



Ole Farmers' Grapevine

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America, Inc.**
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Visit us at
www.olefarmers.com

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2018 - 2020**

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Jennifer Petgrave (VP - North East)
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Wendell Codner (Public Relations Officer)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



NORMA JARRETT
President

nig9130@netscape.net

My Fellow Ole Farmers and Friends of OFANA, the Holiday Season is here, it is a time to reflect on the wonderful blessings we have received throughout the year. On behalf of the OFANA Executive, please accept our very best wishes to you, and your families as you celebrate the Birthday and Gift of His Son and all the Blessings He has bestowed upon you.

Since its inception 2007, OFANA has achieved many significant and noteworthy accomplishments. I am honored and excited to report some of the remarkable milestones OFANA accomplished this past year:

January 27th and 28th 2018, members of the executive and other members travelled from North America to Jamaica, to celebrate the 108th Anniversary of the founding of our Alma Mater with the students and faculty. The alumni, enjoyed great comradery and demonstrated true "school spirit" and support of the Alma Mater. We witnessed the initial phase of the construction of our OFANA Plant Tissue Culture Lab in progress. Deserving students who met the criteria established by Chairperson Dr. Norma Dawkins and the Scholarship Committee, were awarded OFANA Scholarships. To date we have awarded 40 scholarships with a cumulative value of US \$41,500.00.

March 2018, OFANA participated in the UJAA / OFANA Mega Raffle, there was great participation from our members throughout all regions. I thank all VPs, and coordinators who assisted with the process and each of you that purchased and or sold

tickets. The UJAA / OFANA Mega Raffle is one of our major fundraiser that helps to provide scholarships. In a few weeks your Vice President will be soliciting your help to sell and purchase tickets for the 2019 UJAA / OFANA Mega Raffle; please do lend your support so we can continue to provide scholarship opportunities to these deserving students at CASE. Thank you for your anticipated assistance, excellent prizes await all. Stay Tuned.

March 2018, OFANA Participated in the Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force Conference, our Assistant Secretary Jurist Taylor represented OFANA at this Forum.

May 27, 2018, a US \$40,000.00 check was presented to President Deslandes and the faculty representatives in attendance at OFANA's 12th Annual General Meeting hosted by the talented, hardworking Ole Farmers in the Florida Region. The cumulative donation for the construction of the OFANA Plant Tissue Culture Lab at CASE stands at US \$100,000.00; we still have an outstanding US \$20,000.00 to fulfill our promise and for completion of this "game changing lab." Special guests in attendance included Hon Minister of Education, Ruel Reid; (Guest Speaker); Hon. Robert Montague, Ole Farmer and Minister of Transportation and Mining; Dr. Fritz Pinnock, President of the Maritime University, Chairman of the Board Major George Kates (Ole Farmer) and other Board Members Sadler & McLean; and President of CASE Dr. Deslandes and Mrs. Grace Mc Lean Jamaica's Chief Education Officer. Distinctions as Honorary Ole Farmer were bestowed on Minister Reid and our own Mrs. Dudley Wilson our revered Kitchen Staff member and "Mother" to those attending the JSA.

At the AGM Gala Dinner, OFANA celebrated the rich heritage of one of the member colleges, the Jamaica School of Agriculture (JSA), and 4 of its numerous outstanding graduates. Collectively the Baxter Brothers: Samuel (1963); Stanley (1972); Lawford (1974); and posthumously, Hezron (1981); the only known siblings of four (4) brothers, to have graduated the college were honored. OFANA President Norma Jarrett, congratulated the brothers' unique accomplishment graduating from the same Agriculture College, and for their professional and personal achievement as well as their genuine passion to give back to their communities and to

OFANA. Hezron's wife accepted the posthumous award on behalf of her late husband. The Baxter brothers were truly appreciative of the honor and conveyed their thanks and some memorable experiences of life on the JSA Campus.

OFANA members elected new Executive Members in May 2018; Norma Jarrett the outgoing President was re-elected as National President. The elected executive members completing the slate, included: Renford Williams, Treasurer; Dr. Terrence Johnson, Assistant Treasurer; Peterson Warburton, Secretary; Jurist Taylor, Assistant Secretary; Wendell Codner, Public Relations Officer. Region VPs: Atlanta – Donna Bredwood; Canada – Audrey Spence; Florida – Doreen Danvers, and Northeast - Jennifer Petgrave.

