After having served the Barbados SDA Secondary School for 50 years, Dr. Cecil Cummins bid farewell to his alma mater on December 31, 2016. The retirement of Dr. Cummins marks the end of an era here at the Barbados SDA Secondary School.

Dr. Cummins attended the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, where he graduated with Honours in History, Government, and Sociology. He re-joined UWI Cave Hill Campus in 1981 where he graduated with the Diploma in Education in “The Practice of Teaching”. Dr. Cummins was the first Barbadian male student to receive this diploma, and attained it at a distinction. He later pursued his post-graduate studies in Education at UWI Cave Hill Campus, West Indies College now Northern Caribbean University, and Andrews University, where he graduated with an M.A, Ed.S., and Ph.D. degrees.

Dr. Cummins began his teaching career at the Turner’s Hall Primary School, and Hillaby Mixed School respectively during the years 1964 to 1966. He joined the staff at Barbados SDA Secondary from 1966 until he retired in 2016. During his tenure at the Barbados SDA Secondary School, he served as a teacher of History and Physical Education. He also served as the Head of the Arts and General Studies Department, Business Manager, and Deputy Principal. In 2003, Dr. Cummins was appointed Principal at the Barbados SDA Secondary School. He also served as a local supervisor tutor with UWI Open Campus, as lecturer in the School of Education at UWI Cave Hill Campus, with the Caribbean Union Conference Teacher Certification Programme, and at the Erdiston Teacher’s Training College.

Dr. Cummins is a strong proponent of Seventh-day Adventist education. Under his leadership he devoted his efforts to educating the constituency on the value of SDA education. His far reaching influence as an educator at Barbados SDA Secondary School will be fully rewarded in heaven, when the indelible imprints he has made on the lives of the students will again be revealed.
Ms. Annette Alleyne Hired as New Principal at the Barbados SDA Secondary School

Ms. Annette Alleyne, MS succeeded Dr. Cecil Cummins as Principal of Barbados SDA Secondary School, and started her tenure on January 1, 2017. The Barbadian-born Ms. Alleyne served the Barbados SDA Secondary School from 2003 to 2006, before answering the call in September 2006 to teach in the high school division at Cayman Academy in the Cayman Islands. As a result of her commitment and dedication to the teaching profession, Ms. Alleyne was appointed to the position of Vice Principal at Cayman Academy in September 2009, and later to Acting Principal in September 2012 before assuming the position of Principal in January of 2013. It was also during her tenure that the school experienced its highest success in CXC passes with a whopping 96% overall pass rate. Her acumen, organizational skills, twenty years of experience working in the private and public sector, professional and academic training, and spiritual commitment, make her suitable for this prestigious position at our SDA Secondary School here in Barbados.

As a Seventh-day Adventist educator and administrator, Ms. Alleyne’s major goal is to prepare students to achieve spiritual and academic excellence. Ms. Alleyne is committed to assisting her students in becoming noble citizens for this life while developing a relationship with Christ, and preparing them for the life to come.

We welcome Ms. Alleyne to the respected position of Principal of the Barbados SDA Secondary School, wishing her God’s continued blessings and success as she serves in this position.

New Additions of Prominent Teachers at the Barbados SDA Secondary School

On September 1, 2016, the Barbados SDA Secondary School welcomed Dr. Eldon Blackman as Music Teacher to our celebrated team of instructors. Dr. Blackman, who holds a Ph.D in Music Education, and is an alumnus of the Barbados SDA Secondary school, previously lectured in the Music Department at the University of the Southern Caribbean in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Blackman brings with him a wealth of experience and skills to the ministry of music at the Barbados SDA Secondary School.

Mr. Ricardo Bartlett also joined our notable team of instructors at the Barbados SDA Secondary School as the Physical Education teacher. Mr. Bartlett will work with students, faculty, and staff, to promote health and fitness throughout the school. He will be a champion while motivating his students to participate in the fitness activities, and will also ensure that all the fun that goes on in his Physical Education classes will lead to learning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coin Drive – March 12th: The Rock Dundo SDA Church will be hosting a Coin Drive on March 12, 2017 in Heroes Square, Bridgetown, from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. The evening promises to be inspiring. We are kindly asking each church to send representatives, and to give a monetary donation in support of this worthwhile cause. All funds will be in aid of our learners attending the Bridgetown SDA Primary School and the Barbados SDA Secondary School.

