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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Aquinas College Family,

With the 2024–2025 academic year now behind us, we find ourselves in a sacred moment of reflection and renewal; a time to give thanks for all that we have achieved together and to look forward with hope and anticipation to the promise of what lies ahead.

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and triumph. Our students embraced every challenge, cultivated their talents, and strengthened the values that define our community: faith, scholarship, and service. From academic excellence and athletic achievements to artistic expression and acts of compassion, the year was marked by countless moments that made us proud to call Aquinas College our home.

We owe an enduring debt of gratitude to our teachers and staff, whose dedication, passion, and guidance have shaped not only the minds but the hearts of our students. Your service has left a lasting imprint on the lives you have touched, and your example continues to be a beacon of Catholic education at its finest.

As we celebrate all that was accomplished, we also pause to honor those we lost along the way. We remember with reverence the lives that shaped our school and our Church, including the passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis, on Easter Monday. A shepherd of profound humility and unwavering conviction, Pope Francis reminded us of the transformative power of mercy, the necessity of inclusion, and the enduring relevance of Gospel truth. His legacy will continue to inspire our mission for generations to come.

To our graduates: we send you forth with immense pride and deep confidence. May the formation you received here at Aquinas continue to serve as your compass; guiding your choices, shaping your convictions, and anchoring you in faith as you begin new chapters of learning and leadership.

To the newest members of our community; our incoming students, their families, and new faculty and staff, we welcome you with open arms. You are now part of a tradition that honors both the mind and the soul, where rigorous academics are nurtured alongside personal integrity, spiritual depth, and a commitment to service. We are thrilled to begin this next chapter with you.

As we look ahead to a new academic year, may we carry with us the lessons of the past, the memories of those who walked beside us, and the vision of what is possible when a community lives its mission boldly and faithfully. The future of Aquinas College is bright, illuminated by our shared commitment to Christ, to excellence, and to one another.

Volume 6, Issue 6 of 2024-2025

Newsletter Date May-June 2025

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Dates To Remember

August 18-21, 2025

New Students Orientation

August 22-23, 2025

Seniors Sunrise & Orientation

August 23, 2025

7th Grade Sunrise

September 1, 2025

School Reopens



SENIOR CLASS

AWARDS DAY

Congratulations to the Class of 2025, we want you to know that your Aquinas College administrators, teachers, staff and fellow students are proud of all of you.

LEGACY 25!



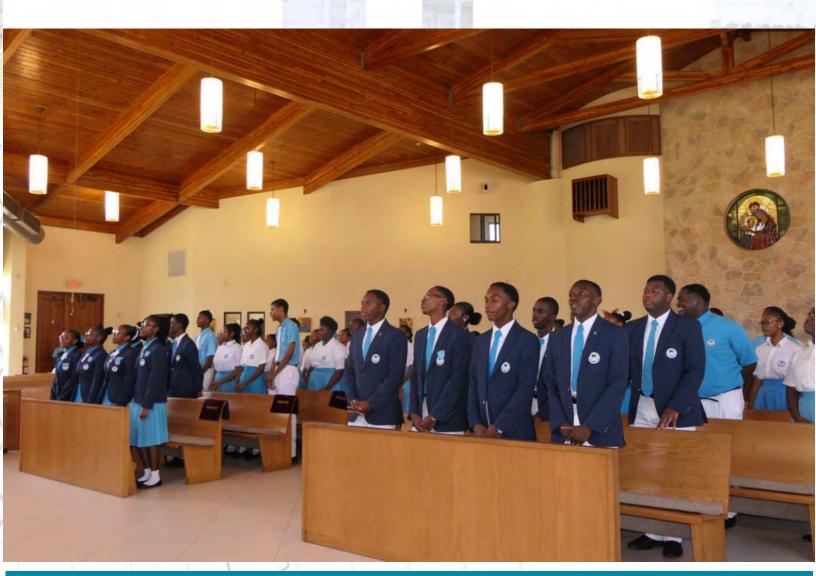








Baccalaureate Service















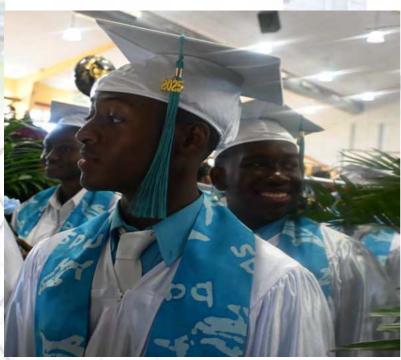
The Academia | Volume 6 | Issue 6 | ac.cec.edu.bs

Graduation Exercises











May God guide, protect, and direct your steps, illuminating your path as you embark on this new chapter of your lives.





