THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
Report on Private Giving
JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008
Dear Alumni and Friends,

This report tells the stories of private support to The College for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. I hope you enjoy reading this narrative of generosity and impact which, so much more than the numbers alone, demonstrates the importance of your gifts.

The past fiscal year has been an extraordinary one in The College’s history; one in which we experienced unprecedented growth in private giving. Donors demonstrated their personal commitment to the work we do with generous donations of all sizes. Such generosity inspires us on a daily basis, to do all that we can and must do, to deliver excellence in higher education, meet national needs and foster innovation and prosperity for all.

It has been my great pleasure during this time period to have completed my second full year of service as President of The College. I have always held The College in the highest regard and since re-joining its team in 2006, my esteem for this institution has only deepened.

Meeting with students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and many other friends of The College within the wider community, has taught me the vast extent of its impact.

Private support makes the realization of this vision possible, and for this we thank our donors deeply and sincerely. Your donations are creating new programmes, building new buildings, recruiting top students, providing access to education, widening our international reach, helping teams to win, and developing knowledge for the future.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the past year, and you should be as well. Private support makes further growth and excellence achievable, and we invite you to participate each step of the way.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Janyne M. Hodder

Letter from the President

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.”

ALBERT CAMUS

Cover Photo: Gift to the College from the Class of 2008
MR. FRANKLYN WILSON
Chairman, Sunshine Holdings Group, and Donor to The College

FRANKLYN AND SHARON WILSON want to lead by example. They hope their $1 million dollar donation to the new Graduate Business Centre at The College encourages others to donate, regardless of the amount. “In The Bahamas, there are no shortage of causes but only one College of The Bahamas,” says Franklyn Wilson. Mr. Wilson’s theory is that a good university can only become great by way of private support. The prominent Bahamian entrepreneur and his wife attorney, Mrs. Sharon Wilson, hope that their donation will encourage others to give and to use their donations as testimonies to help build a better Bahamas.

The Graduate Business Centre is part of The College’s School of Business which will be offering a new MBA programme in the facility to be built. “Future MBA students will create a subset of the most powerful network in the country, opening doors of opportunity and creating competitive advantages and the Graduate Business Centre will serve to retain local talent and offer a competitive alternative to programmes at overseas universities,” says Mr. Wilson.

The process is cyclical. The Wilsons believe if The College plays a part in producing top talent, it will be contributing to economic growth and development, and with improved development, The Bahamas will be able to retain the best. The Wilsons also see that the MBA programme designers will play a vital role in implementing curriculum that reflects the current and future economy and will be instrumental in deciding what changes in business policy will be in our country’s best interest.

Married more than 30 years, the couple holds education in highest esteem. Mrs. Wilson is a former educator turned lawyer and then magistrate. Mr. Wilson, a renowned chartered accountant and former politician, best known as head of Arawak Homes and Sunshine Insurance, has been honoured numerous times for his career achievements and for his corporate donations.

He credits his intuitive business thinking to his mother’s example. Ms. Della Jane Muriel Wilson was a self-appointed, pioneer “broker” between the straw plait producers in the out islands and the straw vendors in Nassau. Recognizing the absence of banks in the family islands, she began a bartering system that involved goods instead of money.

Driven by their beliefs and inspired by their role models, the Wilsons are determined to propel higher education in the country and inspire Bahamians to help in any way they can, whether it’s monetary or good old fashioned hands-on assistance.

“In The Bahamas, there are no shortage of causes but only one College of The Bahamas.”

Photo: Sharon and Franklyn Wilson, Donors to The College
One hundred years of running a successful banking operation in The Bahamas is certainly something to celebrate. But the Royal Bank of Canada did much more than celebrate its anniversary this past January. It made history. With their record $1 million donation to The College of The Bahamas, RBC has given the largest single corporate donation towards the building of The College’s new Graduate Business Centre.

Staying true to their focus of supporting education, RBC Vice President and Country Head, Nathaniel Beneby explains, “Studies have shown that investing in quality education should be an important priority generally, but this is even more important in developing countries. According to a recent IDB report, The Bahamas lost more young professionals to other countries than any other Caribbean state over the last decade. Supporting priorities tied to building the University of The Bahamas is exactly where RBC wants to address this problem and make an impact."

The Graduate Business Centre will be a three and a half story building of approximately 22,500 sq. ft. and will house a 150-seat lecture theatre, a computer lab, student and faculty lounges and offices as well as a number of classrooms. The School of Business will also offer the RBC Entrepreneurship Programme for Small Business to business owners for the next three years.

MR. ROSS MCDONALD, RBC Head of Caribbean Banking added, “In my view there is no other enterprise that offers such enormous potential for improving quality of life and contributing to the common good than the future University of The Bahamas.”

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MR. ROSS MCDONALD
Head of Caribbean Banking, RBC Royal Bank of Canada, and Corporate Donor to The College

Photos: The RBC Executive Team
In 1973, George T. R. Campbell, a brilliant and successful Scottish naval architect, founded Dockendale Shipping in Nassau to manage two of his new standard design commercial ships. He did this to inspire confidence in potential buyers and he did so in Nassau, because of the favourable tax, communications and banking environments. With Campbell’s clout in the industry, particularly in Canada and Japan, many other ship owners followed his example. Today, The Bahamas is the third largest ship registry in the world. But Campbell was not all business.

In 1984, he created and established the Freedom Foundation (named for his first standard ship design) in order to support projects related to agriculture, marine architecture and engineering. Campbell passed away in 1994, but his legacy lives on through the Foundation which has supported project grants and scholarships in Canada, Japan, India and The Bahamas.

In June 2008, The Freedom Foundation made a donation of $10 million to The College of The Bahamas to create the G. T. R. Campbell Small Island Sustainability Complex which will house an interdisciplinary Bachelor’s degree programme in small island sustainability which is unique in the world.

**MR. LOWELL MORTIMER**, a trustee for the Foundation sees the donation as an investment in the nation. “The reward in being a trustee for The Freedom Foundation is to be able to make a difference to the quality of people’s lives, particularly in the education process…it would be wonderful for The Bahamas to become self sufficient in its need for food and to be able to protect our natural environment.”

Thanks to G. T. R. Campbell’s generosity and foresight and to Mr. Mortimer’s commitment, this vision is one $10 million step closer to fruition.

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**MR. LOWELL MORTIMER**

Trustee, The Freedom Foundation, Donor to The College
The President’s Scholars Programme (PSP) is an intensive 4-year programme which attracts top high school students, providing them with full scholarships, access to developmental programmes and internship opportunities. The programme produces top academic performers with exceptional leadership skills and is funded by FirstCaribbean International Bank, Bahamas Supermarkets, Lyford Cay Foundation, J. S. Johnson & Co., & Baha Mar Resorts Ltd.

Discipline and focus are two attributes Matthew Strachan is striving to perfect whether he’s mastering the latest software or building imitation reefs. Preserving the Bahamian environment is a priority for this 17-year-old participant of the President’s Scholars Programme. He says, “I want to get the idea out of people’s heads that we are a ‘baby’ country, and environmental preservation can wait; even though we may not suffer (the consequences of our actions), our grandchildren will.” Mr. Strachan credits The Leadership Lid seminar he attended during the PSP programme for fostering the idea that we accomplish more when we unite together. Mr. Strachan was born in England but grew up in Andros and also Abaco where he received that island’s best BGCSE results for 2008. Matched by his zeal to push environmental awareness is Mr. Strachan’s goal of becoming a computer programmer. As a Computer Information Systems major, he excels because he seeks solutions. He notes, “If I don’t know something, I will find out how to do it.”

As a returning PSP student, 20-year-old Amina Sarr has traveled the world, but wants to settle in The Bahamas and focus on cancer research and affordable national healthcare. In high school, she was recognized as “Most Outstanding Student” in the Northwestern District for 2006. Now, the C. R. Walker valedictorian majors in Bio-Chemistry at The College aiming to become an oncologist, a dream she realized her senior year when her team won a high school Caribbean debate on stem cell research. Amina and her West African father and Bahamian mother spent years traveling the globe together. Constantly having to adapt has made this fun-loving yet tenacious student eager to conquer new challenges. After participating in the PSP’s sixth grade leadership retreat she recognized something in herself. Ms. Sarr says, “Having to work under pressure helped me see my mistakes and to realize my true goal in life: to help others by becoming a doctor.”

Delia Ferguson wants to become an ambassador for The Bahamas, and with her sense of national pride and strong interest in curbing crime, she believes she will. As a third year PSP student, she says the programme is helping her mature, juggle her responsibilities and become a better team player. The 19-year old history major at The College plans to become a lawyer as a stepping stone to representing her country. Ms. Ferguson says, “A lot of us forget the pride that was felt in our grandparents’ day. What a great privilege it is to live here; we need to build the sense of community we used to have.” As a PSP scholar, Ms. Ferguson and three other Bahamians were privileged to attend the Global Young Leaders Conference in 2007 in Jacksonville, Florida which involved sessions in negotiation, diplomacy, respecting cultural differences and, of course, making friends with people from other countries.
As the youngest of 16 children growing up “over the hill,” CHERYL MAJOR-BAZARD was not a prime candidate for college. But thanks to perseverance and a scholarship from the former Chemical Bank, she graduated in 1987 from COB with the highest GPA in the Social Studies department, went on to study law and has been a successful attorney for the last 17 years. Ms. Major-Bazard is the founding president of the Bahamas Association for Compliance Officers and a co-panelist on GEMS’s radio show, Pandora’s Box.

Memories of COB linger as she jokingly rambles off her student ID number and recalls the adoptive daughter she met during community service — and with whom she still corresponds to this day!

COB was also a time of social awareness for Ms. Major-Bazard; she recollects marching down Bay Street protesting the dismissal of lecturers whose work permits were not renewed. Ms. Major-Bazard believes that the education she received at The College prepared her for all her future endeavors. It is for this reason that the former magistrate and lecturer at Eugene Dupuch Law School is adamant that her three sons will attend the future University of The Bahamas and without hesitation donated $500 when she received an alumni annual fund appeal letter. “I don’t believe it’s where one begins, but where one ends up,” she says.

TITO MOSS, a renowned athlete and contractor spent ten years as a part-time student at COB. He was one of the initial students enrolled in the Bachelor’s degree programme and received his B. A. in Banking and Finance in 2000.

Capitalizing on the adage, “To whom much is given, much is required,” Mr. Moss donated $500 toward The College’s expansion. As a Bahamas Games record breaker and business owner, he strives for excellence and encourages Bahamians to give back to the institution that gave them a head start.

Mr. Moss believes COB provided him with a solid foundation and is happy to see the total revolution that has taken place at The College since he attended, noting online registration and the drive to university status.
DR. RHONDA CHIPMAN-JOHNSON has been a fan of tea and tea parties all her life. Several years ago when her church was in need of a new building, Dr. Chipman-Johnson began hosting tea parties to raise funds to benefit the church. By the third year, she had a brainstorm – why not use the tea party concept to benefit The College’s Library Fund?

Nearly a decade later, her “Lenten Tea Party” averages 180 guests a year, and over the years the ticket sales have raised almost $20,000 towards The College’s new Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre.

Guests eagerly come to enjoy Dr. Chipman-Johnson’s home-baked goodies, to hear from intriguing guest speakers, for fellowship, and, of course, to sip herbal and Bahamian teas. Dr. Chipman-Johnson sums up her motivation for the tea parties, as well as her motivation to support the fund with her own personal annual gift by saying, “A great library is the hallmark of a great university.”

NAMEIKO HALL, completing her B.A. in History, took a part-time job with The College to earn some extra money and to round out her college experience. She began working for the first ever phone-a-thon, a drive to raise donations from alumni.

As she made calls to alumni to convince them to begin a pattern of annual giving to The College, a thought occurred to her. “COB is my alma mater, and I want to give back too.” So, Ms. Hall gave 20% of the salary she earned back to The College.

Ms. Hall began her journey at The College in 2002 in hopes of becoming a history teacher. She left for awhile but after returning a few years later on a COB scholarship, she was amazed by the changes: the number of new majors on offer, the quality of lecturers and the opportunities to participate in studies abroad. She has made the Dean’s list since her return, and wants to see The College that she believes is making her a more responsible individual, reach even higher heights.

This summer, MARLA-JOY WOOD spent five weeks in Mexico studying Spanish and immersed in Mexican traditions. She and four other students from The College had a true language learning and cultural experience thanks to a $150,000 funding provided by Santander Bank and Trust Ltd.

The exchange programme was aimed at the best students – each had to have reached the Spanish 200 level and have at least a 3.0 GPA to qualify. Ms. Wood notes, “It’s a good opportunity to open your mind because it’s more than a classroom setting; it’s hands on.” She and the group stayed with Mexican families and were required to speak Spanish at all times, a task their host families tried to make sure of!

Ms. Wood and the other Santander award recipients spent six hours a day, five days a week along with after school hours studying the language at the Universidad Internacional in Cuernavaca. She significantly advanced her Spanish language skills and also took courses such as Spanish history and salsa dancing. Ms. Wood also studied French and plans to obtain her Bachelor’s degree, then to study International Relations; and ultimately, she hopes to work with the Ministry of Tourism or Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thanks to this experience, she is one step closer to her dream and as happy to call herself trilingual.

“This is a great opportunity to open your mind because it’s more than a classroom setting.”

MS. MARLA-JOY WOOD
Student on Santander Bank Study Abroad Programme in Mexico

“COB is my alma mater, and I want to give back too…”

MS. NAMEIKO HALL
College Student in History and Donor to the Alumni Annual Fund

“A great library is the hallmark of a great university.”

DR. RHONDA CHIPMAN-JOHNSON
Executive Vice President Academic and Host of the Lenten Tea Party

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JANET DONNELLY has always been a strong believer in the power of education. It’s a belief that was cultivated as she grew up on the campus of St. Clouds State University in Minnesota where her father was a college professor. Now, as a professor herself in the School of English at The College of The Bahamas, she takes pride in ensuring that young people are getting a solid education.

When Ms. Donnelly recently lost several close friends that were faculty members of The College and whom she thought of as pillars of the Bahamian community, she decided to turn this loss into an opportunity by making a gift to support the education of the country’s future leaders. By giving memorial gifts to The College in each friend’s name, she created a vehicle for others to give to The College while honouring the memories of those they admired and missed.

Although her friends are gone, Ms. Donnelly takes comfort in knowing that their spirits live on in many of the country’s best and brightest students.

Before making a commitment to anything, QUENTIN SANDS always considers the long-term impact of his actions. In fact, the need to make an impact is what motivated this media technician at The College to become the very first employee to support the 2007/2008 Faculty & Staff Annual Fund.

In Mr. Sands’ words, “As an employee it just makes sense to support the annual fund. The only way that we can expect support from others is by showing support ourselves.”

As the father of a 10-month old child, Mr. Sands wants to ensure that his son will have access to a world-class university here in The Bahamas. He sees his participation in the annual fund as bringing The College of The Bahamas one step closer to becoming The University of The Bahamas.

“I don’t want to sit and watch things happen – I want to make things happen,” says Sands with a smile.
July 1, 2007 - July 30, 2008 Donors

“\textbf{We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.}”

\textit{Winston Churchill}