



Dominica Academy of Arts and Sciences

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Dear Friend,

When the Dominica Academy of Arts and Sciences (hereinafter the Academy) was launched under the guidance of our co-founder Raglan Riviere it was designed to marshal our human resource at home abroad for nonpartisan national development projects. In the seventeen years since our launch in the fall of 2000 we accomplished much. These are some of our accomplishments:

1. We assisted the revival of the Dominica Cadet Corps
2. Hosted three development symposiums (US, UK, Dominica)
3. Restocked the national medical stores after the 2005 fire and donated \$4 million ECD in medical supplies and linen to the Ministry of Health.
4. Donated more than \$500,000 ECD in books, school supplies, computers, fax machines and copiers to schools around the island.
5. Crafted the first ever online skills directory of Dominica professionals at home and abroad
6. Aided the first ever Dominica crime study with the aid of Dr Peter St Jean.
7. Hosted the first ever Dominica State College and Dominica Government Information Service websites
8. Hosted the first ever Returning Scholars series in which visiting Academy members tutored, mentored and lectured Dominica State College and high school students
9. Partnered with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and Dominica State College to afford several summer internships at the Smithsonian in Washington DC by Dominica State College students and an accompanying professor.
10. Prepared the Dominica Diaspora Policy Paper and a Diaspora Returnee Manual free of charge for the Commonwealth of Dominica Government - after an official request was made to the Academy for technical assistance.
11. Created the first ever Dominica Botanic Garden website and donated equipment for the upkeep of the local Botanic Gardens.
12. Aided the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force with equipment to render it more efficient - to include a rubber dinghy to provide security to Portsmouth yacht visitors.

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There are many other philanthropy projects and technical assistance which were rendered - to include the Dominica Artists CD featuring Pat Aaron, Delmance Rasmose Moses and others. The benefit of such structured and unselfish service in the national interest was, and remains, a proud hallmark of outpouring of partnership, teaming and development missions occasioned by the Dominica Diaspora in the development process promoted by the Academy. In our early years we partnered with the now dormant Roosevelt Douglas Foundation; named after a Prime Minister who recognized and respected the value of Dominica's Diaspora.

On Monday September 18, 2017, Dominica was devastated by Hurricane Maria, the worst such event in 100 years. Only a robust and respectful strategic partnership between Dominica and its Diaspora can lead to rebuilding Dominica, better, stronger and wiser. To such a rebuilding effort the Academy is committed. To that end we shall work in an accountable and transparent fashion with Government, Opposition, civil society, Rebuild Dominica Inc. and other Diaspora organizations and allies.

We believe in a constitutional reform assembly to revise the supreme law of our land to allow overseas Dominicans the vote, institute term limits on Prime Ministers and Presidents, implement a foreign service act, strengthen the judicial branch and heighten parliamentary oversight over government conduct.

We believe in the strengthening of work study education especially in agriculture, with a focus on science, technology, engineering, art & mathematics.

We believe in a society which respects the long denied African and indigenous roots of our nation.

And the Academy remains committed to the proposition that we must unite our human resource in wise collective endeavor to build a vibrant and attractive society worthy of our native intelligence.

We here honor the memory of Raglan Riviere by continuing this long march.

We commend the pioneers of our Academy and our first President and President Emeritus Dr. Clayton Shillingford, for his stalwart leadership. We salute Dr. Dave Shillingford for crafting a superb new website for the Dominica Botanic Gardens www.dominicagardens.com. We thank Jacqueline Pearson for graciously assuming the role of Website Administrator on behalf of her beloved father Raglan Riviere who, with me, co-founded the Academy.

Today, more than ever, we need to build the Academy into a strong institution premised on our core values of Knowledge & Service.

Join us today so we may continue a worthy journey dedicated to nation building based on the best practices in the arts and sciences.

Sincerely yours,

Gabriel Christian, Esq
Member, DAAS New Management