Atlanta VP, Ms. Dona Bredwood and her hard working Atlanta Team represented OFANA at the Atlanta Jamaica Association Black History Month Celebration, where they made a presentation showcasing our Alumni's Rich Heritage; and highlighted the work of our own Dr. T P Lecky. The Region is currently planning a Spring Fundraiser and do hope you will lend your support to Dona & her team.

Canada VP Audrey Spence and her dedicated Canadian Team are busy planning their Valentine Fundraiser, save the date will follow soon and do anticipate your support.

September 22, 2018, VP Doreen Danvers, and the hardworking Florida Team treated all in attendance to a memorable affair. The Fall Ball was a great success - a wonderful Elegance with a Purpose Ball. The team's commitment and support for OFANA was evident as they executed a well-planned Affair following their successful hosting of our AGM. Great job all, and sincere thanks. We look forward to revisiting Florida, and to experience your usual hospitality next September.

December 8, 2018 VP Jennifer Petgrave and the hardworking North East Ole Farmers will be hosting the Annual Holiday Fundraiser, where we will honor Ms. Lesleyann Samuel UJAA President and Friend of OFANA. Last year the region honored TJ Johnson & Stanley Baxter for their stellar contribution to the region at this very festive event. The event gets bigger and better every year,

great job Ole Farmers. All are invited to attend the upcoming Holiday Dinner Dance, contribution for this event is \$90.00 and tickets are still available for this exciting event at the Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa. Music is provided by DJ Roy from Road International. Christmas really starts here!

The North East Team, is currently engaged in the final preparations for their 10th Annual Fundraiser in December, as well as our 13th Annual General Meeting to be held Memorial Weekend 2019, in Stamford Connecticut.

Members of the executive are currently working with the President on our OFANA 5 Year Strategic Plan. One of the core pillar is the recruitment and retention of members; priority is set to engage and retain our younger COA & CASE Alumni to ensure the great work OFANA is doing will be sustained. Please seek to invite young graduates in your circle to join us. We are also looking for volunteers to help us draft this strategic document - a great time for these younger graduates to help shape the future of OFANA. Please contact me if you would like to lend your talent or feel free to contact team facilitator Wendell Codner or team members TJ Johnson, Renford Williams, or Peterson Warburton with your expressed interest.

November 16, to 18, 2018 OFANA participated in the Jamaica Diaspora Leadership Conference in Morrow Georgia.

Here leaders from US organizations lending skills and resources to our Island Home, convened and strategized to ensure collaboration to position Jamaicans in the Diaspora become a force to reckon with and to facilitate a better life for all.

Ole Farmers & Friends, thank you for your contributions to this noble organization. We are young but we have made significant impact on agriculture education and our Jamaican agriculture and financial arena.

I urge your continued support for OFANA and the many projects we undertake. We are still in dire need for Funding for the Plant Tissue Culture Lab and Scholarships. Please do consider making a Christmas Gift to your Alumni Association.

Special thanks to our Editor Peterson Warburton for another wonderful Grapevine edition.

Have a Safe, Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year.

God Bless You, America, Canada and Jamaica, Land We Love!

With Respect & Gratitude.

OUR WEB-SITE

Any Ole Farmer may submit articles or items of breaking news either directly or via email to info@olefarmers.com.

Members in good standing may log in to the secure "members" only portal for access to financial information and photographs of recent events.

Anyone can make a donation by clicking on the PayPal "Donate button". Try it today and save your receipt:



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to alumni of:

- College of Agriculture, Science and Education (1995 to present)
- College of Agriculture (1981 – 1995)
- Jamaica School of Agriculture (1942 – 1981)
- Government Farm School (1910 – 1942)

Please remember to bring your OFANA Membership up to date. Together as Ole Farmers, we are making a difference in the lives of our people.

Membership Dues are set at \$100.00 per person per year; that's less than \$2.00 per week to become a paid-up member.

