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# THE TORCH



## ARDENNE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A beaming Kamille Adair on her graduation day from the Norman Manley Law School at The University of the West Indies, Mona



### OXFORD BOUND!

**The former Head Girl who loves to serve**  
By Karelle McCormack

*“My father used to always say to me and my sisters that we can be anything we wanted to be so long as we served God. That advice has never failed me.”*

Daddy’s advice clearly did not fail daddy’s little girls and especially not for Kamille Adair.

For maybe it was this advice that fanned the flame which enabled her to be named Rhodes Scholar 2011.

Besides being named among those on the prestigious honour roll, Kamille also broke the long-standing record of winning recipients from Campion College which held the record for an impressive eight-year stretch.

But from the outset, Kamille always had her mind set on serving others, as she says that despite now ending up in the field of law, her goal was to become a teacher.

*“I was always encouraged by my mother to pursue a career in law but I really wanted to be a teacher. It was in lower 6<sup>th</sup> form that I really made up my mind about it because at that time, I realized that law was more than just talk and arguing. I then understood that law was so fundamental to the operation of society and could be effectively used as a tool for human and social development. I was excited to become a part of that,”* she explained.

She added that her “destiny” was always set on being

a part of the Ardenne family. In fact, her older sister Dionne, now a medical doctor is a past student, and her younger sister, Joanna is currently in Grade 12. She also has three cousins who attended Ardenne.

Talk about tradition!

*“I was definitely intent on attending Ardenne. My older sister and three of my cousins, who are also older, attended Ardenne ahead of me. Apart from wanting to follow the family tradition, I was impressed by their accounts of school life and the excellent reputation Ardenne had at the time. There was no other institution I would want to be at,”* she beamed.

And with tradition the obvious option, she ensured that she made the best of her years at 10 Ardenne Road.

*“I thoroughly enjoyed student life at Ardenne. At first I was a little apprehensive about getting involved in school life but by Grade 8 I was anxious to try just about everything,”* she said.

And as a result, she ensured that besides her studies, she became heavily involved in extra-curricular activities.

*“I played netball, sang on the choir, did cheerleading, participated in ISCF and was a part of the 4-H Club, amongst other things, at different points while at Ardenne. The quality of teaching was certainly high and there was an evident tradition of excellence that I was proud to be a part of,”* she said.

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## EDITORIAL



'TIS THE SEASON OF GOOD CHEER

Season's Greetings Alumni,

It's a new year and we truly have a lot to be thankful for.

The previous one was deemed quite challenging for most - financially, emotionally or spiritually. Nonetheless, we still have to give thanks for the fact, that at least to this point, we are still alive and of sound minds.

It is my hope that survival and prosperity will continue throughout 2012 which is already being dubbed as being even more challenging.

But enough of my musings.

Indeed, if not for anything else, we have two wonderful happenings to celebrate.

The achievement of alumna, Kamille Adair, who was named Rhodes Scholar 2011 and of course the icing on the cake, our beloved Ardenne High Music Club members being crowned TVJ "All Together Sing" Champions for 2011.

In this issue, you will read about their successes and how they have helped to fan the flames of Ardenne High.

You will also read about our good showing in the Ocean Spray Alumni Football Competition where our team placed second.

So far, no one has taken up the offer of advertising businesses or services in our newsletter, we hope that will change come next year. Initially, the offerings will be free, after which small charges will be administered.

Of course it would be remiss of me not to remind you all of Homecoming Celebrations. The dates by now should be on your calendars. For you overseas folks, you should have by now, cleared the dates, booked your flights and started to get ready for the big event. This is expected to be an awesome time for us as we celebrate our school's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as well as the gathering of friends from 10 Ardenne Road.

In the same breath, let us pray for success for our 2012 Schools' Challenge team, who won their first round match over St. Mary's College. Once again we have entered the Gleaner's National Spelling Bee Championship, this time with Tianne Bartley. Our team and Spelling Bee entrant are both coached by Reverend Glen Archer.

In closing, I want to thank my fellow Executive members for your unwavering support as we continue to work together as a team. In the same breath, I also want to thank you the alumni at home and abroad for your continued backing during this year. I anticipate nothing less than continuance and improvement in the coming year.

Let me wish for you all a successful 2012.

*"Deo Duce Quaere Optima."*

**Karelle McCormack**  
Editor

## LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Ardennites certainly know how to party and party they did at the Ardenne Alumni Association's Pre Christmas Old School Party, held on Saturday, December 3 at Chaser's Café on Belmont Road in Kingston.

The event was the first in a series of fundraisers for the Homecoming 2012.

The night started slow but as the clock streaked past 10:00 p.m. the party goers started peeling into Chasers. Rociking to sounds of Mikey T and Merritone Disco, Ardennites soaked up all the hits through the decades going as far back as the 70's onwards.

While some whetted appetites at the bar, others had cozy sit-downs and caught up on old times, while others took to the dance floor to work up a sweat.

**The Torch** was there and shares some shots from the well-received event.

Photos on pages 6 – 7 ....



## OXFORD BOUND! ... CONT'D

During her tenure at Ardenne (1999 – 2006), Kamille also served as Head Girl. She noted that that experience was one which helped to shape her character.

*"I can't think of a specific unforgettable moment but I can recall the year 2005/2006 while I was Head Girl at Ardenne. Serving in that position was an invaluable experience and I learnt a great deal about myself and my abilities during that year. I can definitely say it has contributed significantly to the person I am today," she said.*

As Kamille shared with **The Torch**, one could not help getting the sense of a real driven individual; a person who knows how to balance fun while achieving her goals.

*"I am a fun loving person who enjoys the very simple things in life. I have a heart for people and I love interacting with children. I am also very disciplined and diligent and I despise mediocrity," she explained. "I strongly believe that there is limitless potential in the human mind and I am motivated by a desire to untap my potential. I always strive to push myself a little further with each new task. I am also motivated by a desire to make the best of what others have invested in me so that I can, in turn, invest in others," she added.*

Besides being big on tradition, her family she says is very close-knit and has a strong and personal relationship with God.

*"My family is huge on three things – serving God, serving others and family. I grew up in a close knit family unit which extended way beyond my nuclear family. Both my grandmothers were very instrumental in my upbringing," she explained.*

Her family, she says and in particular her parents and grandmothers are her role models.

*"In terms of being a godly, strong woman I'd definitely say both my grandmothers and my mother have been tremendously influential. I look up very much to my father also because his commitment to serving others is unparalleled. I really aspire to be like that," she said.*

But she also lists role models from the professional arena.

*"In terms of professionally, I want to be an International Lawyer and an Academic. The principal of the Norman Manley Law School, Professor Vasciannie is a world renowned International Lawyer and has definitely had a tremendous impact on me during my two years at that institution. I also consider Ms. Tracy Robinson (Senior Lecturer, UWI Mona Faculty of Law) and Dr. David Berry (Senior Lecturer, UWI Cave Hill Faculty of Law) to be great role models," she recalled.*

Come October, Kamille will be Oxford-bound where she will read for a Bachelor of Civil Law, though called Bachelors is really at the level of a Masters.

*"I hope to focus on International Law Course options. I hope to follow up on that degree with an MPhil in the following year. I would also love to spend an additional two years completing the DPhil programme before returning to Jamaica," she explained.*

But the road to the Rhodes was initially, not so smooth. In fact, the first time she applied, she was unsuccessful, but this did not deter her. She explains:

*"I think I'm still trying to come to terms with this achievement. I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to have been named the Rhodes Scholar. I actually applied for the scholarship last year and after the interviews in Jamaica, I was not awarded the scholarship but was named in the top three. This afforded me the opportunity to vie for the Commonwealth Caribbean Scholarship in Barbados. I was also*

*unsuccessful there. Applying and interviewing for the scholarship requires a magnificent amount of preparation and work and I was pretty near devastated after two unsuccessful attempts. After drying the tears, I took some time to reevaluate where I was as an individual, academically and character-wise and I determined that 2010-2011 would be a year of self-development for me. The field of candidates was extremely competitive this year. There were actually two other Ardenmites in the lot (Yonique Petgrave and Timar Jackson). I am very happy that I persevered in relation to the Rhodes Scholarship. My previous disappointment makes this achievement that much more satisfying."*

And as passionate as she is about her personal success, so she is about our little "Rock" – Jamaica. She believes that while those in authority have a role to play in terms of the country's development, so do the nation's youth, particularly those who consider themselves as "professionals".

*"I believe professional youth do not see for themselves sufficient opportunities here in Jamaica. A significant portion of our tertiary level graduates are unable to find suitable jobs or jobs that provide adequate remuneration for them to start their lives. We really need to think critically as a country about enhancing our economy, reviving dormant and slow-performing industries so that our professional youth will be drawn to more viable opportunities overseas," she said.*

Further to this she added, *"...that being said, I think there is also fault on the part of Jamaica's professional youth. We have a tendency to believe that Jamaica has nothing good to offer and we are often selfish, unwilling to remain and contribute to change because the change will not be one we will see and benefit from in our lifetime. The nation has invested a lot in us and we sometimes are quick to forget that."*

But though she will be away for a while, Kamille, like many other Jamaicans still has a lot of hope in the future of our country.

*"It is my fervent hope that Jamaica will be well on its way to achieving developed country status. We have such a vast reservoir of talented, brilliant people in Jamaica and unfortunately our progression has been stymied by corruption, crime and careless leadership. I see a Jamaica where our rates of literacy are unmatched in the world and where the average Jamaican is educated and prepared to make a contribution to the development of the country. I also hope that within the next five to 10 years we would have figured out how to move from fiscal deficit and indebtedness to surplus by attracting investors, diversifying our tourism product, maximizing agriculture and eliminating wastage. We have so much potential as a country and I do pray we will be able to live up to that potential," she said pointedly.*

That aside though, she is still in love with the drive and passion of the Jamaican people which in her estimation enables them to achieve despite the odds.

*"Persons from other countries often say we are competitive, and maybe that is so, but I strongly believe that we have an innate desire as a people to be our best. Jamaican people are the most expressive and creative that there is. We have an electrifying energy about us. We just need to figure out how to challenge this energy in positive and productive ways," she said.*

While not an active member of the Ardenne Alumni Association, she sees it as a conduit for the connection between past and present students.

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## OXFORD BOUND! ... CONT'D

*"I think it is an excellent avenue for past students to get involved in shaping the lives of present and future Ardenmites. I think most alumni can honestly attest to the great impact Ardenne has had on them and can also think back on some of the things they thought could be better. I think the Alumni Association should be instrumental in offering assistance in bettering Ardenne. I also think it is important that the Alumni Association keep track of and publicize the achievements of our graduates in every respect. That will contribute significantly to building school pride, particularly amongst the present students, and marketing Ardenne as the school of choice in the Island. I can't recall any scholarships or bursaries given to students during my time. I think the association as a whole, and individual members should be committed to funding scholarships, bursaries and prizes to promote excellence amongst students," she explained.*

She hopes that at some time, despite her schedule, she can offer herself in the area of mentoring and career guidance to students who are interested in pursuing a legal career.

On the lighter side, Kamille says that she enjoys spending time with her family.

*"We are a family of singers and we always have a blast when we get together. I absolutely love reading, particularly legal fiction. I'm a big fan of John Grisham, Sidney Sheldon and James Patterson. I'm not big on "going out", she said.*

And what makes her happy? *"I love the natural environment and my fiancé and I love the Blue Mountains so we often drive up into Irish Town or to Holly Well or somewhere. Being in that serene environment is a real pleasure for me," she said.*

And speaking of her fiancé Yushaine, who is also an Attorney, they will be happily walking down the aisle this April.

The astute Kamille had this parting shot for her peers.

*"The best advice I can give is that they should give their lives to God. I am confident that all my achievements thus far are directly attributable to my faith in God and the fervent prayers of family and friends. Quality of life is much improved when you know there is security for life after death. I'd also say that quality of life is improved when we move away from focusing solely on ourselves and when we invest much time and effort in serving others."*



Kamille thumbs through legal literature at the Law Library at the Norman Manley Law School.

## MILESTONES...

On the political scene, two of our Alumnus have risen to further prominence, namely, Dr. Fenton Ferguson who is now the Minister of Health and Kavan Gayle, President General of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, (B.I.T.U.) and now a Senator. We wish them both lots of success in their respective roles.

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

You would have had to be living on another planet not to know by now that our endearing Ardenne High Choir emerged as the **Television Jamaica's "All Together Sing Champions"** for 2011 – 2012.

The over 40-member strong choir emerged the winners thanks to a combination of good judgment from the competition's judges as well as intense voting campaigns via text messaging courtesy of **Digitel**.



"We are the Champions! Yayy!"

But irrespective of the means of selection, when the dust cleared, it was evident that Ardenne on their second foray in the competition had this time, hit the right notes.

With the championship trophy, now nicely nestled at 10 Ardenne Road, what's next for the choir?

Acting music director, Jermaine Forrester told *The Torch* that the group was over the moon with their win. "We are very elated with our win; it was really a lot of hard work," he beamed.

Additionally, it was also a rigorous balancing act for choir members with school work and rehearsals. He explained that since the first audition in April, (prior to the live television performances), the group was subjected to a minimum of three daily rehearsals. "We were talking about basically 15 hours of rehearsals," he explained. And of course this became almost like a structured juggling act, as the members who are between the ages of 11 and 19 are in grades seven to 13.

The competition, he added though gruelling was enjoyable. Admittedly, he said that there was indeed that time when it came down to the final three choirs, that the choir nervously questioned their chances.

"That was the time when everyone was bringing their 'A' game, and it could have been anybody's title at that time," he said.

The clincher for the group was clearly the moving and tear-jerking performance of "The Prayer of Jabez" which reduced the studio audience including the judges to tears. "We were shocked with that performance, all along we were rehearsing it and we never heard this. They just got into what the song was about," he said. The choir, he said clearly dug deep when it was evident that other choirs had also been eliciting favourable remarks from the judges. "I am telling you, that performance just ripped the place apart, the judges were crying, I was crying, Mr. Morris (Choir Director) was in tears, it was very emotional," he said.

Since winning the competition, the choir member have become instant stars, with demands for performances. "We have been doing quite a bit of performances and have had to turn down a few," Forrester said.

However, in the near future, the choir is looking to record an album. "We will be trying to go and record an album; we are on a high, so might as well ride it while it lasts," he said. "We want to make more public appearances as this would not only be good for the choir members but also the school," he said.

Forrester noted that though this win is the icing on the cake, Ardenne has always been known for its prowess in the arts. "This is not a new phenomenon for Ardenne. Ardenne has had great choirs over the years, now Jamaica knows that," he said.

And while Forrester was given the task of guiding the young starlets to newfound stardom, he was quick to point out that credit was also due to the following who invested their time in creating the new singing champions on the school scene.

These are:

Dwayne Morrison—Musical Director  
 Joanna George-Johnson  
 Hyacinth Miller  
 Andrew O'Gilvie—Substitute Teacher  
 Shanique Brown – past student  
 Aldene Walker – past student  
 Alicia Forbes – make up artist  
 Jodian Wellington – make up artist

And as a means of showing appreciation, the group was feted by the Alumni Association, prior to the Christmas holidays, where they got the chance to let their hair down as well as to fete guests and staff at the Riu Resorts in Ocho Rios and Montego Bay.

Will we defend the title? That is left to be seen.

**All Together Sing**, which is in its seventh year, is a competition for school choirs in Jamaica hosted by Television Jamaica and sponsored by major corporate entities.



Choir Members (from left) Alex Anderson, Sashanna Perkins and Jeremy Lathan proudly show off the TVJ All Together Sing Challenge Trophy, the replica as well as their individual trophies.

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**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS ... CONT'D**



Members of the Choir getting a complete workout in the pool at Riu, Ocho Rios



The Choir belts out a number for guests at RIU Resorts in Ocho Rios, under the direction of Acting Musical Director, Jermaine Forrester

# LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL —PHOTO GALLERY



Never mind us two odd ones out, note the “Afro Divas” Special Events Coordinator, Sheana Reid (left) and Executive Secretary, Renee Thompson, who were certainly dressed as per party theme.



Finance Officer Philbert Solomon and AAA Past President, Helene Coley-Nicholson show how it is done on the dance floor.



This couple trying out the two-step perhaps?



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL—PHOTO GALLERY.... CONT'D



Hmm, should we call out the Animal Rights Advocates? Leopard and Tiger prints definitely a feature here!



Membership Coordinator, Peter Harriott and Public Relations Officer, Karelle McCormack, take time to pose for the camera.



Special Events Coordinator, Sheana Reid and husband Alfred get all cozy on the dance floor.



Party animals getting their groove on!

## ARDENNE HIGH PLACES SECOND

### Ardenne High Places Second in Inaugural Ocean Spray Wata Alumni Football Competition

*Peter Harriott, Membership Coordinator*

Ardenne High School was represented by an exceptional team of players at the inaugural staging of the *Ocean Spray WATA Alumni Football Competition* in October.

The one-day event kicked off at 9:00 am at the Barbican Football Field with eight teams vying for the coveted Winner's Trophy, \$25,000 towards the winning school's sports department and of course, bragging rights.

When the dust settled, Ardenne High and Meadowbrook High squared off in the finals.

With a team of 10, Ardenne scored a last second equalizer on the Meadowbrook side and a penalty shootout ensued.

After saving numerous goals throughout the day, goalkeeper Raul Reid had to take the bench in order to avoid further injury. Meadowbrook High took advantage of the replacement in the goal and edged Ardenne 3-2 on penalty.

It was a final to end all finals!

The team from Ardenne included: Vaughn McCarthy (team captain), Peter McIntosh, Sean McIntosh, Jason Ashman, Andre Cunningham, Chris Cook, Sean Bailey, Julian Dunkley, Curtis Carter, Kevin Henzil, Stephen Gabbadon, and Raul Reid (goalkeeper).



Captain of the Ardenne Alumni Association Football Team, Vaughn McCarthy looks on, while Kevin Henzil collects the second place trophy

### DEO DUCE QUAERE OPTIMA!



Members of the Ardenne Alumni Association Football Team  
(In no Particular order)

Vaughn McCarthy (team captain), Peter McIntosh, Sean McIntosh, Jason Ashman, Andre Cunningham, Chris Cook, Sean Bailey, Julian Dunkley, Curtis Carter, Kevin Henzil, Stephen Gabbadon, and Raul Reid

**EXECUTIVE TEAM**

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**BIRTHDAY CLUB**

Congratulations to all Alumnae who celebrated birthdays in the months of October, November, December and January.

Best wishes also go out to those celebrating special anniversaries.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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February 28 — General Meeting – Olson Hall

March 23/24—Fundraising Fete at Chasers' Café

March 30 — Cake Sale (Ardenne High School)

May 4 — Teacher's Day activities

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

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