

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Newsletter Date

October 2025

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Dates To Remember

November 13, 2025

Early Dismissal

November 20, 2025

8th Grade Retreat

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Dear Aquinas College Family,

As we come to the close of another vibrant month at Aquinas College, we take great pride in reflecting on the accomplishments, dedication, and compassion that continue to define our community. October was a month of both celebration and service; a reminder of the heights we can achieve together and the deep sense of empathy that unites us as one Aquinas family.

On October 23, 2025, we gathered for one of the most anticipated occasions of the academic year; our Academic Awards Day. This event marked an inspiring celebration of scholarly excellence, as we honored students who demonstrated exceptional performance during the 2024–2025 academic year. Each award presented was a testament to the countless hours of study, discipline, and curiosity that our students have invested in their education.

We also extend heartfelt appreciation to the parents, guardians, and supporters who joined us on that special day. Your presence added warmth and encouragement to the ceremony, reminding us that every student's success is nurtured by a circle of faith, family, and steadfast support. The shared pride that filled the hall reflected the beautiful partnership between home and school that continues to strengthen the Aquinas spirit.

October also saw our students and staff unite in compassion through our campus-wide fundraising initiative, "Pink-tober – Pink for the Cure Fundraiser." In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, this effort brought together the entire Aquinas community in solidarity and service. The funds raised will be donated to the Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group and Sister Marva Coakley, Prioress of St. Martin's Monastery, in support of their ongoing outreach and care for individuals and families affected by breast cancer. Through this initiative, we reaffirmed that education at Aquinas extends beyond the classroom - it is a call to action, empathy, and meaningful contribution to the world around us.

Beyond these inspiring moments, our students continued to distinguish themselves in academic and vocational competitions across various disciplines. Their impressive placements and commendable finishes reflect both intellectual rigor and practical excellence, proof that our students are not only learning but leading with integrity, creativity, and purpose. We commend them and their dedicated faculty mentors for their commitment to excellence.

Even as we celebrate our triumphs, we pause in solidarity with those beyond our campus who face hardship. The devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa has left many communities grappling with loss and uncertainty. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have been affected - the families displaced, the lives disrupted, and the regions striving to rebuild. May this tragedy remind us of the importance of compassion, resilience, and collective support in times of need.

As we look ahead, may we continue to nurture both excellence and empathy; the twin pillars that uphold the true mission of Aquinas College. Let us celebrate success with gratitude, meet challenges with courage, and carry forward a spirit of unity that defines who we are and what we aspire to become.



Aquinas College *Academic Awards Day*

Celebrating Academic Excellence at Aquinas College

Congratulations to all Aquinas College scholars in grades 8 through 12 who were recognized at the 2025 Academic Awards Day held on Thursday, October 23. The ceremony honored students who achieved a cumulative GPA between 3.0 and 4.0 during the 2024–2025 academic year, marking their consistent dedication to hard work, discipline, and academic excellence.

Each student honored exemplifies the Aquinas spirit of perseverance and intellectual growth, serving as an inspiration to their peers and the wider school community. The ceremony was a proud moment for teachers, parents, and supporters who continue to encourage our students to strive for their best in all they do.

Honor Roll Highlights:

Last year's Grade 7: 53 scholars

Last year's Grade 8: 65 scholars

Last year's Grade 9: 46 scholars

Last year's Grade 10: 52 scholars

Last year's Grade 11: 65 scholars

Congratulations once again to all our honorees for making excellence a habit! Your Aquinas College family is proud of your achievements and the example you set through your commitment to learning and leadership.

Last Year's **7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th** Grade Respectively





Aquinas Student Leaders Represent at Diplomatic Week 2025

Four members of the Aquinas College Student Leadership Council Executive: **Tamar Armbrister Jr.** (Head Boy), **Asher Fawkes** (Head Girl), **Ethan Mackey** (Deputy Head Boy), and **Haile Lockhart** (Deputy Head Girl); proudly represented Aquinas College at the Opening Ceremony of Diplomatic Week 2025.

The event, held on Monday, October 20 at the Baha Mar Convention Center, was hosted under the theme “Delivering Security, Opportunity, and Justice through Diplomacy.” The ceremony brought together global diplomats, envoys, and youth representatives to reflect on the role of diplomacy in fostering peace, development, and mutual understanding.

Accompanied by Mr. Covanc Mortimer, Dean of Students, the Aquinas delegation participated in discussions emphasizing the importance of multilateralism, diplomacy, climate security, mutual respect, and good-faith engagement in shaping a more secure and equitable global future.

