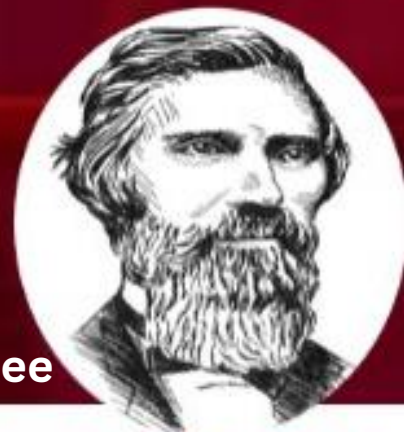


HISTORIC

OBERLIN

JAMAICA

WEST INDIA MISSION



**STILL STANDING AFTER
142 YEARS**

Rev. C.S. Renshaw Rev. J.O. Beardslee

AN AMERICAN CONGREGATIONAL MISSION

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Scan QR code to see article

Why A Magazine?

On America's Independence Day July 4th, 2024, the link to an article on Oberlin College helping Oberlin Jamaica after hurricane Gilbert in 1988 popped up, after searching for the website of a church in Kansas.

This finding led to two insightful phone calls which gave significant historical information on current Jamaica missions. Thus, the journey towards the Visioneers Magazine began as two articles were enthusiastically written that week. There was now arose another issue, which was deciding which magazine, journal or newspaper to share this wonderful news with.

After careful consideration, the idea came to become a leader just like the Visioneers who owned, operated edited and published newspapers and journals in the nineteenth century and subsequently this magazine was birthed.

Thanks to everyone whose contributions facilitated this publication. We encourage the readers to share so that more people can benefit from the rich information herein.

Feel free to contact us in the future for matters concerning stories, advertising, sponsorship and distribution. We also encourage your feedback in an effort to improve this magazine. Happy reading !



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“ A people without knowledge of their history are like trees without roots.”
MARCUS GARVEY

THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

**More great reads
inside:**

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- **THE OBERLIN COMPLEX**
 - **THE LOST STATION**
 - **OUR HISTORICAL JOURNEY**



**More great reads
inside:**

-
- **A QUITTER NEVER WINS**
 - **PROJECT 93**
 - **MEMORIES OF OBERLIN**

Why This Resource

Since 2019 the desire to produce a resource that could provide historical knowledge, build team spirit and loyalty, encourage camaraderie and homecoming, brand building and necessary support to a place that has been the bedrock of a community and a source of personal, professional, educational and spiritual edification for generations, was generated.

Five years later, the time has come to develop a product on the occasion of celebrating Jamaica's 190th emancipation anniversary and rightly so, as the Oberlin community is indeed historic, as its property was purchased and named in the 1840's by an abolitionist missionary.

The high school was built in the twentieth century and crucial information on the founding fathers and leaders throughout the decades was not a point of focus. Fortunately, in recent times former principal of Oberlin High School Ms. Thelma James found it imperative to host a Founder's Day at the school, and this has been a huge success, celebrating the work of all past and present leaders and the school community.

Many corporate area schools use publications and events such as School Spirit Day to build the students and cause endearment. This lays the foundation for a strong school alumni and PTA body, as generations follow the footprint of their families who attended the schools before them.

Knowledge of our foundation and the people who made this great complex what it is today is important. Their legacy must be noted. Progress and achievements must also be acknowledged, and honor given to those who have served the historic institution called Oberlin Jamaica. All the local church history has not yet been documented however, this resource is useful foundational knowledge for the school and community to use, to build its own magazine and repository and to aid its celebrations. The Oberlin Jamaica complex is just as great as any other historic Jamaican property, and it is time that its strengths are highlighted, and additional help garnered from those who have benefitted from the institutions on site.

This is also an opportunity to network and to receive support for our Alma Mata that has many needs. There are also many who are unaware of who we are, and the institution's progress over the years; people who may have the ability and capacity to help. May this effort bless the Oberlin complex exponentially and by extension the general community.

The Oberlin Jamaica Complex



Oberlin's Church in 1899

A Place of Hope

Oberlin Jamaica is located in the district of Lawrence Tavern, in St. Andrew Jamaica. In the 1800's it was considered to be a part of the parish of Metcalfe close to Grant Hill and Fern Hill which were in the parish of St. Andrew.

The complex was formerly called the Oberlin Station and was officially an American Congregational Mission Station managed by the West India Committee and later the American Missionary Association.

Popular abolitionist Amos Phelps visited the station in 1847. Missionaries from different denominations also considered the location one of the stops on their Jamaica tours. The buildings on the property have changed throughout the decades. Much development has been done on the property. In earlier years the buildings were made of board.

The Christian Woman's Board of Missions a women's missionary arm of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), built the church that is now on the property. The property was a popular meeting place even for the Disciples of Christ Organization who obtained the organization in the 1860's. The property is now operated by the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Island and is a former location for the International University of the Caribbean. The high school is a government school, managed by a board of directors.

THE PROPERTY

CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Ransford Hewitt

<https://ucjci.com/>

CONFERENCE CENTER

Manager:

Ms. Yvonne Williams

HIGH SCHOOL

Principal:

Mrs. Michelle Spencer



**Scan QR code so learn more
about the missionaries
Act of Faith**

THE LOST STATION

HOW OBERLIN JAMAICA JOINED THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Oberlin's Bell



Located in Brainerd, St. Mary

VISIONEER

Rev. Charles Stewart Renshaw



Scan code for video on this Visioneer

Oberlin Jamaica's Founder

In The Beginning

The name Oberlin Jamaica is synonymous with Rev. Julius Beardslee and the Christian Church (The Disciples of Christ). Prior to the 2020 publication of the Visioneers series, there was no available literature in Jamaica about the property's true founder or the role of The Christian Woman's Board of Missions in making Oberlin the exceptional place it is today.

In 1839 the pressing need for ministerial service was expressed to the pioneer of the Jamaica missions (Rev. David S. Ingraham), at the most opportune time. The day fellow Oberlin College Ohio alumni and abolitionist Rev. Charles Stewart Renshaw arrived in Jamaica.

How did the natives know where to get missionary assistance? Why go to Shortwood?

A Lover of the Community

There is much drama associated with the Oberlin mission station. Visioneer Renshaw disapproved of some practices in the Native Baptist church at Grant Hill where he was labouring. The church was not new to disruption as that led to him going to that location within the region of Rev. Ingraham's mission field.

The other Oberlin College graduates were nearby in Metcalfe now called St. Mary.

Oberlin's founder raised funds, bought the land, built the first school on site, got Oberlin's crucial bell which was removed to Brainerd when the station was lost to the Disciples. Julius Oliver Beardslee then a trustee, left the Congregational mission and joined The Disciples movement. Oberlin was lost to him in 1861. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions resurrected the mission in the 1870's and built the new church in 1899.



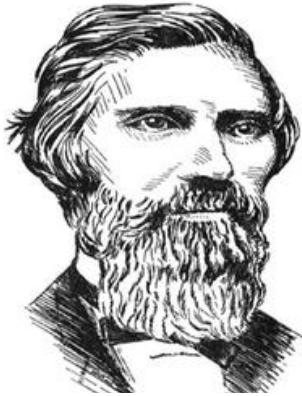
Read more on the genesis of Oberlin in the Visioneers Series.

