



UCC Alumni Association NEWSLETTER



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We are UCC - United, Connected and Committed

Inauguration Activities

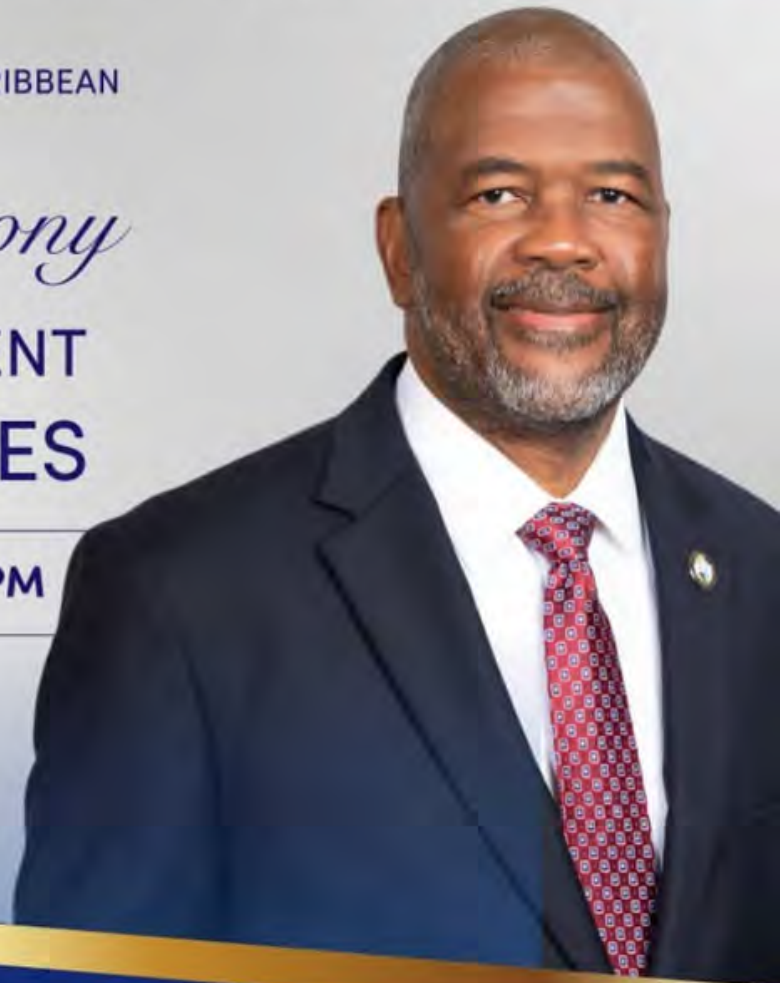
University President
Dr. Haldane Davies

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

Installation Ceremony

FOR THE THIRD PRESIDENT
DR. HALDANE DAVIES

MONDAY | MARCH 27, 2023 | 3:00 PM



UNDER THE THEME:

IGNITING... DISCOVERING... IMPACTING OUR WORLD!

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. David Hall, President
University of the Virgin Islands



Pictorial highlights of the historic Installation Ceremony of UCC's third President Professor Haldane Davies





The UCC IGNITE Community Impact Fund



The UCC Ignite Community Impact Fund is now the responsibility of the Vice President for Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, UCC Foundation. The office of the VP-IA/ED-UCCF is also responsible for the Alumni Association. Dr. Susan Otuokon took up office on 1st June and has been working to revitalize the Foundation and launch the IGNITE Fund. Therefore, the official launch of the Fund is being rescheduled and the new date will be shared soon. The purpose of this Fund is to raise funds to assist students and also communities in need. As Dr. Otuokon continues to work with us to strengthen our Alumni Association, we are encouraging all UCC alumni to help us build the UCC Ignite Community Impact Fund and make the official launch event a success when it happens.



ucc.edu.jm/ucc-foundation/donate

U C C C A R E S

Accreditation

Following a visit from the UK-based Accreditation Services for International Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ASIC) in January 2023, UCC's accreditation has been reaffirmed as a Premier Institution effective January 2021 – January 2025.

