

SEMPER FLAGRANS!

Newsletter of the Glenmuir High School Past Students' Association

Editor's Note

It is now official! As of 30th September 2017, the Glenmuir High School Past Students' Association (GHSPSA) in Jamaica is back on form. The General Meeting held on that date produced a new Executive Committee, replacing the former informal Task-Force (TF) arrangement, and ratified its Constitution. The TF will still continue to work very closely with the newly elected executive, providing support on key projects going forward. This issue of FLAGRANS provides highlights of the General Meeting.

FLAGRANS also expresses deepest appreciation to the Task-Force, so ably led by Dr. Omar Davies, and to all the members, who gave of their time, talent, resources and energy to sustain a vision of helping our alma mater. The TF was largely successful in meeting its objectives, but as with all living things, it expects to grow and develop, so now we are on to another phase in the life of the alumni organisation.

We thank you our schoolmates, for your invaluable assistance over the period, and invite you to remain with us on this part of the journey and to give your full support. FLAGRANS will continue to provide you with updates on the activities of the GHSPSA, in all its expressions and in the various chapters. Feel free to share information, comments, stories and ideas with us at glenmuiralumnija@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Ambassador Sheila Sealy Monteith

Meet our new executives!

L-R:
Lavern Kitson - Secretary
Saundra Bailey - President
Prince Myers - Treasurer
Prudence Simpson - VP
Renee Mair - PR Officer



this issue

Editor's Note	1	Spotlight—New York PSA	4
Excerpts from New President	2	Glenmuir at 60	5
Task Force Report	3	Spotlight on our Alumni	7
South Florida Dinner-Dance	4	Highlights of the Constitution	8
Highlights—School Achievements	4	Photo Gallery	9

Excerpts of Remarks by the New President of the GHSPSA



Mrs. Saundra Bailey (Boreland)

Fellow Alumni, I sincerely thank the Glenmuir High School Past Students Association for the confidence expressed in me by electing me President. I thank you and I thank God and pledge my commitment to serve you as together we strengthen the capacity of Glenmuir to always fulfill its motto: "Flagrans Veritatis Studio" ("Burning with the Zeal for Truth").

Please allow me at the outset to pay tribute to Dr Omar Davies, a distinguished Alumni who has in every respect kept the Glenmuir flag flying high and has supported the school at all levels, promoting and leading many initiatives. In particular, I wish to thank him for the leadership he has given to all of us on the task force over the past four years. I believe it is fair to say that where we are today, with the resurgence of many past students coming on board and lending support have been inspired by the work of this outstanding son of Glenmuir High School.

This weekend the South Florida Chapter is hosting a series of events in support of Glenmuir. I wish to also pay tribute to them, to other Chapters and the many Year Groups that regularly provide support in cash and kind to our Alma Mater.

I interpret my mandate as President in 4 ways:

1 To ensure that our association continues to function as a space that provides a growing network to support the Glenmuir teaching and learning environment, so that the tradition of excellence will always be maintained. This means we will seek to mobilize and facilitate our alumni locally and overseas to give of their time, talent and treasure in support of the school.

2 I think we all want to exemplify and promote all that is good and great about the Glenmuir heritage. We have a good school, even a great school but we want to make it the best school, the school of choice not just for students but for teachers. There are many things that we are doing and can do, but however we support the school, it should be sustainable and reflect the Glenmuir culture and tradition in the pursuit of truth and excellence. I see our role not only as doers but as ambassadors and a source of enrichment and enhancement of the Glenmuir experience.

*Delivered on Assumption of
Office on 30/09/10*

3 Through the Association, past students can build and strengthen fellowship and friendship. When our visions are aligned, it makes it that much easier for us to be connected and to be a support for each other.

4 Alumni Associations in some places function as important 'go between' for the educational institution and the broader public including the international community. We would like to be a space to advocate for better and more predictable policy environment for education, as an ongoing project. We want Glenmuir to provide not just learning but training for life.

