Dear Alumni & Friends,

Thank you for your generous contributions to the development of The College of The Bahamas from July 2009 through June 2010.

The past year has been a challenging one for many in the country and throughout the world. Private businesses are suffering and governments are struggling to meet the challenges of global economic conditions. Given this context, your support for The College is needed more than ever before. Again, your donations have come in all gift sizes across many allocations. Most significantly, over the past three years the donations received by and committed to The College have exceeded $20 Million. This is a truly outstanding philanthropic investment. Such philanthropy is a testimony to your belief in The College and in its importance to the country. Whether you are a major donor funding a building or research project, or you are one of The College’s proud alumni who made a donation through the phonathon, your giving has been phenomenal. I thank you, sincerely, for this stellar support.

This year has also been a significant one for me personally, as I made the decision to retire at the end of June this year. I could not have been more pleased that my 40-year career in education, which started in The Bahamas, was concluded at The College.

It is my firm belief that in order for this country to achieve its full potential, there is no better investment to be made, than one in higher education, research & innovation and service. Bahamians, young and not so young need your support to become the successful and responsible citizens of the future and The College needs your help in creating an institution where research & innovation in the service of national development can flourish. You believe this as well, as demonstrated by your giving. Each gift communicates your support and commitment to all that is possible for The College and its students. The College is transformed because of you. Our students are transformed through their growth and development at The College. You have transformed their worlds and the future of the country with your philanthropy.

Thank you for becoming a member of the donor family of The College of The Bahamas.

Sincerely,

Janyne M. Hodder
$500,000 Gift Supports Student Awards

Commonwealth Bank has been a long time direct supporter of College of The Bahamas students. Through its own scholarship programme, the bank funded scores of students with partial scholarships to attend The College. This year, the bank took that commitment one step further by transforming its own programme into a $500,000 philanthropic gift to The College.

Its new giving will fund up to 12 students every year who have the highest levels of financial need with awards valued up to $4,000.00, giving each the opportunity to remain full time students and become the next leaders of The Bahamas.

“At Commonwealth Bank we started off small, but our ambition was to achieve the equal heights, at that time, of the international banks built on the belief that things Bahamian can succeed,” says Ian Jennings, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Commonwealth Bank. “As we look around we can see the same philosophy at The College of The Bahamas, the dream, the university. What better way is there for Commonwealth Bank to establish the foundation of community building and nation building than for us to be a part of the establishment of The University of The Bahamas.”
A phenomenal career educator, the late Anatol Rodgers was the third Bahamian and first female principal of The Government High School. Today, her memory lives on not only through the many students whose lives she impacted during her forty-two years in teaching, but also through the philanthropy of her family.

Rodgers Family

In 2006, The School of English Studies hosted its first annual Anatol Rodgers Memorial Lecture, a series that will continue for 10 more years, thanks to the generosity of the Rodgers Family. The lecture is The College’s signature intellectual event of the year and has featured several internationally acclaimed scholars and writers including Nobel Laureate, Derek Walcott and Ghanaian writer and Emmy award winner Kwame Dawes. Last November, more than 400 people turned out for An Evening With Derek Walcott, a one-of-a-kind event held in the Performing Arts Centre that showcased the gifted poet, playwright and essayist while honouring Mrs. Rodgers’ memory.

“As far as my sister and I are concerned, supporting this lecture series in memory of our mother is more than an honour and a pleasure.”

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Chair of the School of English Studies, Dr. Marjorie Brooks-Jones, adds that the Anatol Rodgers Memorial Lecture has provided an opportunity for The College Community to interact with and learn from internationally recognized writers and cultural critics. She says, “The series has, in fact, helped to put The College on the map in academic circles.”

$90,000 in total from 2006-2019 for the Anatol Rodgers Memorial Lecture
“My family was really pushing me
to do either banking or finance to go where the money is...
but I did not want to do that.

Nassau Music Society

$80,000 Scholarship, Music To Your Ears

I joined the Nassau Symphony Orchestra in 2007
and from there my interest was broadened.”