The presence of these student leaders at such a distinguished national event reflects Aquinas College’s commitment to cultivating globally minded, service-oriented citizens who embody leadership, integrity, and respect in every sphere of influence.





CELEBRATING

ACES *pride*

STUDENTS' SPOTLIGHT

Aquinas Student Wins Deposit Insurance Corporation Video Essay Award

Congratulations to **Jerlea Adderley**, a talented 10th-grade student at Aquinas College, on winning the Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC) Video Essay Award!

The DIC, which plays a vital role in safeguarding depositors by insuring funds held in member banks and financial institutions, launched this competition to promote greater awareness of financial literacy, the importance of saving, and the role of deposit insurance in maintaining a stable financial system. Through her creative and insightful video essay, Jerlea demonstrated a deep understanding of these important concepts and impressed the judges with her clarity, originality, and presentation.

Her achievement reflects not only her personal dedication but also the commitment of Aquinas College to fostering excellence in learning, critical thinking, and civic awareness.

The entire Aquinas College community celebrates Jerlea's remarkable accomplishment and commends her for representing the College with such distinction, confidence, and grace.

Congratulations once again, Jerlea - your success inspires us all!



Aces pride!

The Bahamas Culinary & Arts *Festival* presented by BAHAMA MAR

Aquinas Senior Shines at Baha Mar Culinary Arts Competition



Congratulations to **Tahlia Peterson**, a talented 12th-grade student at Aquinas College, on placing 3rd in the prestigious Baha Mar Culinary Arts Competition!

This annual event showcases the remarkable talents of young, aspiring chefs from schools across The Bahamas, challenging participants to demonstrate their creativity, precision, and culinary artistry through dishes inspired by both local and international flavors.

Tahlia's impressive performance in this highly competitive environment reflects her dedication, passion for the culinary arts, and commitment to excellence. Her accomplishment also underscores the strength of Aquinas College's Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts programme, which continues to inspire students to pursue innovation and mastery in their craft.

A special note of gratitude is extended to **Mrs. Sophia Bonnito**, facilitator of Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts at Aquinas College, for her expert guidance and mentorship throughout Tahlia's preparation.

The entire Aquinas College family is proud of you, Tahlia, for your outstanding achievement and for representing our school with both excellence and skill.

Aquinas Student Leads with Innovation in Agriculture

Kody Forbes, an inspiring 10th-grade student of Aquinas College, whose passion for agriculture has already taken root in remarkable ways. Together with his father, Kody started his own farm, which now boasts over 500 sheep and goats. His journey in agriculture was inspired by time spent with his grandfather in Long Island, where he first developed a love for farming and sustainable living.

Kody recently shared his story during the official launch of the Agriculture and Marine Cadets Programme, a new initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The programme aims to nurture interest in modern agriculture, aquaculture, and sustainable fishing practices among Bahamian youth through hands-on training and field experiences.

Although the initiative will first be rolled out in four pilot schools—Government High School, C.I. Gibson, R.M. Bailey, and C.V. Bethel—Kody’s example stands as a model of youth leadership, innovation, and environmental stewardship. His dedication to farming and his desire to inspire others perfectly embody the Aquinas College spirit of excellence and service.

The Aquinas College community proudly commends Kody for his outstanding accomplishments and for representing the College as a young leader committed to growth, sustainability, and national development.

Well done, Kody—your hard work and vision continue to make Aquinas proud!



Aquinas Student Recognized as Rising Star

We proudly celebrate **Christina Dean**, a talented Grade 8 student at Aquinas College, who was recently honored at Government House as a nominee for the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture's Rising Star Award.

This distinguished recognition highlights Christina's dedication, leadership, and positive spirit—qualities that embody the Aquinas tradition of excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

The Aquinas College community congratulates Christina on this well-deserved honor. Your hard work and commitment shine brightly, and your success inspires your peers to strive for greatness.



Congratulations, Christina! Your Aquinas family is proud of you—Aces pride!

Aquinas Dancer Showcases Talent on National Stage

Congratulations to **Jaliah Nairn**! Jaliah proudly represented Aquinas College by performing a dance solo at the Official Opening Ceremony for The Bahamas Civil Society Land and Geospatial Forum, held on October 16 at the University of The Bahamas. The event, which featured Prime Minister Philip Davis as keynote speaker, brought together national and international stakeholders to discuss innovation, sustainability, and community development.

Jaliah was selected to perform in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments at the Just Dance Bahamas Team's international competition in Galveston, Texas, this past June. There, she and her team achieved remarkable success, earning 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th place in team performances. Jaliah's senior solo performance also ranked in the top 20 internationally, earning her a prestigious Platinum Plus Award for placing 14th out of 90 solo entries.

