# Knox Past Students' Association





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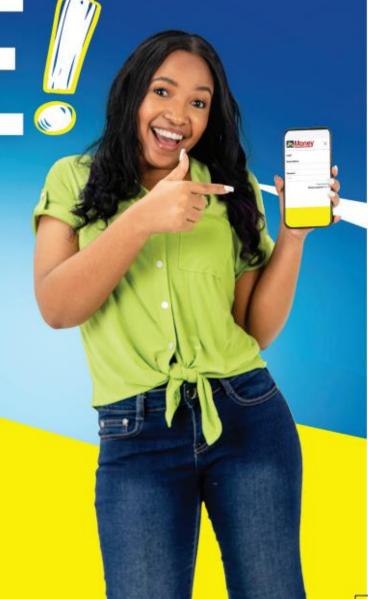
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# The Knox College Sixth Form Block

The quality of education a child receives significantly shapes their destiny as well as society's capacity for peace, creativity, and economic development. School performance should be a significant focus for educators and all well-thinking individuals. The education system must produce citizens who can fit critical roles in society. Individuals who emerge from the school system — at whatever level — must be equipped with appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes that empower them to participate equitably, effectively, and efficiently in the wider society.

As Jamaica strives to take its place within a fiercely competitive post-Covid global marketplace, those best equipped to provide leadership in many significant areas are persons whose reasoning, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills are best developed. Knoxites and friends of Knox should feel proud that, after 75 years, Knox College, the home of excellence, continues to play a significant role in this regard; Knox College is a pioneer and standard bearer in holistic student development.

While the school has maintained an excellent track record of academic excellence over the years, there is a need for additional resources – in particular, a Sixth Form Block. After a decades-long suspension, Knox College restarted its Sixth Form Programme in September 2008. The restart was necessary to satisfy the high demand for Sixth Form spaces in the

geographic location served by the school. The programme has done very well since then, however, the demand for the programme now far outweighs the available classroom and lab facilities at the school. A Sixth Form Block is urgently needed to solve this problem.

The school submitted a proposal for the construction of a Sixth Form Block to the Ministry of Education Youth (MOEY) on March 10, 2015. From that submission came a pledge to partner with the school to construct the Block. Unfortunately, intervening priorities have delayed the MOEY fulfilling its commitment to part-fund the construction. The proposal, when first made, was indexed to a recommendation of the National Education

Inspectorate (NEI). The NEI inspected the school in 2014 and rated the school as GOOD but noted that a sixth-form building was needed. Interestingly, the NEI inspected the school again in February 2020 and improved their assessment of the school with a rating of EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH. In line with their previous recommendation, the NEI again urged that the Sixth Form Block be constructed.

A Sixth Form Block will bring many benefits to the school, including improved learning and support facilities, increased sixth form spaces, the opportunity to offer additional programmes, employment opportunities, and greater prestige, to name a few. Despite the delay in the MOEY fulfilling its commitment, the school is determined to press along nonetheless. It has made significant strides because of the generous donations received from past students and past students' associations who have contributed approximately JMD \$25 million to the project, about 10% of the amount estimated for construction. So far, the project site has been prepared, and the plans are being finetuned for approval and construction.

The Toronto chapter of the Knox Past Students' Association extends heartfelt and sincere thanks to

all our donors as we continue our efforts along with other benefactors to raise funds for this worthy cause that will positively impact the lives of many Jamaican youth for many years to come. The Sixth Form Block will be located at the indicated location on the map below:







Submitted By: Alexander Bourne Principal

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#### Order of Events

Reception & Cocktails

6:00 pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Master of Ceremonies

Land / African Ancestral Acknowledgement

**National Anthems** 

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Moment of Silence

Raymond Foster

Sheryl Simms Keanu Elliot

Canadian / Jamaican

**Ann Marie Campbell** 

#### Dinner is served @ 7:30pm

Musical Interlude

President's Remarks:

Greetings Jamaica National Money Services Greetings from Consulate - General of Jamaica Rhona Dunwell

**Claude Thompson** 

Kurt Davis - Consul General

Special Presentation

Award of Excellence Presentations

Musical Presentation

**Grand Prize Draw** 

Vote of Thanks

**Sharee Simpson** 

Dancing to music by: **DJ Fitz** 

#### Menu

**Assorted Breads** 

Salad: Medley of Mixed Greens

Served in a Sweet Honey Balsamic Dressing

Entrée: Jerk Chicken Supreme & Salmon in Mango Sauce

served with Wild Rice Pilaf & Roasted Thyme Potatoes

& Seasonal Vegetables

Red / White Wine

Dessert: Strawberry Cheesecake

Coffee / Tea



#### **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississauga's of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership, and enhanced understanding.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **African Ancestral Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past - and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

We honor those who resisted and were left in the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean

We honor those who have led lives of service; those who have stood up for social and economic justice, those who have sacrificed so that we may be here, those who have confronted and dismantled oppressive practices and institutions and have built affirming and equitable examples to inspire us all.

