

UNIVERSITY OF FONDWA 2004

VOL. 1 NO. 1

FALL 2004

UNIF 2004: A VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

On January 1, 2004, Haiti celebrated 200 years of independence. Two centuries after this initial liberation, however, many in the country are still struggling for basic social and economic well-being. Father Joseph Philippe of Fondwa, Haiti has been an active participant in this struggle.

Philippe helped to found the Association of Peasants of Fondwa (APF) in 1988. Since its founding, APF has transformed the area by improving its basic infrastructure; engaging in reforestation and soil conservation; and establishing the St. Anthony school, among other projects.

Once these projects were in place, however, Philippe believed it was time for the people of Haiti to have access to higher education that would speak to the daily realities of the rural majority.

In a country where approximately 67,000 students are prepared each year to enter university, only 35% are able to find place at institutions of higher learning. More importantly, even though 80% of Haiti is mountainous and more than 60%

of the population makes its living from the land, there is no university in the mountains to provide training or technical assistance to these communities.

As the newest APF project, UNIF 2004 promises to deliver a new and vital approach to learning that will ultimately benefit all of the many regions from which Fondwa students are drawn. UNIF 2004 is based on the model of the "mountain university" found in other parts of Latin America and the Caribbean where the geography is similar to Haiti's. The approach to learning differs from that of the typical university in that theory, research and practice are systematically

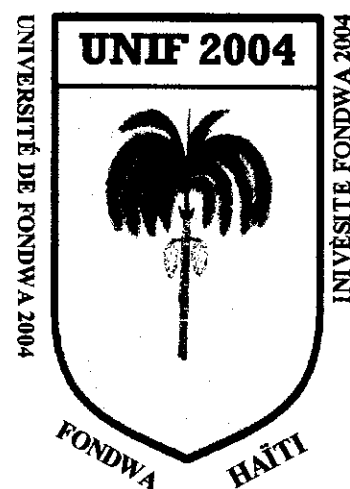
woven together throughout the curriculum.

Much of the learning will be hands-on and students will dedicate several months each year to working on projects in their home community. In addition, care is taken to encourage the use of sustainable and participatory methods for rural community development. Upon completing the program, students agree to return to work and serve in their home communities.

The community of Fondwa celebrated the opening of UNIF 2004 on January 4th with a mass held at St. Anthony school. Many are working hard to see that this vision for sustainable rural development flourishes.



A SCENE FROM THE MASS CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION OF UNIF JANUARY 4, 2004



Inside this issue:

University Volunteers	2
Meet Some of UNIF 2004's Students	2
Interview with a Student	3
UNIF-USA Committee Supports UNIF 2004 Vision	3
UNIF 2004 Mission and Wish List	4

UNIVERSITY OF FONDWA 2004

VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FONDWA

**From David and
Jamalyn Williamson**

Hello from Fondwa, Haiti! Our names are David and Jamalyn Williamson and we have been living in Fondwa since August of 2003. Since our arrival we have learned much about Haitian culture and our role here.

We live in the APF guest house that also serves as an international house for the volunteers in Fondwa. In

addition to living with other American and European volunteers, we have enjoyed spending time with Sisters Carmelle and Simon and the five novices, one nurse, and three girls who go to the local school. Our housing arrangement is certainly diverse!

We have had the opportunity to have some involvement with the newly created university and we will help the university by teaching a

few courses. This semester Jamalyn taught a section for the computer class, and next semester Dave will teach English. The University has started with virtually nothing in materials, but believes education to be the key to Haiti's future, and so the doors opened for classes despite the lack of resources. For instance, at the beginning of the computer unit Jamalyn taught, she was without computers for her

computer course. In the meantime, students practiced typing on disconnected keyboards, and therefore the students were unable to check their work. However, the students have a desire to learn and continue on without a complaint. The University continues on with the spirit of reviving Haiti through education at the grassroots level.

"The University has started with virtually nothing in materials, but believes education to be the key to Haiti's future"

*-Dave and Jamalyn,
UNIF volunteers*

**From Anne and
Laurent**

We arrived in Fondwa January 13. Immediately we have started to work because the university was already opened. First of all, we are teaching in the university: Laurent is teaching information technology and Anne, as a vet, veterinary medicine. Second, we are working with the peasants of Fondwa. Anne is doing training about

animal health, Laurent is helping every group to write projects and to raise funds for them. He is working on a project about water, another about planting trees, and one for a professional school. Together we have organized a big campaign of vaccination against Charbon disease which affect cows and horses, against Newcastle disease which kills poultry, and against classic swine

disease. It's a great motivation for us to feel how much peasants are happy to work with us.

Both of us belong to a French association named « Volontaires pour l'avenir », which is sending volunteers to work abroad in the under developed countries. If you want to know more about us, please contact us : vpa2222@yahoo.fr

MEET SOME OF UNIF'S STUDENTS



Ednar Charles
Student of Agronomy

Ednar comes from Borgne, in the northern part of Haiti. He is studying agronomy at the University of Fondwa. Once he completes his studies, he plans to go back to his home community. He says that people work very hard, but they often do not use the best farming methods. He hopes to help them, so they can increase their production. He has 4 brothers and 2 sisters. He is the first one in his family to go to a university.



Yonide Bernadeau
Student of Management

Yonide comes from Mirabalais, in the central region of Haiti and she is studying management at UNIF. After her undergraduate studies she would like to continue to get her Master's degree. Then she would like to return to her home community to foster the growth of small businesses. 2 of her brothers died. She has one brother living and 2 sisters. She is the first one in her family to go to a university.

A Student's Experience of UNIF by Renate Schneider

Interview with

Marta Marie Olivia

Lazarre, UNIF 2004 student

Interviewer: Good Afternoon

Marta: Good Afternoon

Interviewer: Please tell us your name.

Marta: My name is Marta Marie Olivia Lazarre

Interviewer: You live in the orphanage?

Marta: Yes, I live in the orphanage.

Interviewer: Can you speak about that a little?

Marta: I have lived in the orphanage since I was 7 years old. I live there with other children and young people. Sister Simone is in charge, she is the one who makes sure that we go to school, and that we have enough to eat.

Interviewer: What went through your mind when you knew it was possible for you to go to the University of Fondwa?

Marta: I was very happy when I heard that I would be able to attend the University

of Fondwa, because there are many other young people like me who would like to attend a university but cannot, because they do not have someone who supports them and can pay for them. It is very expensive to go to the university here.

Interviewer: What do you think of your experience at the University of Fondwa so far?

Marta: What I think of my experience at the University

of Fondwa so far is that everything is going pretty well. Since it is the first time something like this has been done here, I hope that things will work even better so that we all will have a really good experience here. I hope those in charge will stand firm, and continue the work they have begun, so that we can move forward. I wish them good luck.

"I was very happy when I heard that I would be able to attend the University of Fondwa"

-Marta Marie Olivia Lazarre

Profile of UNIF Students

Gender:

10 female

10 male

Programs of Study:

Agronomy, 11

Management, 7

Veterinary, 2

Sponsor Status:

Full sponsorship, 7

Partial sponsorship, 3

No support, 10

UNIF-USA COMMITTEE SUPPORTS UNIF 2004 VISION

The UNIF-USA committee is composed of a group of US-based volunteers who are working together to support the growth and development of UNIF 2004. The group is currently led by Leigh Carter who served for many years as the executive director of FONKOZE-USA, the US-based support arm of an alternative bank for the organized poor with branches

throughout Haiti. Leigh's long-term experience with solidarity work and fundraising has helped the vision of UNIF 2004 become a reality.

UNIF-USA also benefits from the leadership of Dr. Rich Gosser, the acting executive director of Partners in Progress (PIP). PIP has been working since 1999 to promote sustainable rural development by working with

and raising funds for projects managed by the Association of Peasants of Fondwa.

UNIF-USA committee members are located in several regions across the U.S. and would be happy to organize an informational meeting for your church, club, or other organization that would like to learn more about UNIF 2004 and how to support its work.

UNIF-USA members are located in : New York city; upstate New York; North Carolina; Louisiana; Pittsburgh; and Washington D.C.

For more information about organizing an informational session in one of these areas, please contact Leigh Carter at 202-986-3949, unifusa@cs.com or Dr. Rich Gosser at 724-238-9204, rgosser@hisurfer.net.

UNIVERSITY OF FONDWA 2004

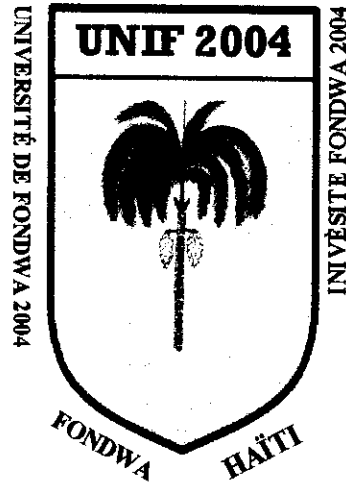
University of Fondwa 2004
c/o Partners in Progress
Richard A. Gosser, Director
329 N. Fairfield Street
Ligonier, PA 15658

Fondwa-Leogane, Haiti
Boite Postale: 13062
Delmas, Haiti

For Information on Making a Donation Contact: Rich Gosser
rgosser@hisurfer.net
Phone: 724-238-9204
Fax: 724-238-4603

For General Information Contact: Leigh Carter
unifusa@cs.com
202-986-3949

Visit our Website: www.unif2004.org



Education for sustainable and integrated development of the country's 565 rural communities is the means to combat misery and poverty in Haiti.

UNIF 2004

A model of international cooperation with a mission to provide education to the daughters and sons of Haitian peasants so that they may become agents of change in their own rural communities.

HELP MAKE UNIF 2004 A SUCCESS

- **Become a Sponsor or Partial Sponsor for a Student:** Individuals or groups may work together to sponsor a student at different levels of support.
 - \$1600 covers tuition for one year
 - \$2840 covers room, board, health care, transport, books, Internet access, photocopies, and other basic services such as water and electricity which are not provided by the state.
 - \$4440 covers all expenses for one year**OR** Make a donation of any level to be put toward the general fund for student support.
- **Help Finance University Infrastructure** The Makaya potable water project would supply water to the university as well as approximately 400 persons in the region of Fondwa.
- **Provide In-Kind Assistance:** French, Spanish, and/or English language books are currently being sought for the following subjects-agronomy, veterinary medicine, business management, language instruction in English and Spanish, information technology.

Contact Rich Gosser (724-238-9204) or Leigh Carter (202-986-3949) for more information.

