

Making a difference calls for some sacrifice in the Pride for Sparta

In August of this year, ten deserving students at B.W. Harris were officially awarded scholarships in the school's auditorium. The criteria for receiving these scholarships as designed by the Scholarship Committee of the B.W. Harris Alumni Association in the United States were as follows:

- Student had to be currently enrolled at the School
- Student must have earned a B average or better
- Student had to submit previous year's grades
- Student had to be recommended by faculty
- Student had to show financial need
- Student had to have good conduct

The recipients of the scholarships were Selecia Williams, Richard Lepolu, Vanessa Itoka, Francis Ajavon, McWilliams Jones, Mohammed Sy, Francis Blamo, Nathan Freeman, Kunwee Doe and Felicia Doh.

The awards program was attended by the Acting Principal Mrs. Roberta Phillips, Faculty, Parents of the recipients and a delegation from the B.W. Harris Alumni Association USA including Mrs. Karen Cassell, Mrs. Veleria Hall Jalloh, Mr. Jimmy Neal and the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee Mr. Joshua F. Cassell.

The value of these scholarships cannot be over emphasized any more than what the parents and students attested to. The tears in the eyes of parents along with humility and appreciation expressed to the Alumni Association are testaments to your commitment to education, excellence and the ultimate social, academic and economic viability to the Liberian society.

I admonish the association to really cultivate and enhance the relationship with our young impressionable minds in Liberia. I hope that we will position ourselves to maintain these scholarships and also possibly increase the number as long as there are qualified students for the awards.

I ask your permission to bring other pertinent information to your cognizance, though they are out of the scope of my immediate position. In my estimation, the school is in need of work. The school needs a structural facelift to create a healthy learning environment if we must gravitate towards excellence representative of our exposure and achievement abroad. There are no windows or chairs in the auditorium, classrooms are also in need of additional chairs, classrooms are dark and unsightly due to lack of bright paint. In short the building has left its glory days that can very well be revived; behind.

While in Liberia, we were chanced to visit the College of West Africa and were in awe of the work that has been done at the school. I have been told that it was undertaken by the Alumni Association. The structure has been professionally rehabilitated and is indeed a pride. I believe we can also raise the bar for our involvement and participation for our alma mater.

The Alumni Association is looked upon with a lot of respect by the School's administration and the Episcopal Diocese. There seems to be very high expectations from the Alumni Association ranging from Diocesan dialogue engagement to funding subsidy for faculty.

Speaking to Trustee Juanita Neal, the school is contemplating the raising of school fees by twenty five percent to enable the administration to retain good teachers in a very competitive environment.

I will close now with the expectation that we discuss the Liberian situation in greater strategic detail.

Spartanly Submitted,
Joshua F. Cassell
Chairman Scholarship Committee