When Shavincia Thomas’ mother persuaded her to join the Pinewood Community Band, she reluctantly relented. Years later, the Music major at The College of The Bahamas can’t imagine her life without music and the flute playing that she has mastered. “I listened to music but I did not really want to play music,” she recalls. “I never had the opportunity to learn it in school. I went and met a guy named Teddy Russell. I joined the band and I was hooked.”

In 2007, Shavincia took her love for music to another level and joined the Nassau Symphony Orchestra, deeply rooting her interest. Now she is the recipient of the Nassau Music Society’s Entrance Scholarship at The College, funded by a generous donation of $80,000. The largest donation to The College specifically for the study of music, the gift allows for one new music scholarship of $20,000 each to be awarded every two years. President of The Nassau Music Society, Patrick Thomson, says there is a wealth of musical talent in The Bahamas and the Society would like to see some of that talent channelled into classical music. “We do hope that this donation to The College of the Bahamas will contribute to achieving that goal.”

Shavincia is proof that the objective is being achieved. “My family was really pushing me to do either banking or finance to go where the money is…but I did not want to do that. I joined the Nassau Symphony Orchestra in 2007 and from there my interest was broadened. I went to a concert and it was just like a chain reaction. I applied for the scholarship and received it.”
There’s no denying it — John Michael Clarke, AA ’87, was compelled to give back to The College of The Bahamas; the institution where he experienced a personal and social awakening; and that gave him the solid foundation on which he built a fulfilling career in engineering.

“The time I spent at The College of The Bahamas was very beneficial to my tertiary education pursuits. I am certain that the same is true for many Bahamian professionals,” said John Michael, the co-owner of Veritas Consultants Limited, a construction services and project management firm.

As a college student, however, he didn’t immediately embrace the privilege of higher education. That came only after the chilling tragedy of losing a friend in a car accident.

More than two decades after leaving the hallowed halls of The College, John-Michael remains a firm believer that his alma mater plays a pivotal role in the continued development of The Bahamas; that its graduates have a collective responsibility to ensure that the opportunities they were afforded in pursuing higher education are extended to those who follow in their footsteps.

“As The College continues its mission, those who have benefitted and continue to benefit from The College’s giving should feel almost compelled to give back,” he said.

These are underlying values that carry over in all aspects of John-Michael’s life as a committed husband and father, consummate professional and responsible citizen.

Dencil Rolle,
BBA Management ’01, BTC Supervisor & Donor to The Alumni Annual Fund

His colleagues might not know that the Supervisor for Customer Care at The Bahamas Telecommunication Company (BTC) comes from humble beginnings. As a child born to a single mother, Dencil Rolle, BBA ’01, cleaned fish and raked yards to get by as a child. It might have been this early entrepreneurial experience that boosted Mr. Rolle’s ambitions early on.

One of the first things he made sure of once employed at BTC in 1984 was that the company had an educational advancement programme. Now, twenty-six years later, he has established a legacy of ensuring that other young people reap the benefits of educational opportunities. He works closely with The Junkanoo Corporation, is a member of the C.V. Bethel and C.I. Gibson school boards and PTAs, and recruits for Florida Memorial College (FMU) and Eastern College. Having a desire to go to university when he was younger, but with no one to support him, Mr. Rolle acutely understands just how important education is to one’s future success. “Without an education, you won’t get anywhere in life.” This firm belief motivated him to become a three-time donor to The College’s Alumni Annual Fund.

“Without an education, you won’t get anywhere in life.”

John-Michael Clarke,
AA Construction Engineering Technology ’87, Engineer & Donor to The Alumni Annual Fund

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An initial gift of $1,000 from The College of The Bahamas established the Winston V. Saunders Memorial Fund for English majors named after a Bahamian cultural icon. Since then, however, through the fundraising efforts of Mr. Je’Rome Miller, the fund has grown to more than $50,000. Mr. Miller notes, “Education is the key. It was Winston Saunders’ belief that every child should be given the opportunity to seek learning. That has been my driving force.”

Mr. Saunders, an attorney by profession, was also a staunch advocate for the development of literature and the arts in The Bahamas. “Winston was a Bahamian icon who not only contributed to the development of Bahamian culture, particularly theatre, but also to education and the law. He was a teacher, lawyer, playwright, actor, director, cultural activist and a friend and mentor to many. I was privileged to have been married to him,” says Dr. Gail Saunders.

