

In Memory of

Manuel Jorge Cutillas

March 1, 1932 – November 2, 2013



Manuel Jorge Cutillas

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It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that the Boards and staff of Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation note the passing of our longtime Chairman and great friend, Manuel Jorge Cutillas, on Saturday, November 2, 2013, at his family's home in Panama.

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Rosa, their son, Jorge, their extended family and dear friends. We hope they find some comfort in the knowledge that Mr. Cutillas was — as the many other tributes being made to him attest — universally loved, respected and admired. His countless contributions to the positive development of The Bahamas will forever be a part of this country's history.

Mr. Cutillas was especially passionate about empowering young Bahamians to pursue an education, whether at The College of The Bahamas or abroad. He always displayed the greatest sense of pride in the Lyford Cay Scholars' many talents, achievements and commitment to an honest and better life.

In recent years, Mr. Cutillas championed the young students of FOCUS — the Foundations' school enrichment initiative — whom he saw as being the future leaders of the country. He particularly enjoyed visiting with the children and delighted in their progress, hunger for knowledge and respect for one another.

A true gentleman, Mr. Cutillas was perhaps most well liked for his warmth and kindness, unwavering consideration of others, and remarkably unassuming nature. These attributes, along with his tremendous work ethic, vast business experience and — not least — wonderful sense of humour, will be sorely missed.

With his can-do attitude and optimistic disposition, Mr. Cutillas frequently acted as an anchor and inspiration to others during challenging times. He had learnt early on how to overcome even the most daunting obstacles, and simply refused to give into them.

Manuel Jorge Cutillas was born in Cuba on March 1, 1932, and was the great-great grandson of Don Facundo Bacardi, the founder of the Bacardi

company. Mr. Cutillas left Cuba in 1960 after the Castro regime confiscated the family business, and chose to make The Bahamas his family home.

Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Cutillas began his career in Cuba in 1955 as an Assistant Distillery Superintendent at Bacardi. He steadily rose within the company, becoming Chairman of the Board of Bacardi Ltd. in 1997. He retired from that position in 2000, but continued to serve as a Director of several Bacardi-Martini companies. He was also a Director of Grupo Televisa S.A., Chairman of the University of Miami's International Advisory Board, and a Fellow of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship.

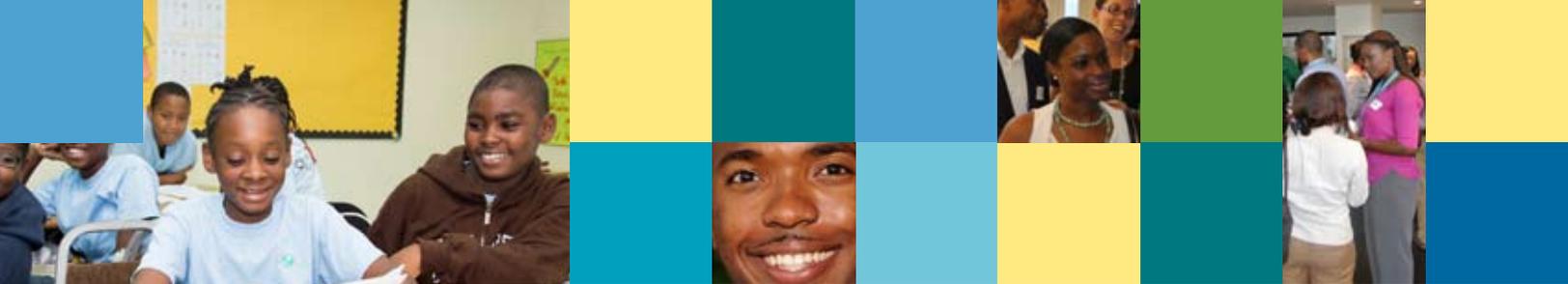
Mr. Cutillas joined the Board of Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. in 1990. He became its President in 1996 and assumed the Chairmanship in 2002, after his great friend, Harry C. Moore, Sr., stepped down to become Honorary Chairman. The opening of the Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre at The College of The Bahamas in 2011 was among Mr. Cutillas' proudest moments at the Foundations.

