



NCU ALUMNI *Brief*

THE ALUMNI↔NCU CONNECTION

John Lucas Barrett



Youngest son of Dr Joseph Barrett and Mrs Evadne Barrett, retired minister of religion and teacher, respectively, John Lucas Barrett demonstrated his innate ability in the performing arts from an early age. Having been raised in an environment that has nurtured and supported these gifts, it came as no surprise that, after graduating from Kingsway High School and entering Northern Caribbean University, John chose to major in vocal performance, communication and religious studies.

Upon arriving in Japan in 2000 under the Japan Exchange and Teaching (J.E.T) Programme, he went on to further his studies at the Tohoku University, gaining the Master's Degree in Intercultural Studies. In 2004 John started his work in the field of Gospel Music Ministry in Sendai, Japan, through performing and directing with the Hallelujah Gospel Family. He presently serves as the main vocalist of the Sendai Gospel Festival (the largest in Japan) and also co-host the SGF radio programme, "Gospel Makes You Happy".

For his rendition of the Japanese classic, *Tsubasa O Kudasai (Give Me Wings)* on the Nippon TV Programme, 'NODOJIMAN THE WORLD' in 2014, he received the Song for Japan Judges Special Award. He released the song and his English version, *Wings of Hope*, as a single in November of that year.



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Host of a regular TV Show on Nippon TV that focuses on English Language education for mothers and young children, 'MAMAMO KOMO TV' (TV for Mom and Kids), John also maintains a very active gospel music career that has expanded to over eight (8) locations and six (6) choirs nationwide. His choral group, the JL Gospel Family has grown over two hundred (200) members and he has become the face of Gospel Music in Japan, travelling extensively teaching and performing, with Tokyo and Sendai as his base. Following the release in May 2015, of his latest album, **God is Good!**, comprising fifteen (15) songs, commemorating his journey over the last thirteen (13) years in Japan, he has been on tour in Japan, United States of America, Singapore and Hong Kong. On this trip to Jamaica (see below for **Upcoming Events**), the last leg of this tour, the album will be on sale at both locations (Kingston and Mandeville) for a price of J\$1,200.

Discography:

December 2008 - First single, "My Song for You"

January 2010 - First Album, "Surrender"

October 2011 - Mini Album, "KIBO: Keep Hope Alive"

November 2014 - Single CD and Book, "Wings of Hope"

May 2015 - Second Album, "God is Good!"

<http://jl-music.com/en>



NCU News

NCU's CCRJC Trains More Than 170 Parents in Empowerment Seminar in Manchester

The Northern Caribbean University's (NCU) Community Counselling and Restorative Justice Centre (CCRJC) held its Parent Empowerment Training Programme Closing Ceremony on Thursday, November 26, 2015 at the Cecil Charlton Hall in Mandeville. The programme saw graduates from four different communities in the parish of Manchester. These communities are Richmond, Comfort, Bellefield and Grey Ground.



Dr Orlean Brown-Earle, chair of the Department of Behavioural and Social Sciences at NCU and guest speaker at the function explains the value of effective parenting to the participants at the recently held graduation exercise for the Parent Empowerment Training in four Manchester communities

Read more... http://news.ncu.edu.jm/news_item.aspx?NewsID=7304

Click to view pictures...

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ncueducation/sets/72157661597166811>



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A Pastors' Work is Never Finished - Dr Paul

The students of the School of Religion and Theology (SRT) on the main campus of Northern Caribbean University, along with Junior Pastors and Senior Pastors of the Seventh-day Adventist church, were participants in the Annual Theological Symposium held recently.

Read more... http://news.ncu.edu.jm/news_item.aspx?NewsID=7301

Mandeville Celebrates with NCU FM

The NCU FM "tun up" the praise at its 5th anniversary celebration at Willowgate Plaza, Mandeville on Tuesday, November 25. The relatively young media group put on a gospel show for commuters, shoppers and business operators within the Mandeville vicinity, touching the lives of the nation through the frequencies 91.1, 91.3 and 91.5 FM.

Read more... http://news.ncu.edu.jm/news_item.aspx?NewsID=7286



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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PAPERS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

NORTHERN CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH WEEK 2016

Theme: "Research: Pathway to Best Practices"

Keynote Speaker: Professor Hansel Fletcher, Vice Chair, Basic Sciences Division of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Loma Linda University.

The Office of Graduate Studies & Research, Northern Caribbean University (NCU), is inviting submission of abstracts for **oral papers**, and/or **poster presentations**. These abstracts will be included in the Research Week 2016 Programme booklet and the **articles** corresponding to these presentations in a **subsequent publication** of the *Proceedings of Research Week 2016*. Lunch will be provided for all presenters.

Guide for Submission:

1. All **abstracts** are to be a maximum of **250** words **AND** accompanied by a brief (100 words or less) biography of the author(s).
2. **Articles** corresponding to the abstracts should be submitted on the presentation day so that they may be included in the subsequent publication of the proceedings.
3. **Undergraduates** may also submit abstracts but the articles **MUST** be research articles ready for publication.
4. Abstracts should be submitted to research@ncu.edu.jm by **January 1, 2016**.

Schedule of Events:

February 15th - *Opening Ceremony*
College of Business & Management "*Current Trends Conference*"



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- February 16th** - College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Allied Health and Nursing "*Science Symposium*"
College of Humanities, Behavioural and Social Sciences "*Biennial Psychology Conference*"
- February 17th** - College of Education & Leadership "*Literacy and Education Symposiums*"
College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Allied Health and Nursing "*Nursing Symposium*"
- February 18th** - School of Religion & Theology Lecture (Not accepting abstracts)
Closing Ceremony

NO REGISTRATION OR ATTENDANCE FEE. SESSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Special Feature

Abi-Gaye Smythe keeps it Pumping



At nineteen, Abi-Gaye Smythe was not learning to drive, or worrying about freshman year in college. She was in the doctor's office being diagnosed with Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD).

ARVD is a heart disease that affects the right side of the heart and causes abnormal heart rhythms and increases the risk of cardiac arrest. At nineteen, she was learning that her life could end at any time but she was not complaining that she was bored or tired of life, she was fighting to live.

After her diagnosis in 2011 she underwent two surgeries in 2012. First to regulate her heart beat with an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) and the second to put the ICD deeper since her body was fighting against it.

As if that trauma wasn't enough, in 2013 she was hospitalized when her heart rate went over 190 beats per minute (bpm) on the brink of cardiac arrest. Regular heart rhythms lie between 50 and 90 beats per minute. The ICD shocked her in an attempt to slow down her heart beat. However, the intensity of the shocks caused the wires from the ICD to shift and almost pierced her heart.

Living with heart disease.

Her heart disease continues to affect both her personal and school life. "People gravely fear this condition to the point where it affects relationships and I can't be as active as I used to be, my passion for dancing is out the window, I may not be able to even carry a child."



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Abi-Gaye attended Manchester High School and she was an active member of the Girls Guide Club and a remarkable dancer. She describes her time at high school as the best days of her life. However, since being diagnosed Abi's life has not been the same. She has had to sit out semesters as a result of the surgeries. She is currently pursuing her Communications Studies degree at Northern Caribbean University (NCU) with an emphasis in Television. Her peers describe her as a courageous person who has used her obstacles to positively propel her life forward. Shana-Kaye Azan, Abi-Gaye's friend and classmate declared, "Instead of being in despair about her health she seeks to help and motivate others."

Support from family

Abi-Gaye Smythe's cousins Julie Ann Nelson (Left) Monique Smythe (right)

Abi's family remains positive. They pray with her and support her when she has to do her checkups every three months. "I have a strong support team of my close friends and family. My dad and big brothers take care of me."

There is a history of heart disease in Abi's family her mother died of Ventricular Arrhythmia when Abi was nine. Her cousin Julie-Ann Nelson stepped up as the maternal figure staying at her side for consultations, heart test and surgeries. Abi's cousin Monique Smythe said she became a stronger person after her surgeries.

"She is more motivated to help others and make a change in society." Abi seeks to help others through The Abi-Gaye Smythe 'I Have a Heart' Foundation.

Making a Difference

As a result of the struggles that Abi faced during her surgery she established The Abi-Gaye Smythe 'I have a Heart' Foundation to help persons who are affected by heart disease in Jamaica. The foundation advocates for the financial and psychological needs of people living with heart disease in Jamaica.

Abi-Gaye Smythe speaking at the Rotaract Club of Northern Caribbean University Induction Ceremony 2014



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"Seeing and actually experiencing the struggles of living with a heart condition and knowing that there are others out there less fortunate than I am, I decided to start a foundation to help those people" She started the foundation in 2013, and has been campaigning and sharing her story with students across the island. The Abi-Gaye Smythe 'I Have a Heart' Foundation launched the 'Keep It Pumping' school tour in October 2014. Since then Abi and her team have visited several high schools in central Jamaica and she shared her story with the students.

"When I share my story and people tell me that I am their motivation, their inspiration and that I am the strongest person they know, that gives me the extra push to keep going. That motivates me." Despite her desire to make a difference in the lives of people across Jamaica she has been facing difficulty in terms of funding for her foundation.

Help Abi-Gaye fulfill her dream of helping persons who are affected by heart disease by donating to The Abi-Gaye Smythe 'I have a Heart' Foundation Jamaica National account 2094135044. Her foundation can be found on Facebook at The Abi Gaye Smythe 'I have a Heart' Foundation and on twitter @i2HaveaHeart.

It has been four years since her diagnosis and Abi-Gaye is living well with heart disease. She is driven to get her education and help other people with heart disease in Jamaica. Abi-Gaye Smythe is the "little girl with a big heart".

Writer: Tanica Cowan (NCU student)



Delegates Elect New Administration for Jamaica Union Conference

Approximately 275 delegates at the Second (First Quinquennial) Session of the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (JAMU) voted unanimously to elect a new administration to provide Spiritual and administrative leadership to its more than 280,000 members for the next five year.

The Session was held at the Mandeville Adventists Church in Manchester from December 1-3, 2015.



Officers of the Jamaica Union Conference (L-R) Pastors; Meric Walker - Executive Secretary, Everett Brown – President and Bancroft Barwise – Treasurer.

Read more . . . http://www.jmunion.org/news/news_item.aspx?NewsID=2170



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Obituary



The Office of Alumni Relations takes the opportunity to express condolences to the family and friends of the late Velda Cobb Brown ('90, '92). As we all mourn her passing let us be comforted in the hope that on the day when Jesus shall call her name, she will rise in the newness of life with an immortal body - free from all the diseases of this life. Debbie, as she was affectionately called, had a positive perspective on life and her *joie de vivre* was admired by all.

Please pray for her widower Bobby Brown ('92), her children Eden and Michaela, the members of the NCU Alumni Association - Pacific Coast Chapter where she was the president, her associates, and the many friends she has left behind.

Our loved ones remain in our hearts forever; they are no more than a thought away. They live on in the cherished memories: the remembered nuances of the stern warning, the kind words, the wise words, the thoughtful gestures, the meaningful looks, the special prayers and best wishes.

Velda Cobb Brown ('90, '92) died in California, USA after a period of illness. The Celebration Service for the life of **Mrs Velda "Debbie" Cobb Brown** is as follows:

DATE: Sunday, December 13, 2015
VIEWING: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
SERVICE: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: La Sierra University Church,
4937 Sierra Vista Avenue,
Riverside, CA 92505

In lieu of flowers you are encouraged to give to a scholarship fund, that will be named for Velda, at La Sierra Academy. Details will follow when the specifics are finalized.

Your messages of hope may be sent to bobbyanthonybrown@gmail.com



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Life Week

NOV 29th - DEC 5th
7pm nightly

Waltham Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Theme
Resilient Families in a Complex World

Sunday
Being Resilient as a Couple
MRS. TASHIKA FRANCIS

Monday
Resilient Parenting
DR BROWN-EARLE, ET AL

Tuesday
Building Family Cohesion in a Complex World
MR. HOWARD ANDERSON, MRS. SHARON ANDERSON

Wednesday
Building Resilient Communication as a Couple
DR VENESE MADDEN

Thursday
Singles in a Complex World
DR DERICK EVANS

Sabbath
The signs of a Degenerating Marriage/Family (Divine Hour)
The Family & Spirituality (AY)
ELDER ANTHONY GORDON



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INTERNATIONAL JAMAICAN
GOSPEL ARTISTE, JOHN LUCAS
P R E S E N T S

The John Lucas
Benefit Concert
SERIES

FEATURING
JOHN LUCAS AND THE JL SINGERS FROM JAPAN
AND OTHER LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTES

DEC 5
6:30 PM
KARRAM SPEID AUDITORIUM
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

DEC 6
6:30 PM
N.C.U. GYMNATORIUM
MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA

PROCEEDS IN AID OF

- KINGSWAY HIGH SCHOOL
- NORTHERN CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY
- COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF MANDEVILLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

ADULTS: \$800 PRESOLD CHILDREN: \$500
\$1000 AT THE GATE UNDER 12 AND STUDENTS WITH ID PAY AT THE GATE

SPONSORED BY: THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN JAMAICA  AND THE EMBASSY OF JAMAICA IN JAPAN 



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NORTHERN CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY
NCU

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

presents

*A Celebration of
Christian Education*

32nd Annual

Fundraiser Banquet

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Featuring:

- Opera Singer, Oscar Andrade
- Violinist, Leah Fynn
- And much more!!!

December 13, 2015
5:30 PM

Tickets: \$65 Per Person

HOLY TRINITY RECEPTION CENTER
1217 TRINITY WOODS LANE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CONTACT EITHER:

Vilma Campbell (201.220.4905); Everard Daley (321.277.6084); Jerome Higgins (407.578.5560 or 516.244.6780);
Nicola McClymont (407.227.6461); Paul Clarke (407.579.9223); or Sandra Baldwin (407.880.9293 or 917.544.7459).