



ACKy Newsletter & Bulletin

Inaugural Newsletter, 1/2015

SEPTEMBER 2015



*The newly inducted
members of the
NCU Alumni
Cayman Chapter.*

Induction Ceremony Formally Inaugurates Cayman Chapter

Forty-eight Cayman-based NCU alumni and friends were pinned as members, with another 10 scheduled for induction at the November GM. The formal membership step was taken at the ceremonial inauguration of the NCU Alumni Chapter Cayman (ACKy) on Saturday (12 September) at Kings Church.

The inaugural service was facilitated by Pastor Jeff Jefferson, Chaplain for the Alumni Chapter. Dr. Ivor Harry, VP for Educational & Religious Affairs, and the conference's Education Director, conceptualized and chaired the service. The theme for the service was "For Service in this Life."

The Director of NCU's
Department of Alumni Relations,

Mrs. Susan Long-Gordon, officiated in the induction ceremony.

Two alumni were honoured at the service for their commitment to service in the Cayman Islands: Mrs. Shirlene Henriques, a former Grand Cayman nursing administrator, and Mrs. Georgia Isaacs, a nurse on Cayman Brac.

Special greetings were brought by Dr. the Hon. Linford Pierson, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, recognized during the service as a distinguished alumnus of NCU, and Pastor Shian O'Connor, President of the CIC SDA. Both President O'Connor and Dr. Pierson were inducted as members and Dr. Pierson is slated to join the chapter's executive committee.

Mrs. Long-Gordon delivered a short message in recognition of the Chapter's formation, as well as greetings from NCU's President, Dr. Trevor Gardner.

Ms Patricia Ebanks, President of the Cayman Chapter, outlined the goals of the organisation. These include community and member education and training; scholarships to Cayman's youth; and gifts to support NCU's work. She urged the new members to commit themselves to helping Cayman's youth "become the best they can be."

The Cayman Chapter caters not only to alumni of NCU but also to all friends and supporters of NCU. The next general meeting to which members are invited is scheduled for 19 November. Interested persons may visit the website, www.NCUCaymanAlumni.com/, for further information and to formalize registration.

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Photo Gallery

(For more Induction Day photos, please visit Photo Gallery,
www.NCUCaymanAlumni.com/. Photo Credit Kres Hamilton)



Pastor O'Connor being pinned by ACKy President Patricia Ebanks.



Honoured for her life of service, Mrs. Georgia Isaacs gives a spirit-filled rendition of the song, "Use Me."



Mrs. Shirlene Henriques, former Nursing Administrator, chapter honoree, is pinned by ACKy secretary Tracey-Ann Trail.



ACKy Chaplain Pastor Jeff Jefferson is pinned by chapter secretary Tracey-Ann Trail.



VP Public Relations Ricardo Forbes pins VP Membership Elder Roy Munroe.



VP Social and Cultural Affairs Mrs. Camile Beckford-Johnson pins member Mrs. Allison Broomfield-Copeland.

Induction Day Messages

... From ACKy President Patricia Ebanks

Today, in this inaugural service, the Cayman Chapter of the NCU Alumni Association answers the call to ... Service in this Life.

As we take this step, I recognize and thank the Conference President and his team of pastors and staff for standing by us so steadfastly.

I especially recognize Pastors Harry and Jefferson, both officers of the chapter, who have striven to make this service and other achievements possible.

Similarly, I thank NCU's Director of Alumni Relations, Mrs. Susan Long-Gordon, who has given us such sterling support.

Kudos to my committee members, for their forbearance and fortitude in the formation of our organization. And welcome to all members being inducted today.

Finally, our gratitude to Kings Church for facilitating this service.

Social and cultural facets that impact us

In Sabbath School this morning we gained insights into the lives of service of NCU grads Henriques and Isaacs.

They and others labour in our distinctive social and cultural milieu that both drives and challenges the work of the alumni association.

A particular environmental factor is our proximity to the United States.

While we enjoy the benefits from that association, we are also well aware of the mirroring in our islands of some of the ills of that larger society. In that regard, the recently heightened social disharmony in some sectors of the US population, for example, troubles us.

In Cayman we also are sensing a parallel new brand of social tension.