Mr. Cutillas was deeply involved in and supported countless civic and philanthropic organisations, including many devoted to the preservation of the environment in his beloved adoptive country.

He was named the Honorary Mexican Consul to The Bahamas in 1979, and was Dean of the Honorary Consular Corps of The Bahamas at the time of his passing. In 2000, he was also awarded an honorary Doctorate in Business Administration from the University of Miami.

Mr. Cutillas had many hobbies, including golfing and fishing. An avid boater, he was never happier than when being able to spend time with friends and family in The Exumas, which he called his favourite place in the world.

All of us at the Foundations will miss Mr. Cutillas enormously, and will endeavour to forge ahead with the fulfillment of our mission, one that he believed in wholeheartedly and worked toward fulfilling every day.



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Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations

Meet Our Newest Harry Moore Scholar

Thea Rutherford, a journalist and teacher, has been awarded the distinguished Harry Moore Memorial Scholarship in the Arts. This is her second award from the Foundations: in 2001, she earned a Canadian undergraduate scholarship to study History and Political Science at McGill University in Montreal. Thea will be pursuing a master's degree in Arts Education at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Below are excerpts of a letter she wrote to us before setting off on her newest adventure.

Energised by the Say Yes to Education conference I had attended in 2012, I thought that I would try a new approach with my ninth graders. We spent the rest of the year engaged in "trust-building exercises" on the field, in which they fell back on each other with their eyes closed to develop team spirit. We referred to our class as a team, always.

"I'm not your teacher anymore," I had told them. "I'm your coach. I'm Coach Rutherford. And we're a team."

The following year, I was standing at the

"This dream is one that started in my family's back room, when my little brother and I would play school for hours on end."

doorway, keeping an eye on a group of my former students for another teacher. Now tenth graders, they were a little taller, their faces a bit more mature, and their assignment more challenging. But one of them had still remembered our thing.

"We miss you as our coach, Ms. Ruddafud," said one of my students.

Learning that I had had some impact on at least one of the students brought tears to my eyes that I couldn't show at the time.

This is the kind of experience that has coloured my two short years of being a classroom teacher. And it is the kind of inspiration that pushes me further to study at the graduate level.

Thanks, in part, to the generous support of The Lyford Cay Foundations through their Harry Moore Scholarship, my dream of studying Arts Education is on its way to becoming a reality.

This dream is one that started in my family's back room, when my little brother and I would play school for hours on end. Years later, I found myself with a bachelor's degree and an unexpected career as a writer. I began working at The Nassau Guardian in 2004. There I learnt exciting things about the richness of Bahamian culture and the talent of our people.

In 2011, I returned to my roots — my love for education — supercharged with all that I had learnt as a journalist. I was hired by the Anglican Central Education Authority to teach English Language and Literature at Bishop Michael Eldon School in Freeport.

I am grateful to God, and for everything that has led me to this point.



Thea Rutherford
Photo by Edward Russell III

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2013 Scholarship Statistics

New Awards
27 academic
18 technical

Returning Scholars
41 academic
6 technical

2013 Graduates
22 academic
14 technical



Roundup

Gifts and Grants

TEACHERS DIVE INTO MARINE EDUCATION

Environmental conservation is hard work — just ask Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, who strives to protect marine biodiversity as the executive director of BREEF, the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation. That’s why environmentalists need all the help they can get, especially from educators who can help spread the message to children and adults alike.

For 20 years, BREEF has been a leader in marine life. The organisation is known for its intensive eight-day teacher workshops, held every summer on San Salvador. The classes aim to expand the teachers’ knowledge of the oceanic environment through hands-on learning, and have reached more than 300 educators from across the country to date.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, BREEF has been influencing nationwide changes in the schools’ science curriculum, helping teachers to enhance and develop the environmental education offered to their students.

Aided by a \$14,750 grant from Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc., BREEF’s newest initiative is the development and distribution of a three-part set of

booklets, which will provide readers with essential conservation information on the Nassau grouper, conch and crawfish, respectively.

“There is a huge demand for these kinds of materials,” said McKinney-Lambert. “Teachers need resources specific to The Bahamas that their Bahamian students can relate to.”

The publications will be distributed to all public and private schools.