You who stood against economic exploitation, Anti-Black Racism and all other forms of racism, gender discrimination, religious bigotry, and other oppressive forces.

We consciously stand on your sturdy and courageous shoulders.

We thank you. We honor you.

We observe a moment of silence.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Executive and Planning Committees of the Knox Past Students' Association (KPSA) Toronto

Chapter, it is an honor to welcome you to our 31st anniversary fundraising celebrations.

To you, our distinguished guests and all our sponsors, I express sincere gratitude for your usual kind support. Your ongoing commitment has enabled us to positively impact young lives at our beloved institution even through the most challenging of times. We are proud of our continued contributions to the development of Knox College, with our mantra being to ensure that current and future generations of students at the Knox Complex of Schools are supported based on their needs and our ability to assist as best as we can.

Over the past thirty-one years, through our fundraising efforts, we have been able to support the Performing Arts Program, provide financial support for the Knox Benevolent Fund, provide sponsorship for Knox students to attend Emerging Global Leadership Conferences in Toronto

and Jamaica, and provide bursaries for high school graduates in the Toronto area who are pursuing post-secondary studies, to name a few. Throughout the recent pandemic, our donation of computers and tablets and other equipment paved the way for on-line learning for students who would otherwise not be able to afford this equipment and continue their education.

Knox College, our alma mater, continues to make us proud of the academic success of our students. Our pledge, then, is to continue to provide that scaffold for succeeding generations of Knoxites in this regard, consistent with our motto, Niti Servire Neque Cedere.

We remain committed to the cause and as we celebrate this milestone, 31 years of giving back, we know that there is much to be done. This significant milestone gives us reason to pause and reflect on the significance of our collective efforts and how grateful we are for the support we have received over the years to continue to give back.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to our Award of Excellence recipients—Keith Adrian and Julette Fraser Clarke. These individuals were nominated by their peers in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Knox College and their community, near and far. I salute and congratulate them.

Finally, to all the alumni associations and other associations, our sponsor and community partners, our friends and supporters, it is with the deepest appreciation that I extend thanks for your continued support, not just this year, but over the past several years. I wish you every success in your endeavours and look forward to a fruitful ongoing relationship with you all. I trust that each of you will have an enjoyable evening. Thank you for choosing to spend the evening with us.

Long live the Citadel on the Hill!

Rhona Dunwell

President

Knox Past Students' Association (Toronto Chapter)

Niti Servire Neque Cedere: To Strive to Serve, and not to Yield.



#### CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAMAICA

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Knox Past Students Association (Toronto Chapter) 31<sup>ST</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Gala Saturday, April 20, 2024

I am pleased to extend warm greetings and hearty congratulations to the Knox Past Students Association (Toronto Chapter) as you gather for your 31st Anniversary Fundraising Gala.

The gallant work of the Knox Past Students Association has resulted in major benefits for Knox as well as the families and communities of its students and teachers. Your interventions have been instrumental in supporting the goal of ensuring that the Knox complex of schools continues to provide the highest quality of education to its students. You have also ensured that students and their families received the necessary support to enable them to benefit from education both at Knox and thereafter. Commendably, your efforts have not only been directed in Jamaica but has also been a benefit to learners here in Canada as well.

I specially commend you on the latest project to complete construction of a Sixth Form block at Knox College. The new block will be integral to making the resumed grades 12 to 13 programme accessible to more students thus allowing Knox to meet the high demand for places. Investing in education is always a winning venture. Expanding space for the tertiary stream will be a game changer for the people of Clarendon, and indeed for Jamaica.

With your continued commitment and support, Knox will surely maintain its well recognised success at developing each student's unique capabilities to meet their maximum potential. I wish you every success in this year's fundraiser and in the future endeavours being confident that you will continually strive, serve and never yield.

