

November, 2023

Island Scholars is pleased to present our 2023 graduates. This year, because of the generous contributions of our donors, 18 students are now ready to embark on exciting journeys beyond the undergraduate classroom. Among the scholars are degrees in - Accounting, Biochemistry, Biology, Criminology, Diagnostic Imaging, Education, Engineering, HR, Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Psychology. This year's cohort brings to 88 the total number of our students to have graduated over the last nine (9) years. Below, we highlight the accomplishments of this year's scholars and share with you four of their many heartwarming stories.



**Shenese
Trimmingham**

Shenese's journey began with a love for the Biological Sciences and the hope of turning this love into a lucrative career. In 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, she received further direction and confirmation of her career path as the need for specialists in the areas of Molecular Biology became increasingly evident.

Describing herself as being a small island girl with her eyes on attaining a good education, Shenese has never once taken her eyes off of her goals. Faced with many challenges from childhood such as the financial constraints of a single parent household, Shenese has been

been an overcomer.

With the invaluable support of Island Scholars, Shenese earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology & Biochemistry with honors. She expressed deep gratitude to the donors of Island Scholars. Your contributions helped Shenese focus intently on academics by reducing the ongoing financial stress of funding her education with limited resources.



Vayani Toney

Vayani Toney, another outstanding graduate, is the pride of his family, being the very first to complete a high school or Tertiary education. He describes the scholarship from Island Scholars as life changing

since it came at a time when his financial situation was its dimmest. With the help of Island Scholars Vayani graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice as the top Criminology student with Magna Cum Laude Honors.



**Mikhail
Browne**

We celebrate with Vayani and wish him continued success as he pursues a Master's Degree in National Security and Intelligence Studies with Concentration in Intelligence Analysis & Management.

Mikhail Browne graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering with honors. He praised Island Scholars for its invaluable contribution to his education, including the encouragement he received from Ron Rose. He expressed how extremely proud he is to have been selected as an Island Scholars scholarship recipient.



Sweet-I Robertson

Sweet-I's journey through the University of the West Indies is both a story of ambition and extreme determination. Being disabled from the age of 16, with only the parental support of her mother, Sweet-I has faced numerous challenges for most of her life. The prospects of attending university were dim for a long time given her limitations but she never gave up. In 2018, she applied to the University of the West Indies and was accepted to pursue a degree in Psychology. This year, at the age of 30, Sweet-I graduated with First Class Honors - an accomplishment achieved with incomparable grit and determination.

Sweet-I credits her success to Island Scholars and Mr. Ron Rose specifically for not only providing financial support but much needed mental support too. She stated, "Truth be told, there were moments when I considered giving up but a single text message from Ron Rose would instantly change my whole demeanor (in the best way possible) and I really appreciate it."

Below are the other outstanding 2023 Graduates:

Akeel	Alexander	Math & Computer Science	UWI Cave Hill
Jevon	Bynoe	Literacy Education	UWI Global Campus
Ornelia	Child	Secondary English	UWI Global Campus
Andrea	Durrant	Psychology	UWI Global Campus
Moesha	Gage	Marketing	UWI Global Campus
Miracle	Harry	Diagnostic Imaging	UWI Mona
Breya	John	Early Childhood Development & Family Studies	UWI Global Campus (Valedictorian)
Romancia	Jordon	Criminal Justice	Ashworth University
Amber	Murphy	Nursing	UWI Mona
Roxanne	Richards	Marketing	UWI Global Campus
Shawnecia	Smart	Accounting	UWI Global Campus
Alyssa	Sterling	Accounting	UWI Cave Hill
Kenroy	Williams	Human Resources	UWI Global Campus
Junique	Williams	Physical Therapy	UWI Mona

Other 2023 graduates will be featured in future publications

She went on to express her heartfelt gratitude to the donors of Island Scholars for making her dream possible despite her many challenges. We celebrate her outstanding achievement and look forward to hearing of future accomplishments as she pursues a career in online teaching. Sweet-I's story is just one of the many success stories that echo how seemingly impossible feats can become realities with the right combination of resources.

To date, ninety (90) Island Scholars students in their 20s, 30s, and 40s have earned Bachelor's degrees. A heartfelt thank you to our generous donors for turning many long deferred dreams into reality. Your support continues to make a tremendous difference in the lives and future opportunities of our scholars. We are indeed grateful. Please continue to support the outstanding work of Island Scholars. Thank you.

Ron Rose