Not yet a member? Download an application form now using the link below:

<http://www.olefarmers.com/forms/>

OLE FARMERS CAN DO ANYTHING

OFANA salutes the Following:

Ole Farmer **Rita PHILLIPS-DYER (Class of '76)**, a St. Lucian National, has been **awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM)** for long and meritorious service in the field of Education and the Development of Women & Youth in St. Lucia.



Having graduated from the Jamaica School of Agriculture in 1976, Ole Farmer PHILLIPS-DYER, the spouse of Ole Farmer Eugene 'Bishop' DYER (Class of '75), returned to her native St. Lucia where she blazed a trail as an Educator. She began her career as a Family and Consumer Science Teacher at the secondary level before advancing to Senior Lecturer at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. She has also given many years of devoted service as Assistant Chief Examiner for CXC examinations, Moderator for CSEC examinations in Food and Nutrition and as an Assessor in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Unit of the Ministry of Education. She is the co-author of the CSEC Home Economics Examinations Text Book " Food and Nutrition"

Ole Farmer PHILLIPS-DYER 's sterling contributions transcended the field of education and saw her giving several decades of altruistic social services to the at-risk youths and vulnerable members of the St. Lucian female population. Her social services contribution included, but was not limited to:

- Administrator of the Court Diversion Program for at risk Youths,

- Nutritionist and Life Skills Educator for Troubled Youths at Risk, Consultant in the JAPEC-USAID Youth Entrepreneurship Program,
- Volunteer Teacher at the Centre for Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education
- Currently a consultant with the St. Lucia Social Development Fund's (SSDF) Program of Roving Caregivers for Income Generating Agro-processing Activities for vulnerable women

Ole Farmer **Pamela 'GT' RODNEY-WHITE (Class of '71)** on her recent installation as the Lieutenant Governor of Division 23 of the Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District of Kiwanis International for the 2018 - 2019 Administrative year. In her position as Lt. Governor for Division 23; Ole Farmer RODNEY-WHITE will have administrative oversight of all Kiwanis Clubs in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Catherine.



Ole Farmer RODNEY-WHITE, a former lecturer in the Department of Household Science at the Jamaica School of Agriculture in the mid to late 1970's, was a member of the pioneering batch of female students who entered the JSA in August 1968; thereby ending the 58 year history of the school as an all male institution.

Ole Farmers, our wish for you is success without boundaries in all your future endeavors.

OFANA SCHOLARSHIPS

Students attending C.A.S.E. are hereby invited to apply for 2019-2020 OFANA Scholarships. Visit www.olefarmers.com to download an application form.

OFANA supporting the enlightenment of education in pursuit of agricultural excellence

C.A.S.E. ZONE

Founders' Weekend 2019 will be held at the College Campus over the period **January 25-27, 2019** to celebrate the 109th Anniversary of the founding of the Government Farm School, which officially opened on January 25, 1910. The occasion, under the permanent theme "**Celebrating our legacy-Creating Visions of Excellence**"; will continue to recognize the tremendous roles played by the founding fathers of the institution:

- **Sir Sydney Olivier**
- **Rt. Rev. Enos Nuttall**
- **Mr. Herbert Cousins**

in the establishment of our noble Alma Mater. The primary objective of the event continues to be, inculcating within the current student population, an appreciation of the tremendous legacy of which they are the beneficiaries and to intellectually stimulate and inspirationally motivate them towards the pursuit of excellence in their current and future endeavors.

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What do you have for breakfast?



Consider some delectable breadfruit porridge; developed at C.A.S.E.

DID YOU KNOW?

See what else is happening on Campus - <http://www.case.edu.jm/html/>

facebook

OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABROAD

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

Nelson Mandela

Visit the link below to discover more opportunities that might be waiting just for you:

<http://scholarship-positions.com/>

SAVE THE DATE

RED & WHITE AFFAIR



OFANA Canada will host a Valentine Red & White Affair on February 16, 2019. Details to follow.

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GEORGIA SPRING AFFAIR



OFANA Georgia will host their inaugural Spring Affair on April 20, 2019. Entertainment to include the amazing Karen Smith in Cabaret.