Her dedication, artistry, and grace continue to exemplify the Aquinas spirit of excellence and creativity.



Congratulations, Jaliah! Your Aquinas College family is incredibly proud of you and celebrates your outstanding talent and achievement.

Aquinas Students Present at 2025 BREEF Eco-Schools Coordinators' Workshop

Twelfth-grade students [Amelia Hepburn](#) and [Ethan Mackey](#) proudly represented Aquinas College at the 2025 BREEF Eco-Schools Coordinators' Workshop, where they delivered an engaging presentation highlighting the College's journey toward earning the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

During their presentation, Amelia and Ethan outlined the various steps Aquinas College implemented to promote environmental awareness, conservation, and sustainability across campus. They emphasized the importance of student involvement, responsible waste management, and ongoing green initiatives that continue to make a meaningful impact within the school community.

Many of these eco-projects were made possible through generous support from the GEF Small Grants Programme, whose funding contributed significantly to the school's environmental achievements. Aquinas College also extends sincere gratitude to its dedicated partners; BREEF (Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation), BNT (Bahamas National Trust), and Bahamas Waste, for their invaluable guidance and collaboration.

Congratulations to Amelia and Ethan on an outstanding presentation and for representing Aquinas College with excellence, confidence, and commitment to environmental stewardship. You continue to make your school proud!



Aquinas Students Engage Leaders at INTI Future Energy Forum



Aquinas College students recently had the exciting opportunity to connect with Prime Minister Philip Davis and Minister JoBeth Coleby-Davis at the INTI Future Energy Leaders Forum.

The forum, designed to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators, explored sustainable energy solutions and the future of renewable technologies in The Bahamas. Aquinas students participated in discussions centered on environmental stewardship, energy innovation, and youth leadership, gaining valuable insight into how young Bahamians can contribute to shaping a greener national future.

The interaction with national leaders provided an inspiring platform for students to share ideas and learn about the role of education, science, and policy in advancing sustainable development.

Aquinas College commends its students for their enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment to learning about critical issues that will define the future of our country and the world.

Aquinas Students: Energizing the Future with Knowledge and Faith.

Aquinas Senior Aces Excel in Bahamas Young Chef Competition



Congratulations to Senior Aces, **Kai Barnes** and **A'Miah Cooper**!

Aquinas College proudly celebrates the success of Kai Barnes, who placed 7th, and A'Miah Cooper, who placed 10th, among competitors from 14 public and private schools across The Bahamas in the 33rd Annual Bahamas Young Chef Competition.

Their remarkable achievements underscore the importance of culinary education in developing creativity, discipline, and innovation through hands-on learning experiences. Both students demonstrated exceptional skill and artistry in their dishes, proudly representing Aquinas College with confidence and excellence.

Aquinas College continues to boast a strong Vocational and Technical Education (VoTech) program, one that equips students with valuable, real-world skills for success beyond the classroom. This success is made possible through the dedication of our culinary arts facilitator **Mrs. Sophia Bonnitto**, who inspire students to reach their full potential in both craftsmanship and character.

Congratulations once again to our young chefs and their instructor; you've made the Aces family proud!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Aquinas College Students Support Breast Cancer Awareness and St. Martin's Monastery

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Aquinas College community came together in a spirit of compassion and generosity to raise funds in support of the [Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group](#), as well as [Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, OSB](#), and [Sister Marva Coakley, Prioress of St. Martin's Monastery](#).

Funds were collected through the school's spirited "Think Pink" dress-up days, held each Friday throughout October. During these events, both students and staff proudly donned various shades of pink to demonstrate their solidarity with those affected by breast cancer while contributing to this meaningful cause.

This initiative reflects Aquinas College's ongoing commitment to community outreach, empathy, and service, living out the College's values of faith, compassion, and social responsibility.

At Aquinas College, we remain steadfast in fostering a community where awareness, care, and action come together to make a lasting difference.



Aquinas—Loving Persons, United in Pink for a Purpose

Christina Dean: A Young Leader with a Heart for Service

At just 13 years old, **Christina Dean**, a student of Aquinas College, exemplifies the very essence of compassion, humility, and generosity. She inspires her peers and community alike through her kindness, resilience, and joyful spirit.

A dedicated honor roll student, Christina balances academic excellence with active participation in athletics, the marching band, and community service initiatives such as the Bahamas Red Cross. Yet, it is her selfless outreach that truly sets her apart.