Challenges that inspire us

These and other insights are what have called us to take this step today.

As we do so, our path is lit with the vision of advancing our society forward and upward, socially, culturally, spiritually and educationally.

Ideals of service fostered by NCU compel us to create opportunities for our youth so that they, too, can become the best that they can be.

As a chapter, as well, we cannot forget the institution that inculcated such commendable values.

These are challenging goals, but if we take advantage of our communal strengths, today's small step can convert our fledgling chapter into a transformational powerhouse.

My fellow NCU alumni and friends, congratulations for taking this step today. Now the work begins....

It will not be easy. As the late US President John Kennedy said at the launch of the first mission to the moon: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and to do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

Our task ahead is, yes, challenging, but it is achievable, with positive attitudes, determination and commitment ... to Service in this Life.

Mattie Stepanek, a gifted young motivational speaker who died not so long ago at the tender age of 13, said, "Unity is strength, and when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Excerpts from Message: NCU's President, Dr. Trevor Gardner



"Today, as you conduct your induction service under the theme "For service in this life," may you emulate the greatest servant who lived among men and served impartially. As you serve in this life, rescue the perishing, and care for the dying, the imprisoned, the homeless, the orphans, the widowed -- snatch them in pity from sin and everlasting death. Nevertheless, as you serve others, be careful not to neglect your own spiritual nurturing. Take time daily to consecrate yourself to God – your service to others would be meaningless if you fail to experience God personally and you fail to labor assiduously for your soul's salvation."

"The university administration salutes the efforts of this august body of alumni in the Cayman Islands and charges you to remain committed to the mission vision and strategic goals of the institution. Executive members, Today marks the official beginning of your tenure as leaders of the Cayman Islands chapter. You have an awesome responsibility to keep the alumni engaged; maintain the momentum and increase your numbers gradually. You have now become the university's representative on these Islands."

Greetings: NCU's Director of Alumni Relations, Mrs. Susan Long-Gordon



"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." ~William Penn

The annals of time are replete with documentation of those who have served their country with pride and distinction. However, there are those, the unsung heroes, whose little deeds of kindness often go unnoticed. Today we recognize those who have served with love; those whose gestures of kindness came from a heart full of devotion and compassion; those who served without being asked; those who sought opportunities to serve others; those who brought light to a life shrouded in darkness; those who became change agents.

Today, as we gather to pledge our allegiance to our alma mater, I am pleased to welcome all of you to a celebration of the virtues and values, dreams and aspiration that we collectively share as we seek to glorify God's name, honour His promises and so cause His concerns to flourish. This is the joy that is set before us – to please God and advance the welfare of others.

Fellow alumni, *"service we offer in this life"* is the secret of happiness. While Christ was on earth He himself set us the great example of serving others unselfishly. The world around us, teeming with opportunities to serve, needs us to write a song, paint a portrait, deliver a speech, mail a cheque, share a greeting, heal a heart, right a wrong: serve with love.

Members of NCU ACKY, your induction today signifies that your candle has been lit. Do not hide it under a basket. Let it shine forth and banish the darkness of indolence, selfishness, hypocrisy, mediocrity and injustice. As you go forward, take your candle – Go light your world and may your mantra, like Alma Androzso, be, *"If I can help somebody, as I pass along, If I can cheer somebody, with a word or song, If I can show somebody, how he's travelling wrong, Then my living shall not be in vain."*



Greetings from Distinguished Alumnus Dr. the Hon. Linford Pierson

It was in 1956 that I (together with three other Caymanian students) received admission into the then West Indies Training College—WITC, (now Northern Caribbean University—NCU). It was, indeed, a defining moment and transformative experience in my life.

My grateful thanks to my heavenly Father for the opportunity to attend WITC, which was so instrumental in laying a solid spiritual foundation in my life. Also, thanks to my Seventh-day Adventist parents for the Christian principles inculcated in me during my early childhood years, and indeed the opportunity they afforded me to attend a Christian learning institution of the calibre of West Indies Training College.

The *ethos* of West Indies Training College was central to the development of a wholistic lifestyle, which took into account the development of the mind, body, and spirit. In this connection, as a member of the College Cadet Corps, I will always remember our exercise routines (including running down to Knockpatrick in the early hours of the morning and back to the campus), to keep our bodies in good physical shape; also the long and intense hours we spent in the library and in our dormitories studying to improve

our minds; but above all, the spiritual guidance which we received, attending Chapel for devotions, as well as attending other church services was, undoubtedly, the most important dynamic of our wholistic development.

It would be remiss of me, if I did not mention the important role played by Pastor Walter Comm (of blessed memory), and his dear wife, Dr. Dorothy Comm, both of whom paved the way for my batch mates and me to obtain a good educational foundation at WITC. I consider it an honour to publicly offer my sincere thanks to the Comms on behalf of the following Caymanian students who were afforded the opportunity to attend WITC in 1956: Namely, Sis. Pearldean Wesley (nee Jeffers) of blessed memory (many of you may know her son, Elder John Wesley); Sis. Patsy Seymour (nee Manderson) of blessed memory; Sister Francine Taylor (nee Haylock), who resides in the United States; and, of course, yours truly. Pastor Walter Comm and his widow, Dr. Dorothy Comm were exceptional mentors to all of us, for which I will always be most grateful.

I will, also, long remember the wonderful kindnesses extended to me by all of my teachers, but in particular Aunt Luz

Walters (my English teacher) and Dr. Aston Barnes (my Accountancy teacher), and, of course, the wonderful friendships made at West Indies College with my student colleagues, (including Hon. Pernel Charles, Dr. Neville Galimore and his wife Dr. Angela Galimore, just to name a few).

There is so much more I **could** and **would** like to say about my wonderful Alma Mater, but I was reminded, by the President of our Cayman Chapter—Sis. Pat – that I had only **three minutes** to speak. However, before taking my seat, I wish to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to Sis. Pat for her hard work, in her efforts to bring the Chapter to this point in its development. Although I was unable to accept a position in our Alumni Chapter when it was formed, now that I have been able to reduce some of my workload, I have informed Sis. Pat that I am now ready to assist the Chapter wherever possible. Also, although I am a member of other Alumni Chapters, my membership in the NCU (Cayman) Alumni Chapter will always hold a special spot in my heart.

May I take this opportunity to wish our Alma Mater (NCU), and our NCU (Cayman) Alumni Chapter every success in our future endeavours.

Calendar of Events

NCU Homecoming

All alumni and friends are invited to attend the NCU 8-11 October 2015 Homecoming. A schedule of activities can be viewed on the ACKy website, www.NCUCaymanAlumni.com.

While this homecoming is specifically targeting graduates in years ending in 5s and 0s, this does not preclude graduates from other years attending.

Our website, www.NCUCaymanAlumni.com/, now carries details on arrangements for hotel accommodation and ground transport from the airport to Mandeville.

Notice: All Newly Inducted Members

If you were inducted on the 12 September but you have not yet registered, please visit the website, www.NCUCaymanAlumni.com, and formalize your registration to enable us to capture your contact and other details in our data base.

ACKy General Meeting

The next General Meeting for the chapter takes place on Thursday, 19 November, again at Cayman Academy hall, beginning at 6:30 pm with a social period during which refreshments will be served.

The Executive Committee will be planning the promised exciting meeting in line with the goals of the chapter and the interests of members. Details will be carried on our website.

A brief induction ceremony will also be conducted at this meeting for those persons unable to attend the 12 September Induction Ceremony.

Member Affirmation and Pledge

The following are the Affirmation and Pledge made by members at the 12 September Induction Ceremony signalling their commitment to the goals of the chapter and NCU:

Affirmation

We, in the presence of our fellow members of the Cayman Chapter of the NCU Alumni Association and this congregation, affirm our obligation to –

- attend meetings regularly and prepare fully to participate in the efforts of our chapter,
- apply ourselves to the chapter's programme,
- participate actively in chapter activities,
- share with others in a positive, constructive manner, and
- build open, friendly relationships with our fellow members.

THE ALUMNI PLEDGE

We hereby pledge our loyalty to Northern Caribbean University and the high Christian ideals upon which she was established.

We further pledge to nurture, support and give generously of our professional expertise in helping NCU to achieve all plans and projects that serve to advance the societies of countries that it serves. Likewise, we pledge to support all plans and projects that seek to improve the standard of living for all.