More details soon.

EVENT REVIEWS

BIGGEST FALL BALL EVER

Saturday, September 22, 2018 saw Florida hosting their largest Fall Ball ever at Club 19, Pembroke Lakes Country Club, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026.





- **1st Prize** – 3 day / 2 night Cruise to Grand Bahama - #4967 – **Barrington BERLIN** (sold by Peterson WARBURTON)
- **2nd Prize** – 49” Flat Screen Color Television - #2329 – **Daniel TENNANT** (sold by Vanetta LESLIE-JAMES)
- **3rd Prize** – Dinner for two (2) at a Five Star Restaurant - #3221 – **V. BYFIELD** (sold by Renford WILLIAMS)

Consolation Prizes:

- Gift Basket - #3113 – **Glen YAN** (sold by Renford WILLIAMS)
- Gift Basket - #3818 – **Durland MIGHTON** (sold by Catherine REID)
- Gift Basket - #0153 – **Joseph GREEN** (sold by Catherine REID)



**CLASS OF '77
STAND UP**

Mid-December 2017 made it ‘forty years out-a-grass’ for the Class of '77. Members of that Class are encouraged to mark that milestone by **pledging \$40.00 towards completing the Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory at C.A.S.E.**

If you are a member of the Class of '77 and have not yet made your \$40.00 contribution, it's never too late.

Graduates of preceding Classes please feel free to pitch in!

Remember;

- Without Government Farm School there might not have been a Jamaica School of Agriculture
- Without the Jamaica School of Agriculture there might not have been a College of Agriculture
- Without the College of Agriculture there might not be a College of Agriculture Science and Education today



Thanks for your outstanding support. A good time was had by all. The event netted over \$8.0 K

Please find the results of our raffle drawing below:

BACK A YAAD

Knockalva Agricultural School Now A Polytechnic College



The Knockalva Agricultural School is now a polytechnic college, providing greater access to tertiary education for persons in western Jamaica. Minister of Education, Youth and Information Ruel Reid noted that the re-branded institution, located in Hanover, will bring tertiary studies to the doorsteps of residents of the parish in addition to St James and Westmoreland.

"We cannot have all our colleges and universities in Kingston and St Andrew. We don't have enough space, and more so, education and training systems are changing so rapidly that even in your living room, you can access certain programmes. So we have to bring education and training as close to our people as possible," said Reid.

He was speaking at a ceremony to officially launch the 2018-2019 school year and mark the new Knockalva Polytechnic College on Thursday on the grounds of the institution in Ramble.

MOU SIGNING

The ceremony included the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Knockalva and several institutions - Caribbean Maritime University; the College of Agriculture, Science and Education; the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts; The Mico University College; and the G.C. Foster College of Physical Education and Sport - for the provision of tertiary qualifications.

Earlier this year, the education minister said that the institution "fits very neatly in our K (kindergarten) to 18 strategy".

PLEDGE CARD

OFANA

OLE FARMERS ASSOCIATION NORTH AMERICA



Yes! I want to give my support to OFANA and the Plant Tissue Culture Lab project with my tax-deductible gift or pledge in the amount of _____.

Enclosed is my check payable to OFANA

Enclosed is cash in amount of \$ _____.

Enclosed is a Money Order in amount of \$ _____.

Paypal payment will be made at www.olefarmers.com (Select "Donate").

Please bill my balance _____ Monthly _____ Quarterly

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____
Zip	_____
Email	_____
Cell phone	_____
Work phone	_____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 541073, Lake Worth, FL 33454-1073

This is an opportunity to cement your legacy in the pursuit of excellence in Agriculture, by our people.

Class of '78 stand by!

"It is now viewed as a post-secondary [institution], and it needs to be reclassified and upgraded to become a full polytechnic as we have done with the Trench Town Polytechnic. That will attract tertiary-level programmes so that the students can achieve better certification and be better aligned to industry," he further pointed out.

The official launch of the school year was held under the theme 'Ramp It Up or Fix it Up; K to 13 ... An Inclusive Education System'.

Reid lauded the collaboration between the ministries of transport and mining and labour and social security to implement the rural bus system in 12 parishes.