**Kurt Davis** Consul-General



# **Message from Chairman of the Knox College Board of Management**

It is my great pleasure to greet you on this very special occasion. I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Board of your Alma Mater – the big school shining as a beacon on Spalding Hill – Knox College. I am sorry that I am not able to join you for this year's celebration, but I do anticipate that ... all being well ... I will be celebrating with you on future occasions. I greet you at a time when we celebrate significant achievements by

our girls' Volleyball team and our Debating team, both of whom are now the National Champions in their areas. We must also acknowledge the commendable performance of our School Challenge Quiz team who missed going to the quarter finals by 2 points. Knox College continues to demonstrate the excellence to which you were accustomed during your time here.

As you may be aware, this post Covid period is proving to be very challenging and I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Toronto Chapter for your tireless commitment, and support for the school. Thank you for the encouragement and assistance you always provide as we seek to nurture our students ... "To strive to serve and not to yield." We appreciate the significant contributions you made in helping us to regain some amount of normalcy in our day-to-day operations. You have willingly shared your talents, skills, monetary and material gifts to help us lighten the burden significantly.

I note with gratitude that the proceeds from this year's Gala will be going towards the construction of the Sixth Form Block. I acknowledge, appreciate and applaud your dedicated effort to assist with this project and, though it may seem to be long in coming, let me assure you that essential behind-the-scenes work is in progress, and you will soon see physical evidence of this.

In spite of the many challenges, we now face with the children who – during the Covid years – were exposed to issues and events which we know have affected their ability to learn, our goal is to do all we can to make the future bright and successful for the students at Knox College by providing a nurturing environment for them. In pursuit of this goal, we are focusing on rebuilding our sports program as one strategy for engaging all our students to become their best selves – as the Volleyball team has demonstrated. In this regard, we look forward to your usual enthusiastic support as you help us turn the challenges into opportunities and make what may seem impossible to become possible for the school on the hill.

I close with the reminder that progress will come when a group of committed people are willing to forget about ME and focus on US as we move forward. You are such a group and I pray God's blessings and His favour on you so you will experience success in all your undertakings. Kind regards & much love.

Marcia Edwards Chairman of the Board



#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As Principal of Knox College, it is with immense pride and profound gratitude that I extend my warmest greetings to each of you on the occasion of your 31st anniversary. This milestone is not merely a testament to the enduring bonds of our community, but a celebration of the unyielding spirit of excellence that defines our beloved institution.

For much of our storied history of just over 76 years of existence, Knox College has been a beacon of holistic education, consistently setting a national standard of excellence. We are lauded not only for our academic prowess but for nurturing the complete development of our students—academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We continue to excel in our pursuit of excellence

and our mission is to cultivate a culture that is rooted in Christian principles; a safe, positive, respectful, inclusive, and welcoming environment where every student can reach their personal best.

You, our esteemed alumni, embody the success of our educational philosophy. You have become competent leaders and role models, upholding the strong Christian values and civic-minded ethos we hold dear, making substantial contributions to nation-building in Jamaica and around the world.

We are deeply grateful to you, our valued alumni, for your unwavering support which has been crucial in allowing us to continue delivering a high-quality educational experience. Your generosity profoundly influences our ability to unlock the potential within our students, shaping their futures as well as the societal and economic fabric of Jamaica.

As we commemorate this 31st anniversary, I especially commend President Dunwell and all the members of the executive and planning committee for orchestrating yet another splendid celebration. Your dedication ensures that the flame of our shared legacy continues to shine brightly, inspiring both current and future generations.

We rejoice in the blessings we have received and eagerly anticipate your continued partnership. May Knox College remain a beacon of inspiration and pride for us all, and may God bless the Toronto KPSA and all its endeavors.

With best regards,

Alexander Bourne Principal, Knox College



# UPCOMING 2024-2025 EVENTS

JULY 27 - AUGUST 31

AJAA Annual Walk & Talk Walkathon

**AUGUST 24** 

AJAA Annual Walk & Talk Walkathon Wrap-Up / Family Picnic

**NOVEMBER 29** 

Annual Christmas Jam -Toronto Chapter

**AUGUST 31** 

End of Summer Bash - FL Chapter

**DECEMBER 21** 

Annual Christmas Party - FL Chapter

JULY 27

All White Summer Boat Ride - NY Chapter

APRIL 12-2025

Annual Fundraising Reunion Gala -Toronto Chapter

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.knoxtorontochapter.ca/events

# Award of Excellence Recipient Julette Fraser – Clarke

Julette Fraser Clarke attended Knox College from 1977-1982. She is a Senior Nursing Supervisor at the Percy Junor Hospital in Spalding, Manchester, and a member of the Nurses Association of Jamaica. She has been employed as a

Registered Nurse/Midwife at the Percy Junor Hospital for 32 years. She was appointed Ward Manager in 2002 and currently manages the Maternity Ward.