In 2022, Christina founded Peggy's Pantry, a service project named in honor of her late mother. Through this initiative, she organizes monthly snack drives for the children of the Ranfurly Home for Children, thoughtfully selecting treats she knows will bring smiles and comfort. Even amidst personal hardship, continuing her service work as her mother bravely battled metastatic breast cancer and after her passing; Christina demonstrated remarkable strength, choosing compassion over sorrow and service over self.

Her empathy, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to helping others embody the values of Aquinas College and the Catholic tradition of love in action. Christina Dean is indeed a Hidden Hero and a shining example of what it means to be a loving person, a true role model for her generation.

A promotional poster for Character Day 2025. The top half has a purple background with gold streamers and the text "CHARACTER DAY" in large white letters, followed by "WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2025" in white. Below this is an orange banner with the text "JOY IS CONTAGIOUS, CATCH IT, SHARE IT!". In the center is a circular portrait of Christina Dean, a young Black woman with braids, smiling. Below the portrait is an orange banner with the text "HIDDEN HERO Christina Dean". At the bottom are three logos: CharacterDay, PACE, and Templeton World Charity Foundation. The very bottom is an orange banner with the hashtags "#CharacterDayBahamas2025 #JoyIsContagious #CatchItShareIt".

CHARACTER DAY
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2025

JOY IS CONTAGIOUS, CATCH IT, SHARE IT!

HIDDEN HERO
Christina Dean

#CharacterDayBahamas2025 #JoyIsContagious #CatchItShareIt

Aquinas Red Cross Link Supports St. Cecilia's Parish Men's Ministry Outreach

The Aquinas College Red Cross Link recently demonstrated the spirit of service and compassion by making a donation to the Men's Ministry of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in support of its Outreach Programme.

This thoughtful contribution reflects the group's ongoing commitment to living out the values of empathy, generosity, and community care—core principles of both the Red Cross and Aquinas College. Through their act of giving, members of the Red Cross Link continue to embody the call to be loving persons who respond to the needs of others with kindness and faith in action.

The Aquinas College community commends the Red Cross Link members and their advisor, **Ms. Anatha Morris** for their leadership and dedication to service, reminding us all that small acts of compassion can make a lasting difference.





TEACHERS' SPOTLIGHT

Aquinas Teacher Achieves BahamaHost Trainer Certification



Congratulations to **Dr. Monique Marshall**, Cosmetology teacher at Aquinas College, on successfully completing the BahamaHost Train the Trainer Program! Dr. Marshall is now officially recognized as a Certified BahamaHost Trainer.

This certification represents a significant professional achievement and reinforces Dr. Marshall's dedication to excellence in education, hospitality, and student development. As a BahamaHost Trainer, she will continue to inspire students to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, courtesy, and national pride, values that reflect both the Bahamas Catholic Board of Education and Aquinas College's commitment to holistic education and service.

The Aquinas College family, along with the Bahamas Catholic Board of Education, proudly celebrates Dr. Marshall's accomplishment.

BahamaHost is a nationally recognized training and certification program designed to strengthen the quality of customer service and hospitality throughout The Bahamas. Administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Investments and Aviation, the program equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to represent The Bahamas with pride, professionalism, and excellence.

Participants learn about Bahamian culture, history, and heritage, as well as essential principles of customer care, communication, and national pride. The goal of BahamaHost is to ensure that every individual who interacts with visitors contributes positively to The Bahamas' reputation as a world-class, friendly, and welcoming destination.

The Train the Trainer Program, which Dr. Monique Marshall completed, prepares educators and professionals to deliver BahamaHost training to others, helping expand the reach and impact of this important national initiative.

