



BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS



AMBASSADOR SHORNA-KAY RICHARDS

Ambassador Shorna-Kay Richards has been the Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica since February 2026. She previously served the Ambassador of Jamaica to Japan from 2020-2025, with concurrent accreditation to Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, and New Zealand.

A member of the Jamaican Foreign Service for over 30 years, Ambassador Richards has served as the Director for Bilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, New York.

She was appointed as a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM) in 2022 and the Board of Trustees of the UN Disarmament Research Institute (UNIDIR), and the Chair of these two bodies from 2024-2025. Her other overseas postings include South Africa and Washington, D.C. Ambassador Richards holds a Master's degree in International Policy and Practice, and has been conferred with a Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa) from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey at which she gave the Commencement Address in May 2024.

FAE A. ELLINGTON CD, MA



Fae Ellington is a distinguished broadcaster, communications consultant, and cultural icon. She has built an illustrious legacy as an orator for national and state events, possessing extensive expertise in protocol matters.

Over the past three decades, Fae Ellington has established herself as a sought-after trainer in media, communication, and platform skills. The **Fae Ellington Masterclasses** have benefited companies and groups across both public and private sectors, including banks, corporate entities, business and financial firms, government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as hotels.

Fae is also well-known as an individual speaking coach. Her mentorship has guided heads of banks, doctors, attorneys-at-law, politicians, pastors, leaders in both public and private

sectors, entrepreneurs, actors, and performing artistes.

She holds a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies from the University of the West Indies, Mona.

In August 2021, she was conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Liberal Arts (Honoris Causa) by Northern Caribbean University (NCU).

Fae Ellington serves as Patron of the Clarendon 4-H Clubs and has earned numerous accolades for her contributions to the arts, education, and media. Among her honours are the Officer of the Order of Distinction (Commander Class), the Bronze Musgrave Medal, and recognition as a St. Hugh's High School Distinguished Past Student. She was named a Walk of Pride Honouree at UWI Mona in 2026. Her outstanding contributions include achievements as an award-winning actress and journalist, inspiring generations across Jamaica.

JACQUI TYSON



Most people are known for being good at one thing. Well, Jacqui Tyson is not most people, hence she has the extraordinary distinction of being multifaceted and capable of not only handling several things simultaneously but being great at them all. Indeed, she belongs in a unique category of persons who have various talents and skills who can

personally execute a project from start to finish, having conceptualized and implemented each phase with a precision that is uncanny with an eye for detail that is simply extraordinary. Such is the caliber of the professional that is Jacqui Tyson! She is one of Jamaica's most sought after event planner and gastronomic guru as her reputation precedes her and her clientele reads like the who's who of business and entertainment.

Tyson does not have to search for clients. They line up for her. That is what happens when your food speaks for itself and your staging wows audiences repeatedly. Hence, referrals are a given as word of mouth speaks volumes adding to your credentials in the food, beverages and event planning industries. Tyson is a powerhouse with panache, the gourmet giant with an innate flair for food and the event empress that will take your idea from thought to finish. BUZZZ Magazine sat down recently with Tyson to catch up with the 'bad and bougee' queen of the kitchen about her plans for 2023 and beyond, and to also find out how she evolved into this incredible connoisseur of Jamaican culture and cuisine.

With over twenty years in the business, Tyson definitely knows her way around a kitchen. Her company 'From Thought to Finish' and its subsidiary J. Tyson Events has been known to pull off some of the most memorable events staged on the island. From Shaggy & Friends to Air Jamaica Jazz & Blues and many shindigs and soirees in between, she puts her own twists of Jamaican foods, hence her tagline 'From yard style to gourmet'. Tyson has not only worked the four corners of Jamaica but also carved her knife into events around the Caribbean as well as internationally.

Tyson who came from a PR and fashion background was first introduced to the world of culinary delight by her Swiss husband who told her that if you are going to run a restaurant, you have to know how to cook. “I discovered I had a talent for it, so I studied in Switzerland and did various apprentices at different hotels. While in Switzerland, I found out that I was an exotic being and there was no one like me. When they met someone like me who had etiquette, manners, people skills and who also could speak properly, they were fascinated. They could not quite place me by background or ethnicity so they thought I was so glamorous and worldly. Once we went to Monte Carlo, and it turns out that people thought that I was a movie star and he (her husband) was my driver. They just never met anyone like me before.”

