

Jamaica Euphoric As Athletes Dominate Track And Field In Brazil



Jamaicans and visitors alike crowd the streets of Kingston, Jamaica to cheer on “Lightning” Bolt during the 100m final,

K I N G S T O N , JAMAICA: Jamaica again showcased its sprinting prowess, winning both men and women sprint titles at the XXXI Olympiad in Rio, solidifying its title of the sprint capital of the world. On Sunday, August 14, Usain “Lightning” Bolt created Olympic history winning his third consecutive gold medal in the men’s 100m final in a time of 9.81 seconds and brought home his third gold in the 200m final in a time of 19.78 seconds, making him once again, the world’s fastest man. Jamaica’s Elaine Thompson also set off fireworks when she took the title of the world’s fastest women, clocking in at 10.71 seconds to win the women’s 100m final, as well as the 200m final at 21.78 seconds.

Jamaica’s track and field dominance continued as Omar McLeod won Jamaica’s first Olympic gold medal in the 110m hurdles, crossing the line in 13.05 seconds. Then Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce also brought home a bronze finishing the 100m final in 10.86 seconds and Shericka Jackson received a bronze medal in the women’s 400m final in 49.85 seconds.

“We are extremely proud of our country’s accomplishments and we congratulate (*the members of*) Team Jamaica on their dominant performance during the Rio 2016 Olympics,” said the Honourable Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica’s Minister of Tourism. “Jamaicans and the millions of fans all over the world that have visited our island to experience its beautiful beaches, music, cuisine, and most importantly, our people, are watching our Olympians dominate the track and field games.”

Paul Pennicook, Jamaica’s Director of Tourism, noted, “The 2016 Olympics are a shining example of Jamaica’s athletic ability and we are ecstatic that Jamaica will be

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Lack Of Parade Dampens Spirit Of WI Independence Celebrations

By Stan Walker

For the first time since its inception, 54 years ago, the parade, which is the highlight of the annual Hartford West Indian Independence celebrations, the first of its kind to be held in the country, was not held. According to reports, the reason is that the organizers were not able to get the city to grant any fee waivers.

The custom for the city is that event organizers are required to pay at least half of the costs associated with their events (festivals, parades, carnivals or other activities), which are held on city streets or in the parks. The city covers the remainder. Most costs associated with these events are related to police, fire, and public works services.

Despite this, the West Indian Independence Celebration Committee decided to stage the celebrations inside Bushnell Park. This apparently resulted in a big drop in the attendance due to the fact that many did not know about the plan; also, the hot and humid temperature that was experienced during the day. In fact, one attendee remarked that the postponement of the parade was a sort of a blessing in disguise, as the temperature would probably have caused some of the revelers to fall out.

The event in Bushnell Park got off to a late start with a drill team and a few dance groups dressed in colorful costumes taking a leisurely stroll around the park, before moving to the stage where

they engaged in an energetic and exciting competition that drew applause from the crowd. Though many enjoyed the carnival atmosphere that was portrayed by the dancers, others expressed disappointment in what actually took place during the day.

The concert, which followed the dancing competition, although taking on a bit of life when Jamaican comedian Boasy Boy Floyd took to the stage, was very boring. The so-called artists during their presentations spent too much time talking and were constantly calling on the DJ to stop and switch to another back-up track while they were in the middle of a song.

“We are not against the portrayal of a carnival atmosphere at the celebrations,” a few keen observers stressed, “but we are disappointed that there was hardly any mention of what the celebration is about.”

Patricia Miles, president of the committee, thanked the people who showed up for their support and pledged that the parade will be back next year.

Unlike what took place at Bushnell Park, the excitement and spirit of the Bloomfield Caribbean Festival, which generally kicks off the annual West Indian celebrations in the Greater Hartford area, was very strong.

The weather cooperated

and the large crowd showed up gave the event rave reviews, describing it as still very good and exciting. They were treated to a mix of Caribbean culture, which included music, singing, dancing, and the opportunity to get a taste of some popular West Indian dishes.

The official launching of the program began with the Four A We and Company steel band

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A section of the large gathering at Bloomfield Caribbean Festival



Dreadlocked leader of the Rebel Band KalPama Devi, right, and wife Mimou, rocks the crowd at the Bloomfield Caribbean Festival.

Letter To The Editor

CURET’s Spectacular 25th Anniversary Celebration

I am writing, representing the sentiment of a large group of people, to congratulate CURET’s Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and partners for a job well done at the recent gala, celebrating 25 years of contribution in the Greater Hartford area.

