

# Haiti Network

C.O.C.I.N.A. (Coalition of Children in Need Association)

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**Director Hugues Bastien with Jan Iannetta, COCINA Board Member and participant in mission trips since 2000.**

Dear Friends of COCINA,

2010 has been a year of suffering and hardship for Haiti. So many lives have been lost. Millions have been left homeless and jobless. All this is due to the devastating earthquake that struck the Port-au-Prince area on January 12. Although we did not get hit directly in Ouanaminthe, we all felt the impact.

At our school, we were able to take in 350 displaced students from Port-au-Prince. We also traveled with staff from our Unvers Medical Center and treated over 1,000 victims during our three mercy trips to the capital city. The needs were endless and our memories are filled with the pain we witnessed.

More than ever before, Haitians witnessed love and compassion from so many people and countries. It showed us that in times of trouble and despair, we have friends that care. On behalf of all our students and staff from Institution Unvers and our clinic in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your contributions to COCINA's earthquake relief fund.

Despite the difficulties related to the earthquake, we had a great closing to our school year. We had close to 300 graduates: 158 kindergarteners, 90 sixth graders and 42 high school seniors. We also had 100 graduates from our adult program in Accounting, Computer Science and English. We had close to 300 students attend our summer Bible Camp program with staffing by mission groups from Venice, Florida; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Woodstown, New Jersey; and Columbus, Ohio. In July we started construction of our Vocational Education building which will be completed this November. This school will offer programs in auto/vehicle mechanics and industrial sewing. We have also started construction on apartments to provide residences for long-term missionaries and teaching and medical professionals moving to the area.

We recently met with a delegation from the University of Quisqueya in Port-au-Prince to establish a partnership to bring an extension of the Quisqueya University to Ouanaminthe, offering two-year degrees in Business Administration, Education, Computer Science and Agriculture.

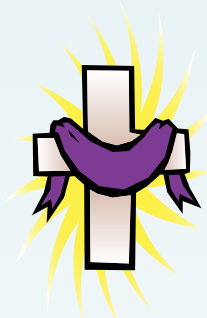
We are grateful to Kent State University in Ohio which is providing full scholarships this fall to two of our top students, Sony Ton-Aimé and Florvilson Marcelin, for the next five years and is promising four more students scholarships to begin their studies over the next two years. We are grateful to the U.S. Consulate in Haiti for granting visas to our students to make their dreams become realities.

We believe that we are making a difference in the lives of these children, preparing them to secure their future and return to Haiti to rebuild their country. We cannot do it alone. We need your continuing prayers and support. Together, with God's help, we can do wonders.

*Hugues Bastien, Director*  
Institution Unvers and Unvers Medical Center

## Our Mission

*Operating from the Christian perspective of faith, hope and love, C.O.C.I.N.A. partners with Institution Unvers and Unvers Medical Center in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, to provide academic and vocational education for children and adults, provide health care for people in the area and jump-start economic development projects.*



*Desperate to evacuate Port-au-Prince, "earthquake refugees" board a rented bus and Unvers School bus bound for northeast Haiti and Ouanaminthe. The refugees endured a 10-hour drive on hot, dusty roads to reach medical care and basic living essentials. Read more about the Mercy Trips on pages 2 and 5.*

## Oh My! The Needs After the Earthquake Are So Massive!

By: Hugues Bastien and Dave Mann



UMC doctor treating a boy's injured foot.



A heavily damaged building, implying that anybody in certain areas of this building were inevitably killed or trapped.



UMC doctor treating feet of women lined up for care.



Mercy Trip team with some of supplies taken to Port-au-Prince.



Loading "earthquake refugees" on Univers bus for trip to northeast Haiti and Ouanaminthe.

"Oh my!" "The needs are so massive!"

"What could we possibly do?"

"We don't have what it takes to make a difference." We're 10 hours away by Haiti's poor roads.