Julette is dedicated to the profession of nursing and patient care. Her desire to make a difference using her talents and caring for others led her to participate in international medical missions, notably the Dorcas Medical Mission to Ghana and the Jamaica-CARICOM Medical Mission to Haiti.

In addition to her numerous volunteer efforts, she is a preceptor for student nurses at Knox Community College and Northern Caribbean University. She sits on interview panels for potential student nurses and is an examiner for practicals. She maintains high standards in nursing and is a role model to many.

She has been awarded Nurse Manager of the Year at the Percy Junor Hospital and in 2020 was recognized with the Award for Excellence in Leadership by the Nursing and Midwifery Unit in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica.

Julette is a Distinguished President of the Kiwanis Club of Spalding-Christiana and currently serves as Secretary. This club is a member of Kiwanis International, a service organization dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

She has been a member of this club for 22 years and has participated in countless service projects over the years. The club carries out more than 20 projects each year. Projects include visiting children's homes with meals and clothing, painting of pedestrian crossings and schools, beautification at the hospital, reading to students, assisting children with disabilities, providing back to school supplies, awards for graduations and annual Christmas grocery bags for shut ins.

Julette has been instrumental in providing financial assistance for school fees and exam fees for students at her beloved Alma Mater and actively participates in their Health and Wellness Day. She is always

involved in the community and presently serves as Secretary on the Board of the George Mueller Early Childhood Institution.

Above all, Julette is a humble, devoted Christian and loving wife and mother to her husband, fellow Knoxite, Paul and her two children Karina and Ajani who both attended Knox College. We salute this "true blue" family! In her spare time Julette loves gardening.

Then Knox Past Students' Association, Toronto, extends heartfelt congratulations to Julette Fraser Clarke and takes great pleasure in recognizing and presenting her with the 2024 Award of Excellence.

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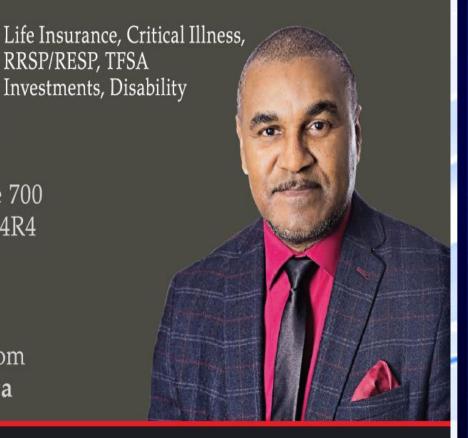
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#### **Award of Excellence Recipient**

#### Keith (LP) Adrian

Keith Adrian was born in Breaton, St. Catherine and moved to Christiana, Manchester at the age of 1 year old. He attended the Christiana Moravian Infant and Primary School, where he was successful in the Common Entrance Examination in 1977, then he attended Knox College until 1979. He then went on to complete his education at Manchester High School, and

subsequently Knox Community College. As he ventured into his professional career, Keith worked for the National Water Commission from 1986 to 1992, and during that period he also attended The University of Technology.

While there, he received accreditation through the International Program. He migrated to the United States, where he began his illustrious construction career in 1992 and then formed his own construction company in 1997. He continues to run a successful construction business within the state of New York, and numerous outlying areas across the northeastern hemisphere.

Within the last several years, he developed a Courier business serving a multitude of clients ranging from hospitals to manufacturing facilities. Keith is paying it forward and has demonstrated his philanthropic efforts to his Alma Maters in many ways which includes but not limited to:

- Christiana Moravian & Primary School: Keith has provided bursaries of over US\$4,000 to more than twelve financially challenged students entering high school for over a decade.
- Assisted those in underserved communities in New York with clothing, food, and supplementary funds.
- Provides continuous assistance with the storage, transportation, and subsequent shipment of medical supplies to Spalding and Mandeville Public Hospitals in Jamaica.
- An ardent supporter of fundraising events hosted by his Alma Maters: Knox Past Students' Associations, Manchester High School Alumni Associations, various chapters of Pike, Bryce and Christiana Alumni Associations, and is assisting most of the schools in his home community.