The event was not only representative of high caliber performances but to see and hear the stories of the lives that have been changed and will never be the same again, accessing educational opportunities, the entire scenery was transformational.

Thank you, CURET for taking on so many people, even the most vulnerable, the new immigrants; many did not understand how the American systems work. CURET has opened their eyes forever; and they will never be closed again.

Adult learners, who had dropped out of school or never went

to school, now have upgraded their reading, writing, spelling, and basic math skills.

Their stories show how so many have increased their skills at different levels, including basic and GED.

Many are successful in making the Transition to College at Capital Community College and are now pursuing various courses, certifications, and degree programs. Others have passed the CNA program and are working; many have become United States citizens and are voting; others have gotten their drivers’ licenses and are now driving to various places of employment.

These accomplishments are not ordinary. Adult learners are now attending meetings at their children’s schools without feeling intimidated. Many can now read their doctors’ directives and avoid serious mistakes due to poor reading skills.

Significant numbers are acquiring computer and technology skills and are accessing jobs and other opportunities, improving the socioeconomic situation of families and the economy of the city. And CURET’s Boy Scouts Troop 1443 with its youth development is a blessing.

With CURET’s accomplishments, no wonder such a large crowd of people joined in support of the historic 25 years anniversary celebration.

Let the anthem of CURET’s good deeds continue to stimulate new life and hope among its recipients. Thank you, CURET for restoring hope and supporting vibrant Hartford area communities.

Mary Ramsey, Hartford.

Independence: A State Of Mind

By Leon Fraser

When we recognize celebratory dates and make exceptional arrangements to ensure that everything is on point for that day, what exactly are we celebrating?

This is a rhetorical question because we all know of the information that was given to us. For the cutoff/breakaway from Britain it was a decidedly brave decision for the colonists to embark on, and similarly that decision took the route of pursuing a path to self-determination, which in economic terms led to the conflict of the 1770s.

But where does that leave us as an ethnic minority in this land? All the celebrated holidays are the ones given to us; similarly, are the names of professions such as baker, butcher, carpenter, and plumber. The names of colors, black, white, pink, green, brown, or the names of our owners, a legacy we have of our time here on this continent, But what of the “past” of which we are now

slowly gleaning some proud stories.

We are constantly given images of heroes and heroines of other ethnic persuasion for us to gobble, digest and remember, but none of those that have similar features like us. I have no problem with their interpretation of manifest destiny; however we as a people do not have to be constantly applauding their heroes and heroines leaving ours to wallow in notes of references and verbal sketches. Most of these holidays are based on EuroCentric values, and therefore begs the question: are there any of AfroCentric values?

We are all aware of the “magical” powers of Santa Claus, but none of an African origin. All the holidays are from the continent of Europe, none from an African tradition. I think, and now it is obvious, this was the thought concept behind the genesis of Kwanza, something for us to be more closely associated with and practice the tradition of that celebration. All the celebratory days are

the ones given to us and we are fervent when we decide to honor those days. Will we do the same dance when 2020 comes around? The year 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower’s arrival. Do you think the Native Americans will commemorate the date in a celebratory manner?

The Alamo is not a fond memory, or celebrated in a similar manner by the Mexicans as do the residents of Texas, and now we hear of several states observing Columbus Day in a different manner than was foisted on them in the past.

We observe the birthday of Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain but not the inauguration of Empress of Ethiopia? Many individuals feel grateful to receive a Rhodes scholarship, but do they know of whom they honor?

Think on these things: Suppose we were to celebrate the given day of victory in the Battle of (Adwa) Adowa, Ethiopian villagers against the mighty Roman/Italian army (1896), or the victory of the Haitian general Toussaint against the mighty French General Napoleon, or the victory of the Jamaican Maroons (led by Cudjoe) against the British forces at Seaman’s Valley, Jamaica (1739-40), or the greatest military victory of Hannibal of Carthage, with the Elephants and his pincer movement, a tactic that is the corner stone of notable military officers training school. The day of the creation of the fighter pilots squadron, the crew that was

JA Atheletes Dominate Track And Field

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bringing home the gold once again. Jamaica’s performance at the Olympics continues to strengthen our ability to market the destination and we welcome visitors to experience the island, the home of Jamaica’s famed Olympic athletes and the sprint capital of the world.”

