

Family Guardian's Annual Scholarship Award to COB Students

The College of The Bahamas prides itself that it offers high standards of teaching and meaningful, relevant curricula in its nation building purpose to develop a better educated Bahamian population. However, it recognizes that it cannot do all it wants to without corporate partners prepared to donate funds to assist it in its mission. One such partner of long standing is Family Guardian Insurance Company, a company that has been involved with The College for 18 years in awarding scholarships to deserving Bahamian students.

On Thursday 11th January, Family Guardian hosted a reception at its corporate headquarters to recognize its six 2006/2007 scholarship recipients. The company's Vice-President of Human Resources & Public Relations, Anne Higgs, began the charmingly informal reception by expressing her pride and pleasure at having been involved with the scholarship programme since its inception in 1988. "This reception is an annual event," she said. "We want to get to know our students as more than a name and a grade but as part of Family Guardian's extended family."

President and CEO of Family Guardian, Patricia Hermanns, welcomed the assembled students, family members and guests, and senior personnel from both COB and Family Guardian and gave a brief history of the scholarship programme. Six students are supported each year – four from New Providence and two from the Family Islands. She spoke of Family Guardian's strong, unwavering commitment to the programme and The College and noted that in the eighteen years since the annual award began, Family Guardian has donated over \$250,000 to assist more than 80 students in their endeavours. "We were proud to double the amount of our annual award in 1999," she added, "And we are equally proud to announce an increase of five thousand dollars this year. From 2007 the award will be \$25,000 per year." Mrs. Hermanns closed by wishing COB continued success and further expressing Family Guardian's support to The College in all it is attempting to achieve.

COB's President, Janyne Hodder, responded by thanking Family Guardian and saying that since she took office in July 2006, she has investigated the history of The College's relationships with its donors and Family Guardian shines as an exemplary donor in both its commitment and its generosity. "Family Guardian is helping us to build on solid foundations," she added, "And our students are being allowed to flourish thanks to scholarship programmes such as yours. At COB, soon to be the University of The Bahamas, we believe that no country should outsource its higher education. You don't export your best talent, and scholarships are helping us to achieve that."

The six students and their guests then introduced themselves. Each stated his or her major which range from accounting to culinary arts and from banking and finance to education, before Cheryl Carey, Director of Financial Aid and Housing at COB, spoke of the students' responsibilities as "social changing agents" in partnership with The College. Students Aleshia Colebrook and Denika Major both remarked how vital the scholarships were to their attending COB and expressed their gratitude to Family Guardian. Roderick Malone who is studying law said that such are the demands of the law programme that he has no opportunities to work, so without the scholarship he would not be able to pay for his tuition. He also expressed his gratitude. Everyone then enjoyed refreshments and relaxed conversations to end a very special occasion for all present.

Written by:
Gordon Mills, Senior Writer/Editor
Office of Communication
The College of The Bahamas
(242) 302-4354

Photo on following page



The 2006/2007 recipients of Family Guardian's annual COB scholarship award recently visited the company and met senior personnel: (seated) students Maurissa Hutcheson (New Providence), Charvette Strachan (Eleuthera) and Aleshia Colebrook (Andros); (standing) Roderick Malone (Abaco), Denika Major (New Providence), COB President Janyne Hodder, Family Guardian President & CEO Patricia Hermanns, COB Director of Financial Aid & Housing Cheryl Carey, and student Ruvane Adderley (New Providence). Family Guardian has announced an increase in its annual scholarship award programme.