 He is a devoted member of the Independent United Order of Mechanics, Friendly Society, New York, and is the Illustrative Grand (Elect) for Border Union, which falls under the Alpha District Grand Lodge, New York.

Then Knox Past Students' Association, Toronto, extends heartfelt congratulations to Keith Adrian and takes great pleasure in recognizing and presenting him with the 2024 Award of Excellence.





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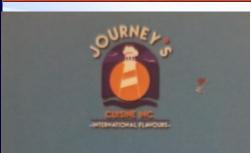
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Gone before us
In the Lord's keeping

Those we love we never lose, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear

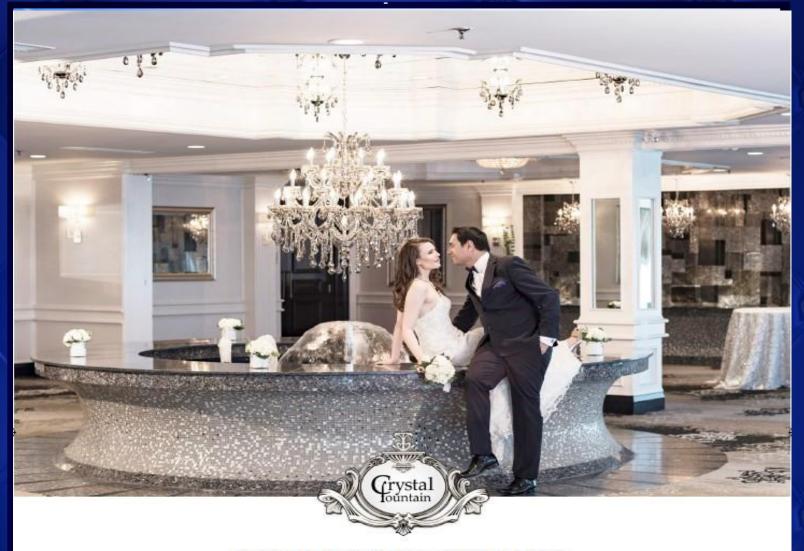
For when a loved one becomes a memory That memory becomes a treasure

> Memories are like leaves of gold They never tarnish or grow old

For always they will be, Loved, remembered, treasured, Always in our memory,

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts

Thank you for loving and sharing,
For giving and for caring.
God bless you and keep you,
Until we meet again.



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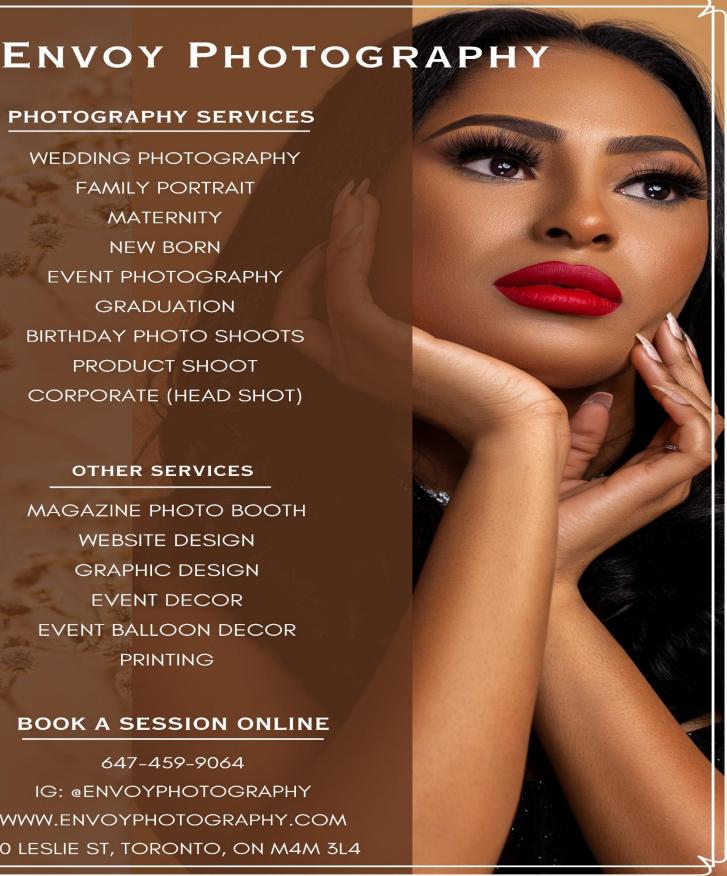
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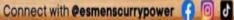
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