UCC submitted its initial application for university status to the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) in March 2022. The application was amended and resubmitted in March 2023. As a result of the new submission the UCJ visited the institution during the period May 16-19, 2023 and conducted a comprehensive site visit. Meetings were held with all stakeholder groups including directors, administrators, staff, faculty, students, and alumni across all five campuses. We thank all participants for engaging the UCJ team and assisting in the process. We are awaiting a full report from the UCJ on this matter within the next month or two.

Sports Day Highlights



UCC
STUDENT
COUNCIL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL



UCC SPORTS DAY

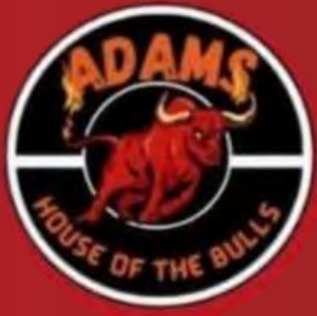


Thelwell

House of Tigers

270 pts





Adams

House of the Bulls

243 pts





Geoff

House of the Bears

226 pts





Aaron

House of the Eagles

218 pts



Commencement Ceremony

The UCC Commencement Ceremony was held on Sunday, July 16, 2023, at the National Stadium starting at 1:00 p.m. under the theme **“Igniting, Discovering, Impacting our World: The Future is Now.”** The Honourable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland was the Guest Speaker. He was conferred with the Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of the Commonwealth of the Caribbean. He is the first African American Governor of Maryland and only the fifth in all of the USA. Hon. Governor Moore's mother was born in Jamaica but left for the USA with her family as a child.

Dr. Trisha Bailey, a highly successful entrepreneur in the USA, who specializes in medical equipment and supplies, was also conferred with the Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters. She is a Jamaican who moved to the USA with her family, as a teenager.

The UCC Alumni Association had a booth and was able to share flyers with graduates inviting them to become a part of the association.

As part of this year's activities, we are planning to recognize the initial set of UCC alumni. More information will be provided in another few weeks.



Introducing the
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN
COMMENCEMENT 2023

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
&
DISTINGUISHED HONOUREE**



The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland, USA



Introducing the
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN
COMMENCEMENT 2023

DISTINGUISHED HONOUREE



Dr. Trisha Bailey
CEO/Philanthropist/Real Estate Mogul



**Kerry-Ann
English**

VALEDICTORIAN 2023

She obtained her BSc.
Information Technology.
She strongly believes in giving
back to society through
volunteering
One thing she has learned at
UCC is to keep moving forward
She also encourages students
to enjoy the journey.
Her advice to student is,
"Face the future with
confidence."





Mandeville Campus

In partnership with the



UCC Alumni Association

Labour Day

Project

At the Coley Mountain Primary School







Child's Month Project

Reddies Place of Safety

Reddies place of Safety is located in Kingston. Clover "Reddie" Brown, the founder of the children's home, is situated at the location and manages the everyday activities and ensures that all the children attend school and their basic needs are met.



May 20, 2023





UCCAA Featured

UCC Alumni

Sandra A. Samuels JP, MBA

Biography



Ms. Sandra Samuels is an entrepreneur in the Jamaican beauty therapy sector, and is the CEO of the 28-year-old nationally-recognized Totally Male Limited. Totally Male is the only business in the Caribbean that solely caters to the aesthetic and grooming needs of men by women.

Ms. Samuels is the 2009 winner of the National Commercial Bank Nation Builders Award for Women Business Owners. Her business won the Jamaica Observer Award for Spa of the Year for Men in 2011, and in 2014 the Jamaica Observer Award for Best Spot for Hair Care. She won the Jamaican leg in the Pioneers of Prosperity Awards and went on to be one of 3 winners of the Caribbean region among 580 entrants.

Sandra is a Justice of the Peace, President of Jamaica Reach to Recovery, a Past President of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North, and a member of the Management Committee of the HEART College of Beauty Services.

Sandra has been an advocate for breast cancer early detection, since 1999 as she is a 22-year survivor of the disease. She was invited to present at The Reach to Recovery International Conference in Beijing, China on 'Thriving after Breast Cancer.' She spends considerable time counseling newly diagnosed persons and gives talks wherever needed, bringing awareness of ways to cope with this disease.