These were some of the initial thoughts of the leaders of Institution Univers and Univers Medical Center as the news of the devastation of the January 12th earthquake reached us in Ouanaminthe. Hundreds of thousands were dead. No water. No food. No electricity. No fuel. Very little medical treatment available for the injured and dying.

But then better thoughts came.

"Oh my!" "The needs are so massive!"

"We must do something."

"Everyone who can do something—anything— must make a difference."

The brainstorming and decisions happened quickly...

Mercy trips to Port-au-Prince with food, water, fuel, medical supplies, with doctors and nurses to treat injured people. Yes we will!

Evacuation of people from the capital to extended families in the north and northeast. Yes we will!

Medical treatment at Univers Medical Center for those who come from the capital area. Yes we will!

Volunteer American surgical teams to enhance UMC's medical services to injured victims. Yes, we'll invite teams to come quickly!

Receive new students at Collège Univers from displaced families. All school fees waived through June. Yes we will!

Distribute free food to displaced families in Ouanaminthe. Yes we will!

In the end, all of these projects were accomplished by Univers staff, with the assistance of generous donations from our friends in other countries. Univers spent over \$90,000 on these projects. This money was contributed to COCINA specifically for "earthquake relief projects" by foundations, individuals, churches, and school student groups and mission team members who were serving in Ouanaminthe right after the earthquake. There were three "mercy trips" to Port-au-Prince that were funded by a \$21,000 grant from Geneva Global and a \$10,000 grant from SG Foundation in California.

The "mercy trips" to Port-au-Prince were heart-grabbing experiences for the 10 staff from the school and clinic that went. The Univers school buses and rented buses were used. Supplies taken and distributed included food, bottled water, medications, containers of vehicle fuel, tooth brushes, tooth paste, and soap. The UMC doctor and nurses treated many wounded people. In the three mercy trips there were 2200 "beneficiaries" of food, supplies and medical services provided by the Univers teams. A total of 240 "earthquake refugees" were transported to northeast Haiti and Ouanaminthe. These were individuals and families who wanted to escape the earthquake-damaged area and go live with family and friends elsewhere.

## June 27th Graduation Ceremony at Institution Unvers

Kindergarten Students, 6th Graders and 13th Graders are all Honored

By: Pam Mann

It was 3 o'clock, the start time for the graduation ceremony. Some 200 people sat scattered throughout the auditorium. Soon-to-be graduates posed proudly for photos in the lobby. Guests and family lingered throughout the grounds and chatted. Despite the heat, most men wore suitcoats and ladies wore evening apparel, a lot probably second-hand in contrast to the fresh exuberance of the crowd. There was a World Cup match in progress which further delayed the arrival of the punctually challenged. Normally I.U. borrows extra chairs from the Ou-naminthe Night Club to seat everyone at graduation. Maybe the chairs would come when the game ended. The I.U. administration was hoping for no overtime. About 3:15 we could tell by the commotion coming from the night club across the wall that the match had ended so the kindergarten teachers started lining up their yellow-robed cherubs. The elementary principal and the two sixth grade teachers lined up the blue-robed sixth graders in the main hallway, shortest first.

As the yellow line of proud kindergartners snaked out of the lobby, across the back sidewalk and into the side auditorium door, family and friends hustled to find seats. Unfortunately the night club never delivered their chairs and many attendees stood for the entire ceremony. They were shoulder to shoulder, sweating profusely but smiling delightedly as their dear ones proceeded in to the strains of Kenny G's sax. The boys sat to the left of the stage, the girls to the right. The blue-garbed sixth graders split likewise by gender. Finally the 43 thirteenth graders arrived: girls in white and guys in blue, seated at the front of the audience facing the stage. Two large cushioned armchairs flanked the front of the center aisle. Here sat the godfather and godmother of the graduation. Hermiole Matthieu, a medical technologist at UMC, was honored as godmother and Smoy, Haitian actor and member of the local I.U. Board of Trustees, was godfather. In Haitian tradition, the godparents reign over the proceedings and make a brief address to the assembly.

