

Knockalva Alumni Donate \$4 Million for Scholarships

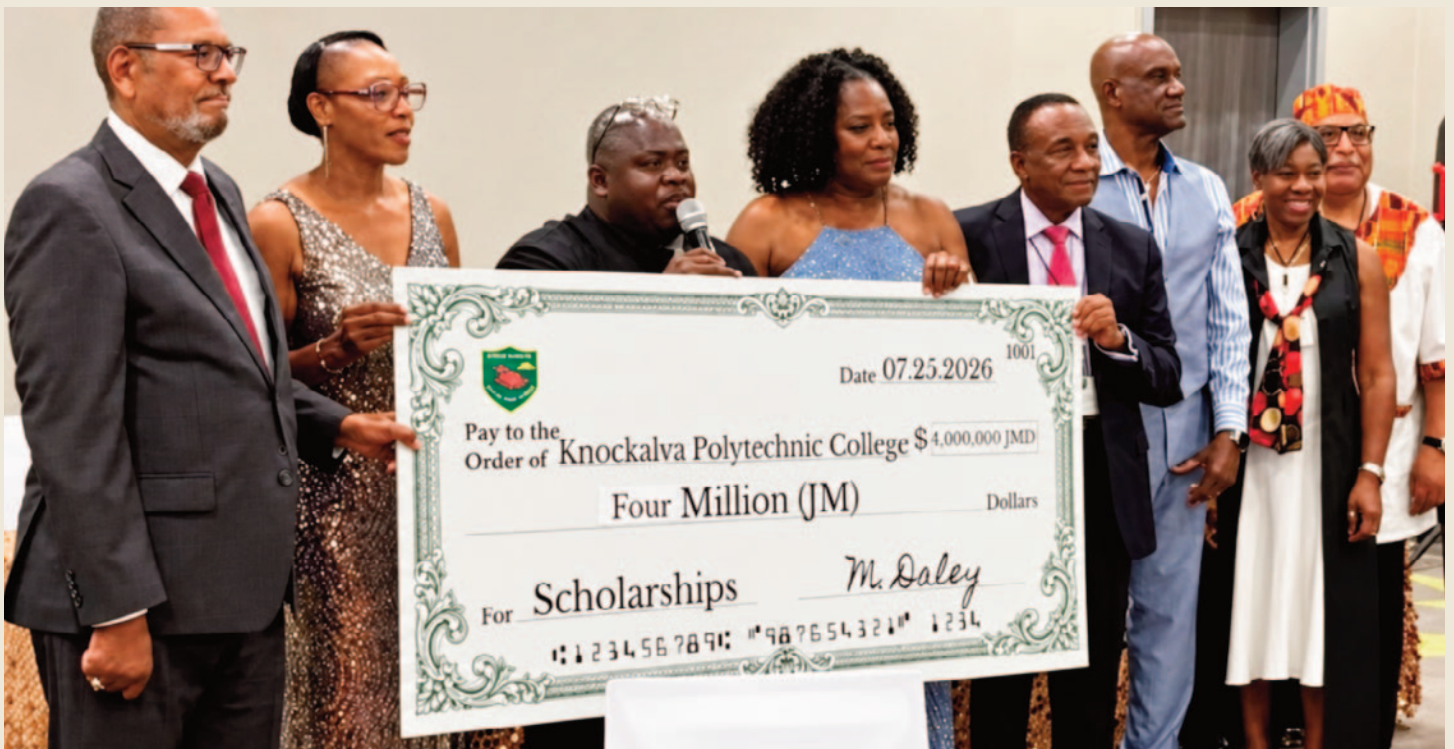
Twenty-six students from Knockalva Polytechnic College (KPC), in Hanover, who were impacted by the passage of Hurricane Melissa, have received scholarship support to the tune of J\$4 million from the school's overseas based past students to help ease their financial burden going into the new school year.