She started her career in customer service at The National Water Commission in 1982. She then moved on to Industrial Gases Ltd where she spent 3 years in customer service. In 1986 she realized her dream of becoming a flight attendant with Air Jamaica, which lasted for 9 years, where she honed her customer service skills. She was made redundant in 1994, which offered her the grand opportunity to open her own business.

She also makes time to attend church, exercise, cook Jamaican dishes, grow orchids, and travel as she believes strongly that life is all about balance.

Interview with Sandra Samuels

What inspired you to pursue a degree in Business?

I left school in 1981 with 3 CXC's, English, Commerce and Accounts. Up to 2016 at the age of 52 I owned and operated my business for 22 years with some business courses and other courses to help me along the way. However, I found myself not understanding the language of business as I met with banks and other financial institutions and attended high-level business seminars and meetings. I felt inadequate and insecure at times so I decided to further my studies to be better able to manage my business as I grow and expand.

Why did you choose to study at UCC?

It was close to home and business. The fees were affordable and the payment plan made it manageable. I had seen their adverts and decided to check it out.

What unexpected experience or event has shaped and/or influenced your current professional life?

I entered and won the Jamaican Leg and came third overall in a Caribbean Competition in 2009 - Pioneers of Prosperity where I topped 583

contestants. It was the first time I was benchmarking myself against other businesses. It gave me a lot of visibility and boosted my confidence going forward. It increased the respect people had for me and my company. It also gave me some capital injection and that same year I won the NCB Nation Builder Award-Woman in Business. I would say from that time until now things have steadily improved, and my business has grown from strength to strength.

What is a professional highlight of yours current/past?

Winning those 2 awards. A big highlight for me albeit not public is my ability to retain staff for over 20 of the 29 years I have been in business. I have been staff there for 23 years, 20 years, and 18 years, let's just say the majority are there 4 years or more - a major feat in the Beauty Industry.

In my industry it is incredibly difficult to retain staff so I see this as a big win for Totally Male and an indication that I am doing something right. Achieving my Masters at 55 in 2019 is a major achievement for me, having not had a first degree. However, doing my portfolio for entry into UCC made me realize how much I had done since 1981 both personally and in my community. Professional highlight number 1 is being in business for 29 years. A business that I founded by myself. The only owner and it is still profitable. A business that many said would never work because men would not be interested in spa services.

Share one favourite UCC memory/experience

Our end-of-year Marketing Project was a Marketing Seminar, where the entire class came together to showcase our marketing skills and got the opportunity to invite friends and family. It was a very proud moment. It also gave each person the opportunity to showcase their strengths. We got an A+ as we did do an excellent job.

How has your education at UCC influenced or helped you in your life or career?

The Masters program was very good for me. It taught me tolerance as I was unaccustomed to making decisions in a group setting and depending on each other to be able to become successful in the program was new for me. Doing the Masters also gave meaning to all that I had been doing. In the past I was unsure of my abilities and was unaware of what I did not know. I learned many insights and I am now better able to converse confidently using the proper terms. The terms/words used in business at this high level can throw off an under-educated entrepreneur as when in discussions at this level, one may feel uneducated because of the lack of formal training. It was one of the best spends I have ever made as it boosted my confidence 100%. People said to me why bother - you've been running your business successfully for so long and you are not seeking employment. But, when you need to sell your business using the financial term to the Banks, Investors, etc whether privately or publicly you must know the intricacies of your business and what they would be looking for.

Give us one fun / important pet peeve.

My one pet peeve is to do with upgrading oneself especially where education is concerned, is for people to understand that if you are upgrading yourself, it must be in all areas. If a person is seeking to

have higher learning, then they must be able to speak proper English. Image is also very important, so putting yourself together appropriately is a must, and a pleasing personality is an asset. Proper dining etiquette and knowing the time and place appropriateness is urgent. Patois has its place as a true Jamaican but is not always the best means of communication. Another thing, never take yourself too seriously. Life is too short.

Talk us through your proudest professional or personal accomplishments after graduating from UCC.