Our first order of business as an executive will be an alumni drive and building an alumni online platform. We have the upcoming brunch, the AJOYO (Glenmuir Choir in Concert), the upcoming 60th Anniversary celebration and a host of other fundraising initiatives. We are also hoping that as an Association we can participate with our overseas chapters in the Hurricane Relief Efforts. Glenmuir Past Students are everywhere and I am sure some are living and working in Irma and Maria affected countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen I operate with two philosophies. The first is to bloom where I am planted. I have a lot on my plate. Since I have accepted this responsibility, I am going to give it my best, I want to be able to count on you to do your part. The second is to always pay forward. The bible says cast your bread on the water and after many days it will return to you. I want us to do all the good we can to all the people we can for as long as we can. The Glenmuir Alumni Association is one way of doing just that. Fellow Alumni, on behalf of the newly elected executive, I thank you for all you do.

**BECOME A
MEMBER**
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Download our [membership application form](#), complete, and submit to glenmuiralumnija@gmail.com today!

A thumbs up icon in the top right corner of the banner.

REPORT OF THE TASK-FORCE ON ACTIVITIES SINCE INCEPTION

by Mrs. Prudence Simpson, Deputy Chairman

The Glenmuir High School Past Student's Task Force was established in 2013 as an interim body to carry on the work during the process of reviving a viable GHSPSA Jamaica Chapter. The Task-Force is best described as a group of passionate Glenmuir past students, from varying graduating year groups, brought together by their desire to see a fully functioning Jamaica Chapter of the Association. Its ultimate goal was to assist the school in achieving its mandate to remain as one of the top high schools in Jamaica.

The group selected Dr. Omar Davies as its Chairman and a group of ten (10) initial members expanded over time to over twenty active participants:

Dr. Omar Davies; R.M. Jennes Anderson; Dr Marsha Smalling; Ambassador Sheila Sealy Monteith; Mrs. Prudence Simpson; Mr. Radcliff Knibbs; Mrs. Saundra Bailey; Mr. Stephen Charoo; Ms. Candice Chen-Sue; Mr. Prince Myers; Ms. Renee Mair; Mrs. Jennifer Mendes; Mr. Deiwght Peters; Mr. Jeffery Daley; Mrs. Marlene Hargitay; Mrs. Lavern Kitson; Mr. Ewan Simpson; Mrs. Hedda -Kay Watson (R.I.P.); Mr. Sydney Bartley; Ms. Sonia Bennett; Ms. Nichelle Mighten; Mrs. Shauna-Kay Bailey; and Dr. Nsombi Jaja.

At one of its early meeting, Dr. Davies, who also serves as a member of the School Board, was able to provide assistance in identifying projects that were high on the School's agenda. Some of the projects which the Task-Force identified as areas in which we could lend assistance were:

1. The AJOYO concert, an annual production of the Glenmuir High School Choir;
2. The solarization of the school plant;
3. Construction of a Science, Technology, Education, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Centre;
4. Attendance at school activities – Founder's day, graduation, prize giving ceremonies.

During the period 2014 – 2017 a total of three fundraising brunches were executed at Devon House:

1. Sunday, March 8, 2015
2. Sunday, March 6, 2016
3. Sunday, March 5, 2017

Funds from the Annual Brunch are earmarked for the STEAM project *(cont'd on pg. 6)*



ANNUAL SOUTH FLORIDA DINNER/DANCE

Sept. 2017

The South Florida Past Students' Association, led by its faithful and long-serving President Fitzroy Benjamin and a super-dedicated team of our schoolmates, held its decades-old 2017 Annual Dinner/Dance on 30th September this year. Its faithful followers look forward to not just an evening of fun, but an entire weekend of activities! Patrons travel from all over the USA and even from Jamaica to share in the camaraderie. Proceeds of the events have been used over the years to support the school, and especially the students.

It is expected that the 2018 staging will form part of the calendar of activities of Glenmuir@60. Please therefore plan to be in South Florida in September 2018.

Photos of this year's events appear in the PHOTO GALLERY of this edition. See pg. 9.