Jayda Bain



Skylar Bain



Sharand Bastian



Gilbert Benjamin



Anijah Broomfield



Nathaniel Brown



Jayden Butler



Andrew Burrows III



Tahj Blyden



Laurence Burnside



Zyhrissa Carey



Jaylyn Coakley



Trinity Cartwright



Alexsa Collie



Zion Conliffe



Gianna Burrows



Maleeya Curry



Aliyah Daniel



Yadhira Davila Siguenas



Isaiah Davis



Clarence Dean



Morgan Demeritte



Chaane Duvalier



Dellon Evans



Reia Faquarhson



Haliah Ferguson



Deaja Ferguson



Torin Ferguson



Logan Fernander



Katey Forbes



Orinique Fyne



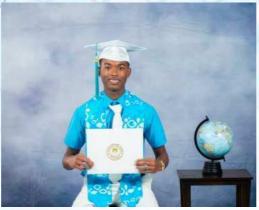
Sebastian Fyne



Kiel Gequillana



Jorden Gibson



Blair Glinton



Antonique Hall



Cameron Hall



Michael Hutamares



Devyn Inniss



Kristen Isaacs



Walter Gibson



Cody Johnson



Lynden Johnson



Nahum Johnson



Jeremiah Kisaakye



Ethan Knowles



Jernice LaFleur



Adrian Lawrence



Fabriana Mariategui-Jorge



Jonathon Martin



Paulisha Maynard



Brinajja McKenzie



Lyle Miller



Jeremy Nairn



Haley Newton



Kendricka Major



Laurelle Paul



Marcia Pritchard



Aisha Rahming



Savanna Ritchie



Abriana Roker



Cadez Poitier



Antonyche Roker



Kiemara Rolle



Koyokeito Rolle



Sa'niyah Rolle



Trevor Rose



Deran Sands



Jillian Saunders



Lumar Saunders



Thomas Sawyer



Maria Scott



Evana Scavella



Meyasol Strachan



Ruben Strachan



Sidney Strachan



Tianna Stubbs



Corvonique Seymour



Anthony Sweeting



Alyssa Wallace



Gabrielle Whylly



Darius Williams



Aariane Wilson



Johnasia Wilson



Joel Williams Jr.

Honoring the Class of 2025

It is with immense pride and admiration that we recognize the Class of 2025 - a cohort of **85 exceptional students**, comprising 44 females and 41 males; each of whom successfully fulfilled the academic, social, and civic requirements for the conferment of their diplomas.

Among this accomplished group, **69 students graduated with honor roll distinction**, representing <u>81%</u> of the entire class. **Of these 69 honor roll graduates**, **30 were male students**; which means <u>73% of the male class earned this high academic honor</u>. These figures reflect not only the collective excellence of the class but also the remarkable performance of our male scholars, whose achievements stand as a testament to their dedication and perseverance.

We are especially proud to extend our heartfelt congratulations to *Kiel Gequillana*, *Valedictorian*, and *Haley Newton*, *Salutatorian*. Their unwavering commitment, resilience, and academic integrity have distinguished them as exemplary leaders among their peers. Their accomplishments, like those of the entire graduating class, reflect the core values and mission of Aquinas College.

The Class of 2025 leaves behind a legacy defined by scholarship, service, and integrity. As they embark on new journeys, we celebrate their accomplishments and look forward with confidence to the meaningful contributions they will continue to make in the world.

Celebrating 135 Years of Catholic Education in The Bahamas

A Legacy of Faith, Excellence & Community



Pictured Left to Right: Sister Mary Benedict Pratt OSB, Mrs. Claudette Rolle, and Dr. Alexandria Roberts-Bowe

A Legacy of Faith, Excellence & Community

For over a century, Catholic schools in The Bahamas have shaped generations through an unwavering commitment to faith-based education. This year, the Catholic Board of Education (CBOE) joyfully commemorates 135 years of Catholic education, a moment of profound gratitude and recommitment to the mission first entrusted to the Church in 1889.

