

# Newsletter

## Fall 2007

### Vol. 1 Issue 2



## Refocusing our Mission

Members of HALO know the importance of education and recognize the need to help our youth realize that it is both an attainable and achievable goal.

HALO has therefore revitalized its mission statement by including the support and promotion of future leaders through education while steadfastly keeping its goals to promote networking, showcase our positive role models, and improve the image of Haitians throughout South Florida.

As part of our efforts to focus on education we have designated the first day of our convention as "Students Session Day". This day is meant to celebrate our students and acquaint them with positive role models in the likes of Sara Bertrand, last year's Miss Teen

Haiti, neurosurgeon Dr. Patrick Senatus, and Representative Yolly Roberson. They were all featured as motivational role model speakers to the students at last year's convention.

Taking that goal one step further, HALO is working closely with two schools in particular: Miami Edison Senior High and Phyllis Miller Elementary. Most recently Miami Edison Middle School was added to the list.

Students from the Academy of Medicine at Miami Edison Senior High can boast of Drs. Herold Merisier and Angelo Gousse as mentors. A few of the students had the opportunity to spend time with them at their place of practice and observe them in action.

### Events:

01.27.06 – 01.29.06:  
First Annual Convention

01.27.06:  
First Annual Convention Gala

04.09.06:  
Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

08.06.06:  
Edison High Back to School Fair

12.08.06:  
First Annual JMH Haiti Day

03.02.07 – 03.04.07:  
Second Annual Convention

03.03.07:  
Second Annual Convention Gala

04.13.07  
Phyllis Miller Elementary Career Day

05.24.07  
Edison Middle School Career Day

06.09.07 – 06.10.07:  
HALO Retreat Naples, FL

08.04.07  
Fourth Annual Back to School  
Wellness Day

01.19.08  
Third Annual Convention Gala

01.25.08 – 01.27.08:  
Third Annual Convention



*Clockwise: 1). B. Eugene, Rep. Y. Roberson, S. Bertrand, P. Senatus. 2) P. Senatus lecturing to the Students from Phyllis Miller Elementary at the Second Annual HALO Convention in March 2007. 3) Students from Phyllis Miller Elementary. 4) Dr Angelo Gousse on Career Day at Miami Edison High School in May 2007.*



HALO volunteer hands out school supplies and gifts at the Fourth Annual Wellness Day at Arcola Lakes Park on 8/4/07.

### Community Activities

HALO passed out free school supplies and offered gifts to some of the parents at the Fourth Annual Back to School Wellness Day organized by Representative Yolly Roberson on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at Arcola Lakes Park.

HALO supports the organization Friends of Profamil in its quest to raise funds in order to establish a free health clinic in Port-au-Prince by

having Gracelle Toussaint, ARNP, part of HALO's Advisory Board sit on the board of Profamil as a representative of HALO.

HALO is the proud sponsor of the first Haitian-American Health Care Directory, a project that was put together through the efforts of Drs. Herold Merisier and Angelo Gousse.



Dr Angelo Gousse, surrounded by Students at Miami Edison High School.

### Looking to the Future

HALO hopes to continue attracting new members who will share its commitment and dedication to its mission and vision.

As more people become aware of HALO, we know that we will hear the following remark more frequently, "Do I have to be Haitian to participate in a HALO meeting or attend the convention?" A question that was asked quite a few times by the young people of non-Haitian descent who attended the Back to School Wellness Day on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

HALO responds with a unequivocal, "Absolutely not!" Part of our vision is to hopefully transcend the organization's objectives through gender, ethnicity, and religious differences with the ultimate goal of reaching out to the people back home in Haiti.



Dec. 8, 2006 proclaimed HALO Day by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor.

***"Do I have to be Haitian to participate in a HALO meeting or attend the convention?"***

### Member Highlight

Congratulations to HALO member Dr. Marie-Denise Gervais who has been named the Medical Director of the health clinic at Miami Edison Senior High. We are all extremely proud of her and recognize how lucky the students are to have someone of her caliber to count on.

Dr. Gervais expressed excitement at starting her new adventure. "They are going to see my face every day!" she

exclaims laughingly. We don't doubt it! She's already made her presence known even before officially starting by introducing herself and passing out over 500 of her cards to students.

Yes, indeed, those students will see her face every day and it is a guarantee that they will thoroughly enjoy it but most of all greatly benefit from it.



Marie-Denise Gervais, MD, the new Medical Director at Miami Edison High School.

## Member Highlight

We also present our congratulations to HALO's treasurer, Mr. Bernard Eugene, who has been chosen by the group (FAVACA) to collaborate on a redevelopment project in Haiti. Mr. Eugène will travel to the City of Ouanaminthe from September 27 to 31.

The purpose of his trip will be to assist the Mayor Rony Pierre and the City Commission in preparing an urban master plan that includes the following short and long term objectives:

1. Build:
  - a. A location for the currency traders
  - b. A secondary roads linking Ouanaminthe 5 major communes
  - c. A modern bus station
  - d. A communal asylum (sort of retreat for old people)
  - e. A modern hospital

2. Expand Ouanaminthe water system
3. Finish a historic site in Ouanaminthe (Place d'Armes)
4. Modernize Ouanaminthe public market
5. Refurbish Ouanaminthe military quarter.

Mr. Eugène is currently working as a senior project manager for Broward County Environmental Engineering Division and holds two master degrees (Construction Management - Urban & Regional Planning).

His participation as a volunteer is a testimony of our commitment to provide a platform for our thought leaders and experts from all academic, professional, and technical backgrounds to exchange ideas, collaborate, and share their knowledge with our community.

We wish success to the City Commission, FAVACA, and Mr. Eugene who share a common vision: that is to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of Ouanaminthe.



*Bernard Eugene, MSCM, MURP*



*Participants at the HALO Retreat in Naples FL in June 2007.*

## The Road to Cohesion and Networking

HALO is proud to have participated in many events sponsored by various local organizations.

We provided blood pressure checks and prostate health education sessions at HANA's Church of the Visitation Health Fair on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Dr. Angelo Gousse participated in the Phyllis Miller Elementary School Career Day on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, where he had the opportunity to speak with the

students about being a urologist.

Dr. Herold Merisier was one of the HALO members present for the first ever Miami Edison Middle School Career Day on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, where he explained to the students the role of a physician.

We were present for the third annual MWM & Associates Tourism Summit the weekend of June 22 - 24, 2007.



*Josette Cantave & Herold Merisier, MD at Miami Edison High School on Career Day in May 2007.*



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**Our Mission**

- Support and promote the development of future leaders through education
- Provide a link between existing community organizations to facilitate networking
- Provide a platform for our thought leaders and experts from all academic, professional, and technical backgrounds to exchange ideas, collaborate, and share their knowledge with our community
- Improve the image of Haitians throughout South Florida, and promote excellence in our community.

**Our Vision**

Our vision is to empower the Haitian community to be better represented in South Florida and the community at large, and to better coordinate the efforts of the Haitian Diaspora to participate in the reconstruction of Haiti.



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