Rev. Julius Beardslee

A Legacy of Abolitionism, Education, and Faith



The New Brainerd
Church Dedicated
by T.B Penfield




The Journey of a Visioneer

Rev. Julius Beardslee, from Connecticut, born on July 5, 1818, dedicated his life to advancing abolitionism, education, and faith, leaving an indelible mark on both American and Jamaican history. His journey encompassed pivotal roles commencing while still a student at Oberlin Institute in Ohio, to doing independent missionary work in Jamaica before aligning with the American Missionary Association (AMA).

Julius Beardslee's formative years at Oberlin Institute, renowned for its commitment to racial and gender equality, shaped his deep-rooted convictions in abolitionism and social justice. Graduating in 1844, long after starting his missionary journey, with a strong theological foundation. Beardslee embarked on a path that intertwined his faith with activism, preparing him for leadership roles in both education and missionary work.

In 1839, Rev. Julius Beardslee answered the call of his friend, Visioneer David S. Ingraham to serve in Jamaica. This was a pivotal moment that defined his career. He travelled with Rev. Renshaw, Rev. Dresser, Rev. Hovey, and Rev. Tyler on a life changing missionary adventure. Tasked with establishing educational initiatives and promoting literacy among emancipated slaves, the team's tenure in eastern Jamaica was marked by unwavering commitment to empowering communities through education and spiritual guidance.

Rev. Beardslee purchased the first property in the Jamaica Mission. This was the Brainerd property in St. Mary.

 <https://youtu.be/CUjOrL6o15s>
Scan for video on Rev. Beardslee

Beardslee's affiliation with the anti-slavery movement extended beyond Jamaica, encompassing advocacy for racial equality and social justice. His leadership abilities underscored his dedication to improving the lives of marginalized St. Mary communities through educational reform and community development initiatives especially in Brainerd, Chesterfield, Hermitage, Eliot, Providence, Brandon Hill, Richmond and Oberlin.

Rev. Julius Beardslee's impact on Jamaica's educational landscape extended to his pivotal role in the Mico Institute, a teacher training institution that became instrumental in empowering African Jamaicans through education. Rev. Beardslee began as a Mico School teacher then left the American mission to become the principal of the Mico Institute, located at the time on Harbour Street in Kingston.

Additionally, Beardslee's involvement with the Disciples of Christ movement in Jamaica exemplified his commitment to fostering spiritual growth and community cohesion among Jamaican congregations as he became a pioneer for this movement.

Rev. Julius Beardslee

A Legacy of Abolitionism, Education, and Faith



The new Oberlin church built in 1899 by the
Christian Woman's Board of Missions

Julius Beardslee's Ministry Journey

Rev. Julius O. Beardslee (also spelled Beardsley), felt sick and returned to America in 1855 where he examined the doctrines of the Disciples of Christ movement and joined the Christian Church.

Rev. Beardslee focused on evangelizing his newly found Baptist doctrine in the old mission field and also in new areas in central and eastern Jamaica. His efforts focused on establishing churches, schools, and uplifting marginalized communities that were poor and welcoming of the denomination that was similar to the Native Baptists, that baptized using emersion.

Ministry Timeline 1839-1868

- 1839: Julius Beardslee joins the Jamaica Mission.
- Mico Institute: Founded in 1836, the Mico Institute served as a teacher training institution. Rev. Beardslee left the mission in the 1840's was principal during 1847
- July 1853-June 1855: Ministered North Street Church July
- Disciples of Christ Movement: 1856 preached at Church of Christ, Bedford, Ohio.
- American Christian Missionary Society: 1858 sent to Jamaica

Resources



Beardslee Letters



Beardslee The Visioneer



Missions History



Beardslee's Disciples History

Established for the Disciples of Christ Movement 1858-1868: Kingston (Church Street now Duke Street), Dallas Castle, Mocha, Oberlin, Broadgate, Ebenezer (St. Andrew), Brooks, Wheelers Mount, Hermitage, Ebenezer (St. Mary), Dublin Castle, Bloxburgh, Christian Mount, Gayle, Chesterfield, Belfield, Oxford, Richmond, Lucky Hill.

1861 - Won the Oberlin Station from the Congregational church through a vote clause that Rev. Thornton B. Penfield was unaware of.

1865 - Associated with doing missionary work with the Rt. Excellent George William Gordon (National Hero).

Rev. Julius Beardslee's life journey exemplifies the transformative power of faith-driven activism and educational leadership. From his foundational years at Oberlin Institute to his influential roles in Jamaica with the AMA, Mico Institute, Disciples of Christ movement, and the American Christian Missionary Organization, Beardslee's contributions bridged continents and cultures in pursuit of justice and enlightenment. His legacy inspires ongoing efforts to promote equality, education, and social justice worldwide.

Rev. Beardslee also spelled Beardsley died March 29, 1879. He was a missionary for 35 years.

THE CONFERENCE CENTER

A Home Away From Home

The Oberlin Conference Centre experience is a treasured memory for many students, visitors, campers and customers.

After passing Lawrence Tavern square in St. Andrew the next focal point in the community is the Oberlin Conference Center which includes Ward Hall.

The property provides hostel style lodgings and a conference hall that is used for events, dining and in the past a quiet spot for students sitting external examinations.

Originally built for boarders who traversed to Oberlin from far communities in areas like St. Mary, and Portland, Ward Hall also provides many memories and nostalgia for students who have had to stay overnight after returning late from school events and being unable to get transportation to return home in the wee hours of the night after representing their school.

The facility has affordable rates and customized plans for visitors who want to enjoy the interior of the island, enjoy the community, local cuisine and participate in business meetings, local tours, or missions. The facility can also be rented for events such as weddings, book launches, conferences, conventions, luncheons and meetings.



May Ward

**Ward Hall and
Ward House were
named after
Mrs. May Ward**

The center is registered as a separate entity from the school and church although it is on the Oberlin Complex and belongs to the general church body..

**Manager
Ms. Yvonne Williams
Email:**

williamsyvonne26@gmail.com



Our Historical Journey

Memories of Oberlin High School
Jamaica



OBERLIN HIGH SCHOOL JAMAICA

Lawrence Tavern, St. Andrew Jamaica
www.oberlinhighja.com



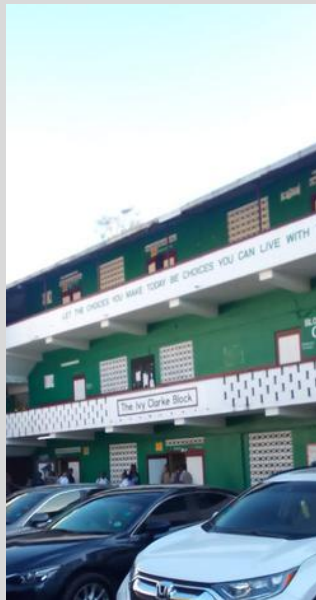
HISTORY

Oberlin High School Jamaica was founded in 1946 by The Disciples of Christ in Jamaica (The Christian Church), now known as The United Church in Jamaica and The Cayman Islands)

- Location: West Rural St. Andrew Constituency
- Population: Approximately 1, 700 students
- Over 90 Academic Staff Members
- Administrative: 13 & Ancillary: 18 at January 2023

OBERLIN'S FIRST PRINCIPAL

Oberlin when it was first built was called Christian College.



REV. ARCHIE ALLAN

- Past Principal
- 1946 - 1947
- Allan House was named in his honor.
- Rev. Allan and his wife Ruth served as the first Principal & Staff at Oberlin



The 1970's

History and Founder's Day information contributed by Mr. Evon Walker, Guidance Counsellor



Teaching Staff of 73

The School Colour is Burgundy & Green

REV. C.A ROBERTSON



Rev. Robertson 1960



PRINCIPAL 1947-1970

Rev C.A. Robertson served the school for twenty three (23) years. His wife Mrs. D. Robertson also taught at Oberlin.