From Humble Beginnings to National Influence

Catholic education in The Bahamas officially began on October 28, 1889, when five Sisters of Charity from Mount St. Vincent, New York, arrived in Nassau. Within a week, they opened St. Francis School, and by January 1890, the mission had expanded to what is now Xavier's Lower School. The Sisters later established Sacred Heart School, creating vital access for students from more remote communities.

Throughout the 20th century, Catholic schools emerged throughout New Providence and the Family Islands, including Sts. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Anselm's, St. Augustine's College, founded in 1947, and Aquinas College, founded in 1957 - where Excellence is an ingrained Habit. These schools are more than academic institutions; they are communities of formation, empowering students intellectually, morally, and spiritually.

Guided by a Visionary Shepherd: Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder

At the heart of the modern Catholic education movement stands His Grace, Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder, STD, CMG, the first Bahamian-born Archbishop of Nassau and a product of the very system he now shepherds.

Appointed Archbishop in 2004, Archbishop Pinder's leadership has been transformative:

- He has strengthened the Catholic identity of schools while promoting academic rigor and moral formation.
- Under his guidance, the Catholic Board of Education was modernized and professionalized, ensuring sustainability, financial stewardship, and accessibility for all Bahamian families.
- He has championed inclusive education, emphasizing dignity, character, and the holistic development of each student; rich or poor, Catholic or non-Catholic.
- His continued emphasis on social justice, pastoral care, and civic responsibility has shaped CBOE into a moral compass within the national educational landscape.

The Archbishop's presence, advocacy, and steady leadership have inspired generations of students and educators alike. His legacy is not only written in policy but etched into the daily lives of over 3,000 students across the nation who walk through Catholic school doors formed by faith and excellence.

A Living Legacy of Leadership

The 135th anniversary celebration culminated in a joyful Celestial Scavenger Hunt and Block Party hosted at Xavier's Lower School. One of the most poignant moments was the ceremonial cake-cutting by three pillars of Catholic education, seen in the photograph above:

Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, OSB - A trailblazer who led the system as Superintendent during a critical era of growth; she championed Catholic formation with a Benedictine spirit of discipline, prayer, and scholarship.

Mrs. Claudette Rolle - First lay Director of Catholic Education (2004–2023), credited for right-sizing and professionalizing CBOE's operations while advocating for quality, equity, and teacher development.

Dr. Alexandria Roberts-Bowe - Current Director of Catholic Education, appointed in 2023. With over 30 years of experience, she brings dynamic vision to curriculum innovation, leadership formation, and student achievement.

Together, these women represent over 75 years of combined leadership, vision, and service to Bahamian youth through the mission of the Church.

Forward in Faith

The theme of the anniversary "Faith in Action: Excellence for All", reminds us that our mission is ongoing. Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Roberts-Bowe and with the enduring support of Archbishop Pinder, the Catholic Board of Education remains dedicated to:

- * Curriculum Advancement including STEAM, digital learning, and Catholic social teaching.
- * Student Accessibility through scholarships and tuition aid.
- * Formation & Community Engagement cultivating students who are not only knowledgeable, but compassionate, responsible, and faith-filled.

As we celebrate the past and embrace the future, we echo the words of Christ: "Let the children come to me." May our schools always be sanctuaries of learning, compassion, and Christ-centered excellence—for the next 135 years and beyond.

Happy 135th Anniversary to the Catholic Board of Education! To God be the Glory.





Geneva Rutherford Departmental Award - Science Department



Mr. V. Sebastian, Mrs. C. King-Rolle, Ms. S. Johnson, Mr. R. Knight, Mr. A. Kumar, and Mr. R. Boodoo