The Knockalva International Alumni Association (KIAA) made the donation during its fifth anniversary and reunion celebrations in Houston, Texas, which was held from July 24 to July 26.

The cheque was presented to the school's board chairman, L. Anthony Lawrence, and Principal Natalie Wallace-Thompson, who were in attendance. *Continued page 2*



**Knockalva International
Alumni Association
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Displaying a symbolic cheque for J\$4 million from the Knockalva International Alumni Association (KIAA) to support scholarships for 26 students at Knockalva Polytechnic College (KPC) in Hanover are (from left): KPC Board Chairman L. Anthony Lawrence; Principal Natalie Wallace-Thompson; KIAA President Dr Milton Daley; alumna Hortense Harris; and KIAA Immediate Past President Dr Gersham Nelson. Other KIAA members join them following the presentation during the association's fifth anniversary and reunion celebrations in Houston, Texas, July 24–26, 2026.

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Alumni Spotlight

Canute Sadler: a legacy of agribusiness and philanthropy

Celebrating 62 years of remarkable service to Jamaica, veteran agribusiness entrepreneur and philanthropist Canute Sadler is a towering figure in the nation's agricultural and economic development.

A 1967 Graduate of Knockalva Practical Training Center and a 1964 graduate of the Jamaica School of Agriculture (JSA).

Sadler has dedicated his life to transforming Jamaica's agricultural landscape while fostering opportunities for communities and individuals across the island.

As the visionary Owner and CEO of Stanmark Processors Ltd, Sadler has created a legacy rooted in innovation, sustainability, and community empowerment. His enterprise drives economic growth and uplifts small farmers by sourcing raw materials, including ackee callaloo, canned breadfruit, and mango, thus bolstering rural



Canute Sadler is a towering figure in Jamaica's agricultural and economic development and a steadfast supporter of Knockalva.

economies. His belief in agriculture as a cornerstone of wealth, morality, and happiness has guided his professional and philanthropic pursuits, leaving an indelible mark on Jamaica's development.

Over the decades, Sadler has demonstrated exceptional leadership, serving in influential roles shaping agriculture and beyond. Among his notable contributions are: Chairman, Board of Directors, Knockalva Agricultural School; Board Chairman Norman Manley International Airport Ltd; Board Member, of Aeronautical Communication Limited and Airport Authority and Board Director College of Agriculture, Science, and Education (CASE).

Sadler's commitment to education and mentorship is equally impactful. His passion for his alma maters, Knockalva and CASE, has led to the establishment of annual scholarships for aspiring agricultural professionals, as well as ongoing mentorship and guidance for students.

His selfless volunteerism and dedication to nurturing future leaders exemplify his belief in the power of education to transform lives.

Beyond his professional achievements, Sadler is celebrated for his generous philanthropic endeavors. Through financial support, community initiatives, and volunteerism, he has profoundly impacted countless lives, empowering individuals and fostering sustainable growth.

As Sadler celebrates decades of outstanding service, his contributions to Jamaica's agriculture, education, and economic development are rightly lauded. His unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and compassionate philanthropy continue to inspire and pave the way for a brighter future.

Today, Knockalva International Alumni Association honors a true stalwart—a man whose work embodies the spirit of resilience, innovation, and community.

Sadler is a veteran agribusiness entrepreneur and a national treasure whose legacy will endure for generations to come.

Continued from page 1

The scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing the Associate of Science degree in General Agriculture. Applicants must satisfy the programme's matriculation requirements, including passes in five Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate subjects, which must include English Language and Mathematics, or their equivalent.

In presenting the donation, KIAA President Dr Milton Daley said the association remains committed to investing in the future of the school.

"This contribution reflects KIAA's continued commitment to investing in the future of our

alma mater. We remain dedicated to supporting the college through scholarships and initiatives that create opportunities for students to succeed," Daley said.

Wallace-Thompson described the donation as "a powerful investment in the dreams, potential and future success of our students".