About Jamaica Tourist Board in the capital city of Kingston. The JTB was declared the Caribbean’s Leading Tourist Board by the World Travel Awards (WTA) from 2006 to 2015. Also in 2015, Jamaica earned the WTA’s vote for the Caribbean’s Leading Destination and the Caribbean’s Leading Cruise Destination for the tenth consecutive year. Jamaica was named the top three island in the world by TripAdvisor® in 2016. Additionally, Ocho Rios was named the Caribbean’s

Leading Cruise Port; Sangster International Airport was voted the Caribbean’s Leading Airport; Club Mobay was named the Caribbean’s Leading Airport Lounge; Dolphin Cove was voted the Caribbean’s Leading Adventure Tourist Attraction; the Montego Bay Convention Center was named the Caribbean’s Leading Meeting & Conventions Center; and GO! Jamaica Travel was named the Caribbean’s Leading Tour Operator.

JTB offices are located in Kingston, Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam, Mumbai and Tokyo.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica go to the JTB’s Web site at www.visitjamaica.com or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422).

distinguished and immortalized in the film “Red Tails,” or the battle of Fort Wagner, where the 54th Massachusetts regiment fought gallantly, or something in the national conscience that shows our contribution to the creation of this notable country. The stories of up from slavery and the dream are overused.

These are some of the images that black folks need to see to elevate their minds out of the self-hatred that is so rabid in our midst. Our stories did not begin with slavery.

We need to see greatness to remind us of from whence we came so as to know which direction to take. The long-term plans of others do not incorporate these projections because it will undermine their legacies and longevity.

In the minds of the younger generations they do not have much great images to look at and to emulate. We are always given MLK but not Malcolm; we are given Fredrick Douglas but not Nat Turner.

Many people in Chicago have no idea who is Jean Baptiste Pointe De Sable, but probably the car manufacturers of the Buick Sable might. The current first lady alludes to the fact that it felt good to wake up in the house that was built by slave labor and designed by one Benjamin Banneker.

WI Independence Celebrations

Continued from Page 1

delighting the crowd with some well-known selections, which got some of the attendees getting up from their seats to shake a leg.

Next, members of the

All of these are simply to get a thought in the minds of those who think that we as a people have not contributed to the making of America, the great country it is. So, when you listen to slogans that are subtle and tend to be dismissive of our contribution to the great pie of which we can only watch the crumbs fall on the earth, please remember to ask your grandparents or an elderly person what they know; use the social media to get your information, and of course read.

Black people of African descent were once great and made many contributions to the World, so when you feel like less than the 2/3rd that was ascribed to us, do some research, find out from whence your family tree grew; how did you arrive at this point, aside from genetics and copulation; seek the stories of Africa, their domination of Spain and other parts of Europe, and read, read, and read.

Independence is a state of mind, and the mind controls the person, if you are taught to celebrate other ethnic achievements it should make you wish to know about yours, because you will not be given the true story, only their interpretation and the good parts that makes them look good. If you have to ask who they are, look in a mirror and follow that lineage.

Caribbean American Dance Company, decked out in some very brightly colorful and creatively designed costumes, and a new group out of Bloomfield High School, the Nia Arts, performed some very creative dance moves that drew good applause from the audience.

A group of Trinidadians, the Sweet Noiz band, also performed but the biggest attraction of the evening was the Rebel Band out of Massachusetts. Led by Kalpama Devi and his wife Mimou, natives of Senegal, Africa, had the crowd rocking with a variety of tunes, including a number of reggae selections of their own creations—at least one in their own language.

The spectators enjoyed their presentations so much that they stuck with them right to the end with many saying that they should bring them back next year.

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McCrory, Keynote Address For College Prep Program

HARTFORD, CT: Rep. Douglas McCrory (D-Hartford) recently gave the keynote address at the closing ceremony of the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program (ConnCAP).

ConnCap, run by the University of Connecticut's Center for Academic Programs, is a year-round academic program that assists students in grades 9-12 in successful completion of high school, and prepares them for post-secondary education.

The program serves students at Hartford Public High School, Bulkeley High School, and Windham High School.

"ConnCAP is an invaluable



Rep. Douglas McCrory (D-Hartford) delivering keynote address

able opportunity for Hartford students, and I was excited to address this promising group of young men and women," Rep. McCrory said.

"With the right encouragement and support, all of our students can achieve their full potential. I encouraged the students to make higher education a priority—that is what will open up doors for them. They are our city's future scholars, educators, and leaders," he added,

ConnCAP students attend summer sessions at University of Connecticut, which are designed to prepare them for the academic year. During the school year, students receive tutor-

ing and help applying to college. They also go on field trips and participate in cultural activities throughout the year.

"My hope is that the students will continue their education and use it to better their communi-

ties and mentor the next generation," Rep. McCrory said.

Interested parents and students can find more information on ConnCAP at www.cap.uconn.edu.