AMBASSADOR SANDRA GRANT GRIFFITHS, CD, JP
CHIEF OF STATE PROTOCOL & SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF THE SOCIETIES OF HONOUR



Ambassador Sandra Grant Griffiths, presently serves as Chief of State Protocol and Secretary-General of the Chancery of the Societies of Honour in the Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica. Her mandate and mission relate to the effective coordination of all areas of State Protocol on behalf of the Government of Jamaica. This includes national ceremonial events, national Emblems and Symbols, and the provision of technical expertise to State, Government and other authorities with respect to the application of conventions, formalities, courtesies and rules of official protocol and etiquette. In her role as Secretary-General of the Chancery of the Orders of the Societies of Honour she oversees the

execution of the operations of the government bureau accountable for the conferment of all National Honours and Awards, and the Prime Minister's Medals of Appreciation.

A public servant and diplomat, she has honed her knowledge over more than forty (40) years of service to the Government of Jamaica at the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Kingston, utilizing growth opportunities in these centres of national and international policy development.

From August 2013 to December 2017, she was appointed as Ambassador to the United Mexican States with concurrent accreditation to the Central American States of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

She served at Miami as Jamaica's Consul General to the Southern United States, Caymans Islands & Bahamas from September 2008 to September 2013. Previously, from 2004-2008, she was concurrently Chief of State Protocol to the Government of Jamaica and Director of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kingston.

Her career development incorporates instrumental service in the development and direction of the Government of Jamaica's Diaspora Affairs Programme (Returning Residents' Programme (1993), and its policy expansion (Jamaicans Overseas Programme (1998) leading to delivery of the historic inaugural Jamaican Diaspora Conference in Kingston (2004).

In earlier tenure with the Caribbean Community & Common Market (CARICOM) (1989-1992), she contributed as a Project Coordinator to the seminal West Indian Commission Project, headquartered in Barbados with special responsibility for coordination of the publication of the occasional reports and final report of the study.

Among her community and service achievements, is recognition from the prestigious Legacy Magazine (South Florida's 50 most powerful and influential Black Business Leaders of 2012) and ICABA Salutes 2012 (South Florida's 100 most accomplished Caribbean American leaders). She has been presented with the Keys to Broward County, and to the City of Lauderdale Lakes in Florida for her representation and contribution to community building. The Miami-Dade County (Office of the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners) has also recognized her for fostering trade relations between Jamaica and Miami-Dade, Florida, in tandem with her service as Honorary Chair of the Jamaica USA Chamber of Commerce, of Florida.

Additionally, the Government of Mexico has conferred upon her (September 2018) the National Honour of the Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca (OMAA) for distinguished contribution to strengthening the bilateral relations between Mexico and Jamaica during her tenure as Ambassador of Jamaica to the United Mexican States.

Ambassador Grant Griffiths' prior and continuing service to the national community is reflected in the award of the Civil Service Long Service Awards (2002) and her appointment as a Justice of the Peace in the Parish of Kingston, Jamaica (2007). Significantly, she was also appointed as a Commander of the Order of Distinction by the Government of Jamaica in recognition of public service in the areas of State Protocol and the Foreign Service, on August 6, 2021.

She has a passion for the arts, and is an advocate for volunteerism and social empowerment and the promotion of "Brand Jamaica". She has contributed to print media discourse (Miami Herald - Half a Century of Independence, Published August 6, 2012; The Jamaica Gleaner - A Reactive State Protocol Delivery Paradigm, published January 19, 2021) and conducts expert training workshops and presentations in protocol and official social etiquette. Her expertise has been a direct contributory factor in the delivery of various high level programmes encompassing visits of Royalty, Presidents and Prime Ministers, Conferences, and ceremonies of State.

A proud graduate of the Faculty of Government, University of the West Indies, Mona, (BSC. (Hons.) in Public Administration and International Relations, and the beneficiary of opportunities for professional development, her past academic halls also include the University of Technology and the Management Institute for National Development in Kingston, and St. Jago High School, St. Catherine, Jamaica.

DESREINE A. TAYLOR
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROTOCOL
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE



Ms. Desreine Taylor is a career Foreign Service Officer with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade since the early 1990s. Ms. Taylor assumed the position of Acting Director, Protocol Department on 21st May 2025. Immediately preceding this appointment, she served as Minister Counsellor in the Jamaican High Commission, London from August

2021 – March 2025, in charge of the Consular and Diaspora Affairs Section, as well as Assistant Director, Consular Affairs Department from January 2017 – August 2021.

Ms. Taylor's foreign service experience includes serving as Deputy Consul General in Miami, USA (2007-2012); Minister Counsellor at the Jamaican Embassy in Brazil (2012-2016). In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, she served as Desk Officer for the Central America Region in the Caribbean & Americas Department (2000-2002); Privileges & Immunities Officer (2002-2004) and Ceremonials Officer (2004-2007) in the Protocol Department. Her other foreign service assignments include serving in the Jamaican Embassy in Washington, DC and the Jamaican Consulate General in New York.

Ms. Taylor obtained a Bachelor's Degree in the Humanities from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica (1990) and a Master's Degree in International Relations at the City University of New York (2007). Additionally, she received professional certificates in diplomacy and international affairs including Andres Bello Diplomatic Academy, Chile (1992); Ministry of External Relations, Mexico (2001); International Organization for Migration (2010); UNITAR, United Nations (2013); and Diplo Foundation, Malta (2015).

She speaks four languages and is an avid Scrabble player, has a keen interest in international and current affairs, Biblical archaeology, lawn tennis, winter sports and the visual and performing arts.



HIS EXCELLENCY FRANZ HALL
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA TO CUBA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ambassador Franz Hall joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica in August 1992. He has worked in several policy departments in the Ministry which has served to build capacity and expertise in the diverse and dynamic field of international relations.

He has had overseas postings to the Permanent Mission of Jamaica at Geneva as Counsellor (1997 – 1999), the Consulate General of Jamaica at New York as Deputy Consul General/Consul (1999 – 2002), the Embassy of Jamaica at Washington, D.C., as Minister-Counsellor (2008 – 2012), and the Consulate General of Jamaica at Miami (2013 – 2018) as Consul General, with responsibility for the Southern United States of America, Cayman Islands and The Bahamas. On his return to Jamaica in 2018, he was appointed as Director of Protocol and subsequently assigned duties as the Under-Secretary for the Diaspora, Protocol and Consular Affairs Division, in May 2021.

In addition to his substantive responsibilities, in 2022, Ambassador Hall served as the Chair of the MFAFT@60 Planning Committee, which was responsible for staging several activities throughout the year to commemorate the 60th year of the establishment of the Jamaican Foreign Service.

Ambassador Hall has also been recognized for his knowledge of protocol in international relations and has served as guest presenter and facilitator for the University of the West Indies' Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean on numerous occasions.

In 2023, Ambassador Hall was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Jamaica to the Republic of Cuba and, in November 2023, he was appointed to serve as non-resident Ambassador of Jamaica to the Dominican Republic.

A proud alumnus of the prestigious Jamaica College, Ambassador Hall is the holder of a Bachelor of Sciences in International Relations from the University of the West Indies, Mona, and a Master of Arts in International Relations from City College, New York.



**AMBASSADOR SHARON SAUNDERS
DEAN – JAMAICAN FOREIGN SERVICE
INSTITUTE
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign
Trade**

Ambassador Sharon Saunders has been the Dean of the Jamaican Foreign Service Institute within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade since July 2024. She previously served as Jamaica's Ambassador to the United Mexican States from 2021-2024 with concurrent accreditation to the Central American States of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

A member of the Jamaican Foreign Service since 1981, Ambassador Saunders has served as High Commission to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Suriname, Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean States and held many posts at every level in the Ministry over her long, distinguished career. Her other overseas postings include London (twice) and Brussels, Belgium.

A proud graduate of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, Mona (B Sc (Hons) majoring in International Relations, Ambassador Saunders is an accomplished fine artist, her first love, and a graduate of St. Hugh High School for Girls.