Highlights of the Achievements of the School

By Ms. Renee Mair, Head of English Language Department and Task-Force Member

I. 60th Anniversary Celebrations

- A committee has been convened and has had four meetings with Mrs. Patricia Meikle (teacher and past student) serving as the interim convener.
- It is intended that the organizing committee will be regularized in short order with an executive named and meetings will be held in both Kingston and Montego Bay in an attempt to engage a wide cross-section of past students.
- The 60th Anniversary will be celebrated in the academic year September 2018-August 2019.
- The theme is "Glenmuir at 60: Relentless in Pursuit of Excellence" (as taken from the school song).
- Features of the celebration include:
 - *Reaching out and connecting with past students.*
 - *Official Launch of the 60th Anniversary Celebration at Brunch 2018 in March.*
 - *Pre-60 Beautification during Labour Day May 2018*
 - *Founder's Day Church Service at school- (September 15, 2018)*
 - *Founders Week and Parade of Stars – Past students from all areas will be invited to the school for dialogue.*
 - *Naming of buildings acknowledging the work of Glenmuir stalwarts.*
 - *Homecoming and Flagrans Banquet*
 - *Prize-giving, Sports Day and Graduation and all other school activities will be bigger for the 60.*
 - *Labour Day School beautification Project May 2019*
 - *O Culminates with the Flagrans Cruise July 2019*

II. Academic Update

- GHS continues to be a top 10 school with the exception of the last two years when we fell out but plans are in place to return.
- The CSEC and CAPE exams pass rates are 93.84% and 97%, respectively.
- The quality pass rates, which is the number of students at the CSEC level who were able to pass at least five subjects is 96.4% and at the CAPE level it is 85.8% for the number of students who earned quality passes (Grades I-III) in two or more subjects. These numbers are far above the national averages.
- At the CSEC level (5th Form), thirty students earned seven or more grade ones with one earning 11 ones.
- At the CAPE level (6th Form), forty students earned three or more grade ones with one student earning 6 grade ones.
- The core subjects pass rates are 96.8% and 97.6%, for Mathematics and English respectively for CSEC which are well above the national average.
- Glenmuir continues to have regional merit awardees in varying subjects including English A and English B, Best Short Story, Accounting, Management of Business, Literatures in English, History, Geography, Building Construction, and Building and Mechanical Engineering Drawing (BMED). In fact, Glenmuir is the unofficial BMED centre of the Caribbean as students have topped the Caribbean from the inception of the subject.

Cont'd on pg. 6

Spotlight on the New York Past Students Association

The New York Chapter of the Glenmuir Alumni recently hosted another successful staging of its eighth annual fundraising event, the 'Red and White Dinner and Dance' in October. Patrons were treated to a night of conviviality and festivity as patrons dined and danced the night away!

For over forty years, the small and dedicated members of the New York Chapter of the Glenmuir Alumni Association have been working relentlessly to support multiple activities of the school. Through varying fundraisers such as the annual dinner and dance and its annual Fish Fry held in the summer, the New York chapter lives the Jamaican adage "likkle but tallawah". The proceeds from these initiatives have assisted in providing lab equipment, purchasing the coaster bus, refurbishing the computer lab, as well as sizeable contributions to the scholarship and welfare fund. Within this last year, the NY Chapter has contributed equipment, teaching resources to the Spanish department and part sponsored the recent trip taken by A'Level history students to Washington DC.

We salute the continued efforts of our alumni in the Big Apple who continue to burn with the zeal for truth!



L-R: Andre Wallas, President; Dinsmore Campbell, VP; Ann Heslop, Secretary; Sonia Bartley-Thompson, PR Officer; Hyacinth Thomas, Treasurer and member Rhonda Defreitas. Missing from photo, Ann Culver.



Glenmuir at 60

"Relentless in Pursuit of Excellence"

A 60th Anniversary Planning Committee has begun active planning of the celebration of the 60th Anniversary from September 2018 to June 2019. Membership is currently drawn from current staff and students, the Parent Teachers' Association and the Past Students Association. Given the amount of work required to mount an effort of this magnitude, **THE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!** Do consider extending your support and assistance in any number of ways.

The Committee began its work in June this year, with a studied contemplation of the history of Glenmuir High School – its founding, ethos, vision and achievements. On that basis, it was determined that the pursuit of excellence was always at the centre of its aspirations, in all its expressions. It was also recognised that while under threat from forces within the School and the society, it was important that every effort be made to restore the School to its original mandate. Drawing upon the words of the school song, the Committee selected as the theme for the celebrations: "**Glenmuir at 60: Relentless in Pursuit of Excellence**".

From that point of reference, the Committee is engaged in a process to keep the Glenmuir flag flying at its highest. We have so much of which to be proud! The year will feature, not just a set of activities, but rather a journey to take us back to where we began, so that we can be a source of strength and inspiration to the administration and current student body, and help to position the school to rise to the demands of a 21st century educational institution of excellence.

Glenmuir@60 Trivia

Q: How many students were in the very first batch to enter Glenmuir in 1958?

Answer on pg. 10

FASHION WITH A HEART Deiwght Peters and Saint International

Sixty years after its founding, the Glenmuir spirit of excellence is alive and well in Deiwght Peters, who continues to chart new courses and reach new heights in the fashion industry. While his business achievements are undoubtedly phenomenal – Forbes Magazine calls Saint International the world's biggest exporter of black models - what makes us the most proud is the positive impact he continues to have on the lives of the young people he mentors and introduces to the industry.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF:

11 March 2018

Launch of 60th Anniversary Celebrations at Annual Brunch

September 2018

Founder's Week Activities to include Church Service, Naming of Buildings, Parade of Stars

December 2018

FLAGRANS Banquet

January 2019

60th Anniversary Sports Day

May 2019

Labour Day School Beautification

July 2019

FLAGRANS Cruise

All School Activities will take on the spectre of the 60th anniversary, that is, they will be bigger, more impactful and done in the tradition of excellence of Glenmuir High School.

A major beautification of the school grounds and plant is anticipated.

Special 60th edition of the School Magazine is to be published.

The activities of our Past Students branches in South Florida, New York and Toronto will be included in the calendar of the 60th anniversary.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GLENMUIR@60:

c/o Glenmuir High School

Telephone: 876-986-2372 / 876-986-6355

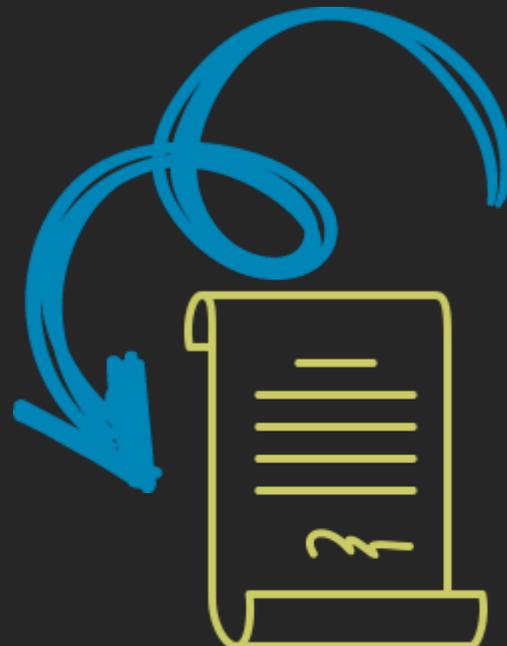
Email: Glenmuir@cwjamaica.com

TASK FORCE REPORT (continued from pg. 3)

The Task-Force is in dialogue with the School administration and is awaiting the project outline in order to proceed with a more aggressive fundraising campaign for this project.

On Sunday May 28, 2017 the Task Force organized a tribute to Dr. Omar Davies, *alumnus extraordinaire*, featuring the GHS Choir in concert. The occasion was to celebrate his retirement from active politics, his 70th birthday and to show appreciation for his tremendous contribution to Glenmuir High School. The event was well received and showcased the choir to a diverse audience. We hope to use this event as a platform for the annual AJOYO concert which is now in planning stage. Click [here](#) to view photos from the event .