Marcia Musgrove, BREEF’s outreach

manager, is a former Lyford Cay Scholar (Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, College of Charleston, 1999).

“As a direct beneficiary, I am grateful for the Foundation’s generosity and ongoing commitment to supporting the sustainable use of our marine and environmental resources,” she said. “LCF’s grants have increased BREEF’s capacity to produce and deliver relevant educational resources to teachers, concerned stakeholders and the general public.”

“As a direct beneficiary, I am grateful for the Foundation’s generosity and ongoing commitment to supporting the sustainable use of our marine and environmental resources.”

*— Lyford Cay Scholar and BREEF Outreach Manager
Marcia Musgrove*



Teachers and students get up close and personal with marine life during BREEF’s 2013 summer programmes. *Photos courtesy of BREEF.*



D-SQUAD KEEPS JUMPING FOR ANOTHER SUMMER

When Coach Harcourt McCoy and the Doris Johnson basketball teams first began their summer practices at the D. W. Davis Gymnasium, in 2005, they probably didn't consider the possibility that they might go into overtime. As it turns out, eight years later, Coach McCoy still has his high school teams clocking in additional hours at his annual D-Squad camp.

The programme takes place over two weeks during the summer holidays, when children from the surrounding Yellow Elder area are invited to burn off extra energy while developing serious skills on the court. This year, Coach McCoy and the D-Squad team hosted 70 players who learnt a lot more than jump shots.

“Our focus is on the three Ds — determination, dedication and discipline,” said McCoy. “This camp allows us to spread our skills and knowledge of the

game to students we wouldn't normally reach. It also gives those kids a chance to develop an interest in a sport. It's our hope that that interest provides direction for them as they grow.”

Since its establishment, D-Squad has prided itself on its open-door policy; it has remained free of charge for participants, who are encouraged to use their playing abilities to pursue academic scholarships abroad.

“All of our goals were achieved as a result of the sponsorship provided by the Foundation. It could not have been possible without that help.”

— Coach Harcourt McCoy



The D Squad camp teaches youngsters crucial life and personal skills in addition to the rules of basketball. Photos by Bahamas Visual Services.



“We want to show these kids that it's possible to make their way through life by doing something that they enjoy,” said Assistant Camp Coordinator Kevon Spence. “Basketball can get them to college and give them a future. That's what we want.”

A \$2,500 Foundation gift equipped the camp with trophies, daily refreshments, and a personal T-shirt and basketball for each player.

“We were blessed this year. I am truly grateful to the Lyford Cay Foundation,” said McCoy. “All of our goals were achieved as a result of the sponsorship provided by the Foundation. It could not have been possible without that help.”

Update

FOCUS

FOCUS is a tuition-free academic enrichment programme for public school students in the northwestern district of New Providence (Bain & Grants Town through to Gambier Village). FOCUS recruits fourth graders and follows them through to college. The majority of its participants will be the first in their family to attain a postsecondary education. Lessons are conducted for six weeks during the summer ('Summer SLAM'), and on Saturdays during the school year.

The third FOCUS summer was the best yet! The programme recruited an additional 50 students, bringing the total number of participants to 120.

The theme for the children's projects was The Bahamas' 40th Anniversary of Independence. Fifth and sixth graders built model cities based on how they envision Nassau will look 40 years from now. Their vivid imaginations came up with landscapes featuring wind energy sources, bridges to other islands, underground transportation and numerous skyscrapers.

For their part, the seventh graders were tasked with producing a documentary comparing and contrasting life in the nation's capital in 1973 with what it's like today. You can see their impressive video here: <http://vimeo.com/72344426>.

At the end of Summer SLAM, the children presented their work to a packed house of parents, family and friends during FOCUS' annual Showcase.

Our very first class is now entering high school as seventh graders. We greatly look forward to following their progress and continuing to support and empower them with our Saturday lessons, which take place throughout the academic year.



"I love FOCUS! I am blessed and honoured to be part of this programme. It has become a part of me."

— Intern Gwenique Charlow



2013 Summer SLAM by Numbers

- 50** new rising fifth graders
- 120** total students
- 30** days of programming
- 4** 'challenges' (science, reading, mathematics, speech)
- 5** teacher coaches
- 16** interns
- 3** volunteers



FOCUS HELPS FUTURE TEACHERS TOO!

