

Caribbean American Dr. Claudine Gay Named 30th President Of Harvard University



Dr. Claudine Gay

By Stephanie Korney

Dr. Claudine Gay, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, has been selected to be the Harvard University's 30th president. Since 2018, Gay guided the biggest and most academically diverse faculty and served as dean in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) with efforts to expand students' access and opportunities, encourage excellent and innovative teaching and research, enhance elements of academic culture, and focus anew on areas including quantum science and engineering, climate change, ethnicity, indigeneity, and migration, and the humanities.

Gay led the FAS through the COVID-pandemic and launched an innovative faculty-driven planning process in a review of basic academic structures, resources, and operations. She will move into her new position as Harvard's president on July 1, 2023.

Gay earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford in 1992 with a major in economics. She won the Anna Laura Myers Prize for the best undergraduate thesis, and in 1998, received a Ph.D. in government

from Harvard, winning the Toppan Prize for best political science dissertation. Gay is a quantitative social scientist and expert in political behavior. She was an assistant professor, then a tenured associate professor at Stanford prior to her recruitment by Harvard as a professor of government in 2006. She was appointed a professor of African and African American Studies in 2007 and named the Wilbur A. Cowett professor of Government in 2015 when she was named Dean of Social Science at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).

Gay's election as president by the Harvard Corporation, the chief governing board of the University, comes at the end of an intensive search process initiated following the announcement by Larry Bacow, who had served as president since 2018, that he would step down from the position at the end of the academic year.

The search for a new president began in July 2022 with emails to over 400,000 faculty, students, staff, alumni, leaders in higher education and others, who spoke to over 150 individuals to receive their

nominations and advice.

After her election, Gay said she was humbled by the confidence the governing boards placed in her and by the idea of succeeding Bacow in the presidency. She noted that the University is facing a moment of social, political, economic, and technological change and that many basic assumptions about the world and human relations are being tested. She then noted that Harvard has a long history of successfully meeting new challenges and that it will engage with the world to provide pioneering thinking to these challenges. She added that there was much for her to discover about the institution she loves and that she is looking forward to doing that with the entire Harvard community.

Harvard University was founded in 1636 and is committed to excellence in teaching, learning, research, and educating leaders and pursuing scholarship in numerous disciplines in order to make a positive difference in communities worldwide. Harvard has an enrollment of over 20,000 degree candidates and more than 360,000 alumni around the globe. Source: Jamaican.com.

Sports Extravaganza, The Jamaican Way



Leon Fraser

Sports day in Jamaica conjures many different images to different people. For many it is a day at the park watching sports, or being involved in a variety of different activities, or it can be just a casual dress-down day at the office.

To most Jamaicans in the island, whenever they hear the words "sports day" it is an athletic event, mainly track and field. The SPORTS DAY EXTRAVAGANZA Day in Jamaica showcases

various competitive athletic events including the popular soccer, cricket, netball, basketball, dominoes, and a new addition this year is female rugby.

The sports performance is not an easy feat to accomplish if you are a one-man organization, but if you have the grit and perseverance, along with sound decision-making skills, then you are in the right space. Oh, did I leave out passion? There has to be a heavy dose of that as well.

Delroy Coombs, a Jamaican, loved planning events of this nature in Jamaica and seeing the culmination of competitive sports on display. In fact, Coombs has been planning the sports events for a long time, ever since his high school days back in the island of Jamaica.

Given the reality of families migrating to the shores of United States, this is one of Coombs' interests, and he has made every effort to keep the vibe alive—promoting and coordinating sporting events that bring the community together.

When Coombs was a 10th

grade student at Hartford Public High, he had his "playboy crue" planning house parties, block parties, and other civic engagements in neighborhoods--at Bolt's Park, WISC (Disco Room), La-La's, and Mather Street.

There was a period when he moved to another region of the United States, but the CT hold was stronger and he returned to the Nutmeg State, picking up the niche where he left off, with shows that included prominent entertainment stars.

Then with a popular Jamaican soccer player he started to host games between Corner League players and visiting players from Jamaica.

With the success of these events, Coombs decided to expand the base of activities to include cricket, netball, and domino, using different locations for specific activities but keeping the Granby Street fields as the central location. And there is also the inclusion of back-to-school give-away drives, toy distributions, and face painting activi-

Continued on Page 2



Delroy Coombs

Sports Extravaganza

Continued from Page 1

Coombs, “Likkle Peete” as he is popularly called, says his intention is to ensure that summertime in the city of Hartford is a time with much anticipation of fun activities and a sense of oneness in the local Caribbean community, even if there are those that are only intent on making a profit from the community without giving back anything.

Coombs said most

times we tend to give our hard-earned cash to groups that never surface in our community to assist; rather, they emerge only to reap.

According to Coombs, we must change that pattern of spending and giving back to a cause, and the good feeling associated with community spirit.



Afro-Americans in Jamaica

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Afro-Americans Cited As Top Spenders In Jamaica And Caribbean

In announcing that Jamaica has succeeded in recovering 120 percent of its pre-COVID-19 revenue and seen 97 percent of the visitor arrivals compared to 2019, Jamaican Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett noted that the Afro-American market was especially strong and had opened up significantly to Jamaica and the Caribbean region as a whole.

Bartlett made his announcement at the Munaluchi Bridal Magazine Gala held at Half Moon in Montego Bay on December 7, 2022.

According to Bartlett, Jamaica will have received some 2.4

million stopover arrivals by the end of 2022, and the earnings will be much higher than those in 2019: \$500 million more. The significance of these numbers is that they indicate that the recovery is solid and that expectations for 2023 and 2024 are being exceeded.

He also said that additional rooms currently under construction and some 6,000 rooms provide guarantees of continual growth into 2023. If the rooms are ready for use by the end of 2023, Jamaica will receive the projected five million stopovers and cruise projections earlier.

Continued on Page 3

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Afro-Americans Top Spenders

Continued from Page 2

Bartlett then turned his attention to the growing Afro-American market, which he noted is worth \$3 billion and has not been sufficiently tapped. Individuals in this market have become the highest spenders, he said, adding that the reason Jamaica has attained 120 percent in 2019 clearly indicates the large amounts the Afro-American visitors spend in the region.

Bartlett is also excited

about the future with respect to maintaining the Canadian and United States markets, even while acknowledging that a possible recession, war, issues of food security, inflation, and energy could impact projections. He said that new markets in the Middle East, Africa, and India are expected to provide Jamaica with the growth it needs to remain afloat even if a recession comes.

Speaking to the gathering

of wedding professionals from the US and Jamaica in Montego Bay, Bartlett said that before COVID-19, approximately 1.4 billion people traveled throughout the world, spending a total of \$7.9 trillion. He told the group that weddings in Jamaica represented a popular attraction and significant experiential value of tourism. (Source: Jamaicans.com).



Global Jamaica Diaspora Council Elections To Deepen Relationships



Mark Milward

The 2023 Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC) Elections will be taking place in the following countries and their regions below:

1. **United States of America**
2. **United Kingdom**
 - a) North East Region
3. **Canada**
 - b) West Mid-West Region
 - c) Southern Region

Seven persons (3-USA, 2-UK, 2-Canada) will be elected to sit on the GJDC. Similarly, seven persons (3-USA, 2-UK, 2-Canada) will be elected to sit on the Executive Body of the Youth

Council. Persons elected to the Youth Council must be between the ages of 18-35.

HISTORY

In 2004, the first historic Jamaica Diaspora was held June 16-17 under the banner and the theme, "The Jamaican Diaspora: Unleashing the Potential."

Concurrent with this conference a Jamaica Diaspora Advisory board was established based the recommendation of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO—the umbrella organization for all Jamaican organizations in the United States.

CURRENT

The Jamaica Diaspora Advisory board has evolved over the years into what it is today, a Global Jamaican Diaspora Council (GJDC).

It consists of global Jamaican Diaspora members in the US, UK and Canada. These individuals are tasked with advising and making recommendations to the govern-

ment of Jamaica on matters and issues at hand relative to the Diaspora regions they represent and to develop policies that addresses their concerns. Representatives in Europe, Africa and other global regions are appointed without elections due to the small number of Jamaicans in those regions in comparison to the numbers in the US, UK, and Canada.

In an effort to strengthen its Diaspora engagement, the GOJ established the Office of Diaspora Affairs headed by a Minister of State with responsibilities for engagement, policy discussions and protocols.

From the original conference that began in 2004, Jamaica now holds biennial conferences where these global Jamaican Diaspora council members meet in conjunction with the global Jamaican Diaspora community, along with Jamaican government officials to establish objectives for Jamaica and Jamaican communities abroad.

The overall objectives are to initiate business, trade, investment and venture capital

deals; present strategies to consolidate and expand contributions from the Diaspora in healthcare and education; explore strategies for Jamaica to work in collaboration with the Diaspora to deal with policies which affect them where they reside, as well as have implications for Jamaica; and establish an Implementation Plan and an Implementation Team to monitor and effect the key recommendations emerging from the Conference.

The role of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council as the successor to the Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board is to strengthen its Diaspora engagement mechanism and align it to newly crafted goals, pillars and focus areas outlined in the National Diaspora Policy.

The catalyst that initiated this entire movement is the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO) as mentioned previously and founded in 1977.

To execute its mandate, the GJDC works through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Foreign Trade and its High Commissions, Embassies and Consulates overseas, as well as ministries, departments and agencies of the government of Jamaica.

They are tasked with providing policy advice and recommendations on strategic issues identified by the Government and support the Government in engaging with the Diaspora and targeted stakeholders to enhance the well being of Jamaicans at home and abroad.

We encourage those who are engaged in efforts to ensure that a strong Diaspora engagement between Jamaica and its Diaspora continues to register and vote in the upcoming election.

You can be a part of the process and obtain information on candidates in your area by going to www.glojamcouncil.com.

ELECTION TIMETABLE FOR THE GJDC/GJDYC

TIMELINE	ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES
10 NOVEMBER	• Appointment of Electoral Committees
10 NOVEMBER	• REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BEGINS
10 NOVEMBER	• NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES BEGIN
15 NOVEMBER	• NOMINATIONS EXTENDED
15 NOVEMBER	• VOTER REGISTRATION EXTENDED
31 DECEMBER	• END OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND NOMINATION PERIODS
5 JANUARY 2023	• PUBLICATION OF FINAL SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
5 JANUARY - 25 JANUARY	• VOTING

GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA COUNCIL

GJDC

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