She said the funds would help reduce financial barriers while giving more students the opportunity to pursue tertiary education in the pursuit of successful careers.

"The impact of this donation will be felt by many students as it helps to ease financial burdens, expand educational opportunities, and em-

power them to pursue their academic and career aspirations with greater confidence," she said.

Lawrence said the contribution was timely, noting that many families across western Jamaica continue to struggle with the effects of Hurricane Melissa, which battered the region last October.

"This level of support has come at a most opportune time as many households in western Jamaica, from which our students come, are still being impacted by the devastation," he said, while expressing gratitude to the past students on behalf of the current students.

Knockalva Polytechnic College is the only institution of its

kind in western Jamaica, serving students primarily from Hanover, St James and Westmoreland. The college offers programmes in agriculture and environmental science, business management, computer engineering technology, health and wellness tourism, agri-processing, technical and vocational education, and industry certification.

The institution is being positioned to become Jamaica's leading polytechnic institution for agriculture, technology and applied sciences through equipping students to strengthen food production, drive innovation and support national economic growth.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A tremendous success showcasing our alumni community's strength!

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of pride that I welcome you to the second newsletter of the Knockalva International Alumni Association (KIAA), Inc.

The past few months have been especially meaningful for our Association. Our 5th Anniversary & Reunion, held in Houston, Texas, in July 2026, was a tremendous success and demonstrated the strength of our alumni community.

More than an anniversary celebration, the event provided an opportunity for former students, friends, supporters, and partners of Knockalva Polytechnic College to reconnect, reminisce, build new relationships, and renew our shared commitment to the College.

The camaraderie and fellowship experienced throughout the weekend were truly inspiring. It reminded us that, although many of us now live thousands of miles from Knockalva, the connection we share with our alma mater remains strong. The success of this reunion would not have been possible without the dedication, generosity, and participation of our members and supporters.

I am also pleased to share that KIAA Inc. continues to make meaningful contributions toward the education and development of students at Knockalva Polytechnic College. During this period, the Association awarded JMD \$4



Dr Milton Daley
President
Knockalva International
Alumni Association

million in scholarships to deserving students of the College. The initiative was also recognized by the Jamaica Gleaner, highlighting the positive impact of our alumni community and its continued investment in the future of Knockalva Polytechnic College.

As we move forward, we remain committed to expanding our scholarship program. KIAA Inc. aims to increase the number of annual scholarships awarded by five each year, subject to available funding. Achieving this goal will require continued support from our members, donors, corporate partners, and friends of the College.

KIAA Inc. will also explore fundraising partnerships with local organizations and com-

munity groups to identify additional opportunities to support the needs and priorities of Knockalva Polytechnic College. These partnerships can help us broaden our reach, strengthen our fundraising capacity, and create sustainable avenues for supporting students and the institution.

We are therefore encouraging past students of Knockalva Polytechnic College throughout North America to become members of KIAA Inc. There is much more that we can ac-

complish when we work together. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." Every additional member brings new ideas, resources, connections, and opportunities to support Knockalva Polytechnic College.

Whether through membership, volunteering, fundraising, mentorship, or contributing, every effort makes a difference.



Knockalva International Alumni Association Inc., **The Executive Team**

Dr. Milton Daley- President/Chair
Dr. Gersham Nelson- Immediate Past President
Seymour Wisdom- Vice President
Dr. Phillip Reid- Secretary
Howard McMorris- Treasurer
Neville Evans- Assistant Treasurer
Leon Cummings- Director, Communications/Public Relations
Hortense Harris- Garvey- Asst. Communications/Public Relations
Renford Williams- Executive Director-Finance & Budget
Dr. Yvonne Snellville- Executive Member
Stan Pinnock- Executive Member
Trevor Lewis- Executive Member

knockalvaiaa@gmail.com • 832-388-9817



@Knoc.kalvaiaa



Knockalva International
Alumni Association

Highlights of KIAA's 5th Anniversary & Reunion Banquet

Saturday, July 25, 2026 • 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. • Kety, Texas, USA



Scores of members of the Knockalva International Alumni Association pose for a group photo before the association's 5th Anniversary and Reunion Banquet on Saturday, July 25, 2026, in Katy, Texas, USA.