Robertson house was named after this leader



DR. ROBERT G. NELSON



Dr. Robert G. Nelson

**Acting Principal
1950 - 1951**

*(While Rev. C. Robertson
was on leave)*

- Nelson House was named in his honor.
- He wrote a book about The Disciples of Christ in Jamaica

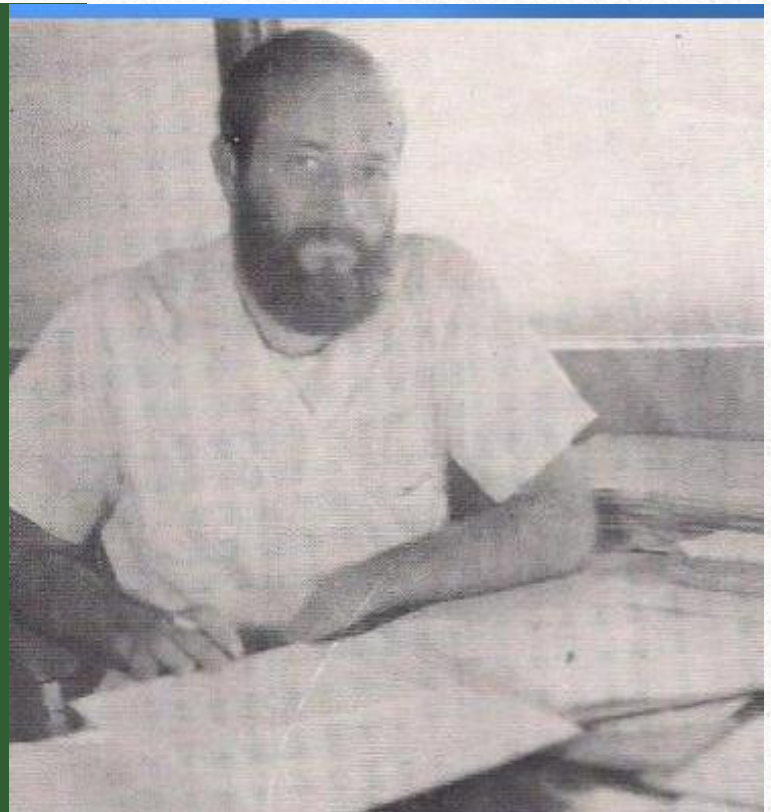
REV. E.D. WELLBORN

Rev. E.D. Wellborn

**Acting Principal for two
years**

1970 - 1972

**Rev. Wellborn returned to
the United States**



REV. DR. RICHMOND I. NELSON

1972-1999

Past Student & Longest Serving Principal



THE EARLY YEARS

A man who loves family and community, Rev. Dr. Nelson throughout the years found time to engage himself with work, church and community. As a child Rev. Dr. Nelson worshipped at the Salisbury Plain Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) and attended the Cavaliers Elementary School before attending Oberlin from 1946 to 1953. He was fortunate to be among the first graduates of the institution.

After having obtained a Diploma in Theology from London University in 1957 he married Cecile Pickersgill and was blessed with four daughters.

Before Oberlin Rev. Nelson worked as an Assistant Master at Excelsior High School in Kingston where he served from 1962 to 1969. His work in ministry however began before that, at the Duke Street Christian Church from 1961 to 1972 serving the Disciples of Christ denomination.

THE VISIONEER BUILDER

Rev. Dr. Richmond Isaiah Nelson, Oberlin Jamaica Alumni formally served his Alma Mata for twenty-seven years and has still continued to support the institution long after his retirement.

A lover of history and family, Rev. Nelson made the community of Oberlin and Grant Hill his home for many years and through his people skills and visionary leadership has managed to build on the vision of the founding fathers to make Oberlin complex the facility it is today.

On October 23, 1933, a gift was born to the family of Erastus and Josephine Nelson of Red Ground in the Cavaliers District, St. Andrew, Jamaica.

THE NETWORKER

Partnerships facilitated his mission as a builder. He utilized small spaces to make the school what it is today.



In Photo: Mrs. Ivy Clarke, Katherine Ann Haggard, Ella and Jack Perry & Rev. Dr. Richmond I. Nelson at the clinic named after Kathy's parents.

REV. DR. RICHMOND I. NELSON

EDUCATION

A lover of education, Rev. Nelson pursued his Undergraduate Degree in History from the University of the West Indies Mona, a Masters in Divinity from the Union Theology Seminary, USA and a Doctorate in Ministry from UTCWI and Columbia Seminary.

SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Nelson has served in several capacities in the nation and Church. Positions include, President of the Jamaica Council of Churches, President of the World Council of Churches, Moderator of The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Executive at The International University of the Caribbean. The Chairman of several school boards including UTCWI, Iona High & Tarrant High. He has received a national award and has served as a Justice of the Peace for many years contributing to community development and nation building in several ways. Rev. Dr. Nelson is known by many communities in eastern Jamaica for his role in helping local and overseas ministries to fulfil their ministry, evangelism and missions mandate.

While serving at Oberlin Rev. Nelson had to face many challenges including damages to the property from a fire and hurricane Gilbert in 1988. With an engaged team, partners and friends the Richmond Nelson Auditorium and other buildings were built. While the buildings were being restored Rev. Nelson and his staff developed a school feeding program to assist in the development of the Sports Department which paid off, resulting in the school becoming Eastern Championship winners and among the top three schools for approximately twenty-five years.



Rev. Nelson & Coach Leslie



Coach, past student teacher and sixth form coordinator
Mr. Everton (Snapper) Leslie

Rev. Nelson maintains a good relationship with many past students, residents, staff and the church.



Members of the Nelson, Haggard and Goldson families.

Mr. Keith Goldson (center) was a former Chairman of Oberlin, a Disciples of Christ minister, a horticulturalist and business man.

MS. THELMA E. JAMES

PRINCIPAL 1999-2007



Ms. James presenting at Founders Day 2023

MAMA JAMES

A former mathematics teacher who served for many years as Vice Principal of Oberlin High School

A feared disciplinarian and builder with numerous achievements who was respected, admired and loved by many students. Her haughty laughter and extensive labour at Oberlin is known by all.



Scan code to see the Thelma James Block

A lover of music, Ms. James was often found training the choir or singing at devotions.

Ms. James had a knack of building relationships with at risk youths and was often seen at the back of the auditorium speaking with the boys.

In the days of corporal punishment, Ms. James was like a sprinter or a magician, appearing out of nowhere with her tool in hand, causing many to scamper to where they ought to be.

A cheerleader for her school whose voice could be heard from far away, her name will always remain synonymous with Oberlin Jamaica.



Much of the school's modern history can be garnered from Ms. James. Scan code.

PRINCIPAL 2007-2015



Scan QR code to hear Mrs. Clarke's Speech

A lover of flowers, music, art, craft and sports. Mrs. Clarke sewed her children's uniform when they attended Oberlin.

A leader, public speaker and organist at the Salisbury Plain Christian Church (now United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands).

Mrs. Clarke became the first female principal who was associated with the church body affiliated with the school.

During her tenure she advocated for Technical and Vocational training for students and the community and continued the "All Together Sing" winning trend started by Ms. James, helped to build a staff lounge and was a member of the Kiwanis Club Charter Group that was formed at the school.

Her teaching journey began at Mannings Hill Primary School. She interned at Port Antonio Secondary School before becoming a Mathematics teacher at Oberlin in the 1970's.