The bus system is intended to provide affordable transportation for students and improve school attendance in rural areas.

The Gleaner

September 8, 2018

For the latest News from Home follow these links:

- <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/>
- <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/>
- <http://rjr94fm.com/live.php>
- <http://www.televisionjamaica.com/>
- <http://www.cvmtv.com/>

For Sports from just about anywhere, try the free download below:

- <http://download.bringmesports.com/index.jhtml?spu=true&partner=YLxdm003&pkw=live%20cricket%20live&theme=cricket&clid=CKP3zvDU88MCFUIR7AodH3gA2w>

WELLNESS CHECK / HEALTH ALERT

FIGHT BACK

It's Flu Season again; shot or no shot these '**Superfoods**' will help to boost your immune system:

1. **GARLIC** - Garlic not only gives your meal some extra flavor, it is also one of the best foods for a strong immune system. Studies have shown that regular consumption of garlic extract can have a positive effect on blood pressure and high cholesterol levels.

Plus, garlic is full of antioxidants, which strengthen your body's natural defenses.⁽¹⁾ That makes it worth putting up with the bad breath, doesn't it?



2. **GINGER** - The spicy, aromatic ginger root is used to add some kick to drinks, teas, soups, and Asian dishes, and it's also a real superfood. Ginger reduces inflammation and relieves pain.⁽²⁾ Plus, it also helps reduce nausea.⁽³⁾

Tip: Eat some ginger after having a meal with a lot of garlic – it helps get rid of garlic breath!



3. **GOJI BERRIES** - Goji berries or wolfberries contain vitamin C, B vitamins, essential fatty acids, amino acids, plus minerals and trace elements. Mix them into your breakfast smoothie or sprinkle a handful of goji berries over your muesli for that extra boost to your immune system.



4. **CHIA SEEDS** - Chia seeds originally come from Mexico, where they were regularly used by the Aztecs and Mayas. Nowadays, they have found their way into our cooking. There are lots of reasons to eat chia seeds: they are rich in omega-3 fatty acids (4) (100 g contain as much as 1kg of salmon) and they provide twice as much vegetable protein as other seeds.

In liquid, chia seeds can expand to 10 times their original size within minutes, which is why they are often used to make pudding. But they also taste great sprinkled over salad or mixed in yogurt.



5. **MATCHA** - Matcha is ground green tea and popular as more than just a coffee substitute. The high content of free radical scavengers (5), vitamins, minerals, and trace elements make matcha a powerful way to fight a cold or flu. The most popular way to serve the powder is in the form of a matcha latte. The green powder is also a great addition to baked goods.

Good to know:

When you buy matcha powder, make sure that it is free of sugar and additives. Of course, organic quality would be even better. The best way to store it is packaged in the refrigerator.



6. **KALE** - This common winter vegetable is a regular ingredient in superfood dishes. The high antioxidant (6) content strengthens your immune system and protects your body from diseases like Alzheimer's and arteriosclerosis. You can add raw kale to your salad, prepare a healthy snack of kale leaf chips or mix it together with apple, kiwi, avocado, and ginger to make a green smoothie.



7. **BLUEBERRIES** - Another superfood is blueberries. They are loaded with vitamin C and potassium as well as other important vitamins. Be sure to eat them during cold season – in smoothies, baked oatmeal, or just as a snack. These purplish berries are anti-inflammatory vitamin bombs that protect against disease. The flavonoids they contain give them their color.



Learn more:

<https://www.runtastic.com/blog/en/>

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Members at large would like to know the whereabouts of the following Ole Farmers:

- **Cleveland CLARKE (Class of '79)**
- **Aston REID (Class of '77)**
- **Anita WILLIAMS (Class of '79)**
- **Harris YOUNG (Class of '77)**

Anyone in possession of any form of contact information for the aforementioned is encouraged to submit said information to info@olefarmers.com

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

OFANA mourns the fading of **Ole Farmer Edgar GENTLES (Class of '51)** on Sunday, November 25, 2018 in Florida.