KIAA President Dr. Milton Daley presents a certificate of honour to Immediate Past President Dr. Gersham Nelson (top). Below, fellow honoree Leon Cummings, Director of Communications and Public Relations, congratulates Dr. Nelson.



Dr. Kwaku Addo, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, joins KPC Principal Natalie Thompson and KPC Chairman L. Anthony Lawrence at the Anniversary and Reunion Banquet.

Highlights of KIAA's 5th Anniversary & Reunion Banquet

Saturday, July 25, 2026 • 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m • Kety, Texas, USA



KPC Chairman L. Anthony Lawrence; Kingsley Bigby, alumni; KPC Principal Natalie Thompson and Dr. Milton Daley exchange greetings during the session.



Longtime friends reunite over breakfast, sharing fond memories, lively conversations and laughter as they celebrate lasting bonds.

Support the KIAA fundraising drive to benefit Knockalva Polytechnic College. Your contribution can make a difference.

To donate, call: 832-388-9817

Email: Knockalvaiaa@gmail.com



Longtime friends reunite and pose for a photo.



The ladies are all smiles as they enjoy the presentation.



Members of the association listen attentively before dinner is served.

Knockalva's Enduring Legacy

Knockalva has moved from a Practical Training Center to a Rural Secondary Technical High School, an Agricultural Training Center, and ultimately a Polytechnic College. Throughout these changes, its purpose remained clear: preparing para-professionals to apply scientific knowledge and practical skills in agriculture, commerce, and industry.

Unlike traditional grammar schools, Knockalva emphasized learning through application. Its institutional changes reflected shifts in the balance between practical training and academic instruction rather than a progression. The move to a technical high school expanded academic content; the Agricultural Training Center initially narrowed that emphasis, while the Polytechnic College later broadened it.

The earlier practical and technical periods were significant. Remnants of lathes and other workshop equipment testify to the range of skills once taught. During the later agricultural training years, the Jamaica Agricultural Education Project and the Dutch Project strengthened academic preparation and helped graduates gain admission to the JSA/COA.

Nevertheless, Knockalva's uncertain classification created obstacles. It did not fit neatly into established secondary, vocational, or technical categories. Some traditional school principals even questioned its participation in the Headley Cup Cricket Competition. Such attitudes reflected a wider tendency to regard students outside grammar schools as academically inferior.

This perception misunderstood education, intelligence,



By Dr. Terrence Thomas
Prof. Dept. of Agribusiness
Applied Economics &
Agriscience Education,
North Carolina A&T State
University

and achievement. It overlooked the ability to acquire knowledge, master skills, and adapt to changing circumstances.

The Knockalva Difference

From my perspective, Knockalva's greatest contribution during the KATC years extended beyond examinations and technical qualifications. It developed transferable personal and social qualities: resilience, confidence, teamwork, hard work, lifelong learning, and the ability to learn from others.

These qualities were often acquired implicitly. Dormitory life, supervised preparation, communal dining, devotion, clubs, sports, and everyday interaction helped students develop discipline and cooperation. Faculty members and former students shared experiences that inspired us and expanded our sense of possibility.

Learning Through Practice

Knockalva connected classroom instruction with practical experience. Students gained confidence by linking ideas to action, demonstrating that learning involves more than abstract reasoning or standardized test performance.

One plant pathology practicum illustrated this strength. Final-year students reportedly achieved perfect results under external supervision. A recent Ph.D. graduate assigned to invigilate acknowledged that she could not have passed the examination herself.