The memorial fund named after him honours the contributions of the Bahamian legend.

**Winston V. Saunders**
**Fund Honours Bahamian Legend**

“Education is the key. It was Winston Saunders’ belief that every child should be given the opportunity to seek learning. That has been my driving force.”

A bright-eyed eighteen-year-old Kareem Cumberbatch is not your typical teenager. He’s focused yet exuberant, and he’s literally travelled around the world in 90 days! During his unique journey he experienced rich and diverse cultures and formed a network of lifelong friendships all while studying towards his degree at COB.

Kareem spent three months this year aboard the MV Explorer as a student of the University of Virginia sponsored Semester at Sea programme thanks to generous funding provided by the Lyford Cay Foundation. The Foundation’s annual $40,000.00 in support for The College’s growing study abroad programme enables students like Kareem to have life changing experiences as part of their degree studies at The College.

Studying Architectural Engineering with a minor in Spanish, Kareem is the first COB student to participate in the Semester at Sea programme, one of the many options that allows students to see the world and broaden their horizons, while earning credits towards their degrees. The Semester at Sea experience truly exceeded all of Kareem’s expectations. He reflects, “There definitely were many lessons that I learned... You meet people from all over the world and my experience exposed me to people from different backgrounds, alternative lifestyles, different beliefs and it taught me to be tolerant and understanding.”

**Lyford Cay Foundation**
**Opens The Door To New Worlds**

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The memorial fund named after him honours the contributions of the Bahamian legend.
Sonya Wisdom’s eyes light up and her voice bounces in enthusiastic waves when she talks about The College’s progress in offering Master’s degrees on Bahamian soil. “I still get excited about the possibilities. Sometimes I feel like I’m right in the middle of things that can happen,” she says. Sonya, who moved from the US to live with her husband in his home country, came seeking a way to participate in the Bahamian community and give back as an educator. “I always felt I was in the middle of a profession that was important to the community. I came here thinking that there would be somewhere for me to fit in the teaching profession. I just had to find it.” And she did.

Since joining The College in 1998, Sonya has steered the development of ten collaborative master degree programmes. The latest is the first to be independently offered by The College: the Master of Business Administration [MBA] degree launched in Fall 2010. Having partnered with several foreign institutions and their faculty to deliver graduate programmes in The Bahamas, she points out that a good collaborative relationship takes a willingness to learn and be involved in the community. For her, supporting The College is “walking the talk.”

Wilbert Bonimy has been at The College long enough to see Presidents change, buildings go up, and most of COB’s 10,000 graduates walk through its halls. Since he started working there in November, 1979 – a little over thirty years ago – he has performed a range of duties at The College’s Physical Plant Department.

“I remember when the Queen visited in the 1980’s. That was right after the B and T Block Buildings went up and there was a lot of physical ground work to do in preparation for the Queen’s visit,” he recalls of the historic event that happened on the sidelines of the 8th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held in Nassau in 1985.