A member of the Task Force, Mr. Jeffrey Daley, assisted in drafting a constitution to re-establish a Glenmuir High School PSA Jamaica Chapter. Once the constitution is adopted a formal past student's association will guide the activities of the body.



see pg. 8 for highlights of the Constitution

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL'S ACHIEVEMENTS (Cont'd from pg. 4)

- Within the last seven years, there has been a UWI Matriculant Andrew Ellis 2013, A Rhodes Scholar Sherona Forrester 2015 and the parish champion for the NCB Tertiary Scholarship has been a Glenmuir Student. A GHS student has also been the recipient of lucrative tertiary scholarships including the UWI Open, GraceKennedy Foundation and JF Mills.

III. Co-Curricular Activities Update

- Glenmuir continues to maintain an active extra-curricular life as there are over 40 active clubs at the school including cadet, choir, sports, speech, debate, quiz, performing arts, photography, service clubs and uniformed groups.
- Glenmuir has won every national competition for extracurricular activities in Jamaican high schools at least once such as Quiz, National Debate, Performing Arts.
- The school continues to do well in sports such as Table Tennis, Football, Basketball, Netball, Chess, and Cricket and also offers girls' football. The school has enjoyed national placements and the title of rural area champions in a number of these areas.
- The photography club has won numerous awards and many of the winning photographs are on display at the Norman Manley International Airport.

IV. General School Updates

- Glenmuir is a part of the PCJ Solar Energy project and solar panels have been installed at the school. To date, two phases have been completed. All bulbs are now LED at Glenmuir and an energy audit and training session was done with members of staff and students. Within the next two years, Glenmuir should be fully green.
- Eisteddfod and Sports Day are still vibrant at Glenmuir. For 2016 Pawsey is the Sports Champion with Deroux being the Eisteddfod champion.
- Plans are in place to retrofit the Biology lab and fix the roof of the library.
- There are plans to replace the older school bus.
- The current national spelling bee champion is a Glenmuir student, Deneiro Hines.

V. Conclusion

- Past students continue to support the school through contributions to the welfare fund that provides lunch money to those in need as well as through scholarships and the payment of external examination fees. Contribution is also made through physically visiting the school and engaging the students in talks and mentorship.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ALUMNI



Beverley Lashley is a member of the Class of '80. In July of this year she was appointed *National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer* of the National Library of Jamaica. Prior to this assignment, she served as the Deputy Librarian at the University of the West Indies, the very institution from which she graduated. Beverley is a proud alumna and a consistent support of the activities of past students group, including that of their year group, in support of the School.

Michael (Mike) Ricketts is the new President of the Jamaica Football Federation, following elections in September 2017. One of his first duties was to lead the Jamaican Team to their match in Saudi Arabia in October 2017. Mike started at Glenmuir in 1969 and was involved in several sports: cricket, table tennis, track and field and of course football. He was a member of the Cadet Unit, when Principal Dr. Sydney Scott made it mandatory for boys. He got involved in football administration in the early 1980's and has not turned back since.



Robert Patrick, son of Rocky Point in Vere, and Class of '85, is currently Vice President, Engineering and Project Services at NRG Energy in the USA. He successfully led the integration and development of GenOn's Central Services organization post the RRI/Mirant Merger in 2010. Robert was a head-boy at Glenmuir and studied engineering at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. He worked as Senior Vice-President of Generation at the Jamaica Public Service Company. In that capacity he was responsible for all JPSCo's generation activities, including Planning and Generation Expansion. Prior to this appointment, Robert Patrick served JPSCo in the capacity of Chief Operating Officer. He chaired JPSCo's Safety Council and acted as Technical Consultant for Mirant Caribbean. He is married to a fellow Glenmuirite – former Rose Campbell.

Alison Peart is Ernst & Young country managing partner and tax partner in Jamaica. She was elected president of AMCHAM at the organisation's Annual General Meeting in September 2017. Alison graduated from the University of Toronto and has accumulated since then, over 20 years of public accounting experience, working with clients across a wide range of industries including retail, distribution, manufacturing, financial services, and hospitality. A member of the Class of 1986, she was a member of the netball team and participated in Champs in third form in long jump. Her year group had the first class to be allowed to take accounting courses, and from all accounts, it is held the class still holds the record for having the most "1's" in CXC accounting.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GHSPSA CONSTITUTION

By Jeffrey Daley



The Constitution for the GHSPSA was ratified and adopted by affirmative votes of the members of the Association who were in attendance at the General Meeting held on the 30th September 2017.

The Constitution was circulated as a draft over several months amongst past students in the Association's data base. It follows the Constitutions for the New York and South Florida Chapters of the GHSPSA. The Constitution refers to the Jamaican based GHSPSA as the "Home Chapter".

Apart from past students and staff members, present or retired, of the High School, membership to the GHSPSA may also be held by family and friends who actively participate and promote the welfare of the school and also former Board Members of the school. The Constitution also provides for foreign based chapters of the GHSPSA to hold membership in the Home Chapter with the usual voting rights of a member. Persons residing overseas may also hold membership individually from the foreign based GHSPA in which they are members. The application for membership is very simple and merely requires the completion of an application form, payment of the Annual Subscription Fee of Two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) and the attendance or participation in at least one third (1/3) of all meetings held by the GHSPSA in the immediately preceding year.

The Constitution governs the election of a President and Vice-President and other members of the executive team. The Constitution sets out the duties and responsibilities for the executive members of the GHSPSA and also regulates the powers of the President and Board of Directors. The President and the Board have the power to select members to serve on various committees and provides for the establishment of several standing committees which includes Public Relations, Entertainment and Planning, Finance, Membership, Fundraising, Sales and Marketing, and Special Projects.

Members are invited to notify the Board of any Committees in which they have an interest in working.

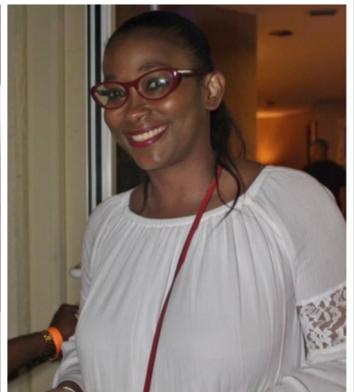
The GHSPSA has been incorporated as a limited liability company with non-profit status. It will be governed strictly by the rules and regulations for charitable organizations and plans are in train to seek formal charitable status from the Department of Cooperative and Friendly Societies.

The recently-convened General Meeting highlighted certain areas of the Constitution Document that will require review and possibly amendments. Amendments to the Constitution may be effected by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3s) of the members in attendance voting at an Annual General Meeting. It is proposed that, if amendments to the Constitution are to be made before the first (1st) Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for sometime between April and May of next year, then any proposed amendments will have to be raised and dealt with at an Extraordinary General Meeting. There are currently proposed amendments under consideration and the timeline for review is now being considered by the executive of the GHSPSA. Members are invited to further review the Constitution and make suggestions for any other proposed amendments which are desirable.

The Constitution may be downloaded from the GHSPSA website, or by clicking [here](#).



SOUTH FLORIDA DINNER-DANCE





We need your continued support to maintain our beloved alma mater as the high school of choice for generations to come.



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Mailing address: c/o Prudence Simpson,
Director of Sales, The Jamaica Pegasus, 81
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If you have an account with NCB,
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CONTACT US, YOUR PAST STUDENT ASSOCIATION!

We'd love for you to join us! Please let us have your name (current and as a student), your year group and any special memories you have of Glenmuir High School. Let us fill the memory bank for posterity.

SEMPER FLAGRANS!



glenmuiralumnija@gmail.com



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Answer to Glenmuir@60 Trivia:

55