Although I had already achieved professional and personal success, it was my lack of confidence in myself that was the issue, as I found in some circles you are not respected or taken seriously if you are not lettered. Also, as a Beauty Therapist many people think that to become a Barber or Hairdresser, Masseuse or an Aesthetician is something you do if you did not make it in the better areas of vocation ie Teacher, Nurse, Law or Medicine the traditional choices are. I wanted it to be known that this was my choice, my love, my passion. With education or without, becoming an entrepreneur was my first choice. Entrepreneurs many times are viewed as just hustlers primarily because many times they sell themselves short and do not take their calling to the next level. I was born an Entrepreneur, I became a businesswoman.

**Want to be
featured in our
next Newsletter?**

Email uccalumnioffice@ucc.edu.jm

UCCAA Featured

Business Partners

Totally Male Spa

Sandra Samuels

Chief Executive Officer



Interview with Sandra Samuels

In what year did you begin your studies at UCC?

I began my studies at UCC in 2016.

To what extent did your studies at UCC motivate you to start your own business?

No, I was already in business for 22 years.

Give a brief overview of your current business:

Totally Male Limited is a Men's Spa and Salon. It caters to the aesthetic upgrading of boys and men from the age of 1 year up. We offer Massages, Facials, Hair Grooming, Manicures, Pedicures, and other spa treatments for males only catered to women.

What are the top five (5) challenges faced in starting /operating your business?

The five challenges faced since starting the business are:

1. Expensive money if you do not already have funding (without collateral),
2. Getting your ideal team member,
3. Getting the ideal location,
4. Cost to have the ideal market penetration/advertising.
5. As a single owner with a lack of funding at the start you need to be Jack of all Trades which caused burnout. It also caused expensive errors.

What degree program were you registered in?

CEMBA

How did you mitigate these challenges?

Sought advice- I got help from family and friends and sought advice from mentors. Started small and took my time to build out.

What is the most satisfying experience of owning your own business?

The freedom to control what I do and how I do it. My time flexibility. Getting to do my passion and calling daily although sometimes challenging does not feel like work. Fact that the business is mine also there is nothing that I won't do to keep it going and growing.

What are your top tips for other UCC alumni who want to start their own business?

1. If you can turn your passion into profits go for it make it your Plan A.
2. Prepare a Business Plan and do a feasibility study. What problem are you solving? What need am I filling?
3. Select the best location suited for your business and start small and grow your dream.
4. Make sure to register your business, pay your taxes on time, and keep your ear to the ground.

UCC Alumni Association

Fundraising



100% cotton

~~Was \$4500~~

NOW

\$3800

UCC Alumni Association

Fundraising



**100% cotton
T-shirts**



~~Was \$4000~~

NOW

\$3500

UCCAA Business Partners

Members of the UCC Alumni Association (who are current with their membership dues and have their ID Card) are able to access discounts from our Business Partners as follows (so please register for the Alumni Association and pay your dues which supports scholarships and community needs)



Netcom Computer Solutions Ltd.

7 West Street, Old Harbour, St. Catherine

Tel: (876) 745-2391

netcomstores@gmail.com

Discount - 5%



Fire Design Agency

Online Store

Tel: (876) 817-5465

firedesignagency.com

Discount - 10%



Paradise Catering and Decor

195 Spanish Town Rd, Kingston

Tel: (876) 208-3558

[instagram.com/patadisecateringndecor](https://www.instagram.com/patadisecateringndecor)

Discount - 10%



Yaad Chef Consultancy

Online Store

Tel: (876) 438-4192

www.yaadchefconsultancy.com

Discount - 15%



Totally Male Club Spa & Salon

6 Windsor Ave, Kingston

Tel: (876) 946-2454

totallymalespa.com

Discount - 10%



DaVision Designz

Online Store

[instagram.com/davisiondesignz](https://www.instagram.com/davisiondesignz)

Discount - 10%

If you would like to become a business partner of UCCAA, kindly send an email to uccalumnioffice@ucc.edu.jm

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Jamaica Turbo Repair Services

94 Hope Road, Unit 1, Kingston 6

Tel: (876) 622-6299

jamaicaturbo.com

Discount - 10%



Be You(tiful) Creation

Online Store

[instagram.com/be.youtiful.creations](https://www.instagram.com/be.youtiful.creations)

Discount - 5%



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