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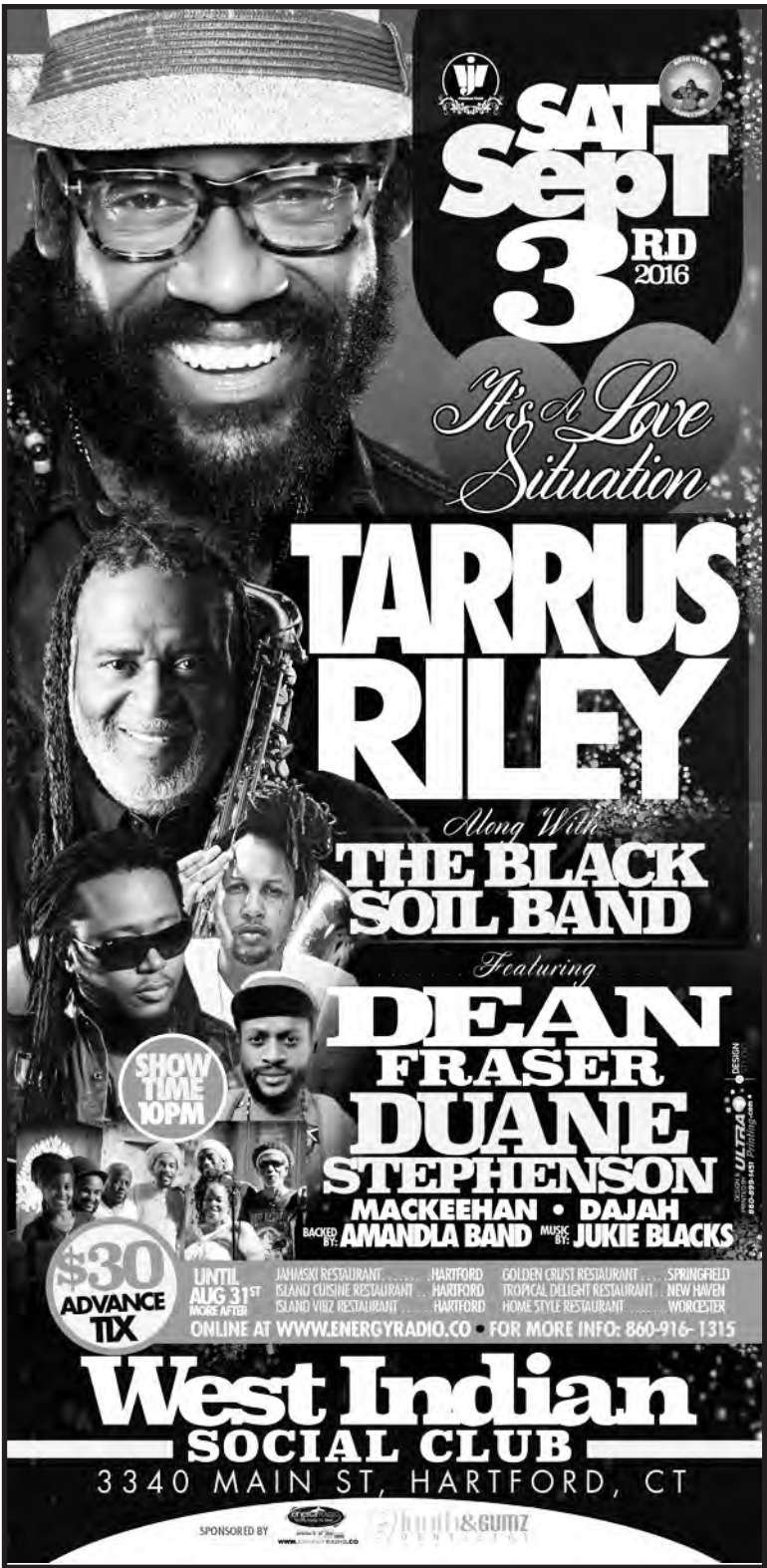
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CURET Summer School: Work And Fun

By Carol Johnson

Don't underestimate students in CURET's Summer Program at Martin Luther King Elementary School. This summer a new component was added—science activities. Students had a unique opportunity to learn concepts in chemistry, solubility and crystallization, and had fun conducting experiments growing crystals in the science lab.

The students were enthused and their interest in science was clear. They soon realized that they can grow crystals and that their crystals can be grown in all different shapes and sizes. The purest crystals usually grow to be the largest in size. Students became “scientists” as they worked on experiments growing amazing crystals with unique designs and bold colors! Their creativity arose!