Ole Farmer Edgar Gentles gave decades of unstinting service as Demonstrator at the JSA and the wider Jamaican Agricultural Sector. He furthered his studies at Cornell University and went on to pursue an outstanding academic career culminating in Professorship at Downstate Medical Centre, Brooklyn, NY.

The **service of thanksgiving** for Ole Farmer GENTLES will be held at **Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church, 2801 N. University Dr, Hollywood, FL 33024, on Saturday, December 08, 2018 commencing at 11:00 am.**

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Ole Farmer **Dudley Bernard 'DB' IRVING (Class of '57)** faded on Monday, October 22, 2018 after a long illness.

Ole Farmer IRVING gave several decades of dedicated service to the Jamaican Agricultural in the Ministry of Agriculture where he rose through the ranks to become Director of Production and Extension services and later was Principal Director for Policy and Planning. After retirement he continued to offer his devoted and altruistic service as General Manager of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC)

The **service of thanksgiving** for the life and work of Ole Farmer IRVING was held at the **St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church in Kingston on November 24, 2018.**

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Ole Farmer **Derrick 'Goat Man' VERMONT (Class of '58)** faded on September 19, 2018.



Ole Farmer VERMONT was the consummate livestock practitioner. He gave several decades of unstinting service to the Jamaican Agricultural Sector as an Artificial Insemination Technician in the Research and Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, where he eventually retired. Subsequent to his retirement Ole Farmer VERMONT continued to serve:

- The Jamaica Agricultural Society as Judge in the Champion Farmer and livestock competitions at Denbigh
- The small Ruminants Association of Jamaica; which he was instrumental in founding and nurturing
- The Jamaica 4H Clubs
- As Chairman of the St. Andrew Parish Advisory Committee

The service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the legendary and inimitable Ole Farmer VERMONT was held at the Bethel Baptist Church, in Kingston on October 29, 2018. Interment followed at the Mamby Park Baptist Church in Kingston.



You all will be sorely missed:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWm1NbF1Ik&feature=related>

YOUR PRAYER CAN CHANGE THINGS!

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

When you pray, remember:

Ole Farmer **Marie-Therese BEAUPIERRE-SIMMS (Class of '82)** who is critically ill in hospital in Houston, TX. Ole Farmer Marie-Therese is the spouse of Ole Farmer Leroy 'Pixie' SIMMS (Class '81). **Marie-Therese** has been diagnosed as having suffered an aneurysm and the prognosis is very grave.

After graduating from the Jamaica School of Agriculture, Ole Farmer BEAUPIERRE-SIMMS furthered her studies at:

- Prairie View A&M University
- Texas Southern University

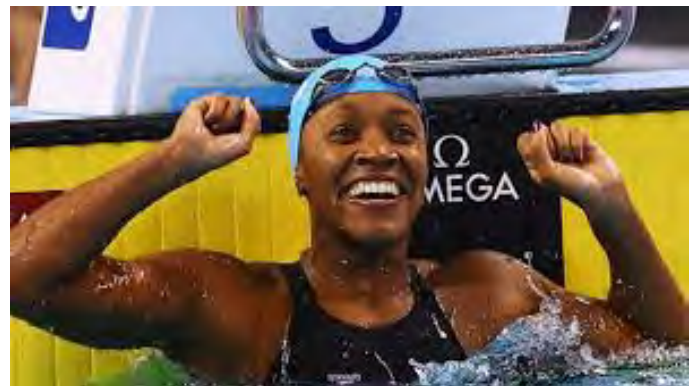
She is currently a Professor of Biology at the Houston Community College.

ACROSS THE DIASPORA

Oops; she did it again!

On Saturday, October 06, 2018, Jamaica's **Alia ATKINSON** posted the second world record of what was a scintillating final session at the FINA World Cup in Budapest, Hungary **lowering her previous mark of 28.64 down to 28.56** to win the women's 50 breaststroke.

Atkinson had [broken the 2009 mark](#) of **Jessica Hardy** (28.80) at the Tokyo stop of the World Cup circuit in 2016 and now owns eight swims under 29 seconds; a feat only done 14 times in history.