Joseph Darville Male Leadership Award



Mr. C. Mortimer



Mr. R. Knight

Fiordelisa Bain Award for hospitality and Professionalism







Mrs. K. Stubbs

Mrs. R. McKenzie

Mrs. W. Johnson

Julia Munroe Award for outstanding Classroom Design & Presentation



Ms. A. Reid



Mr. R. Knight

Sr. Marva Coakley School Spirit Award



Mr. R. Freemantle



Mr. R. Knight

Claudette Rolle Deportment and Attire Award



Ms. A. Morris



Ms. L. Kelly

Cynthia Moss Award for Innovative Instructional Practices



Mrs. D. Ali-Gibson



Mr. R. Knight

Sr. Mary Benedict Pratt Rising Star Award



Ms. S. Johnson



Ms. R. Munroe

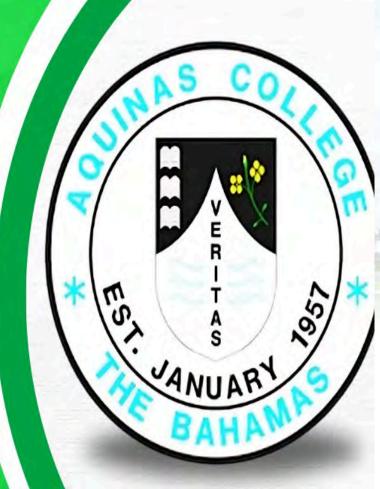




Eco-Schools

CO-SCH

Congratulations to **AQUINAS COLLEGE** on receiving their first



GREEN FLAG AWARD 15TH MAY, 2025

AQUINAS COLLEGE



www.breef.org/ecoschool

Congratulations to the *Aquinas College Aces* who successfully achieved **Green Flag**Accreditation on May 15th, 2025. We commend you for your hard work and dedication to environmental best practices!

The Green Flag recognizes schools that have achieved an international standard of excellence in environmental education and practice

The Eco-Schools Programme is a student led programme that was developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1994. BREEF is the official FEE representative for The Bahamas and the National Operator for the Eco-Schools Bahamas Programme.











As a Green Flag school Aquinas College joins The Bahamas Reef Environmental Educational Foundation's (BREEF) Eco-Schools local network, which includes its sister school Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Academy (MSSCA).

The Green Flag status highlights Aquinas' commitment to sustainable development and global citizenship.



The road to attaining Aquinas College's Green Flag status involved the entire Aquinas College family and was student led.

A Grateful Farewell to Our Esteemed Colleagues

The Aquinas College family express our heartfelt gratitude to Nurse Joan Cates, Mr. Ireneo Ajero, and Mr. Ronald Boodoo for their many years of faithful and dedicated service to Catholic education.

These three remarkable individuals are retiring after 37, 22, and 24 years of service, respectively. Their commitment to nurturing and educating generations of students has left an indelible mark on our community.

We will miss them deeply and extend our warmest wishes for many days of peace, joy, and well-deserved relaxation in the years ahead.

Nurse. Cates, Mr. Ajero, and Mr. Boodoo, thank you for your unwavering devotion and tireless efforts. May your retirement be filled with blessings, good health, and continued happiness.















Congratulations to Aquinas College 2025 Laws of Life Competition finalists.

Eden Hepburn, Amelia Hepburn, Lexani Virgil, Nina Albury, and Caiden Moxey

We are so very proud of you!



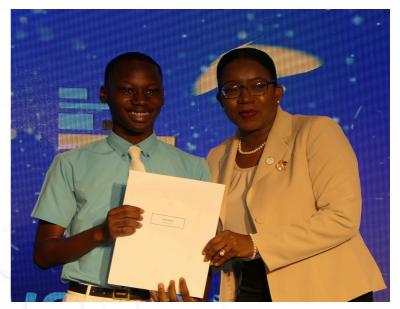
Eden Hepburn & Amelia Hepburn Honorable Mention, Video Division



Nina Albury Honorable Mention, Senior Division



Lexani Virgil Honorable Mention, Junior Division



Caiden Moxey Honorable Mention, Senior Division

Congratulations to Aces 9th grader, *Jerlea Adderley*, who placed first in the 2025 Eugene Dupuch Law School Essay Competition. Aces 2025 graduate, *Aisha Rahming*, placed third in the same competition. Jerlea & Aisha, your Aquinas College family is very proud of you.

Jerlea also claimed First Place in the 2025 Bahamas Red Cross Essay Competition! Your Aquinas College family and the entire Catholic Board of Education community are incredibly proud of your achievement.

Aquinas College, where Excellence is a habit. Aces Pride!









Congratulations to the ten outstanding young men of Aquinas College who were selected by the Gentlemen's Club Men's Committee to participate in the 2025 Gentlemen's Club Program. The Awards Ceremony was held Friday, May 30. Dellon Evans won the Toastmasters Award and \$1000.00. Again this year, Aquinas College won School of the Year.

Congratulations Chaane Duvalier, Dellon Evans, Torin Ferguson, Kiel Gequillana, Jorden Gibson, Jonathon Martin, Jeremy Nairn, Trevor Rose, Lumar Saunders, and Thomas Sawyer

These young gentlemen represented Aquinas well. Young gentlemen continue to make Excellence your Habit!



