

From the Desk of

Eric Hammond, PE

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To: All Florida CAST-UTECH Alumni and Beyond

Welcome to the newly revived **CAST-UTech Alumni of South Florida**. It has been ten (10) years since this Association became inactive and defunct, and during this time, there was no support for **our good old College, CAST-UTECH, “The Best School of All.”**

This is our great old College, which gave us a solid professional base, with an unmatched education, and practical exposure to work life, and which is now seeking our involvement and support.

The College is having many challenges, in various areas of different faculties. One of these areas is the School of Engineering, in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing.

Early last year, I visited The College with my wife, who is also a past student. We met with the then Acting President of the College, Professor Colin Gyles, and various heads of Faculties, who outlined the various challenges that the College is facing. They expressed the fact that they needed the Alumni to play a role in The College’s future path. They took us on a tour of the College and identified areas of pressing need. We immediately offered our support and promised to revive the then defunct CAST-UTech Alumni of South Florida.

An immediate need for the School of Engineering was the restoration of the Computer Room and the provision of new computers to replace the current obsolete, antiquated, and inoperable existing set of computers. I was provided with the Specs for 20 Powerful Engineering Ready Computers by The Head of the School of Engineering.

I contacted a friend (Lurline Mills) who is retired from but still linked with The United Nations (UN), and asked her to use her connection, to get some Computers from UN, for the cause. I knew she had done this before. At that time, The Florida Alumni was not yet revived. She was able to secure one hundred (100) Computers for us, including 40 Laptops. The only drawback was these Computers were not for Engineering Applications, but more-so for administrative use.

The Florida Alumni Chapter was not yet revived and operating, so we collaborated with the only active Alumni Chapter: Alumni of New York. They are A Non-Profit Organization with the 501 c3 designation. I requested that they provide The Letter of Request, under the guidance of Lurline Mills.

And the rest is history! New York promptly arranged the delivery of the computers to UTech. We were then asked by the current and newly appointed President, Dr Kevin Brown and the Alumni Relations Manager, Cheryl Messam, to be present at The College, for the acknowledgement and acceptance of the computers. By then, we had already resurrected the South Florida Alumni Chapter.

The Presentation and Acceptance of the computers were conducted on the morning of March 20, 2024, at UTech, with New York and Florida in attendance together with Lurline Mills. Photographs of the meeting will be forthcoming.

Since then, I have already earmarked and prepared Eight (8) Computers from my office, to be sent to UTech. These are specialized computers, able to handle AutoCAD, Revit, and BIM Programs for Engineering Applications. These Computers became available because our office upgraded to laptops only.

This is just the start of many things to come. We plan to call for our first or inaugural meeting of the New Florida Alumni Chapter very soon, in person and by Zoom. We plan to review and expand a proposed list of projects to raise funds, and also explore some joint initiatives with the New York Chapter, to benefit our Good Old College.

We have many accomplished graduates of CAST-UTech, with varied expertise, who can give back their knowledge to the students and the College. This will help Our College to retake and expand its rightful place as **the Preeminent Educational and Applications Oriented Institution of Higher Learning in Jamaica and The Caribbean.**

We ask for your support and guidance as we dig deeper into this ambitious venture.

Please see the [UTech, Ja Alumni Contact Information – South Florida Link](#) and share your contact details with us today.

If you wish to discuss this further, feel free to contact me via cell/WhatsApp c. (954) 599-7410 or email: ericham@att.net.

I welcome you to our **CAST-UTech Alumni of South Florida Chapter network**, and look forward to working with you for the benefit of UTech.

Sincerely,

Eric Hammond, PE