At the end of the crystal science project, the students had tangible objects to take home. In fact, their interests grew to the extent that some students sought out take-home kits to continue making crystals at home. Motivation was at a heightened level that some of the students bought crystal kits in a gift store during a field trip at Action Wildlife! This was rewarding to share in the excitement and that science is fun.

Clearly, the 2016 Summer Academic Enrichment and Recreational Program with its work and fun theme lived up to expectations. During the summer months, the program is a full-day learning experience that combines academic instruction with fun and hands-on enrichment activities, field trips, and service projects. The program is designed to help students broaden their academic skills as they prepare to enter school in the fall ready to learn and excel.

From day one of the summer school, the students realized that the summer program offered much more than the regular academics. It provided enrichment activities in dance, art, computer and technology, plus the very popular all-day field trips on Fridays. So all these activities garnered much academic interest in a hurry and students were eager to come to summer school daily.

Enthusiasm in math and language was sustained. In language arts, for example, students in grades 3 to 5 constructed full-length writing prompts based on their own or fictional experiences. They constructed daily reading log based on independent reading choices. They also used the data from the different genres of books to construct graphs for their math assignments.

At all-grades levels, 1-10, the Closing Awards Ceremony was full with excitement. Students were eager to demonstrate newly acquired skills and their resulting outstanding accomplishments in math, language arts, science, technology, arts, dance, perfect attendance, most improved in a particular subject or area, among other awards. And parents toured the third floor where students' works were on display.

Dr. Doreen Crawford, principal of MLK School, said the program added value to the school.

Following the presentation of awards, there were entertainments of various types—music and amazing dance performances by the students. Under the direction of their dance instructor Grace Wright, the students were taught the historical development of dance routines and the cultural



Two groups of students show off their well-deserved awards at the End-of-Summer School Closing Awards Ceremony



The Crystalization Science Project fascinates Brothers Godwin and Roderick Akoumani. During one of CURET's field trips, they bought a take-home kit to continue making crystals at home. They are budding scientists.



Kennedy Cole and Jayanna Fair working on their Crystalization Science Project. Kennedy proudly shows off her Crystal Eyeware.



CURET's summer school students engaging in fun activities at the Connecticut Science Center: Carly Craig (left) in a Hula-Hoop Contest, which she won; others (right) in a Dancing Contest-Concert on the Plaza—hosted by entertainers Justis Lopez, Shemar Ware, and Jonathan Martinez

contexts of the dances. This is an integral part of the education students receive in the afternoon enrichment segment of the CURET program.

Besides the obvious fun and enjoyment of the students as was demonstrated in their special performances, that which emerged was the fact that many of the students had the opportunity to enhance their natural talents and potentials as well as their academic skills.

“My sons love science. Thanks for stimulating their interest in science,” said one parent to the science teacher. “I plan to practice making crystals with them during the rest of the summer.”

Families and their children took a tour of the bulletin boards that lined the hallway, showcasing the accomplishments of the students—their essays, works of arts and crafts, and other motifs. Then they enjoyed refreshments.

Congratulations to all students on completing a wonderful and fruitful learning experience this summer in the CURET program!



CURET Summer Program TAs Imani Ashleigh Watkis, Mikyle Gamble, and Josee Dobson with students they chaperoned during a field trip at Action Wildlife Museum in Goshen, CT.



From left: Little Miss Caribbean American Kyle McCoy, Miss Caribbean American Allison Kerr, and Miss Pre-Teen Caribbean American Keishara Preston

Miss Caribbean American

By Stan Walker

Five-year-old Kyle McCoy, 11-year-old Keishara Preston, and 15-year-old Allyson Kerr, were the winners in their respective categories in this year’s Caribbean American Scholarship Pageant, which was held at its usual venue, Vibz Uptown Banquet Hall, on Sunday, July 24.

The crowd was a little down from last year but nevertheless, the event which was sponsored by the Caribbean American Dance Company was very exciting with the audience applauding lustily as the 15 contestants ranging in ages from four to 15, who took part in the competition went through their paces.

McCoy, who topped a field of seven, won the Little Miss Caribbean American contest. The very confident tot said that she wants to be a police officer when she grows up. India Stewart, five, took second place, while Talaila Rose, 7, and Serenity Hardy, 4, tied for third place. The Best Behavior and Most Photogenic prizes went to Anaya Bazille with Stewart being judged as the Most Improved.

Keishara Preston, 11, won Miss Caribbean American Pre-Teen title. Coming in second was Afia Wynter, also age 11. Preston was named the Most Talented. The very confident Preston during her introduction said that her ambition is to become the country’s first black female president. Wynter was named the Most Improved.