Relive the moment:

<https://youtu.be/gESkugTg770>

Fittingly, on Monday, October 15, 2018 in recognition of her outstanding representation of

Jamaica in the field of swimming and being the first black woman to win a World Championship Title, Ms. ATKINSON was conferred with the **Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD)**; Jamaica's sixth highest honor.

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More Connecticut immigrants born in Jamaica than any other nation

While that may appear surprising, given the growing presence of Latinos, the count of 2010 data by the Pew Research Center's Fact Tank counts countries of birth, not ethnicity.



And Jamaicans outrank any other country. "Most of us moved here since the '80s. ... Connecticut is more a family place," said Gregory Martin, 35, who has owned the Caribbean Connection take-out for nine years. "You can raise your family here.

"Connecticut people are nicer in a lot of ways." Martin was grilling jerk chicken on an enormous coal-fired grill, with smoke pouring into the street outside his store at 370 Whalley Ave.

As to why he didn't move to a warmer state, Martin said "more disasters happen" down South.

A friend, Nicholas McDonald, 38, who was visiting with his 12-week-old daughter Isaballa, has been in New Haven since 1993.

"I love it here. This is America, the greatest country in the world," he said. "You're here to grow ... to take the opportunities."

McDonald said he's been working in food service at Southern Connecticut State University for 20

years. A relative, Garfield Pilliner, was named New Haven's teacher of the year.

For recreation, he runs track and plays field hockey in New York.

In Connecticut, there are "a lot of trees, a lot of greens; it's more like the islands in that sense, unless you're from Kingston, where it's more like New York City."

Believe it or not, McDonald — who is in fact from Kingston — likes Connecticut because "I like the season change. I don't like the cold, but I like the season change. It's different."

It's not that there are a lot of Jamaicans in Connecticut compared with other groups; it's just that Connecticut has a really diverse immigrant population.

In fact, Jamaicans hold the edge with 36,000, "next was about 30,000 Indians, then Poland with about 28,500; Mexico was actually fourth with about 24,700," said Jens Krogstad of the Pew Center.

"The reason Jamaicans are No. 1 in Connecticut is in part because there are very few immigrants in Connecticut to begin with," Krogstad said.

But Connecticut happens to have a really diverse immigrant population, though there are not that many of any one group, Krogstad said. While Jamaicans comprise the largest contingent, immigrants are only 8 percent of the population, whereas California is composed of about 27 percent migrants. Most of the Jamaicans in New Haven came to join family, almost all those interviewed said.

Jamaicans may not hold on to their No. 1 ranking for long. The largest group "could definitely change in a relatively short period of time," Krogstad said. In 2000, for example, Poles and Mexicans were the largest groups.

New Haven isn't the center of Jamaican culture in Connecticut. Krogstad said there are 5,347 in the New Haven-Milford metro area, 10,355 from Bridgeport down to Norwalk and 17,874 in Greater Hartford.

At Island Spice, 459 Winthrop Ave., a customer who wouldn't give his name said, "I know for a fact Hartford is loaded up with Jamaicans." In those cities, there are many Jamaican or West Indian restaurants and reggae clubs. But there is a definite

reggae beat to the Elm City, along with the food of the islands. Nadine Tracy, owner of Island Spice, says she serves up all kinds of Jamaican food: jerk chicken and goat, meat patties, oxtail. A native of Clarendon, she's been in the United States almost three years. "I like the quietness," she said. "The less hustle and bustle." She too arrived because of family. "My father was here. There's more opportunity here."

NEW HAVEN REGISTER
Saturday, May 31, 2014

View more about our people:

<http://www.jamaicdiaspora.org/news/about-us/>

NOW THAT'S FUNNY

Law & Order

Last Friday was my first time in Traffic Court. At around 11:30 am folks were getting hot and bothered. I heard the Judge say, "Order!"

I, by then feeling 'peckish' shouted, "Oxtail with rice and peas and carrot juice"

Two Police Officers promptly escorted me from the Courtroom; silly me thought we were heading to a restaurant.

Didn't make bail 'till Monday!

INSPIRATION



"Cooperation and conflict are two sides of the same coin; both arise out of man's relationship with his fellows. The larger the group; the greater the possibility of development through cooperation and the greater the possibility of conflict".

Julius K. Nyerere