FOCUS offers aspiring teachers a chance to learn skills such as classroom management, lesson planning and project-based learning, under the guidance of expert educators.

Most of the interns are students at the School of Education at The College of The Bahamas (COB). They are talented,

committed and passionate about their vocation. Through their energy and enthusiasm, they demonstrate to the kids that 'learning is fun'.

Here we highlight two young individuals who participated in the programme this year.

Ashley Williams



A recent COB graduate, Ashley started her FOCUS career as a Saturday volunteer.

Asked to describe her impression on the first day, she had just one word: "Wow!"

Ashley has had a number of mentors. When she was in primary school, her mother — then in her 40s — decided to pursue a postsecondary education. Ashley remembers how her Mom's career rapidly developed after graduation, and takes that as a testament to the importance of FOCUS in the lives of its students. She is elated by the programme's commitment to getting young Bahamians to college.

The 23-year-old fondly recalls her Junior High teacher, Ms. Hart, who took a keen interest in her success, and

hopes to have this same impact on her students.

This summer, Ashley was an experiential intern at FOCUS, assisting with all out-of-classroom activities, and was leader of the 'Science Challenge', one of several competitions that the students participate in each year.

Armed with her Bachelor of Arts in Primary Education and the confidence and experience she gained at FOCUS, Ashley has begun living her dream by becoming a teacher at Green Castle Primary in South Eleuthera.

Audison Beaubrun

Audison 'Audi' Beaubrun has had a stellar year.

A two-time FOCUS Summer SLAM intern and head of the programme's 'Mathematics Challenge', he graduated from COB with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics this past June — receiving the College's prestigious President's Award.

The first in his family to obtain a college education, Audi's love for mathematics stems from his childhood. He recalls his parents playing games with him that taught him addition and subtraction, and credits his decision to major in the subject to his COB professor, Mr. Joseph.

A graduate of Stephen Dillet Primary School, a public school FOCUS recruits from, Audi joined the programme because of its commitment to creating a path to college for children in the public school system.



This summer, he hoped for his students to master word problems, which he sees as being a challenge for many of them. He was also an advocate for persistence and hard work, using breaks and lunchtime for extra tutoring sessions.

Audi is currently enrolled in a Dual Master's/PhD programme in Applied Mathematics at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), and one day hopes to lecture at the college level. As he set off for FIT, he noted that his experience with FOCUS has given him a fresh perspective.

"You can't take small things for granted," he said. "The world through a child's eyes really gives you a new sense of appreciation."

Spotlight On

Our Scholars

MAKING WAVES AS A COASTAL ENGINEER



If there's one thing that excites Carlos Palacios, it's testing the waters. In fact, this Lyford Cay Scholar doesn't just test them — he studies them, restores them, and designs projects around them.

“It is with the greatest appreciation that I thank the Foundations’ donors for the financial assistance that allowed me to complete my studies abroad.”

— Carlos Palacios

Graduating from St. Anne's School in 2004 as Head Boy, Salutatorian, Gentleman of the Year, and recipient

of the National Pacesetters Award in Education, it was no surprise that Carlos caught the eye of The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation, which awarded him an annual scholarship of \$7,500 toward his four-year degree. In 2008, he graduated from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Structural); by that time, he had discovered the niche that made him tick.

An internship with Miami-based firm Bermello Ajamil & Partners Inc. quickly confirmed the young man's blooming interest. Working under the supervision of renowned engineers, Carlos got his feet wet in planning and designing the 300 man-made islands featured in Dubai's 'The World' project.

An avid swimmer, fisherman and diver, pursuing a career in the maritime field felt like a natural progression to Carlos, who went on to earn a Master of Science in Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering at the University of Florida in 2010.

Despite The Bahamas having an abundance of coastline, he is the first professionally licensed Bahamian to specialise in Coastal Engineering.

“I was one of the first persons from The Bahamas to study it. Worldwide, it's a pretty small profession,” said Carlos. “The Bahamas has some of the most unique and pristine marine and wetland ecosystems in the world. Coastal engineering is a discipline that tries to ensure that these resources remain available in the future.”

