in which they would like participation from students of the MBA programme and an alumni society presence. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Tamischa will represent the Society in this regard. The Nassau Guardian to pay for press coverage. Davinia noted that she will try to get the society involved in as many events as possible to get

exposure. It was recommended that we try to get media presence at events or that we write our press release and send it to the regular papers.

**8. Adjournment:**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** With there being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.