Haitian graduation ceremonies are not about diplomas which are distributed afterwards, but about showcasing the talents of the graduates. People come expecting songs, dancing, and dramatic readings. On Sunday, June 27, in I.U.'s sauna-like auditorium, the class of 2010 delivered. Florence Ibreus belted out a solo that could qualify her for *Digicel Stars* (the Haitian version of American Idol). Four couples (12th and 13th grade) strutted out a partner dance: guys all in white, girls all in black. Five girls danced a salute to the nation, swirling in long red skirts, the Haitian national banner emblazoned on their chests.

Each graduating group did dramatic presentations, even brave little kindergartners. Sony Ton-Aime as valedictorian addressed the crowd on behalf of the class. He and a female classmate presented a flaming candle to a boy and girl of the 12th grade, indicative of the torch being passed to the new top class of students. And, in somber remembrance of the January 12th catastrophe, Melissa Louis, a Port-au-Prince student displaced by the quake, thanked Unvers for opening its arms to refugees like herself.

With the last speech, graduates were directed to designated locations in the building to receive their diploma and graduation gift. Kindergarten girls received a doll and a tea set; boys a truck with action figures. Sixth graders chose a soccer, volley or basket ball although a dozen girls chose the same gift the kindergarten girls received. The 13th grade graduates received a Walkman.

It was a full day. In contrast to U.S. graduation ceremonies, the Haitian style of graduation is a talent show party with minimal reflection on the significance of this life step. Americans, however, have future educational and job opportunities awaiting them which Haitians do not. At I.U. we celebrate a facet of childhood completed but, for most, the start into adulthood is uncertain. So we celebrate what we can and pray to God for the rest.

## Vocational Education Program Expands

By Dave Mann & Hal Merz (Advisor to COCINA)

**Current Vocational Education Programs at Unvers.** Vocational education and training programs are one of the keys to Haiti's future. The rebuilding of the country will require trained workers who have the skills needed for industries, construction, maintenance and agriculture.

For several years, Unvers has been providing vocational education in business-related subjects through UTEC, Unvers Technic et Commercial, or in English—Universe Technical and Commercial (School). Or further explained...it's the set of programs offered for adults at Unvers in the later afternoon and early evening. For the moment the courses are limited to those that can be taught in the classrooms borrowed from the Unvers high school. As a result, classes are provided in computer skills, business-accounting, and English.

The participants are almost all young adults who are seeking to improve skills which will increase their personal "marketability" in the workforce. In a society where jobs are few and far between, job applicants are wise to get an edge by being multi-lingual, having computer skills, and possessing knowledge of business and accounting practices. Unvers provides such opportunities for the eager learners. In the 2009-2010 school year, there were over 120 participants in the three programs:

(cont'd. on page 4)

## Vocational Education Program (*cont'd. from p. 3*)

First year business and accounting—26

Second year business and accounting—17

Computer skills—45

English—34

**New Opportunities and Next Programs.** Research done by the World Bank shows that there are certain trades and occupations where there are needs for skilled workers throughout the different regions of Haiti. Haitians who have training for these jobs have higher wages and employment rates than most of their countrymen. Two of these occupations are fields that COCINA and Hugues Bastien have been discussing for several years: Auto/Vehicle Mechanics and Industrial/Commercial Sewing.

For each of these fields, there are few trained workers in the Northeast Department near Ouanaminthe. And there are very few places in Haiti to obtain such formal training. Technicians from the Dominican Republic are often imported to work on car and truck repairs. And even though there is a Levis® clothing plant in Ouanaminthe, Haitians often lack the skills to be hired for the higher paying supervisory positions at this local major employer.

Generous donations from several philanthropic foundations and an international aid organization are funding UTEC to construct a vocational education building (construction started in July), hire three specialized staff and begin programs in auto mechanics and industrial sewing.