In the Miss Caribbean American Teen competition first place went to Allyson Kerr, 15, while Jennelle Edwards, also 15, took second place. Edwards who was declared Miss Congeniality picked up the Best Essay prize. Kerr was named as the Best Talented and Tynia Gunn the Most Improved.

The Caribbean American Dance Company provided entertainment. Judith Williams, president of the Company has served more than a 100 students since its inception. She thanked the attendees for their support. She said that she knew that she could engage youngsters to participate in the arts and firmly believes and puts real meaning to her motto: “Your support makes a difference in the lives of our children.”

Sydney Barnwell Is New Miss West Indian American

University of Connecticut (UCONN) student Sydney Barnwell, who is majoring in communications and political science, walked away with the Miss West Indian American title in the 54th Annual Miss West Indian Social Club’s scholarship pageant, which was held at the club on Sunday, July 10.

She won over Brittany Nelson, who was the first runner-up and Gabrielle Legall, second runner-up.

The pageant began with the contestants coming onto the stage to perform a dance that drew a welcome applause from the excited audience.

Following an opening prayer, welcome remarks from the club’s president Nicone Gordon and Mistress of Ceremonies, Joy-Ann Biscette, introduced the contestants.

Guest performer Rapper Front Page then took to the stage and treated the crowd to a few of his own creations.

In the keenly contested pageant, Barnwell who topped a field of six, impressed the judges during the talent segment. She delivered a very timely monologue that dealt with the current issues facing blacks like and are causing concerns between the police and members of communities throughout the country.

She expressed some very enlightening thoughts on how she felt the issues should be approached.

Nelson, also a student at UCONN who is majoring in material science and engineering won

the prize for the Best Essay and was judged as the Most Congenial.

Legall, a University of Hartford student, who is majoring in biochemistry, was the winner of the Interview Competition. She plans to go on to medical school with the intention of becoming a doctor.

Most Improved contestant was Brianna Nelson. During the talent segment, the Nelsons who are twins showed off their musical talents performing on the Bassoon and the tenor saxophone.

The young men’s segment had only one contestant Brandon Stuart, a junior at Bloomfield High School. He plans to major in Forensics and game design.

“It really does not matter who wins the competition, President Gordon said in her welcoming address. “All of these youngsters are deserving of the titles.

What matters most is what they have learned through this process and the confidence they have built up over the course of the competition” she stated.

“We stand ready to continue to be a resource to them and a system of support even after this experience is over.

However long it takes them to succeed at what they would like to do, we hope that they will give back to their communities in some way,” Gordon said.



Miss West Indian Sydney Barnwell



Mr. and Miss West Indian

Luciano And Sax-Man Trotman Wow Riverfront Festival

By Stan Walker

This year’s Taste of the Caribbean and Jerk Festival, held at its usual venue, the Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, downtown Hartford, Saturday, August 1, as expected turned out to be very exciting and again a smashing success.

The predicted thunderstorms kept away and the annual family friendly event, which was celebrating its 11th anniversary, drew its usual big crowd.

The popular free outdoor event honoring English, French, and Spanish-speaking islands of the Caribbean Diaspora had a lot of offerings for the thousands of patrons who attended. They were treated to a variety of Caribbean music, food, dance, arts and culture.

Drawing the biggest excitement among the entertainers were Jamaica’s cultural reggae artist Luciano and Barbadian sax-man Elan Trotman. The duo wowed the crowd during performances on the main stage, and was not short of educating and entertaining the appreciative audience.

Luciano who was making his second appearance at the festival, and whose appeal extends beyond reggae fans as his music speaks to people from all walks of life, captured the audience’s attention right from the start.

At the end of his performance, Luciano was presented with citations of appreciation from the city and the organizing committee for his outstanding presentation.

Although Trotman, one of the fastest rising stars on the jazz scene’s performance was stalled due to problems with one of the speakers

which caught fire, just like last year, he drew widespread applause as he worked the crowd with some very lively jazz renditions, most of his own composition.

As usual, the activity on the main stage opened with a special gospel segment that featured radio personality Gospel DJ Brother Gary. A few other local performers including Dorette Sterling, Don C, Laree Salmon, Toussaint the Liberator, Saga Dee, the Amandla and the New Release Bands also performed.

On the upper stage, patrons were treated to some very lively performances from a wide collection of artists, which included some stilt dancers led by Melissa R. Craig, the Caribbean American Dance Company, Sweet Noyz, a rhythm group out of Trinidad, the Hartford Steel Symphony, the St. Lucia Folklore cultural group out of Brooklyn, New York, who dressed in colorful native costumes delighted the crowd with their musical renditions and intricate folk dancing,

and members of the Connecticut International, Cultural Carnival Association’s group.