ACESPRIDE

Congratulations to Aisha Rahming, 2025 Graduate of Aquinas College. Aisha was selected as the 2025 Valedictorian of the Doctors Hospital's Glow Bridge to the Future STEM Program (BTTF).

Aisha was selected from among 22 outstanding high school students from 8 schools on the island of New Providence. The Valedictorian selection is based not just on top academic performance, but on the student being a well-rounded individual who embodies the spirit of excellence, dedication, and curiosity that defines the program.

Aisha your Aquinas College family is extremely proud of you, continue to make Excellence Your Habit. Aces Pride!



CONGRATULATIONS HAYLEY NEWTON



on being awarded a four-year full-ride scholarship to LeMoyne-Owen College Congratulations to Meyasol Strachan, a 2025 graduate, who also recently graduated from the Doctors Hospital Jump Start Surgical Technician Program.

Your Aquinas College family is so proud of you! We cannot wait to see what you achieve next!



Congratulations to Donnysia Hunt! Donnysia has been accepted into the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) SOAR HBCU Scholars Summer Program at Texas Southern University.

The Program Manager of the TMCF SOAR program expressed that he was "very impressed" with Donnysia's application and academic achievements.

Donnysia, your Aquinas College family is very proud of you!



Congratulations to Aquinas College Defence Force Rangers Cadets, 7th graders, Christian Saint Vil and Marva Adderley who were officially inducted into the Defense Force Rangers Program.

Marva and Christian continue to make Excellence Your Habit.

Aces Pride!



Marva Adderley



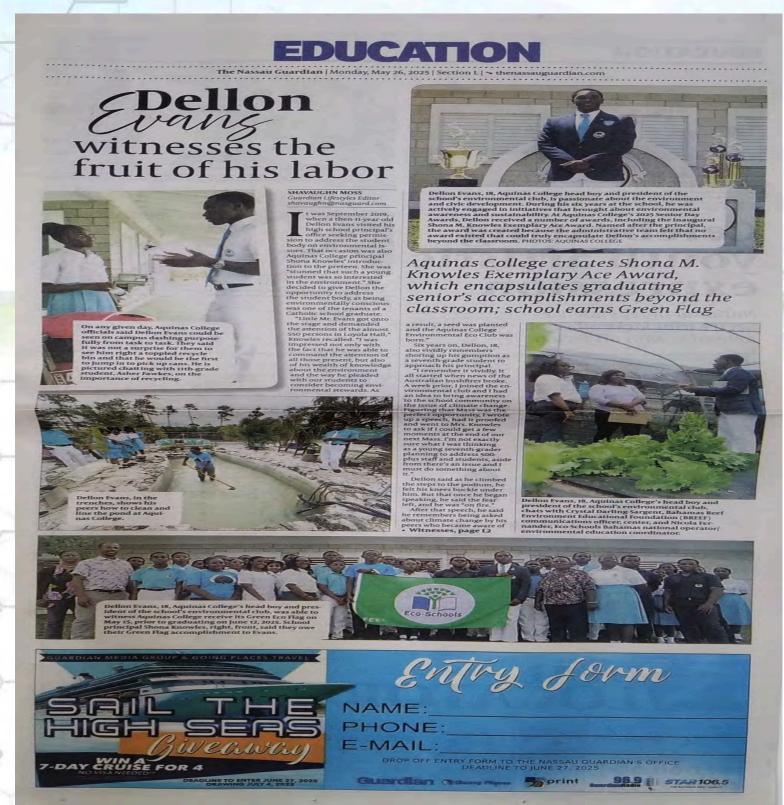
Christain Saint Vil

Dellon Evans, Aquinas College former Head Boy, is featured in the Nassau Guardian on May 26.

"It's an honour to be able to make a difference and to know there's something I can do to inspire others."

- Dellon Evans

Congratulations Dellon!



