

*Newsletter of the Cuttington University Alumni Association of the Americas*

November 2011

Check out your website at [www.cuttingtonalumni.org](http://www.cuttingtonalumni.org)

## President's Message



At the time of this writing I would have been at CU for about eight weeks. Apart from last year, this is the first I've spent at the school for a considerable length of time. I remember the old adage "the more things change, the more they stay the same". Cuttington has been and is now, a first-rate institution. There are very many alumni who contribute to Cuttington who are dedicated and have that "fire" to make things great. Take for instance Dr. Arthur Tarr (class of '75) who recently returned from the US, and Mr. Ted Brown (class of '66). Mr. Brown has been holding the fort since he achieved his advanced degrees. Another person I hold in high esteem is Mr. Jackson Dumoe (class of 08) who, while employed as a driver, completed his bachelor's and ultimately his master's degree at Cuttington Graduate School. Mr. Dumoe currently serves as Acting

Administrator of the University. Then there are those people who have stuck with Cuttington through everything – thick and thin. Mr. Bengaly Kamara, your French and Accounting Instructor, is now Associate Vice President for Internal Management Control, and Mr. Hassan Sankary. Mr. Sankary works as choir director (his passion) and Resident Engineer (his ability).

However, things are different. I don't remember the "need" so much and perhaps it's because I was a student during pre-war days. I can tell you that post-war, it's a different place. With need comes opportunity. This is the opportunity to build your alma mater and by extension, your country. It's also the opportunity to live beyond you. For me, I've established a scholarship in my mother's name. It'll cost me about \$1500 a year. I didn't choose the student but I met him and I saw the gratitude in his eyes as he cried and thanked God for the opportunity. I made it a work scholarship so he has to help out at the school.

You may choose to do this. Other things you can do include naming a street after your loved one. Mr. Overs, Mr. Harris, Mr. Valentine are all gone now but their names live on. So can yours. There are other buildings going up all the time. For a gift, you can have one of the RDI dorms or the new classroom named after someone you know.

Perhaps you would like to remain anonymous. Do so. Whether it's a one time or continuous gift to the endowment fund, it's always appreciated. Contact me directly.

Sincerely,  
Lovette Tucker  
Director of Development, Alumni and University Relations  
Cuttington University  
[azango@sbcglobal.net](mailto:azango@sbcglobal.net)



The Cuttington Nursing Alumni Association is having its second homecoming event during the weekend of November 25-27, 2011 at the main campus in Suakoko, Liberia. You are all invited to attend and support the nursing association.

The association is requesting souvenirs (T-shirts and caps) for this event. To donate to this worthy cause please contact Musue Passewee (Atlanta) at 770-403-2122 or Hawa Golakai (Houston) at 281-827-5857. Act now because these items have to be shipped in time to be here.

I am glad to report that the Friends of Cuttington (FOC) has agreed to refund our \$5000.00 as part of our contribution for the Library Project. The Association will be using that money to settle scholarship obligations with the University.

Bobby Joe



## ***Rupel's, Flashback Moment!***

***Alleluia!*** When our Vice President, Bobby Joe, informed me of the refund of the \$5000, I noticed droplets of water on the paper on my desk. It was so emotional to learn that we were successful in getting the refund from Friends of Cuttington. A brief history could help explain my emotions and this appeal. As president of the association between 2008 and 2010, I traveled many times to New York to attend Friends of Cuttington meetings. It was at these meetings that FOC decided to upgrade library services at Cuttington and I offered on behalf of CUAAA to give 10% of the initial amount (\$50000) indicated to do the study for the upgrade. It took extensive soliciting to realize the \$5000 and it was presented to FOC at our 2009 reunion. The project never materialized and I began to request the refund of CUAAA money. Not everyone agreed with the idea to have the money refunded but so many of you did. Thank God we have the money back that not only CUAAA members donated through their dues but many associate members gave to the programs of CUAAA.

## **Congratulations Yede Dennis ! 🎉**

I have been nominated to receive the 2011 Charles Drew Medical Award by the NAACP Metuchen-Edison Branch. The award was received at this year's NAACP awards dinner on October 29, 2011. For those of you who do not know, Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950) was an African American physician, surgeon and medical researcher. A medical pioneer, Dr. Drew's research in the field of blood transfusions and techniques for blood storage resulted in the blood program still being used by the American Red Cross today.



Over the years my training and passion for oral health care has compelled me to work with underserved communities all in the USA and Africa. I thank the NAACP for the acknowledgement and I thank each and every one of you for your continued friendship and support! Hope to see you soon.



## THE CAMPAIGN FOR CUTTINGTON “The Restoration Project”

During the reunion, the Restoration Project, Our Annual Fundraising Campaign, was unveiled. The association sought to raise \$10,000 in pledges and payments to support financial aid and make capital improvements at Cuttington University. These funds will increase the total financial aid responsibility thereby increasing the stability of support for the University. By achieving our goal we will ensure that the University builds a critical resource for the future. Operational monies once devoted to financial aid will be released to support teaching, learning, collaborative research, curricular innovation, academic enrichment – all of the elements that make Cuttington University such a distinctive place.

We are pleased to announce that we reached our monetary goal in pledges and payments. We need you to continue sending in your pledge payments and your one hundred dollars association dues. Thank You!

### ***There are several ways make payments..***

1. Mail to CUAAA, P.O. Box 67185, Baltimore, Maryland 21215
2. Go into Bank of America and pay directly into the account of the Cuttington University Alumni Association of the Americas with headquarters in Maryland. Then email Cyril at [catarpeh@gmail.com](mailto:catarpeh@gmail.com)
3. Use your credit or debit card and pay through PayPal on the CUAAA website.



## Newly Elect National Secretary, visits Cuttington



Mrs. Lovetie Browne-Major, newly elected national secretary, visited Cuttington on August 23, 2011, along with her husband Burke Major. She is a 1987 graduate from the Education Department. Mrs. Major is grateful that her alma mater has played a virtual role on her educational journey. She toured the campus and facilities and saw firsthand the needs of Cuttington at this time of post war Liberia. The renovations and expansions of development on campus were obvious. We must commend those who are carrying the torch to keep the lights glowing. As you can see, we need many hands to keep the torch afloat because it is heavy, high and mighty. She came to join hands with others that had come before her. There are room for more. You must stop what you are doing,

take a look around you and think for a minute, where did you get your undergraduate degree from? Cuttington was the basic foundation we received to soar through our advanced degrees and place of prominence in society. Join us in helping to make a difference at Cuttington University. Your country, Liberia needs you as well.

She sat and had a lengthy conversation with the President of Cuttington and other staff members. The enthusiasm and dedication they have shown to get us on the frontline to success cannot be overstated. There are a lot of things that you can offer Cuttington at this time at the crossroad. We cannot all make a visit, but we can listen to those who went before us. Make a call, send an email, or package and be a part of the 21st Century pioneers of Education at Cuttington.



## ALUMNI WELCOMED...

On Sunday, October 30, 2011, Freshmen students at Cuttington were matriculation at the main campus in Suakoko. As part of the matriculation activities, all upperclassmen was inducted into the Alumni Association. According to the constitution of the association, one is eligible to become an alumnus if they have spent more than one semester at the school. The Association of the Americas is pleased to congratulate all the students of Cuttington as they take a huge step toward adulthood.

In addition to the induction ceremonies, the campus was lit with a gathering of songs, stories and camaraderie around a huge bonfire on Saturday evening, October 29. Other activities, including a basketball game with Tubman University and soccer games were also planned. All alumni were invited to attend.



## WE ARE MOVING!

Mass emails sent out by the association are being returned.

When you change your email addresses, please be kind enough to let us know to update your records. Thank

You. 😊

## RENOVATIONS AROUND CAMPUS



The campus is being renovated. Buildings slated for renovation includes: Rally, Harris, Overs, Valentine and Gardiner Dorms. Renovations include painting and plumbing. In addition, faculty houses are also being renovated.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS

The faculty senate has approved the granting of academic degrees in French and Mass Communications. The degree in French was granted in the 80s but had fallen away due to the lack of students and the conflict. The Mass Communications degree is new. Students will obtain practical training at the Cuttington University Broadcast System which includes radio and television.

# Thrust '80 Inc. Donates \$15,000 for scholarships

By Bobby Gborgar Joe

On the evening of September 10, 2011 around 8:00 PM, a well-meaning group of Liberian educators, presidents of Cuttington University, University of Liberia, and Tubman University, and former students were gathered at the Camelot by Martin's in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The occasion was the second anniversary of the Charles Gbenyon, Nathaniel Kumeh, and John Victor scholarship awards for Liberian students attending those three institutions.

In attendance were the presidents of Cuttington University, University of Liberia, and the Tubman University, Dr. Henrique F. Tokpa, Dr. Emmett Dennis, and Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell who was represented by the Rev. Rita Townsend because of health reasons. Each president was introduced by the alumni association head or its designate. Dr. Henrique F. Tokpa was consequently introduced by the National Vice of Cuttington Alumni Association, Mr. Bobby Gborgar Joe, while Dr. Emmett Dennis was introduced by alumni President, Emmanuel Coleman. The Rev. Rita Elizabeth Davis-Russell was introduced by Mr. Edward Greenfield.

In his opening remarks the president of Thrust '80 inc, Mr. Kwame Clement welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude for the generosity. In commenting on the formation of Thrust '80 Inc., he told the crowd that the organization was created to honor three fallen Liberian Heroes, Charles Gbenyon, Nathaniel Kumeh, and John Victor, who all lost their lives as many other countless Liberians in the cause of the people.

Each president took turn to highlight some of their challenges and successes. For his part Dr. Henrique said that the work on the ground was such that every hand on deck was required to tackle many problems.

For his part, Dr. Emmett Dennis told the gathering that even though he had just had brain injury, he fought with his family to fly from Liberia to the program.

Rev. Rita Davis-Russell said that her President would have been there if she could. She then conveyed greetings from Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell who could not make it because of unavoidable circumstances.

The program was climaxed with the presentation of \$15,000 to the three schools with one scholarship each for Cuttington and Tubman universities while University of Liberia was awarded three schools.

# NEWS FROM THE REGIONS



## Region 1

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

### Regional Raffle Draw:

The date for Region 1 Raffle draw was postponed to March 2012 due to low ticket sales. Those who have bought tickets are encouraged to hold on to their stubs until the draw takes place. The prizes are still 1st Prize: A round Trip Ticket to Liberia; 2nd Prize \$300; Third

Prize: \$200. More information will be provided in this newsletter in the coming months.

### Monthly Meeting:

Region 1 holds a teleconference once a month. At these meetings the region is now undertaking an effort to increase its active membership and encouraging current members to keep in good standing by honouring their pledges to the Region in the amount of \$25.00 annually and National dues of \$100.00 annually.

### Bereavement:

An officer of the region, Felicia Gambles, (Regional Secretary), lost her dear bother in Liberia recently. Condolences to Felicia will be appreciated.



## Region II

Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Region II is in the process of holding elections soon with a meeting planned. The idea of a house party is in the making before the weather gets bad.



## Region III

Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, (Caribbean, Central/South America)

Region III volunteered to host the 2012 reunion.

The planning has begun. To get involved contact

Chapter President Musu Passewee at 770-403-3122. Region III is presently asking all members, families of CUAAA, and friends to join in preparation for the National Reunion scheduled for July 28- 30, 2012. We need your talent, time, support, and suggestions in order for our region to succeed.

### Monthly Meeting:

Our next Region III meeting will be held on November 27, 2011. Agenda will be focused on the reunion funding and other important issues. Please email Musu at [passewem@bellsouth.net](mailto:passewem@bellsouth.net) if you have anyone in mind to be our keynote speaker at the 2012 reunion. The phone number for region 111 conference is (605) 562 3000 and the code is 1020903.

### Fundraiser:

Purchase Rev. James Yarsiah's book *Early Missionary Work of the Protestant Episcopal church (DFMS) in Liberia And Their Differential Effects 1821-1871*. All proceeds from the sale go into the region's treasury.



## Region IV

Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota (and Canada.)

Region IV will host the 2013 reunion.



## Region V

Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana (and Mexico).

Region IV still working on final report from Convention 2011.



## Region VI

California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska

Region VI still working on membership drive.