The Barbados SDA Secondary School Alumni Association will host a Church Service at the Ephesus SDA Church on April 1, 2017.
Kion Roach copped the 2016 Ishbel Bayne Scholarship at the Speech and Prize-Giving Ceremony of the Barbados SDA Secondary School on December 13, 2016. Kion achieved passes at the CSEC level in nine subjects – English, Human & Social Biology, Biology, Mathematics, History, Geography, Chemistry, Physics, and Spanish. He is a proud product of SDA Christian education, having commenced his educational journey at the Bridgetown SDA Primary School, and continuing through secondary school at the Barbados SDA Secondary School. Kion has chosen to further continue his academic journey at the tertiary level at an SDA institution – the University of the Southern Caribbean, Barbados Campus – where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology, with an emphasis in Biomedical Science, Zoology. Kion has been resolute in his ambition to become a Marine Biologist, and considers this a step in the right direction. Ms. Ishbel Bayne, after whom the scholarship is named, was thrilled to present this scholarship to Kion for a number of reasons; primary of which is that he has chosen to pursue studies at her alma mater, the University of the Southern Caribbean. Ms. Bayne was also doubly excited that Kion, whom she nurtured at her home church, King Street SDA Church, was the recipient of this scholarship, and particularly since this esteemed Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary during 2016. We wish Kion continued success crowned with God’s richest blessings.

Jehoiada Cooke, 2016 valedictorian of Barbados SDA Secondary School, is a product of Seventh-day Adventist education, having commenced his studies at the Bridgetown SDA Primary School where he excelled in sports and academics. This foundation spurred his success at the Secondary School where he served as Head Boy during the 2015/16 Academic year, and was the most outstanding male athlete during his tenure. He has represented the school with distinction at the Caribbean Union Secondary School Talent Parade in Trinidad, and at several musical functions, and has always aimed for academic excellence. His assiduousness, determination, focus, and passion for success resulted in an outstanding performance at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) level, at which he achieved 11 passes, nine of which were at Grade 1: Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry, Principles of Accounts, Principles of Business, Spanish, Technical Drawing, and Information Technology. He also secured passes in Geography and Additional Mathematics. Even more commendably, he obtained six of these with Distinction. Currently, Jehoiada is preparing to write CAPE examinations in Mathematics, Principles of Accounts, and Computer Science in preparation for his eventual goal of being an actuary.

We highly commend Jehoiada, and pray that the Lord will continue to empower him.
African Awareness Day

The Bridgetown Seventh-day Adventist Primary School held a week (February 20 – 24) of celebrations of African ancestry, titled “The Exodus! Our African Heritage” – with an innovative twist. Teachers married aspects of the school’s curriculum with Bible concepts by referencing the Biblical account of the Exodus. The week’s activities included praise and worship sessions, lectures, tips, and renditions by the children.

The main speaker, Dr. Pedro Welch, taught the children about African culture, while drawing similarities to their own Barbadian experience. The children sat enraptured by the talks, repeating familiar words and stories and making connections about where their ancestors came from. Much of the information they received is part of the Class 3 Social Studies syllabus, and therefore provided useful educational emphasis in this area.

The week culminated on Thursday with students and teachers dressing in African outfits, and partaking in displays of information on African nations such as Egypt, Mali, Nigeria, and Ghana.

The school intends to make this week of celebration an annual event to mark Black History month while incorporating faith-based principles. We fully anticipate that it will become more exciting every year, and students are already looking forward to next year’s celebration.

Bridgetown Sports Day

The Bridgetown SDA Primary school will host its annual sports day on April 6, 2017 at the Oldbury Camp site. Your usual support is anticipated.
Mrs. Chase Bids Adieu after 45 Years of Service

The Bridgetown SDA Primary School is adjusting to the retirement of Mrs. Coralita Chase from her teaching ministry of 45 years, during which she influenced several generations of students. Family members, friends, close colleagues, and students attended a delightful retirement assembly in which many interesting vignettes from her teaching career were shared, and Mrs. Chase was regaled with toasts and gifts in celebration of her years of dedicated service.