Grace Foods, the title sponsor of the event, gave attendees the opportunity to sample a variety of their drinks and food products. Representatives from a number of businesses promoted their travel destinations in the Caribbean with influences of English, Spanish, and French. There was something there for everyone.

One of the most popular attractions was the Children’s

Village. It featured traditional games, hula-hoop, limbo dance contests, a bounce house, and face painting.

Special thanks was extended by the organizers to all the sponsors who it is said are the main sources for the success of the festival, the Board of Directors, Committee members, vendors, entertainers, the many volunteers and the attendees. Without them, the exciting event could not have happened, one member stated.



Cultural Jamaica reggae star Luciano performing at the Taste of the Caribbean Jerk Festival.



Well-known cultural dancer Grace Wright drew the steers of many who attended the Taste of the Caribbean Festival.

For Third Time, Capital Community College Named A Leader College By Achieving The Dream

HARTFORD, CT: For the third time, Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to helping community college students stay in school and earn degrees, has designated Capital Community College as a “Leader College,” an honor awarded to institutions in ATD’s national network that have shown three years of steady improvement in two outcomes that measure student success.

“Leader College status represents a sustained, successful effort to build a student-centered

culture,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “Colleges that stay focused on the hard work of transformation deserve to be recognized when they make measurable progress.”

Capital Community College continually improves academic supports for students. For example, a specially-trained task force of tutors are embedded in all developmental math courses to provide supports both inside and outside the classroom. This has resulted in enhanced collaboration between tutors and instructors, and the implementation of best practices for

student-centered learning and embedded support. Capital’s first measure of student success was to have students complete developmental math course requirements in 2 years, and the completion percent increased every year over the past 3 years, from 42.1% between 2011-2012 to 53.6% between 2014-2015. This population represents between 14%-19% of students at the college for any given year.

One of the first college’s in the state of Connecticut to be designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Capital has taken a holistic approach towards improving and transforming the academic, social, and cultural experiences of Hispanic students. The college’s second measure of student success was to

raise Hispanic students’ GPA for those with GPA’s greater or equal to 2.0, and this was borne out: Capital’s Hispanic student population saw increases in their GPA’s over the past 3 years, from 61.4% in fall 2012 to 69.1% in fall 2015. This population represents 27% of all students at the college.

The ATD Core Team at Capital is comprised of 21 members representing a cross-section of the college’s faculty and staff. Co-chaired by Mike Proulx, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and Tyesha Wood, director of the college’s Welcome & Advising Center, the Core Team is broken into 3 sub-groups: College readiness team, Data team, and Developmental Education team.

This year Achieving the Dream designated four institutions

as Leader Colleges for the first time and recertified 17 Leader Colleges. ATD leads a student success network made up of over 200 institutions, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 policy teams.

“This recognition speaks to the commitment of our entire college community and their exceptional work on behalf of our students,” said Dr. Wilfredo Nieves, Capital’s president. “We’re honored to be an Achieving the Dream Leader College again, and are continually working on developing strategies and supports that will help our students succeed.”

Capital Community College, located in the center of Hartford in the renovated, historic G. Fox building, is a public, open-door, educational institution committed to the metropolitan community it serves. Its mission is to provide higher education and lifelong learning to people of diverse cultures, abilities and ages, and to serve the needs of the community, government agencies and business and industry. To learn more about the college, visit www.capital-cc.edu

Achieving the Dream, Inc. is a national nonprofit that is dedicated to helping more community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree.

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Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him (Luke 21: 36, 38).

First Day of School
Tuesday, August 30, 2016!
Remember — All Students Must Wear
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- Birth Certificate or Passport (NEW students only)
- Parent/Legal Guardian Photo ID and Legal guardianship document if applicable
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- Official Transcript (for high school only)

Call The Welcome Center at (860) 695-8400 for specific requirements



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- Certificado de nacimiento o pasaporte (para estudiantes NUEVOS solamente)
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- Registro de vacunación y una copia del último examen físico (que no tenga más de un año) (formulario azul)
- Transcripción Oficial (para escuela secundaria/superior)

Llame al Centro de Bienvenida al (860) 695-8400 para informarse sobre los requisitos específicos

Community Events

Gardner's House, Inc. 5th Annual Pretty in Pink Ball

HARTFORD, CT: Gardner's House, Inc. located at 1229 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT is a place for all whose lives have been devastated by cancer and the burden of surviving the many daily difficulties. Gardner House provides assistance and personal support, and will host its 5th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness—Pretty in Pink Ball

Fundraiser, Saturday, October 15, 2016, 7:00 pm at Vibz Uptown Banquet Hall, 3155 Main Street, Hartford, CT. Cost is \$50 per person. Also, on Sunday, October 16, 2016 a Breast Cancer Walk will kick off at 9:00 am in Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT. For more information please call 860-206-7754 or send email: gardnershouse@yahoo.com, or visit web site www.gardnershouse.org.

Entertainment With Tarrus Riley

HARTFORD, CT: Coming soon! Tarrus Riley and other entertainers will perform at the West Indian Social Club, Saturday, September 3, 2016. Riley has consistently racked up awards for his work. Among his accolades are Best Singer, Male Vocalist, Cultural Artiste, Song of the Year, and Best Song. Institutions that have awarded Riley include the Youth View Awards, the Star People's Choice Awards, EME Awards, and the Reggae Academy awards.

"I have received awards

both locally and internationally. But to be honest, the best award I receive consistently is from the people themselves. When I can look in their faces and see the impression my music has made, that is the best award I can ever get," Riley said.

Other performers will be Black Soil Band, Duane Stephenson, Dean Fraser, Amandla Band, Mackeehan, Dajah, Jukie Blacks. Show time is 10:00 pm and cost is \$30.00 in advance until August 31. For more information call 860-916-1315 and see ad on page 3 of this publication.



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Putnam's Keynote Address, "Our Kids" An Eye Opener



**Linda J. Kelly, president, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and
Dr. Robert Putnam**

By Edgar Johnson

Dr. Robert Putnam, the Malkin professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the British Academy, recently received a warm welcome at his keynote address at the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) sponsored the event. "We hope this session will advance a shared vision and collaborative action toward ensuring all residents in Connecticut have the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, or income," said Linda J. Kelly, president of HFPG in introducing Putnam.

In his address, Dr. Putnam presented aspects of his most recent book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, drawing cues in leading a discussion on the erosion and collapse of the past 50 years of the many socioeconomic and political supports for the working families, schools, and communities, apparently unnoticed by the growing and expanding upper class.

Putnam drew his context from the socioeconomic family backgrounds through an array of interviewers and family portraits and from the data analyses.

He stated convincingly that over the past 50 years big changes are taking place, and poverty is facing America. American society has split along class lines. In fact, class segregation has increased and now includes categories such as residential, widening educational gap, marital status; income distribution, family structure and lifestyles; communities in which families live; the education level of parents; the presence or absence of both mother and father in the home; the time they spend with their children, and the money and resources they bring to bear on the family; and to what extent children are able to access early childhood education from four and five years of age.

To affirm the impact of the social class on the home environment, Putnam used the example of his hometown of Port Clinton, Ohio using two different families, Miriam and Mary Ann, showing the impact on residents over the past 50 years.

Yes, for him in the 1950s life was basically stress free. Interestingly, with the Miriam's vs. Mary Ann's children for example, in just 45 minutes per day, Miriam provided time and resources for her child; the family had dinner together; engaged in some games, attended high quality daycare; college completion.

On the other hand, Mary Ann's child who barely gets any resource or opportunity has less stimulation and dream to learn.

Clearly, if parents do not invest in their children, in the long run, the neglect will be a big cost to families and society.

There ought to be proactive action to head off future disruptive behavior. And according to Putnam, "poor kids are not just somebody else's kids: they are our kids too; and for him, shared investment in everyone's kid was key to America's growth.

And with the evaporation of the American dream resulting in the two Americas—one is ignored and neglected. The challenge is to restore the basic dream to all. America's growth and fairness in the past was implemented in free high school and was accessible to all, resulting in raising the level of productivity. The key was to restore basic dream.

Today, we have to fix the crisis with the two Americas, and "it is going to depend on you and I," Putnam said. What hope do you see? What is to be done? Putnam asked.

According to Putnam, important activities must be taken now to avoid future pitfalls. He laid down some salient parameters, including encouraging stable, caring families by boosting jobs and wages for low-income workers; criminal justice reform; invest in early childhood education/development beginning at four and five years of age; help parents with appropriate resources; parent coaching; home visit; invest in public education; pay top teachers more to teach in low-income schools; implement more intensive mentoring of kids; foster and sustain more transition to college programs with case management helping students to navigate Capital Community College and its many opportunities.

With the navigator, students will develop models and strategies on how to succeed in college. They develop coping skills, time management and maximize their strengths and achieve their full capabilities.