Yet institutional prejudice persisted. At one American institution, administrators questioned COA graduates' eligibility to graduate because they disputed Knockalva's status as a secondary school. Despite the students completing their programmes, additional credits were proposed because their educational pathway emphasized practical instruction.

The Legacy We Carry

Many of us gathered here embody the qualities Knockalva cultivated. They remain useful across careers, communities, and changing circumstances. They enabled us to pursue opportunities beyond our training, accept challenges, and continue learning.

Our achievements therefore reflect more than the subjects we studied. They also reflect habits, relationships, and confidence developed through shared experiences that shaped our lives.

Knockalva taught us more than what to know or what to do. It taught us how to learn, adapt, work, and believe in our capacity to achieve more.

That is the enduring legacy of The Silent King.

Dr Thomas was the guest speaker K.I.A.A Inc. 5th Anniversary Reunion Celebration in Houston, Texas held on July 24-26, 2026.

A PRAYER FOR OUR ORGANIZATION

Gracious and Loving God,

We come to You today with hearts full of gratitude. Thank you for the shared history, the foundational learning, and the lasting friendships we found through our alma mater.

Lord, we ask for Your divine blessing upon our alumni organization, "**KNOCKALVA INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Inc.**".

Watch over our well-being, mind, body, and spirit. Grant health, peace, and strength to each member of our community, near and far.

Guide our day-to-day activities and our routine labors. Bless the work of our leadership, our volunteers, and all who give their time to keep our network strong. Grant us wisdom in our planning, creativity in our outreach, and unity in our purpose.

Help us to support one another through life's triumphs and trials. May our organization remain a beacon of encouragement, professional growth, and fellowship. Let every meeting, message, and endeavor we undertake bring people together and reflect a spirit of kindness and service.

Direct our steps today and in the days to come, that we may honor our past while building a hopeful future.

In Your holy name, we pray.



Meet our founding fathers:

Front Row: l-r: Carleton Campbell, Leon Cummings, Fitzgerald Dillion, Neville Evans and Dr. Gersham Nelson; Back Row: l-r: Delroy Whittaker, Robert Sterling and Howard McMorris.

What Aging Changes—and What Healthy Living Can Help Us Preserve

Do you remember running up the stairs to the Great House and making your way to the Pantry? Perhaps you hurried to morning assembly, walked to the dairy farm, played sports, or stayed up studying “Matta”—then rose early to care for animals or begin an agronomy rotation.

Those ordinary days required considerable physical and mental ability. Our nervous systems helped us balance, coordinate movement, process information, and respond to changing demands, usually without conscious thought.

Then life moved forward—and so did time.

Aging Is Change Over Time

Aging brings changes in strength, balance, coordination, reaction time, memory, and sleep. Not every change signals disease, but new, persistent, or worsening symptoms deserve attention.

As a chiropractor, I observe how people move, balance, respond to discomfort, and adapt to physical stress. However, nervous-system health extends beyond the chiropractic office.

Our daily habits matter.

In practice, I have noticed that patients who prioritize their well-being often combine several healthy habits: exercise, adequate rest, nourishing food, gardening, and social activity. These habits frequently travel together.

Six Ways to Support Your Nervous System

1. Move regularly.

Walking, resistance training, gardening, yoga, and tai chi can support strength, circulation, balance, coordination, and independence. The goal is not to move as you did at sixteen, but to keep moving well at your present age.

2. Eat closer to the source.

Choose more vegetables, fruits, beans, whole grains, nuts, fish, and other nourishing foods, while reducing heavily processed products. Vitamin B12 supports nervous-system function and helps maintain myelin, the protective covering around many nerve fibres. Supplements should not replace balanced meals, and suspected deficiencies require proper evaluation.



By Dr. Arthur H. W. Reid

3. Hydrate according to your needs.

Fluid requirements vary with activity, climate, medications, and medical conditions. Water is an excellent choice, although food and other beverages also contribute. Anyone with a condition requiring fluid management should follow their healthcare provider’s guidance.

4. Protect your sleep.

Most adults need at least seven hours of sleep. Quality and consistency also matter. Regular sleeping and waking times support the body’s rhythm and allow the brain and body to recover.

5. Keep learning and connecting.

Read, solve puzzles, learn a skill, play music, garden, or teach someone what you know. Stay involved with friends, family, and community groups. Curiosity, meaningful activity, and social connection contribute to a healthy life.

6. Reduce unnecessary strain.

Avoid smoking and limit alcohol. Make time for prayer, meditation, nature, or slow diaphragmatic breathing. These practices cannot eliminate life’s pressures, but they may help you relax and recover.

And what Knockalvian could forget those cold showers? They certainly stimulated our determination to get dressed quickly!

Cold exposure triggers an immediate nervous-system response, but claims that it strengthens the vagus nerve or builds lasting stress resilience remain under study. Ice baths carry additional risks, especially for people with cardiovascular or other medical conditions.

Begin by Paying Attention

Supporting your nervous system begins with noticing how you move, think, sleep, and eat. Discuss persistent changes in balance, sensation, memory, strength, or daily function with an appropriate health-care provider.

Sudden facial drooping, difficulty speaking, one-sided weakness or numbness, severe loss of balance, or an abrupt, unusual headache may signal a medical emergency. Seek immediate help.

We cannot control time, but we can support the life moving through it.

Fellow Knockalvians: You’ve still got some NERVE. Take good care of it.

Dr. Arthur H. W. Reid is a chiropractor with approximately 25 years of clinical experience. This article provides general education, not individualized medical advice. Further reading: CDC—Physical Activity and Sleep; National Institute on Aging—Exercise and Healthy Aging; NIH—Vitamin B12.

Investing in Students and Expanding Opportunities

Fundraising Gala and Reunion of the Knockalva International Alumni Association (KIAA), held in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, July 25, 2026, represented more than a celebration of alumni fellowship.

It was a powerful demonstration of the enduring bond between Knockalva Polytechnic College (KPC) and its alumni, reaffirming their shared commitment to preserving the College's legacy while investing in its future.

For KPC, the significance of this milestone extends beyond the anniversary celebration. It reflects the value of a united alumni network that recognizes education as a transformative force and remains committed to creating opportunities for current and future students.

For a rural, agriculture-based tertiary institution such as KPC, this support is especially important.

Students are being prepared for opportunities in agriculture, environmental science, agro-processing, business management, computer engineering technology, health and wellness tourism, and other fields essential to Jamaica's development.

Continued investment in scholarships and student support can help ensure that financial limitations do not prevent capable students from



**By Natalie Thompson
Principal, KPC**

reaching their full potential. KIAA support and advocacy are valuable to these efforts.

Building Partnerships Beyond the Reunion

An important outcome of alumni engagement has been the advancement of discussions with Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) in Texas. Facilitated through the efforts of KIAA President Dr. Milton Daley, engagement with university representatives has opened promising avenues for collaboration.

Potential areas of cooperation include sustainable farming, dairy and meat-goat research, student and faculty exchanges, virtual classrooms, professional development and joint research addressing shared agricultural and community-development challenges.

Such partnerships could expose KPC students and staff to international expertise, innovative practices and

new opportunities for academic and professional growth.

A Legacy That Must Continue

The 5th Anniversary and Reunion served as a reminder that KIAA's greatest contribution is not only the resources it raises, but also the relationships it builds and the opportunities it creates.

Its continued partnership with KPC can help transform alumni goodwill into measurable outcomes for students, staff and the wider community. As Principal, I extend sincere appreciation to Dr. Milton Daley, the KIAA executive, alumni, donors and supporters whose commitment continues to strengthen the College.

The reunion has reinforced a shared vision: a resilient, innovative and forward-looking KPC where students are empowered to succeed and the institution continues to contribute meaningfully to Jamaica's development.

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