Jaliah Nairn's Senior Dance Debut

GrandBahama242News's post

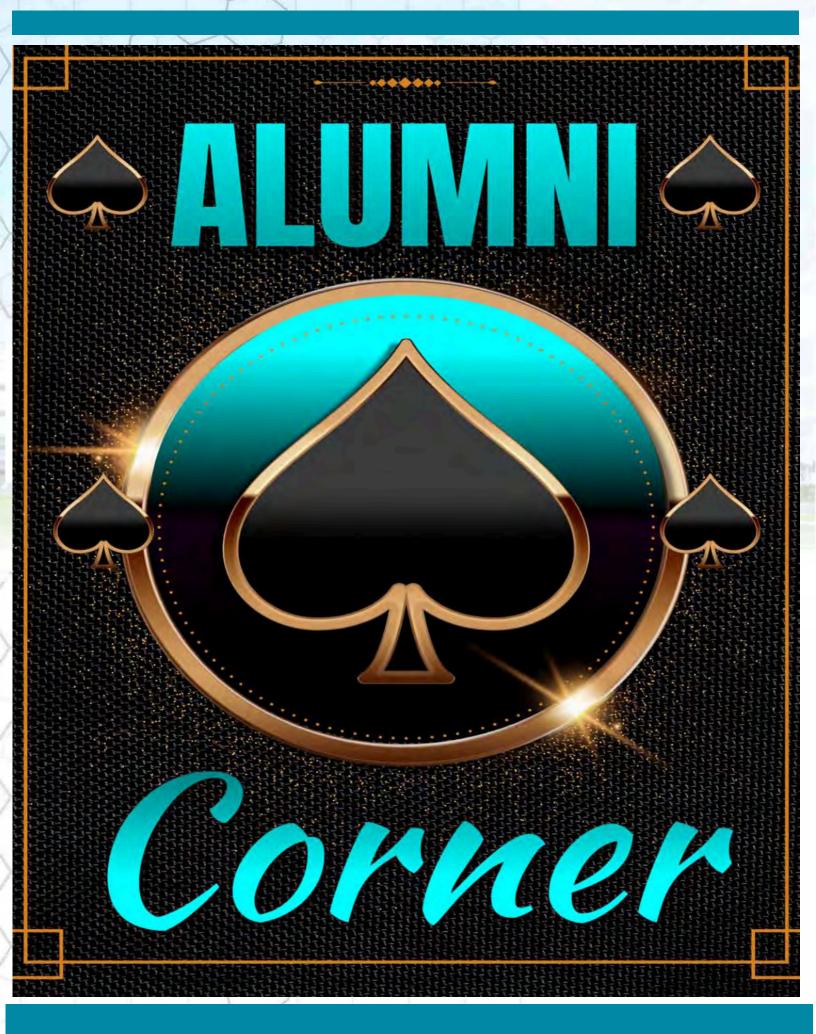
Jaliah Nairn recently captured international attention at this year's StarQuest Dance Competition in Galveston, Texas. Competing as a Just Dance Bahamas company member, the 15-year-old *placed fourteenth out of nearly one hundred soloists in the senior category*. This marked her debut in that division, where she stood out despite competing against significantly older and more seasoned dancers.

Jaliah's participation was made possible with the support of Consolidated Water (Bahamas) Ltd. (CWCO). The water supplier proudly contributed to her travel and competition expenses for the event, which is more than just a contest. Beyond the stage, dancers participate in daily workshops led by industry veterans and engage in immersive training experiences.

CWCO's General Manager, Henderson Cash, said, "Jaliah's achievement speaks volumes about her dedication and potential. We are proud to support her and other young Bahamians as they pursue excellence and make their mark internationally."







Congratulations to seven successful graduates from Aquinas College's Class of 2021

The seven graduated from the University of St. John's and The College of St. Benedict Collegeville, MN on Saturday, May 17.

Congratulations Aces! Your Aquinas College family is very proud of you. Continue to do well. God bless you all.

Pictured Left to right: *Antonio Thompson*, *Diego Jones*, *Destiny Sweeting*, *Alex Schleper* (Director of International Admission, SJU/CSB), *Jahmai Bastian*, *Dariq Chase*, and *Canaan Cooper*.

Missing from photo: *Celine Ferguson*.

Excellence is a Habit at Aquinas!





CONGRATULATIONS MARCANTHONY HART

Sts. Francis & Joseph (SFJ) Class of 2016 and Aquinas College Class of 2022. On June 12, MarcAnthony graduated from Monroe University in New Rochelle, New York with a Bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management. MarcAnthony also received an Associate Degree in Baking and Pastries in 2023.

MarcAnthony, your SFJ and Aquinas family are very proud of you. Best wishes for your next chapter!

Congratulations

Ariel Fawkes

Aquinas College Class of 2021, who graduated from The University of The Bahamas with distinction and a Bachelor of Education in Primary Education. Ariel was also the recipient of the School of Education Academic Excellence Award and The Alumni Association Leadership Award.

Ariel you have done well. Your Aces family is proud of you. Continue to make Excellence Your Habit!

Aces Pride!



Congratulations to Kriston Clarke, a 2011 graduate of St Cecilia's and a 2017 graduate and Head Boy of Aquinas College.

Kriston recently graduated with a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Your Aces family is so proud of you. Excellence continues to be your habit! Aces Pride!

St. Cecilia's Striker Pride!
Catholic Board of Education Pride!









Corban Rahming, a member of the Aquinas College Class of 2020, recently graduated from Holland College (Canada) with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AQUINAS CLASS OF 1975

On Friday, May 23, members of the Aquinas College Class of 1975 visited Aquinas College. The Class made a donation to the school and toured the campus. The Class of 1975 celebrated its 50th Anniversary on May 30, the exact date they graduated from Aquinas College 50 years ago.

Thank you Class of 1975 for your donation, and congratulations on your Golden Anniversary.

Happy Anniversary!







Scenes from Class of 1975 visit to Aquinas

For most of the members of the Class of 1975, this was their first time visiting the Aquinas College Gladstone Rd. campus. They were proud of the progress Aquinas has made and the state-of-the-art campus.

We invite alumni, particularly those from the Madeira St. days, to reach out to schedule a visit to their alma mater and see the great strides and continued growth and development of your Aquinas College.



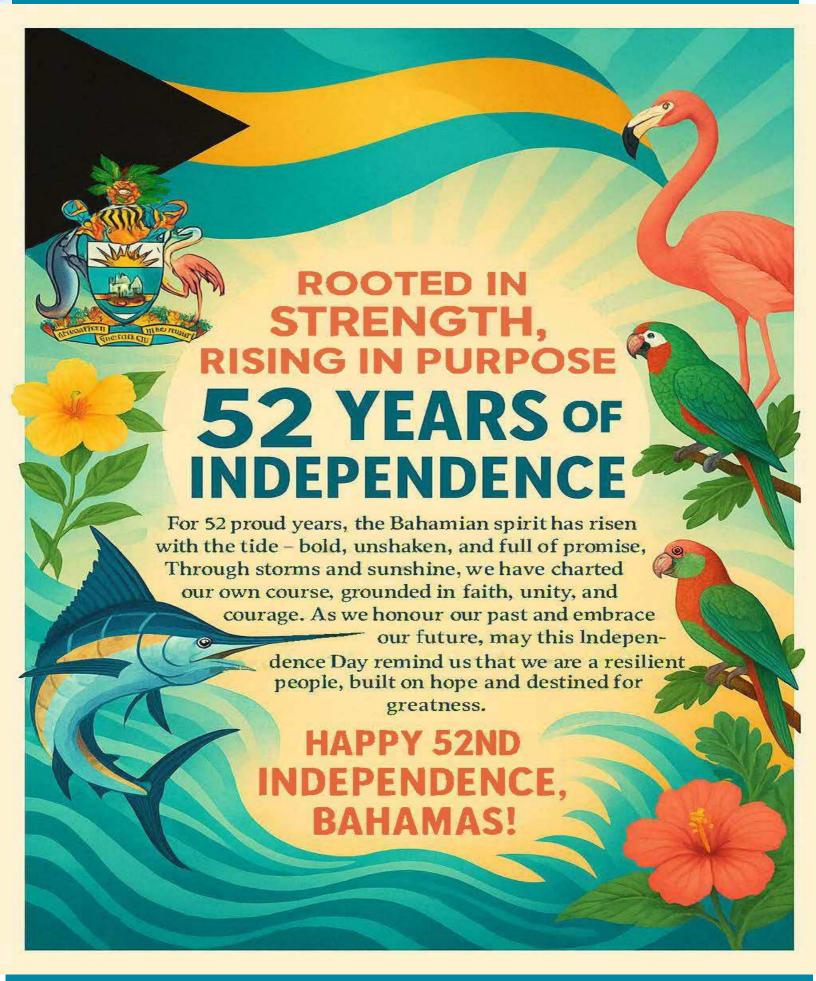












OPEN DOES NOT MEAN OVER

Maintain COVID-19 Protective Measures



LET'S KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE