



# Caystone

The Newsletter of the Lyford Cay Foundations

## LCF Elects New Chairman

Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. is poised to further its mission of having a positive impact on The Bahamas under the leadership of its newly elected Chairman, Basil P. Goulandris.

An actively involved LCF Director since 1997, Basil joined the Board at the request of then Chairman, Harry Moore.

“Harry was such an engaging individual,” said Basil. “He intuitively thought I would have an interest in the Foundation’s work. His passion inspired me to participate.”

Giving back has always been important to Basil’s family. His father, Peter G. Goulandris, is an Honorary Director of LCF, having served on its Board for twenty-two years.

Born and raised in London, Basil moved to the US in the 1980’s to study International Development at Clark University in Massachusetts. Growing up in a Greek shipping family, he joined the business upon completion of his studies and immediately started working in the company’s New York office. With family ties to The Bahamas since

cater to the education of Bahamian youth, Basil would like to see greater opportunities extended to those in the Family Islands.

“Given the current economic environment, it is financially challenging for a family to provide for their child’s education beyond high school,” he said. “Scholarships from the Foundation are able to assist these students and give them opportunities they may not have had otherwise. The FOCUS program, although still in its infancy, is demonstrating great success in nurturing and inspiring primary school students.”

“Being involved, you see firsthand the positive impact of the Foundation,” he continued. “As a donor it is very rewarding to meet with students and grant recipients and listen to their aspirations as well as how they have managed to achieve their goals with the Foundation’s assistance.”

Basil transitions into his new role as Chairman at a critical time, filling the vacancy left by the late Manuel J. Cutillas.

“I have great admiration for Mr. Cutillas. He was a champion of the cause, fully committed to the Foundation’s work.”

Basil added that he is honoured to have been asked to serve, humbly pledging to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors.

We are pleased to welcome Basil as our Chairman as the Foundation continues on its mission to foster education in The Bahamas.



Basil P. Goulandris  
Photo by Bahamas Visual Services

**“As a donor it is very rewarding to meet with students and grant recipients and listen to their aspirations.”**

the early 1950’s, Basil decided to make Nassau his permanent residence over twenty years ago. He and his wife Anne have four children.

Basil is passionate about the Foundation’s quest to provide Bahamians with opportunities and believes that there is more to be done to assist students in achieving this goal. In addition to supporting local organisations that

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# Update

## FOCUS

FOCUS is a tuition-free academic enrichment programme for public school students in the North-western district of New Providence (Bain & Grants Town through to Gambier Village). FOCUS recruits under-resourced fourth graders and follows them through to college. The majority of its participants will be the first in their family to attain a post-secondary education. Lessons are conducted for six weeks during the summer and on 15 Saturdays during the school year.

### CAREERS TAKE FLIGHT

Students See Careers in Action on Tour of New Airport Terminals

What better way to decide on a future career than by observing professionals in action? That's exactly what the FOCUS students did this past January at the airport.

Invited by Vernice Walkine, CEO and President of the Nassau Airport Development Company, FOCUS students got a backstage pass to the newly completed terminals at the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA).

Led by Elizabeth Ferguson, the airport's Duty Supervisor, participants were guided through the ins and outs of the check-in process and security checkpoint. For some of the young visitors, the field trip offered the chance to experience an escalator ride and see the departures lounge for the first time.

When they weren't watching planes on the tarmac or entertaining themselves in the play area, students got the opportunity to learn about the airport's history, noting its recent progression and expansion.

They also saw the featured installations by some of the country's brightest artists including the "Flight of the Flamingoes" by Dede Brown,

"Bubbles" by Antonius Roberts, and an exquisite mural detailing the history of The Bahamas by John Paul Saddleton.

Fifth grader Re'Gene Bethel said her favourite parts of the tour were the cameras and escalators.

"We learned about pilots, artists, things that happened in the airport and the security systems," she said. "I can't wait to go back. I didn't know the airport could be so much fun."

**"Super educational trip."**

— *Ishmael McSweeney,*  
*Class of 2019*

While there, groups of 5th, 6th and 7th graders had the chance to meet a range of airport personnel, learn about international and domestic travel, and discover the wealth of national talent to be found right here in The Bahamas.

**"Awesome adventure."**

— *Stevanya Paton,*  
*Class of 2021*



FOCUS students discover the wonders of LPIA as they learn about careers. *Photos by Bahamas Visual Services*



Our Donors Are The Best.  
You enrich young lives by making new life experiences possible.

# INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2019

Bright Young Students Make Their Dreams a Reality



## Waltario Fox

What do you call a seventh grader who's great at math and forward thinking enough to join FOCUS? Twelve-year old Waltario Fox thinks you call him a future brain surgeon. That's exactly what he wants to be when he grows up.

"My dream is to be a brain surgeon so I can help people, and I think FOCUS will help me reach my goal." said Waltario.

Waltario is already poised for success. He's begun researching his school of choice, Yale University.

Last year, Waltario received the top award for math - his favourite subject - and was named Salutatorian of Woodcock Primary School. He is now in his first year of high school at Temple Christian High School, a private school that he received a partial academic scholarship to attend.

**"My dream is to be a brain surgeon so I can help people, and I think FOCUS will help me reach my goal."**

— Waltario Fox, Class of 2019

**Age:** 12

**Neighbourhood:**

Bain Town

**Recruited from:**

Woodcock Primary

**Career Goal:**

Brain Surgeon

**FOCUS is:**

Fun, Educational, Amazing

**"I want to go to college to get a job."**

Being raised by a single-parent, Waltario joined FOCUS on the prompting of his mother, who thought the programme would help him secure a better future.

"FOCUS will maximize his learning," says his Mom. "He will be the first in our family to go to college, which is an important step in him getting a good job."

Waltario is glad that he joined. He says he most enjoys the field trips and playing with the friends he has made. He also likes the fact that FOCUS will help him get to college.

Since joining FOCUS, his teachers have seen Waltario make steady improvements in English class, and his friends have noticed that he's more outgoing.

Waltario just may be on the fast track to making his career dream come true.

## Carmetta Barry

After hearing Programme Director, Felicity Humblestone, present to her fourth grade class, Carmetta Barry applied to FOCUS knowing that she couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"I did it for myself," says the seventh grader. "I know I want to be someone."

Now in her first year of high school at H.O. Nash Junior High School, Carmetta is excited to begin her fourth summer at FOCUS this coming June.

**"I want to make a difference. Whatever I put my mind to, I can do."**

— Carmetta Barry, Class of 2019

Carmetta has had a stellar academic career thus far.

She was named "Student of The Year" at her primary school, and was also Salutatorian and Deputy Head Girl while actively involved in both sports and extracurricular activities. She is working toward obtaining a 4.0 GPA this semester and credits FOCUS for teaching her how to work in a team and improving her maths grade from a B to an A.

Growing up in Bain Town, Carmetta knows that her immediate environment doesn't have to dictate her future, "I have to make it for myself. No one will tell you who you will be in life - you have to make that decision."

That determination may help Carmetta achieve her career goal of being the first female Prime Minister.

"I want to make a difference. Whatever I put my mind to, I can do."



**Age:** 12

**Neighbourhood:**

Bain Town

**Recruited from:**

Albury Sayle Primary

**Career Goal:**

Prime Minister

**FOCUS is:**

Awesome, Uplifting, A great opportunity

**"I want to go to college to set an example for my family."**

# Spotlight On

## Our Scholars

### **GETTING THE BAHAMAS “COLLEGE READY”!**

LCF Convenes Community to Prepare Students for College

For most high school students, the thought of college triggers questions including whether or not to attend, how to select a school and a major, and how to obtain funding.

To address these common concerns, the Lyford Cay Foundation partnered with the US Embassy, The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, The College of The Bahamas, and the US-based non-profit, The College Board.

Together these organisations conducted the first Scholarship Fair and College Readiness public forum this past spring.

Close to 1,500 parents, students and educators attended the two-day seminar and forum.

**“The Foundation has made every effort to get the message out to all schools that we have to do more to prepare our students so that they can be successful in college and beyond.”**

— *Claudette Rolle,*  
*Director of Catholic Education*



The College Board presenters stressed the importance of parental involvement and planning for college as early as the ninth grade. The group provided insight into college admissions, financial aid resources, and SAT preparation.

Attendees also learned about scholarships available locally as well as the guidelines for obtaining a US Student Visa.

The College Board also led a day-long workshop at The College of The Bahamas for over 100 guidance counselors from throughout the country. All of the counselors were equipped with SAT and college preparation materials.

Mrs. Claudette Rolle, conference attendee and Director of Catholic Education, said, “The Foundation has made every effort to get the message out to all schools that we have to do more to prepare our students so that they can be successful in college and beyond.”

The conference culminated with a presentation by The College Board to school principals and education officials.

President of the Lyford Cay Foundation, Alessandra Holowesko, Chargé d’Affaires of the US Embassy, John Dinkelmann and Minister of Education, Science and Technology, the Hon. Jerome Fitzgerald each expressed their thanks to the parties involved in organising and executing the event, and to LCF for leading this initiative.

Minister Fitzgerald, called the two day seminar “a wonderful gift to the Bahamian people.”

“I am extremely grateful for the collaborative effort that has been displayed and in fact which is necessary for us to provide opportunities for our students who wish to pursue a college education,” he said.



Hundreds of eager parents and students attend the college readiness forum spearheaded by LCF. Photos by Bahamas Visual Services



# Our Donors Are The Best

**You provide access to higher education for under-resourced students.**

## SHAPING BAHAMIAN ART AND CULTURE

Innovative Scholars Are Changing the Artistic Landscape

From prestigious international and local exhibitions to pioneering art publications, Lyford Cay Scholars are leaving their artistic marks on the country and the world.



Photo courtesy of John Cox

**John Cox**, Rhode Island School of Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration; Master of Arts in Teaching

Well-known Bahamian artist John Cox was recently named Creative Art Director at Baha Mar. John, who is also Founder and Director of Popopstudios International Center for the Visual Arts, presented an installation of his work at an event hosted by Baha Mar and Ocean Drive Magazine called 'Art at the Party' during the renowned Art Basel in Miami Beach last December.

This past March, John represented Popopstudios at the Volta NY fair, being the first-ever Caribbean gallery showcased at the event.

**Jeffrey Meris**, Temple University, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture, 2016 & **Jace McKinney**, Andrews University, Master of Divinity, 2016

For the past two years, Lyford Cay Scholars have walked away with the coveted Central Bank of The Bahamas art exhibition award.

Last year Jeffrey Meris, a Harry Moore Memorial Scholarship in the Arts recipient, won the award for a piece entitled, "Dis We Tea Party". In 2012, the award went to Sir John Templeton Memorial Scholarship recipient, Jace McKinney.

### Q&A: DIONNE BENJAMIN-SMITH – The College of The Bahamas, Associate of Art in Fine Arts, Honours; Rhode Island School of Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, Honours



Dionne Benjamin-Smith. Photo by Jackson Petit

Bahamian artist and Lyford Cay Alumna Dionne Benjamin-Smith has witnessed and recorded the happenings on the local arts scene for the past fifteen years in the weekly e-newsletter *Bahamian Arts and Culture*. Dionne recently shared with us her thoughts on the evolution of the arts culture in The Bahamas.

**Q.** *What have you noticed about the growth of arts and culture in The Bahamas over the past 20 years?*

**A.** More than ever, we see more Bahamians painting, sculpting, photographing, and creating. Bahamians are holding more exhibitions, publishing books, releasing music and films, and producing theatre, dance and musical performances.

Today, we see our artists winning awards, grants, titles, positions, and international acclaim for their creativity.

**Q.** *What role has the Bahamian Arts and Culture newsletter played in spreading the news of the local art scene?*

**A.** The newsletter gives insight on events that are taking place and gives a greater level of understanding and appreciation of the arts and artists.

The readership levels have increased significantly in the past three years since we presented it as an e-newsletter. We have readers from The Bahamas and over 45 other countries.

**Q.** *What new opportunities do you see available to Bahamian artists now?*

**A.** The sky is the limit. Whatever opportunity is out there to be had, it can be ours. A Bahamian artist was considered one of the most important artists in the world during the 1990s. A Bahamian artist, because of his talent and tenacity, won The Bahamas a pavilion space at arguably the most prestigious art exhibition in the world, Venice Biennale.

We have Bahamian creatives who are Rhodes scholars and earning doctorates and holding positions at top universities in the world.

**Q.** *What would you like to say to donors of the LCF in regards to their support of the arts and artist scholars over the years?*

**A.** I can't thank the donors enough for their continued generosity and commitment to investing in the real wealth of this nation – its people. I am very grateful that the Foundations see fit to grant scholarships specifically to the arts. I know the Scholars are grateful for it. This changes their lives forever.

# Roundup

## Grants

### **BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS**

Technology Helps Disabled Students Communicate



Physically disabled students from The Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled school use the latest technology to test their communications skills. *Photos by Bahamas Visual Services*

For over 30 years, The Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled (BAPD) has been helping children with physical challenges reach their maximum potential.

The centre specialises in using technology and computer programmes to help students gain skills that they can use for life. The group's selfless mission has not gone unnoticed.

Last year, Lyford Cay Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to purchase new computer equipment that will help the students communicate.

Closing societal gaps where physical disabilities are concerned continues to be a goal of BAPD.

The group offers a free wheelchair distribution service, tuition-free daycare centre and school, and several summer and extra-curricular programmes. The school serves 26 children whose physical disabilities prevent them from attending traditional schools.



Fruzan Langdon Bethell, a senior speech pathologist for the Ministry of Education has partnered with BAPD for 30 years and knows how difficult it is to tackle social stigmas.

"Years ago, it was common for families with disabled children to keep them locked away," Langdon Bethell said. "It wasn't until the 1970's that medical professionals started becoming concerned about the number of

Bahamian children living with disabilities which led to founding BAPD."

Through its partnership with government agencies, BAPD provides its young participants with access to specialised therapists and educators, who combine specially adapted equipment with computer software to facilitate students' learning and communication.

**"We are so grateful to the donors of the Lyford Cay Foundation for seeing the value of helping. This grant is important to our kids. It's going to change their lives."**

"Some of these kids will never be able to talk. There are now devices and programmes that they can use to communicate," said Langdon Bethell.

"We've seen our own success stories. For example, one student who is quadriplegic and only able to move his head has gone on to take a journalism course and publish his articles online."

Now, with the added support of the LCF, along with other community groups including Rotary Club of The Bahamas and Cable Bahamas' Cable Cares Foundation, BAPD looks forward to using technology to continue breaking down barriers.

"Seeing students do something they couldn't do before and thought they would never be able to do is wonderful," said Langdon Bethell.

"We are so grateful to the donors of the Lyford Cay Foundation for seeing the value of helping. This grant is important to our kids. It's going to change their lives."

# Our Donors Are The Best

**You enhance the lives of those most in need in the community.**

## MARCHING INTO COLLEGE

Students Prepare for and Fund College Through Music

In a world full of tunes, none is as sweet as the sound of success. That may be why the Bahamas All-Stars Youth Development Organization has consistently come out on top.

Since its first international performance at Bethune-Cookman University, in Daytona Beach, Florida, the marching band has been invited to perform at numerous events and colleges abroad. The international exposure has paid off – the group was selected to perform at this year’s Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

With a grant of \$12,500 from Lyford Cay Foundation to help acquire new musical instruments, the group will be well equipped to represent The Bahamas at this widely televised event.

Bahamas All-Stars was founded in August 2010 by co-directors, Yonell Justilien and Ronald Campbell, through the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture. The band attracts musicians, dancers and flagettes from schools around New Providence and has 130 members.

The band prides itself on emphasising both musical and academic talents; offering positive mentoring, professional musical training and college preparation.

Band Directors regularly check report cards, and volunteers offer free SAT preparation classes. The outcome has spoken for itself – 49 of the group’s former students attend colleges abroad on music scholarships, and an additional 19 are enrolled at The College of The Bahamas.



Bahamas All-Stars participants use music as a vehicle to prepare for and succeed in college. Photos courtesy of Bahamas All Stars

**“We are so thankful that the Lyford Cay Foundation believes in us and supports us so that we can continue giving our students the training they need to build their futures.”**



“When students join us, they might have talent, but lack professional training and exposure to good role models,” said Justilien, Director of Bands.

“We not only teach them skills like reading music, but we also mentor them. We tackle difficult topics like decision making, resolving conflict and self-discipline.”

Last year, Bahamas All-Stars performed at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where one participant got the chance to audition for an academic scholarship. With their

upcoming performance at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, Justilien is enthusiastic about the possibility of one of the musicians being selected for the coveted *Bob Hope Band Scholarship Award*.

“We just want to see these kids grow in a positive way,” said Justilien.

“Often, our society just looks at music as a hobby, but we know that music is a way to open doors. We are so thankful that the Lyford Cay Foundation believes in us and supports us so that we can continue giving our students the training they need to build their futures.”

# Our Donors Are the Best

## YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." With every donation, you are bringing about change in this beautiful country.

Your commitment and support are making the dreams of students like Daythan Newton, Sanchez Sands, and those of many others, a reality.

Just take a look at how you directly impacted lives in 2013:

- 45 new scholarship recipients excitedly began their studies abroad.
- 47 students already benefitting from scholarships continued toward their goal of graduation.
- 100 students attended The College of The Bahamas on need-based awards.
- 117 fifth, sixth and seventh graders forged onward toward post-secondary success through FOCUS.
- 22 non-profit organisations were able to provide learning opportunities for under-resourced communities.

### You made all this possible!

Great things are on the horizon for 2014 and we need your help:

- 49 new scholarship recipients plan to realise their dreams of attending college abroad.
- 58 returning recipients will continue on their journey of obtaining degrees.
- 100 students will attend The College of The Bahamas on need-based awards.
- 36 students will join our FOCUS family to bring the total students served to 152.
- Nearly 20 non-profit organisations will help those most in need in our community through Foundation grants.

The gift of education empowers each young man and woman to make the right choices; choices that will help create a better life for themselves, their families and for The Bahamas.

Thank you for helping to create such worthy opportunities. With your partnership, we will continue to strengthen families, build communities and inspire hope for a brighter future.

"I am thankful for FOCUS because it helps me get my school grades higher and prepares me for college. I thank the donors for everything they have done for us and I am very grateful for what I have."

Sanchez Sands, age 10,  
FOCUS Class of 2021

The donors have given me, and so many others, a chance to be more than just another young person struggling to make it through school. They gave us a chance to be different and to make a difference.

Daythan Newton,  
New England Institute  
of Technology,  
BSc Construction Management  
Technology, 2013



Donors and Board Members, Sarah Farrington and Basil Goulandris, animatedly chat with FOCUS students at the programme's annual Christmas party. Photo by Bahamas Visual Services

## 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 investing in learning opportunities for Bahamian children, families, young adults and communities.

To date, over 2,500 Bahamians have benefitted from scholarships to study abroad and locally, and close to 200 non-profit organisations have been provided with financial support enabling them to assist thousands of people most in need.

FOCUS is an educational enrichment programme that places under-resourced public school children on a path to college and career success, supporting them from fifth grade 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](http://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.

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