As a member of the maintenance staff and a loyal contributor to the Annual Fund, Mr. Bonimy knows what it means to help build The College from the ground up. He says proudly, “The College has taken care of me over the years.... My kids went through here. Now it’s time for me to give back.”
Marina I. Franks
Daenette Gardiner
Ruth Gardiner
Allison S. Gibson
Lydia A. Gibson
Indira M.Y. Gibson-Rolle
Ashish S.G. Gilbert
Dominique Gilbert
Carla Glinton
Liacarla M. Glinton
Sandra Grant
Shakoda Gray-Pintard
Mena Griffiths
Anthony Hall Jr.
Dennis Hanna
Victoria Hanna
Terri Hanna-Bellot
Ricardo Hart
Eugene Horton Jr.
Maurissa Hutcheson
Lashal P. Ingraham
Kelly Ingraham-Knowles
Florinda Johnson
Jerome W. Johnson
Kathleen Johnson
Lionel Johnson
Lorraine B. Johnson
Tebuan Johnson
Tiffany D. Johnson
Mavis Johnson-Collie
Lillian Jones
Bernard Kemp
Margaret Kemp
Christina Kenny
Henretta King
Brendalee Knowles
Gayl Knowles
Lottis Shearer-Knowles
Patt Knowles
Valencia Knowles
Ruthnell Knowles-Bethell
Racquel Knowles-Farrington
Donna Leadon
Garnel Leo
Sharlene Leo
Seanaela Lewis
Kevin Longley
Paulette Longley
Kimeko Lowe
Tameka Lundy
Denece Mackey
Karol Mackey
Peter Maillis
Caralee Major
Charles Major
Olive Malcolm
Raquel Marshall
Mavis McIntosh
Genevieve McKenzie
Lashan McKenzie
Yvonne McKenzie
Christine McNabb-Smollett
Kenue McPhee
Peter McWilliam
Dianna Miller
Eldoran Miller
Jan Miller
Julian Miller
Ethnia Miller-Brooks
Gordon Mills
Cherry Missick
O'Neil Missick
Elizabeth Missick-Taylor
Carla Mitchell-Seymour
Angela Moss
DeVono Moss
Huedly Moss
Irene Moss
Jennifer Moss
Phillipa Moss
Vernita T. Moss
D. Halson Moultrie
Jawara Moxey
Remelda Moxey
Doreen Murray
Marcia Musgrove
Pamela Q. Musgrove
Anne G. Myers
Neil G. Nairn
Eugene Newry
Ophir Neymour
Neromaine Nezamudeen
Christina Nwosa
Raymond Oenbring
Nakia Pearson
Shanika Pearson
Denise Penn
Maria M. Pennerman
Eleanor Phillips
Marguerite Pindling
Monique M. Pindling-Johnson
Sharon Poitier
Spencer Poitier
Wendy Poitier-Albury
Keenroece Pratt
Tina Price
Natasha Pyfrom
Euterpie Rigby
Carol Roach
Melanie Roach
Miriam P. Roberts
Keva Robinson
Paul Roker
Crystal Rolle
David D. Rolle
Eunicka Rolle
Jacqueline D. Rolle
Jerrys Rolle
Judy Rolle
Julian J.U. Rolle
Kimberley Rolle
Noland Rolle
Wendy B. Rolle
Hezlyn Rolle-Pratt
Garnell Rolle-Sheppard
Renee T. Roth
Italya Russell
Jacqueline Russell
Valdez K. Russell
Kim Russell-Munnings
Willamae Salkey
Janis Sands
S. June Sands
Clarice Sands-Granger
Barbara Saunders
Ingrid Saunders
Sheryl Saunders
Robin C. Scavella
School of English Studies
Krimild Seymour
Antoinette Seymour
Maelyn Seymour-Major
Corey Simmons
Andrea Singleton-Sanders
Bridge Skeete-Mackey
Kara Smith
Margaret Smith
Letheria Smith-McCartney
J. Merita Steed
Baronda Stewart
Ahmad Strachan
Edsel Strachan
Ian Strachan
Donell Stuart
Vara Stubbs-Roberts
Daphne Styles
Dwayne Swaby
Talia Sweeting
Cherita Symonnet
Melvelyn Symonnet
Sheldon Symonette
Charlene Taylor
Jacinth Taylor
Philando Taylor
Christina Thompson
Dorothea Thompson
Rosalee Thompson
Monique Thompson-Paul
Candace B. Thomas
Christa Thurston
Kavonne P. Thurston
Princess Tinker
Glen Trail
Patricia E. Treco
Tiffany Turner
Norma Turnquest
Fern Turnquest-Bowleg
Leonard A. Tynes
Talitha Wallace
Pauline Ward
Ansel Watson
Carlton Watson
Tanya Wells
Stacy Whynms
Carolyn G. Williams
Jonathon P. Williams
Laura Allison Williams
Maurice F. Williams
Patricia S. Williams
Sherry K. Williams
Vernice Williams
Vanessa Williams-McQueen
Natasha Williamson
Cleopatra Wilson
Sonya L. Wisdom
Alistair Wood
Daphne M. Woods