Licensed to practise in the USA, Canada and The Bahamas, 26-year-old Carlos has been making waves in the industry at home. Beginning a career with Caribbean Coastal Services (CCS) in 2010, he has had the opportunity to use his expertise in some of the nation's biggest and most exclusive developments, including One&Only Ocean Club, Albany, Old Fort Bay and Lyford Cay.

Keen to bring his fondness of nautical life to the office, his work is hardly limited to overseeing prominent construction schemes. Since beginning

his career, he has sought to establish a place for environmental preservation at the forefront of his innovative productions.

“In The Bahamas, there is a constant pressure to remain at the head of the tourism and financial industries in the Caribbean, which has sometimes resulted in a lack of restrictive measures to protect our natural environment,” said Carlos. “There has to be a healthy balance between economic development and environmental preservation. As we continue to develop our infrastructure, we need to put in place long-term plans and resources to protect our natural ecosystems.”

Now working on one of the country's most prominent tourism efforts — the Baha Mar project — he has the chance to use his appreciation for native marine ecosystems in planning and designing protective structures to reduce erosion and beach loss.

Carlos credits the donors to LCF and the CLCF for supporting him and so many other scholars throughout their postsecondary studies.

“It is with the greatest appreciation that I thank the Foundations' donors for the financial assistance that allowed me to complete my studies abroad and gain the training I needed to assist in establishing a strong framework of coastal and marine scientists and engineers in The Bahamas.”

'Thea' continued from page 1

My work in education is in its infancy, and I'm thankful for the people who have mentored and supported me in one way or another. I am especially thankful to the Lyford Cay Foundations, which have seen fit, 12 years after they first awarded me a scholarship, to bestow upon me one of their most prestigious awards. I plan to return to The Bahamas to work in new and creative ways with students. I look forward to playing my part in helping to continue to build the nation.

BAHA MAR MEET-AND-GREET

This past summer, Baha Mar offered to host current and former Lyford Cay Scholars at a cocktail reception at their offices in the Wyndham Hotel. The multi-billion dollar development is heavily recruiting talented young persons to fill 6,000 job positions by its expected launch date of December 2014.

The company already boasts some impressive LCF Scholars on its team, including SVP of Finance and Corporate Alliances, Vaughn Roberts (Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Florida International University, 1994) and Engineer Aniebo Ebong (Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2009 and Master of Science in Civil Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, 2010).

The Scholars networked with various executives and peers from the Baha Mar team, learning about available careers, company culture and the resort's future plans. The event was a great success and we are grateful for the hospitality shown to us by all involved.



Photo courtesy of Baha Mar

the desire to improve functionality and quality of life. I came across the Urban Planning master's degree online and, as I researched, I became more interested in land use planning and urban design.

Q: *How has your experience abroad influenced you so far?*

A: Being able to enroll in a programme that's not offered locally, I've gained an appreciation for how problems are tackled in other countries and studied their successes and mistakes.

Q: *What did you learn at Baha Mar this summer?*

A: Working as a Facilities and Engineering Intern, I learnt the various aspects of hotel facilities management and alternative sources of energy. I also got to hone my project planning and control skills by learning how to prepare plans for approval and implementation.

It was very rewarding. I was assigned and allowed to 'peep in' on meaningful projects that contributed to my personal and professional development, and for that I am grateful. I'm also thankful for the people I met and worked with.

Q&A: DELIA FERGUSON



A former College of The Bahamas (COB) President's Scholar and Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, Delia is completing her final year of a master's degree in Urban Planning at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Buffalo with the help of a Foundation graduate scholarship.

The 24-year-old spent her summer as a Baha Mar Associate and also lent her planning expertise to FOCUS fourth and fifth graders who were engaged in a model city building project.

We recently sat down with Delia to discuss her educational and professional experiences so far.

Q: *Why did you choose your field of study?*

A: I realised I had an interest in the built environment while completing my bachelor's degree in History at COB. Not just aesthetically, but I also had

Q: *How was your visit with the FOCUS students?*

A: What I like about the FOCUS programme is that it encourages the students to aspire to reach their goals and to think critically. I especially enjoyed viewing their project plans, listening to them describe their work and reading their writings that were posted on the classroom walls.

Q: *Is there anything you would like to say to the donors who made your scholarship possible?*

A: I would like to say "thank you" to all the donors who contribute to the Foundations and their many projects. It's always a privilege to attend Lyford Cay Scholars socials because I get to meet students who are excited, hard working and innovative, and donors who help provide opportunities for these bright minds to be further nurtured and developed.

Spotlight On

Our Scholars

ABM SCHOLAR PURSUES ACCESSIBLE CARDIAC SURGERY FOR BAHAMIANS

At 17 years of age, Shannon Butler already has extraordinary plans for his future.

The 2013 graduate and class valedictorian of Queen's College (QC) is looking forward to pursuing his dreams at St Andrew's University, in Scotland, where he will spend the next 13 years studying medicine and specialising in cardiothoracic surgery.

An exemplary student throughout high school, Shannon's achievements earned him the All-Bahamas Merit (ABM) Scholarship this summer.

Awarded to the 'single most outstanding applicant from a Bahamian high school', the scholarship is worth up to \$140,000 over four years of undergraduate studies.

The top candidate is chosen by an Independent Selection Committee appointed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc., which both fund the award along with the Central Bank of The Bahamas.

Shannon's accomplishments to date attest to his commitment to his community and his studies. While at QC, he assumed posts as Deputy Head Boy and Treasurer of the Student Representative Council. As a peer tutor and member of the 2012 Model United Nations Debate Team, he inspired others to develop and apply their abilities to their education and social good.

Even before he set off for school, Shannon was anxious to begin his future career as a cardiothoracic surgeon at home. His mission is to make surgery more readily available and affordable for Bahamians by creating a partnership amongst the Caribbean countries to establish the region's first organ transplant system.

"It is extremely humbling to be named the recipient of the 2013 All-Bahamas Merit Scholarship and to know that the Selection Committee and donors have faith in me, my dreams and my capabilities," he said. "I intend to use this award to not only improve and advance my life, but to improve the lives of my fellow Bahamians. I pledge to represent my country with the highest esteem, dignity and pride."



Sir Sean Connery dropped by the Foundation offices to congratulate Shannon Butler, this year's All Bahamas Merit Scholar, who will be studying medicine at St Andrew's University in Scotland. Pictured with them is the late LCF Chairman Manuel Cutillas.

ABOUT US

Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation were created to enhance and enrich The Bahamas and the lives of its people by creating educational opportunities for Bahamians and financially supporting local non-profit and civic groups.

To date, thanks to our donors, close to 1,500 Bahamians have studied abroad, another 1,200 have studied at The College of The Bahamas and numerous community building organisations have helped thousands of people in need.

In 2011, the Foundations launched FOCUS, an educational enrichment curriculum that places underserved public school children on a path to college and career success, supporting them from the time they enter fifth grade right through to high school graduation.

DONATE TODAY

You can help! Generous friends like you help talented students in their pursuit of educational excellence and assist with community-building. Without you, these life-changing opportunities would not be possible!

To make a gift, please visit:
www.lyfordcayfoundation.org/help or
call us at 242-362-4910.

Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation are registered non-profit public charities in the USA and Canada.

For full-length version of this and other stories, please visit the "What's New" section of our website.



Mr. Cutillas (right) enjoys some time with the FOCUS students in the spring of 2013.



Mr. Cutillas during the official opening of the Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre at The College of The Bahamas in the spring of 2011.

“Mr. Cutillas throughout his many years in The Bahamas represented a superb example of good corporate citizenship ensuring at all times that the various businesses in which he was involved were conscious of the welfare of their employees and of the wider community. It is therefore fitting that proper note is taken of the passing of Mr. Cutillas and that appreciation be publicly expressed for the contribution that he made to the development of our Nation.”

*— The Right Honourable Perry G. Christie,
Prime Minister, The Commonwealth of The Bahamas*

“Manny worked tirelessly in the development of The Bahamas in so many ways. He was instrumental in the development of Bacardi in The Bahamas and was a major philanthropist giving unselfishly of his time to the promotion of the ideals of the Lyford Cay Foundation, which has benefited a generation of Bahamians.”

*— Philip O. Dunkley, Chairman, Lyford Cay
Property Owners Association (POA)*