Congratulations once again, Dr. Marshall

ALUMNI

Corner

Aquinas College Class of 1974 Alumni Honored at National Ceremony

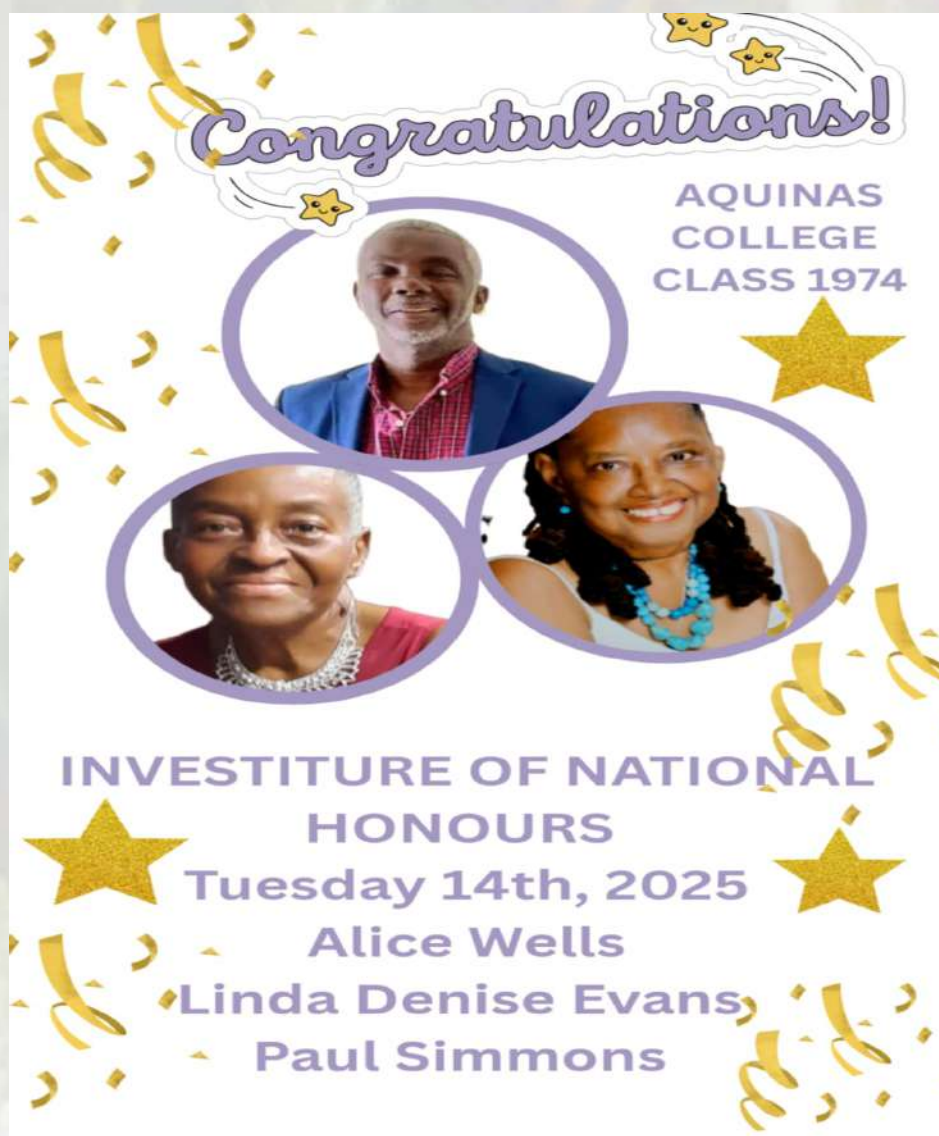
Congratulations to **Alice Wells**, **Linda Denise Evans**, and **Paul Simmons**, distinguished members of the Aquinas College Class of 1974, who are being honored at the 2025 National Honours and Investiture Ceremony.

These accomplished alumni exemplify the Aquinas tradition of excellence and service through their remarkable contributions to The Bahamas:

- Paul Simmons – recognized for his outstanding community service in Eleuthera.
- Alice Wells – honored for her exceptional contributions to sports.
- Linda Denise Evans – celebrated for her significant contributions to the labor movement.

Their achievements reflect a lifelong commitment to leadership, integrity, and service - values deeply rooted in their Aquinas education.

Alice, Linda, and Paul, your Aquinas College family is incredibly proud of you! Your accomplishments inspire current and future generations of Aces to strive for excellence and to serve with purpose.



Aquinas College Class of 1985 Gives Back to Their Alma Mater

On Thursday, October 30, representatives from the Aquinas College Class of 1985 returned to their beloved alma mater to present a donation and commemorative plaque on behalf of their graduating class.

The generous donation will be used to enhance the learning environment by providing new classroom furniture, ensuring that current and future students benefit from comfortable, modern, and inspiring spaces for academic growth. The commemorative plaque will be prominently displayed in the Aquinas College Business Office, serving as both a lasting symbol of gratitude and a source of inspiration for generations of students to come.

During their visit, Class of 1985 representatives were warmly welcomed to campus, where they enjoyed a tour of the school grounds and engaged with current students—sharing stories, memories, and words of encouragement that bridged four decades of Aquinas pride and tradition.

The Aquinas College community extends heartfelt thanks to the Class of 1985 for their generosity, school spirit, and enduring commitment to the mission and excellence of Aquinas College.

Happy 40th Anniversary to the Class of 1985! Your legacy continues to inspire and uplift the Aquinas family.



OPEN DOES NOT MEAN OVER

Maintain COVID-19 Protective Measures



LET'S KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE