



The Mannings85.Com Special Edition Newsletter

"A will in 1710 ... I will in 2010"

"Providing Service For Today And Tomorrow From The Blessings Of Yesterday"

4th June 2010

A Message From Our President - Carl Mighty



Hello and welcome to this Special Edition of your newsletter. I hope this greets you all in the very best of spirits. In recognition of the fact that we are edging ever closer to what will be an unprecedented celebration in August 2010, of the history of our school, we felt the time was appropriate to kick start our communications and to let you know that the Big August 2010 Reunion is most definitely on.

Before we delve into all the information, we should explain the reasons for our hiatus. Basically, we had our fair share of difficulties trying to keep pace with the rapid developments within the community and in securing the content needed for our newsletters. We'd embarked on a series of global "link-ups", that was absolutely necessary in bringing together past and present students across the world (more information available below). Phew! And if that wasn't enough, we also had the high profiled Curry Festival to contend with and we were very clear that we did not want any competing priorities to obscure our communications about the Reunion.

So, now that we've got all that out of the way, rest assured, we are now committed, poised and ready to present the biggest and best reunion experience that Manning's School has ever seen in August 2010 ... the question is, are you ready?

Let me also use this opportunity on behalf of the entire Mannings85 community, to say a huge welcome to the new Manning's School Principal, Mr. Steve Gordon. We have long anticipated the arrival of a principal who shares the same set of values, passion and long-term vision we have for our school. We believe we have found that in Mr. Gordon and we hope to establish a long and productive relationship with him and his team. We wish him every success as he begins the restoration of Manning's to its rightful place as the premiere high school in the west.



*We had the opportunity to ask Mr. Gordon a few question and these were his responses:

Question: Where do you originate from and what's your background (academically etc.)?

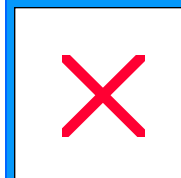
Mr. Gordon: I am originally from the Kingston 20 area. Being born and bred in the down town area, I attended high schools such as the St. Anne's High School and St. Andrew Technical High School.

I attended the University of Technology - twice. First for a diploma in secondary education with emphasis in the area of Industrial Technology (Electrical); and a

Reason To Attend The 2010 Reunion

Here's a list of reasons you should attend the 2010 Reunion:

- You will laugh, cry and reminisce with some of your oldest friends
- You won't have to lie about your age - you'll be among good company
- You can rekindle or begin new relationships
- You can act like a big shot and hand out business cards and network
- You can rub your success in everyone's faces
- To see if that old "crush" is still available
- To relive the glory days when we were all younger, thinner, better looking, and worry-free
- The school is going to benefit hugely from the exposure and the funds we raise
- It is quite simply going to be the event of the year and possibly of your life. Its better to be there than to be told about it



Important Places To Visit
[The 2010 Reunion Site](#)

[The Mannings85 Guestbook](#)

second time to read for a first degree in the same area.

An Organization of American State Scholarship (OAS), afforded me the opportunity to study at Illinois State University for a Masters Degree in Technology; with a Project Leadership Major.

Question: What do you feel you bring to the school?

Mr. Gordon: I bring to the school a youthful exuberance that is often times described as 'refreshing.' I am a transformational leader that believes firmly in transparency, fairness and accountability. As a technologically savvy individual, I take pride in developing and operating in a first class environment. To this end, strategic and logical planning is part of the trust that will drive the continued development of Manning's School.

Question: What do you see as the early priorities/challenges and what are your future plans for the school?

Mr. Gordon: Immediate priorities/challenges would be to address:

- 1. The indiscipline tendencies among students and staff
- 2. The depreciation/poor condition of (some) buildings
- 3. The general appearance of the plant
- 4. The Development of a Sports Programme
- 5. Low moral/loyalty to school among students
- 6. Policies or the lack thereof that segmented the vision of the institution

A vision on the way forward needs to be realized, as a part of the long term objectives. First, a model of the school as it is currently, needs to be fully understood and a future model needs to be developed that will guide the way forward. This includes a physical model of the plant and a long term strategic model that will guide the development of all academic and non-academic initiatives for the next ten years (or the 300 years in the life of the school).

* Published with the kind permission of Mr. Gordon

The Reunion - Progress Update



The 2010 Reunion has taken on a whole new meaning since its inception where the original intention was to simply have one Reunion event for only past students. It has now evolved into a celebration of the 300th year of the will of Thomas Manning and will be an all encompassing series of events bringing together the various past student associations, past/present students, faculty members etc.

Given the sheer magnitude and the numbers likely to attend, we had to look closely at how we could ultimately deliver on a scale that will assure success. It therefore made sense to have the events run over a week and to assign responsibility for the specific days to the various past-student associations with a vested interest. Subsequently, we've put some information together for you on what format the events will take.

The events are as follows:

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- **Maxine Gopaul** - Marketing Executive
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Editors

- **Sunday - August 1st 2010**, we formally launch proceedings with a Commemoration Service of the will of Thomas Manning at the Torrington Wesleyan Holiness Church. A sub-committee is working on the finer details of this headed by Yvette Williams and a full draft for the entire service is imminent. News off the press is that there will definitely be a very high profiled guest speaker or two present. Current figures suggest that over 600 people have confirmed attendance for this day.

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- **Monday - August 2nd 2010**, has been dubbed "Labour Day" and will truly be a day where we will give back to the school. Our intention is to undertake lots of activities that will be geared towards enhancing the school e.g. painting and decorating, gardening, grounds maintenance, administrative work etc. This committee is being led by Esmie Gray who will work with the school to ensure that we have a targeted approach to the activities, which should in turn guarantee that we will meet the needs of the school. We hope that as many people as possible turn out to make this a historic, productive and truly memorable day of giving back to our school. Any help that can be given, i'm sure we will find a need for it.

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- **Tuesday - August 3rd 2010**, is Memorial Day. It is the day where we will remember all our past students, principals and academic staff who are no longer with us. A truly touching tribute will take place on the front lawn of the school which we hope will be a fitting way to show our love, honour and respect for our fallen who will never be forgotten. The committee for this event is being led by Roger Walcott.

This is also the day where we will host an Alumni Forum, which for the very first time, brings together all the various Manning's Past Student Associations. This forum aims to unite the various associations so that we all work towards the same goals to benefit the school. Unity is strength, so we hope that this will help us to tackle problems facing the school more effectively to secure a brighter future. More information on this forum coming soon ...

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- **Wednesday - August 4th 2010**, is "Year Group" Day. This is the day set aside for all the year groups to host their very own Reunion. Who will host the best one ... I wonder ...

Each Year Group will have its own coordinating committee who will take responsibility for planning the events. Please visit the Reunion Website to find out who your leaders are.

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- **Thursday - August 5th 2010**, get ready for an evening of glitz and glamour. This is the evening where we will cater to you with some fine dining and music all being expertly handled by our very own Nurse Khan. This is an evening you will not want to miss.
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- **Friday - August 6th 2010**, is Independence Day and as this is a National Holiday, we felt there should be no planned activities for this day. We would rather that people celebrate the day as they see fit.
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- **Saturday - August 7th 2010**, is a double whammy day. First of all

Comments



Your School Needs You

What a gwaan people and all pork-eaters? A long time unnu nuh hear from wi don't? Well first off, mek mi tell unnu sorry fi de long absence but wi had a lot to contend with, all of which impacted on the time we were able to dedicate to getting a proper newsletter done.

As mi keep telling unnu, wi nuh jus put out any and anyting! When wi do it, it haffi done right or it nuh mek sense! But tenk unnu fi all de understanding and big up to all those who kept the fire burning by constantly demanding more newsletters.

Let mi jus seh inna true Jamaican style - big up to de new principal, Mr. Steve Gordon. Wi know dat you're going to take Manning's to where it needs to be and we are here to give our full support.



there will be a big sports day with lots of activities including Netball, Football, Cricket, Athletics, Tug-O-War and much more. Then there will be a concert dubbed "Putting On The Hits 3" where past students will perform on stage, just like we used back in the days. We can also confirm that there will be some big special guest stars.

I wish we could reveal more but what I can tell you is, this promises to be a day of total excitement and a great throwback to the good old days.

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- **Sunday - August 8th 2010**, we bring things to a close with a brunch where everyone can get to together to bid farewell, Bon Voyage, Adios, later etc.

Of course we will continue to supply you with more updates through our usual communication channels e.g. our 2010 Reunion website, Twitter, Facebook etc.

Global Linkups!

Over the last year, we embarked on a series of groundbreaking "linkups" that saw the coming together of past students in the United Kingdom, Canada, New York, Atlanta and Florida.

The aim of the events was to unite the various Manning's School Communities around the world into a more closely knit entity and to garner support and interest for the big 2010 Reunion.

We are very pleased to report that in every country or city that a link-up took place, they were well supported as people who had not seen each other in many years, came together like the one big family we're supposed to be. We are also very heartened by the fact that people willingly gave up their time and energies to help make each event a success.

So without further ado, here are some shots of the various reunions just in case you haven't had the chance to see these pics

Canada Linkup - July 18, 2009 (Organisers - Clement "Tutty" Boyd, O'neil Ruddock, Henry Ruddock and Gerard "Bobby" Stewart)

Now ... dis newsletter is a likkle bit different from the rest because its a Special Edition, which is all about the big 2010 Reunion as opposed to our previous ones where we had a variety of content. Mi feel like seh a time fi start holla out bout de Reunion because we want people to come and support the ting.

The newsletter is just one way that we're spreading the word, very soon, you will see Savanna-La-Mar lit up with adverts, you will hear the airwaves buzzing across Jamaica. As a matter of fact mek mi jus tell unnu how wi have the most talented Gillian Larmond on our marketing team nuh.



One of the ways that we've already started to spread the word is through a weekly radio show being done by Simon and your truly on the internet and we already have rave reviews and a nice little following. If you haven't checked us out yet, **join us every Saturday at 16:00 pm GMT or 11:00 am in Florida, NY, ATL, Canada and 10:00 a.m. in Jamaica. The next show is on the 5th of June where will "Hits From The Year 2000 Onwards". Click on the image below which takes you direct to the station. Trust**



Florida Linkup - August 29, 2009 (Organisers - Andrea Coley, Mark Ellis and Cleve Bucknor)



New York Linkup - October 10, 2009 (Organisers - Antoinette Gordon-Hessing, Paul Rowe and Leroy Williams)

mi, it nice, we even have some live interviews, plus we will reveal something BIG about the reunion every week!



I can tell unnu dat there are several meetings taking place at least daily/nightly across the globe to put together a week of events that is going to unrivalled and unforgettable. A nuff sleep me lose aready, but I know its going to be worth it as I can see the passion and the commitment that everyone has for this project. There are people from different year groups collaborating, who've never even met each other but the vibe i'm getting is that this is a special, family ting ... its a Manning's family ting, so we're all putting 150% into it.

Sneek Peeks - I can tell you that we have the lovely Nurse Jennifer Khan (Hotel Comingle) taking care of our banquet, so you know its going to be proper food and hollywood style sinting! I can also tell you we have a big special guest for the opening ceremony - watch de space. I also hear that the Concert Day is going to be mad as well because some BIG name people and past students are already booked to rock de place.



UK Linkup - October 17, 2009 (Organisers - Simon Latham and Terry Paul)



ATL Linkup - April 10, 2010 (Organisers - Juliet Vanreil McPherson and Sean Young)



So, when you hear bout some of the tings we have planned ... the only ting you should be thinking is fi go to de Reunion website and register for the events that you're able to attend. When yu done dat, den yu must go and book your ticket because de airline dem ago pack up wid Manning's students coming home fi di ting! De ting ago nice!



If you think the linkups that we held across the world was anything, imagine the situation where all the people that attended all the linkups, buck up inna Jamaica. It ago register up a de top a de Richter scale!

Finally, i'm looking forward to this event and mi already book my ticket! This is once in a lifetime event, its never been done before, certainly not on this scale. We want it to be an event that people are going to remember as long as they live. We want people to come and support the event because as Manning's past students, we are one big family.

Recognise that we are not chapters or associations - we all went to the same school and we



all love our school. Let's do for our school what it did for us. Click the Reunion image link below and go to the website go confirm yourself as attending now ... me do it aready, a fi unnu turn now!

MANNING'S SCHOOL REUNION 2010

Til next time mi people, walk and live good.

Terry Paul - Editor In Chief

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The editor would like to say thank you to the following people who made this newsletter possible:

Carl Mighty - nice speech sir

Simon Latham - Look 'ere nuh!

Donna Tomlinson-Weyland - I have a question!

Mr. Steve Gordon - our new Principal



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**The Admin Team at Manning's
School - Alana**

**And a very special thanks
goes out to Mr. Neville
"Trouble" Wilson, who is
working his socks off for this
Reunion - we appreciate all
your hard work and dedication
Neville.**



**Anywhere yu see dis man ..
Big him up, de bredda deserve
it!**

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