Mrs. Chase joined the workforce of the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 1975 as a teacher at the Barbados S.D.A. Secondary School, after four years of teaching and studying in the Public School System. In 1992, she transferred to the Bridgetown SDA Primary School where she functioned as Deputy Principal until 2011. She has always been driven by a desire to excel in her classroom practice, and consistently engaged in Professional Development Training in the Teaching of Reading, Strategies in Teaching Mathematics, Health and Family Life Education, and SDA Certification, as well as several Vacation Workshops sponsored by the Ministry of Education. Her classroom motto was: ‘Dare to be different’.

Mrs. Chase’s ministry continues with her promise to volunteer at the school, and she currently assists as a reading tutor for a small group of students once a week. The school congratulates her on a lifetime of spirited service in teaching.
The USC Alumni Association, Barbados Chapter, has been functioning for over fifty years under various presidents including Ps. Everette Howell, the late Dr. Bradley Niles, Gaulda Proverbs, Victor Roach, Kenrick Reeves, and present-day president, Mr. Geary Graham.

Elected executive plan social activities and church services for the benefit of students, parents, friends, and alumni of USC, while supporting all aspects of SDA Christian Education. One of the ways in which the Association assists students is by raising funds and awarding scholarships to financially challenged Barbadian students enrolled at USC. Dedicated alumni are also committed to spreading the word about their alma mater, and encouraging prospective students to consider USC for their tertiary SDA education.

Listen out for details on our church service to be held at the Greens SDA church on April 8th in celebration of our 90th Anniversary as a University. Come learn about USC’s history!

A contingent of Barbadian alumni will be representing our Association Chapter at the 90th Anniversary Trinidad Homecoming. Stay tuned for a report on this exciting event which promises to be a celebration of camaraderie filled with moments of nostalgia.

For further information please e-mail uscalumnibarbados@gmail.com.

Over these years, from a small beginning with only a few students, hundreds of men and women have become successful and prominent leaders in varied fields throughout the world. This is the time to meet, greet, commiserate and reminisce with friends and colleagues; also time to reflect on the past, revel in the accomplishments and progress of a fully accredited school over the years, and to encourage, inspire and compliment the leaders, past and present.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*USC Alumni Association Church Service*

The USC Alumni Association, Barbados Chapter, will host a Church Service at Greens SDA Church on April 8, 2017 to give God the glory for the University's 90th Anniversary of sharing SDA Education

You are invited to join us in Trinidad, for a very special event - the 90th Anniversary Celebration of Caribbean Training College/Caribbean Union College, now the University of the Southern Caribbean. Activities have been planned to commemorate this special birthday beginning on July 14 through July 23, 2017. Book your flight with us today. For more information please contact us at uscalumnibarbados@gmail.com.
‘Love’ is not the word that springs to mind most readily when people hear the word ‘university’. ‘Late nights’ is one that I think of – others might think ‘stress’, or ‘headache’. But the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) Barbados is actively working to change this negative view of higher education and institutions. Ask any one of our students who has participated in the numerous activities we host every month. Most recently, we invited students and faculty alike to partake with us in celebrating birthdays with a cake for the January celebrants – and anyone else who wanted a slice.

One of the ways we promote school spirit here at USC Barbados is by encouraging our students to give back to their community. This was demonstrated late last year with the participation of nearly 30 students and faculty in the annual Diabetes Walk. Our involvement in this event was the brainchild of a Nutrition and Dietetics student, Janea Ifill, and was so well supported that we claimed the prize for the largest uniformed group present!

Two other community initiatives which USC has undertaken are a partnership with the Youth Commissioner, and Pastor Dayle Haynes, to provide the young people of the Haynesville area with training and resources in a trade, and our annual CXC Bootcamp which targets secondary school age children who are preparing to sit the exam. Our next CXC Bootcamp will run July 11 – August 8, 2017. We have opted to provide these services at minimal cost, and in some cases no cost, so that we can effectively meet community needs and serve as Jesus served.

Our most recent in-reach program was our Chapel Day in January sponsored by our Business students, and presented by Mr. Christopher Leacock on the theme ‘Festival of Faith’. Students participated with gusto – going as far as organizing a band to enhance the atmosphere of worship on that evening.

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