Mrs. Ivy Clarke returned to her former high school St. Mary's College where she taught mathematics, worked as Vice Principal then Acting Principal before her return to Oberlin.



MRS AUDREY FRANCIS

ACTING PRINCIPAL & VICE PRINCIPAL

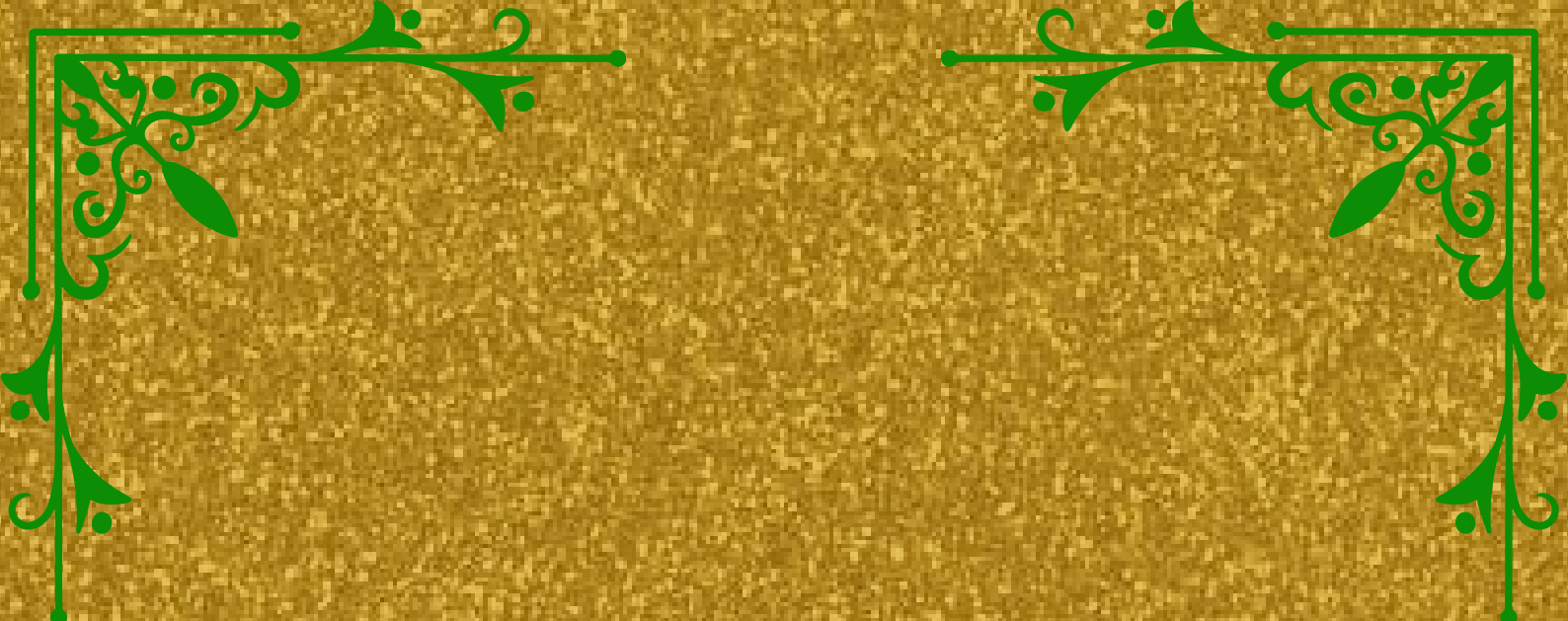


A past student of St. Mary's College, Mrs. Francis is an excellent history teacher, a diplomatic, vibrant, passionate, compassionate and enthusiastic individual and administrator.

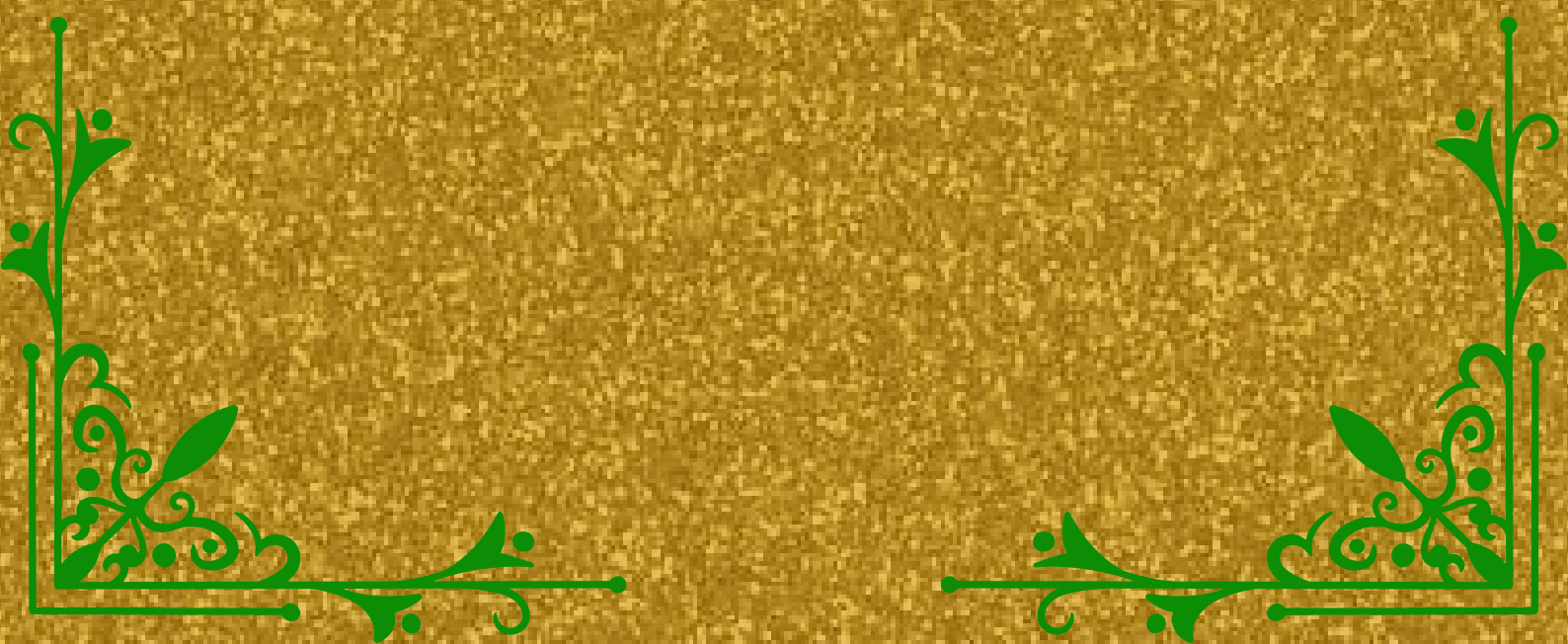
An avid fundraiser and Kiwanian, she played a vital role in the school and key roles to ensure its success. She was often seen helping people, marketing the school and engaging in charity.

Scan QR code to hear Mrs. Francis presenting at Founders Day 2023

- A Key player in the former Kiwanis Club Charter based at the school.
- A member of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.
- Mrs. Francis is active in church missions ministry.



**The Board of
Directors and
Current
Administrators**



MRS. SHERNETT SMITH

CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR



Mrs. Shernette Smith is an ardent worker and has served the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands for several decades, from the days of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) movement.

She has contributed to ministry as a member of the Kings Gate church, and has served in various capacities through leadership, missions, work with the Shirley Retreat Hotel and more.

A woman of valour, and the first female to lead the Oberlin Board of Directors, Mrs. Smith has continued to build as the women of the Christian Womans Board of Missions did between 1874-1918. She succeeded Rev. Davidson former Chairman of the Board.



REV. D. DAVIDSON



PASTOR K. GOLDSON



MR. M. PINNOCK



MR. G. WRIGHT



REV. C. H. MORRIS

FORMER BOARD CHAIR

MRS MICHELLE SPENCER

2015- CURRENT PRINCIPAL



HER BELIEFS

An advocate for the arts.

“I believe that all children are geniuses created in the image of God. I believe that all students have the potential to become productive citizens of society. Hence, each child should have access to education in an environment where he or she is allowed to explore, enquire and develop those God given creative talents and abilities. Such an environment should have a rich curriculum that challenges them to think critically and become effective innovative leaders who will dare to “think outside of the box” and solve tomorrow’s problems. I believe that students should be able to dream and think big. Students should see obstacles as great opportunities for their personal growth and development.”

HER BELIEFS

Oberlin will become:

- A first class and world renowned Poly-technic High School.
- A model school where all students are expected to hard work and are driven by a spirit of excellence and high standards.
- A school where students are exposed to a STEM curriculum that challenges them to become entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders in their respective fields.
- A school where students learn in a safe and stimulating environment that promotes respect for self, respect for others, respect for God and respect for the environment
- A school with a rich culture of excellence that fosters partnership with all stake holders including staff, parents, past students, the church , the local and international community.

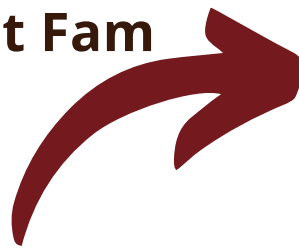


JOIN US FOR A SHORT VIRTUAL TOUR

**WELCOME TO
OUR OBERLIN
HIGH SCHOOL
JAMAICA**



**On this resource page,
we are directing you
to the sites where you
can see a visual of the
property on the tour
with past student
blogger Sweet Fam**



**The choir performed
welcome to Jamaica
for Scotiabank. See
Website here**

The Starapple



If you visit the Lawrence Tavern community and the Oberlin complex be sure to look for the Starapple tree.

This fruit is of two varieties, green and purple. The school colour was inspired from this fruit tree.

The Schools Colour

The school logo was inspired by the scripture Joshua 14:12.

“Hunc Montem Mihi Da”
“Now Therefore Give Me This Mountain”

THE SCHOOL SONG

Oberlin High School Jamaica Song

From the Hills of St. Andrew
The Paragon Rises
The Green and Burgundy
Lighting Up the Skies
We're shining stars guiding all the best
In everything we do
We give thee thanks, O Lord, for the rest
Oberlin, Oberlin High School

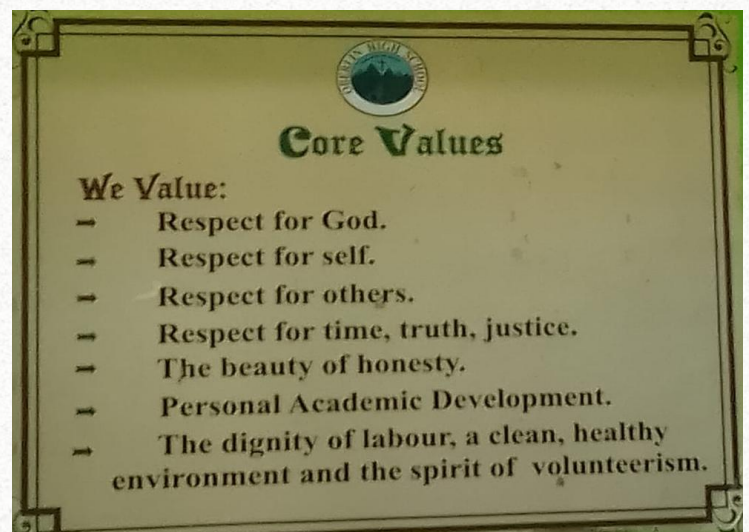
Now therefore give me this mountain
Hunc Montem Mihi Da
We're always ready for the challenge
Hunc Montem Mihi Da
Now therefore give me this mountain

Written By: Dr. Patrick Prendergast
(Oberlin Jamaica Past Student)



Combining Sound Scholarship
with the Dignity of Labour

Scan QR code to hear
school song & choir.



Oberlin Jamaica News



Oberlin has a newly elected body that is ready and rearing to continue to take the school to another level through strengthening the alumni community.

Have you subscribed to their newsletter?

For more scan the QR code or visit www.oberlinpsa.org



OBERLIN HIGH SCHOOL JAMAICA PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (ALUMNI)

**Pay it forward!
It's time to give back!**



SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

To see what is happening at your school visit their site below:

<https://www.oberlinhighja.com/>

You can also scan the QR code.

There are many ways in which you can support. Ask them how!





A QUITTER NEVER WINS!



EVERTON LESLIE

PAST STUDENT, TEACHER, SIXTH FORM COORDINATOR

Everton Leslie is not a quitter! He is a loyal team member who has served Oberlin for decades, working assiduously with Carey Mets and Winston Davis to build the alumni. He believes that a quitter never wins!

A member of the class of 1982, Everton Leslie most popularly known as “Snapper”, is an expert in the field of coaching and is known locally for his hard work and contribution to the development of sports in Jamaica and the students at Oberlin High School.

Mr. Leslie desires to see a continuity of the development of athletes from the nursery perspective. He also wants to see seniors motivating the junior students to shine!

Below are some articles relating to Mr. Leslie.

A German Interview

<https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/jamaica-excel-athletics-young-talents-need-support>
Pen relays first time 2002

Track and field in eastern Jamaica

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQXNpmRK4r8>

Bullying in School

<https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20191212/teacher-wants-address-bullying-school>



Scan QR Code to hear Mr. Leslie give some of Oberlin's track and field history!



Scan here to hear about the Sports Department, Mr. Thomas and his team.
<https://youtu.be/ZtIz00fTQ5M>

Have you donated to the Sports Department? What sports did you play at Oberlin? It is time to pay it forward!



SHELDON BROWN - DIASPORA REPRESENTATIVE - OPSA

International marketer. Graduate of St. John's University in New York. Oberlin High School Jamaica's Class of 1992 Head Boy.

Sheldon Brown is a brother to many and has never forgotten where he has called home.

His sister Teisha also was in the batch that entered school in 1988 (the class of 1993).



Calm demeanor, very fun loving yet persuasive, passionate and firm in his ideologies. Sheldon is all about love, unity, support, development, school loyalty and fellowship. He has led and coordinated events for many years keeping the link with many past students who reside all over the world.



Before Sheldon and friends including Sherene Walker-Maitland, Dr. Dacia Dixon, Christopher Livingston, Christopher Ballentine and Christopher Passley organized a formal reunion in Maryland, various groups and past students including Wayne "Tucky" Graham would have socials and backyard cookouts, involving past students in North America.

Sheldon and the former Jamaica team including Mr. Winston Davis, Everton Leslie, Lyssa-Ann Clarke, Karen Danvers and Mr. Carey Mets have promoted the Oberlin brand for several years and have tried to garner interest and loyalty from past students to support the organization for many years.

The North American chapter has hosted several functions and have invited staff including Ms. James, Ms. Francis, Mr. Leslie and Mrs. Clarke to events. They have also helped to contribute through donations to sponsor members of the track team to participate in the Penn Relays held in Philadelphia, USA and for supplies needed such as gears.



Sheldon's desire is to see a more active alumni and more support gained from past students as he continues to build the Oberlin brand. He has great ambitions and a vision to see prosperity and progress in our school, communities and Jamaica his island home.



PRESIDENT Class of 1993

Hearing the voices, feeling the energy, seeing the faces, and togetherness of the class of 93 Oberlin High group was simply delightful. It was about a year ago that a common cause brought us together. We had that burning alumni desire to make a tangible difference. We visited the school and identified the Home Economics Lab as our area of focus.

With positive meetings and individual contributions, we are now on our way. We invite every alumni member to do all they can in the improvement of our alma mater. In the words of our school hymn "we build our school on thee oh Lord".

So I pray that by the grace of our Creator, may we continue that commitment of building our school to higher standards for the benefit of future generations. Gratitude and Love!

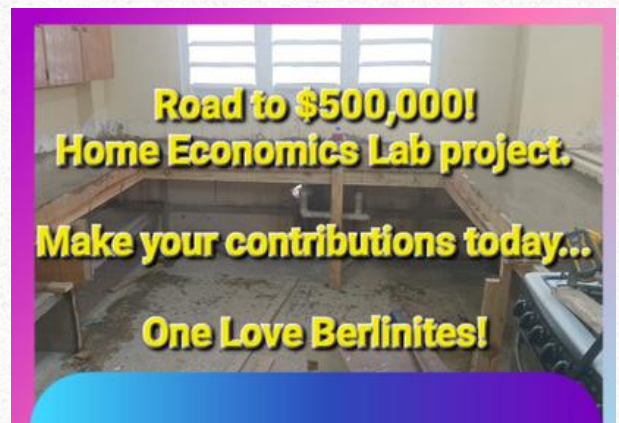
The Home Economics Lab needs your help!

We encourage your support to get this project completed in time for the new school year.

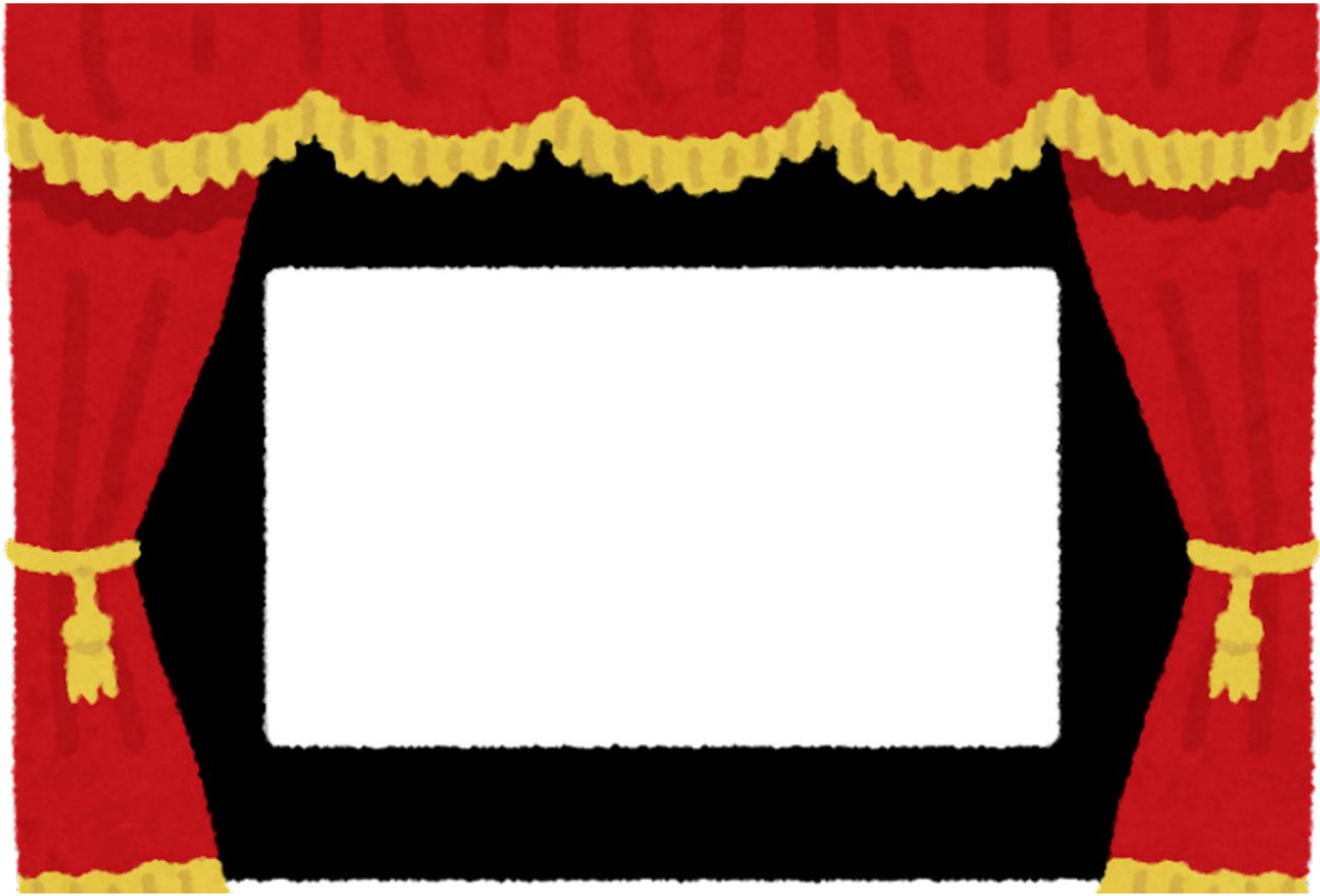
We have also realised that the school has many other needs and areas in which you can support in terms of tools, equipment, teaching and lab supplies, teaching aids, classroom posters and charts, back to school supplies, you name it!

The Home Economics Department has benefitted so many students over the years, through the 4H, sewing classes, food and nutrition classes and home management. The school has loyal and dedicated supervisors who give their all to ensure student success.

Please contact Earl Sterling at (876)770-9192, Mrs. Markion Stanbury at (876)396-1742 or Courtney Reynolds at 876-518-2953



Project 93



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- Wall Paint

CLASS OF

1993

MEMORIES

Oberlin My Training Ground

“We build our school on thee oh Lord, to thee we bring a common need. Dear Lord we pray, thy spirit may enrich and bless our school always!”

This was the school song sung in general assembly (devotions) in my Oberlin days. Devotion was held around midday and was an opportunity for the juniors to meet senior school who was on the second shift in that era.

The year was 1988. I was ten years old when I passed the Common Entrance Examination. I was among four grade five students from St. Mary’s All Age School in Above Rocks who were fortunate to get a high school placement. I remember that day walking home from school with a group of my peers when someone with the newspaper showed us the list of scholars who had a successful placement. I looked on the list of students who were placed from my school and I noticed that all were once again placed at our sister school St. Mary’s College. I wasn’t surprised. Nevertheless, I was happy that my closest friends and I were on our way to high school.

A Dramatic Start

My parents decided to send the three older children to the same school. My sister was the first. It was now time for my brother and I to join her so she got us transferred. He had left his home in Above Rocks to come live with us for the first time. I was excited! I had a lot to be happy about, new uniforms, a new school, my brother. I was elated. I was now a big girl, a pre-teen and I would get to meet new friends.



**LYSSA-ANN
CLARKE**

I remember at orientation being in a big auditorium. Many of the girls wore pig tail, ribbons or bubbles in those days. Our uniform was a khaki tunic with a green and white checkered blouse. The boys wore khaki uniforms with epaulets. I remember the smell of a new bag and raincoat. I also got a beautiful tropical colored trapper keeper folder which was the rave in those days.

I was placed in class 7o. My form teacher was Miss Alexander. We were on a building above the P.E room. I met some friends at orientation and was eagerly looking forward to real school the next week. For some reason this little girl named Megan stood out in my mind for her interactions with me. I also remember a guy named Fredrick who used to give us lots of jokes.

It was time to get the real Oberlin experience when “wild Gilbert”, a category three hurricane, hit Jamaica. Oberlin was severely affected by the natural disaster and we could not attend our school for several months.

MEMORIES OF OBERLIN

Wild Gilbert

In 1988, Oberlin was operating on a shift system. The grades seven and eight grade blocks were covered with aluminum roofing. Rev. Nelson our principal made a fundraising drive to fix the infrastructure and posted the targeted revenue on the wall in the school's auditorium.

My mother Mrs. Ivy Clarke took us to St. Mary's College during the rebuilding period. I met some great friends at that school, some lived in Glengoffe.

I didn't get to do many extra curricular activities in the seventh grade, but I had joined the Girls Guide group.

I was not competitive, but I remember placing third in my class one semester. I enjoyed my classmates. The boys made the class lively. Miguel Johnson and Edward Davis were very agile and lively. I vividly remember Edward saying the word Martin-i-que (Martinique) while reading one day in class causing the whole class to erupt in laughter.

Commuting

Traveling to and from school was a blast. In the mornings we had to get up early, sometimes 4am to leave between 4:30 and 5:30 am.

If 6:30 am caught us at the bus stop, we would have to walk several miles to school and sometimes getting punishment to stand outside in the sun after walking those many miles.

We took the Two Brothers market bus, Bob bus, John John bus, Jacko bus, Keith, Spanish Tours, Ninja..... whatever we could get to go to school. The most embarrassing ride would be taking Da da truck, as when we got off in Stony Hill with the market vendors we would be jeered and called "hog and goats".

Getting home was another adventure. In grade seven I remember one day riding in the front shovel of a tractor through Top Road to Burnt Shop. On the days the group walked we would sometimes stop at Tavern School to buy "corn" and fried chicken back. Corn was festival, a sweet fried dough. We would also stone mango trees during the summer period.

The group consisted of students from several communities including Cavaliers, Salisbury Plain, Parks Road, Essex Hall and Above Rocks.

If we took the bus, we would save our lunch money to buy patty at Sugar and Spice or Johnny Cakes at Manor Park Plaza in Constant Spring.

We had some interesting commuting moments. Climbing in Papa's truck from the Constant Spring market to get home or on the occasions my jumping skills were quite handy. Twice I jumped from two Jolly buses. a blue one in Stony Hill whose radiator burst spilling hot water on passengers and a yellow one that caught fire on the Cavaliers Road.

The most outstanding moment though, was in grade seven when I accidentally wore my duster on Jacko's bus. In the mornings while having breakfast, I would put my duster over my uniform to prevent soiling. One morning Jacko's bus blew its horn at Property Road a bit early. My sister and brother ran out before me. I grabbed my bag and headed up the road to catch the bus. The bus high beam lights were shining down the road on the three of us running. When we got into the bus the passengers were hollering from pure laughter after having seen me running up the street like a ghost in my light-coloured duster that I wore over my nightgown. All I could do was put it in my bag and laugh.

Extra Curricular

Grade eight also included more drama. There was a fire. However, that was the most unsettling grade for me as puberty hit me hard.

MEMORIES OF OBERLIN

I fell from 3rd place to 44th that year. I was emotional. However, on a positive note, Physical Education helped me. It was integral to our development. Students built stamina during the long distance runs to Grant Hill.

In grade eight I learned high jump thanks to Mr. Chin and did well sports day. That got me a place on the track team. I received my first Eastern Champs medals that year and my friend Antoniette and I were proud high jump champions. We also did sprints.

I will never forget the experience of eating starapples from the tree on the playing field, or the one day we got to pluck chickens at the farm after training for Girls Championships. I was also blessed to be a part of the first team to win the championships. My first coach was Garnett Green, then Snapper (Everton Leslie) joined Mr. Chin, Miss Mullings and Mrs. Gregory.

Our principal Rev. Nelson brought the whole team on stage and gave us a beach trip to Portland that year. That trip allowed me to get an overnight experience on the Ward Hall dormitory. We had such fun. That was over thirty years ago.

We learned to play netball during P E. Class and I became the goalkeeper for the school's junior team.

Our team looked like midgets when compared to our opponents from Merl Grove, Mona, St. Andrews and Dunoon who beat us in the competitions. However, that foundation I got, paved the way for me to play for Jamaica National in the Business House Netball league and for my branch team later on as an adult.

My classmates Janice and Barbara invited me to join the Red Cross group. This foundation led to a Red Cross area group being established at Salisbury Plain while I was in college. At Oberlin the Red Cross met with the Scouts and Guides for rehearsals and drills as all uniformed groups were required to parade, march and do guards of honor at events. This helped us to be disciplined and we were often called to represent the school even on weekends at funerals or other functions.

In grade nine I joined the seasonal Speech Chorale, directed by Miss Ferguson aka "Jasso", a very creative poet, English teacher and coordinator, who wrote excellent pieces for the chorale to perform at events, especially graduation. By grade ten our English teacher Mrs. Dowe selected members of the 10o class to represent the school at the national high school debating competition.

That was my first major public speaking opportunity as I was selected to be the first speaker for the team.

I enjoyed every moment of the competition and the opportunity I got to speak. This paved the way by laying the foundation for me to be selected at The University of Technology Jamaica to become Validectorian in 2003.

The ability to think on the spot, write a case and creatively present a speech was a part of the test in the selection process for the candidates nominated by the various faculties. This talent was inculcated from the age of fourteen (14) at Oberlin High School Jamaica. Hats off to Mrs. Dowe.

My extra-curricular activities did not end after graduation. A mentor, Mr. Clive Grossett, a former business teacher at Oberlin started the Kiwanis Charter Club at Oberlin. My mother and I were members of this group.

I also volunteered on the alumni for many years after leaving Oberlin. Do you know that the association is revamped and that there is a new website that you can join to participate or be briefed on alumni events?

Academics

Oberlin provided us with skills and good Technical and Vocational Edu. memories. Our eight-grade agricultural science class with Mr. Morgan was always fun, and planting vegetables which we would get to take home after they were reaped was a blessing for our family.

MEMORIES OF OBERLIN

I remember the pendulum with Ms. Hayles, learning embroidery with Miss Ferguson, cooking with Mrs. Knott and the jokes we got with the boys in Miss Thompson's typing class.

I loved art and craft, but my favourite classes were geography with Mrs. Reid and Mr. Cookson, history with Mrs. Francis, Clothing and Textiles with Miss Amanda Berry and believe it or not, my math class with the Vice Principal Mr. Williams which was healing for me from math trauma.

His teaching style made a difference to those who needed confidence in the subject. His demeanor and love for his students mattered. His patience, gentleness, encouragement, to come to the board regardless of our doubts and fears of mathematics, gave me the push I needed, to not only learn math, but to prove that I was capable of performing well in a subject I dreaded.

In clothing and textiles, I did crochet pieces for my project, made a skirt suit, and baby dress in class. What I remember most was the class not having enough sewing machines to do the necessary practical classes for the skills we were to learn to make us rounded individuals. Unfortunately, those few machines are still at the school.

Mrs. Audrey Francis taught my class Caribbean History which was mandatory. We learned a lot about US in the Caribbean and Sugar and Slavery, and while she beamed with enthusiasm in our class and spoke about archaeology, I absorbed what was delivered and wrote songs and mnemonics to help me study. I also considered history and archaeology at the university as an option because of the foundation I received at Oberlin.

Today, I have authored four history books and I still remember where it all started....at OBERLIN!



**Lyssa-Ann Clarke MBA, B.Ed.
Publisher, Author,
Educator, Consultant,
Purpose Coach, Prophetic
Minister.**

Oberlin is in my blood! My mother was pregnant with me while she taught at Oberlin in the seventies. I will never be ungrateful, as I have heard some past students say that they never got anything at school. Well, I believe that it is impossible to not learn "anything" from the diverse characteristics and skills of the teachers and administrators we have.

After graduating from Oberlin I went to a popular school in town, and when I compared both schools while they may have had money to give scholarships and they had a strong alumni and loyal past students, Oberlin by far taught us to be flexible academically, technically and gave us fortitude. We were taught many soft skills, morals and our strong teachers influenced our deportment. While we were a rural school, the students were just as capable as those in the urban area, and in fact were more rounded in several areas.

I have supported my Alma Mata at various events as an alumni because Oberlin played a role in making me who I am today! I urge my fellow alumni to join the association and build the Oberlin brand just as those in town build their schools!

May Your Memories Live On!

I have many memories of Oberlin, my classmates, friends, learning about volunteerism and about Godly principles which were the foundation on which our school was built. May the light of God perpetually shine upon our beloved school. The green and burgundy in the hills of St. Andrew. "Now therefore give me this mountain" Hunc Montem Mihi Da!

MEMORIES OF OBERLIN

CLASS OF 93

BARBARA CAMPBELL

They say "it takes a village" to raise a child. For me, my teachers at Oberlin High School from September 1988 to June 1993 were my village. I was one of 3 children to a teenage mom. My teachers instilled and reinforced discipline, morals and core values, that gave me the foundation to survive and thrive through the years.

The Miss Oberlin fashion shows and pageants allowed me, a shy reserved teenager, to gain self-confidence and build self-esteem while having fun and entertaining my peers.

During my years at Oberlin I was given the opportunity by my peers to showcase my leadership skills and abilities, by being voted class monitor or student council representative from grade 7 to 11. To this day, I am truly grateful to have had those opportunities to lead.

I looked forward to going to school, even when I was sick I was in attendance. On multiple occasions my teacher had to send me to the "sick bay" in the nursing station, but being at school meant I was with my family. I was fortunate to have had classmates that genuinely loved and cared for each other.



I appreciated all my teachers, but I had my favorites. Mrs. Francis, the best history teacher ever, would ask me if I was ok when teaching the middle passage of the slave trade. She knew how difficult that part of our history was for me to digest.



**Top three contestant in the Miss Oberlin & Mr. Physique Competition
Our classmate Nancy Holder won that year.**

Mrs. Clowson was my literature teacher, and she always made me feel like one of her very own children. Thanks to Miss Dowe I migrated to Canada and immediately sounded like a born Canadian because of my flawless command of the English language. Miss James our no-nonsense leadership and math teacher, even though very strict, to me was always feared.

I absolutely loved and will forever cherish my memories of attending Oberlin High School, all my experiences gave me the foundations I now stand on as a mom, a wife, a licensed legal professional, a sister, a daughter and a friend.

MEMORIES OF OBERLIN

CLASS OF 93

OBERLIN THEN AND NOW

“Your attitude determines your altitude”, was the famous quote from then chairman Mr. Goldson during my tenure as a student at Oberlin High School. This was one of the positive stimulants that made learning not only fun, but crafted a desire to succeed.

Life at Oberlin was majestic, fantastic, spiritually uplifting and emotionally and physically enriching. Activities were never-ending while still emphasizing learning. Teachers concert - Mr. Holt acting as Pepe Lopez, Ms. James' rendition of O Holy Night was always a blast, Mr. and Ms. Oberlin, body building and volleyball competition, not to mention dramatization with Snapper, Donald and Patrick.

How could I forget the choir rehearsals and performances at graduation and other functions? One such function was the dedication of the library where after a minute of the choir singing some of the foreigners were "bawling" (crying), to our surprise. Mama James the choir director, yes same Ms. James smiled at us, while ensuring that every note was pitched perfectly.

Our days as students were geared towards building the entire being, thus enabling us to live up to the motto "Now Therefore Give me this Mountain". Of course, that coupled with past principal Thelma James's famous saying, "work or leave", was the perfect antidote for working hard.

Now as a teacher, the culture has changed, our uniform has changed, and buildings have been added. Clubs and activities continue however, not to the tune of past momentum where every student had to be in a club. Some students are less motivated towards learning. The classroom environment has become more volatile with parental impact seemingly on the low.

“The heights by great men reached and kept” appears to be unraveling, “were not attained by sudden flight”, this has been hijacked by the need for quick fixes, “but they while their companions slept, were toiling upwards through the night.” The night is used for working, but in the form of entertainment.

Indeed, we all will have to reclaim "this mountain", since our students are “geniuses”, and we want them to contribute positively to their community and country.

Markion Stanbury (Mrs.)
Past Student and Home Economics Teacher
Project 93 Committee Member

Class of 1993

So many memories of Oberlin, all could not be noted. We cherish them and strive to make new memories. In 2017 our WhatsApp group was formed after we lost Andrienne Ximannes. Since then, Edward Davis, Miguel Johnson, Heather and in earlier years Dayonna, Kevin James (James-ee) and a few more of our batchmates and teachers left us. We will miss them dearly and cherish the memories.

Not having a yearbook or a graduation ball was a disappointment for many. We wanted to make new memories and we had our thirtieth (30th) anniversary link up in July 2023. We also chose our project. Our desire is to not limit our assistance to the Home Economics lab, but to seek help for all areas where we see a genuine need. We therefore make the call for those who have benefited from the complex to “come home”, return to the hills of St. Andrew and give your love through volunteerism, and by giving in cash and kind to the departments, clubs and the general property.

Lyssa-Ann Clarke , Project 93 Committee Member



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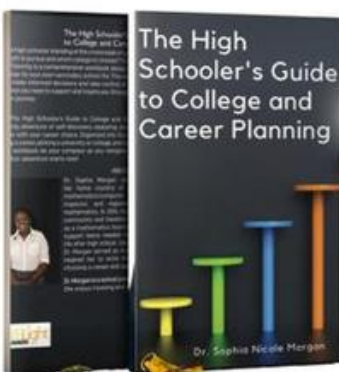


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Thank You

To the Management & Staff of Oberlin High School Jamaica

- Thank you for providing the PowerPoint presentation from Founders Day 2023 which was used for the publication of this supplement and for permission to proceed with the Home Economics Lab project.
- Thank you Mr. Walker for your assistance.
- Thanks to the Home Economics team for providing us with the support necessary to help our beloved school and for working so hard in the department despite needed resources.
- Thank you Mr. Leslie for all the hard work you have done supporting the alumni and track team over the years.

THANK YOU

- Katherine Ann Haggard & Family
- Dr. Robert (Bob) Magee
- The Nelson Family
- The Goldson Family
- Ms. Yvonne Williams
- Past Students and Teachers
- Our Project Sponsors
- Alumni Representatives
- The Class of 1993



References

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- Project 93 <https://youtu.be/bNODP4U9l3M>
- The Sports Department <https://youtu.be/ZtIz00fTQ5M>
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