A volunteer team of people in Ohio from the automotive service industry is working diligently to finalize the auto mechanics equipment and tools list and to purchase equipment for the program. Hugues Bastien plans to purchase the equipment and supplies for the sewing program in the Dominican Republic.

COCINA and its partners extend our thanks to the following financial supporters of the two new vocational education programs:

**Aide et Action** (a French international aid agency)

**John F. and Mary A. Geisse Foundation** (Ohio)

**H.C.S. Foundation** (Ohio) (a.k.a. Harold C. Schott Foundation)

**Hudson Community Chapel** (Ohio) and a former parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous

Also, we give a special thank you to the COCINA Facility and Equipment Committee for their diligence, along with architect Bob Bruce, in developing the building's architectural specifications and drawings.

## Eleven Out of Fifteen!

### Univers Graduates Attending Colleges to Become Leaders in Haiti

By: Dave Mann

Eleven out of fifteen! *That's nearly 75%!* What high school in the U.S. can boast that three-quarters of their graduating seniors have received full scholarships to college? But that is exactly what happened for the first graduating class of Univers. The Class of 2009 is blessed. Five of the graduates are now studying in U.S. colleges and six are in colleges in Haiti.

Ronel-Ange and Jean-Gardy are enrolled at a private university in Port-au-Prince...Quisqueya University. Roberta, Manessa, Ange-Marie, and Emmanuella attend the school in Léogâne which provides a four-year nursing program. Both of these schools were heavily damaged by the earthquake and needed to take several months off before resuming classes. However, both programs are back into full swing for their normal four-year degree programs.

Marie-Claire is in Pennsylvania. Hantz-Jerry and Emmanuel are in Kentucky. And Ezéchiel and Frandy are in Ohio. God willing, four more from the Univers class of 2010 will head to Ohio and Kentucky this fall. Kent State University in Ohio is offering full scholarships for two Univers grads starting this fall.

To sponsor a student at Quisqueya University is \$7000 per year. At Léogâne, the annual all-inclusive costs run \$4000. Quite a bargain compared to the costs of higher education in the U.S.

However, the clear advantage of sponsoring a Univers grad for a U.S. college education is the value of having the student in your community or home. The five students studying in the U.S. since August 2009 have won rave reviews from a host of people. Certainly, it is more expensive than college in Haiti, but many would say it is well worth it. Costs to get the student from Haiti to the U.S. run about \$1600 (testing, passport, visa documentation, applications, airfare, etc.). The cost for the education itself will depend on the chosen university and what the university is able to provide in financial aid.

There are a variety of ways the funds can be raised. In some cases, a single family chooses to provide the entire support. Others form a community as a church, a group of churches, or an interest group. Still others partner with the university.

**Eleven out of fifteen! Amazing!** But what will happen with the 43 graduates of 2010? And the estimated 38 graduates of 2011? Perhaps one of them could bless your community. Or you could be the blessing of a college scholarship for a student in Haiti. For information about how to sponsor a Univers student in Haiti or the U.S. contact Dave Mann (dmann@ualc.org). In the U.S. contact the top admissions administrator at your local university, community college or nursing school.

## The Work of Their Hands...An Update on Clinic Mission Teams

By: Sheryl Jurich, MSN, RN

*“Bless all their skills, O Lord, and be pleased with the work of their hands.” Deut 33:11*

Moses could have just as well been offering up this prayer for the “mission teams of UCM” as the “12 tribes of Israel”. This blessing, although given many years ago by a departing Moses, was most relevant to the many healthcare teams giving of themselves and their skills throughout the past year at Univers Centre Medical. For the period of November 2009 to May 2010, twelve different healthcare teams offered their “skills” and “work of their hands” to the people of Ouanaminthe. Teams consisting of dental, chiropractic, general surgery, orthopedic, optical, medical and diagnostic radiology literally poured into the clinic to offer much-needed skills. These U.S. specialty mission teams supplemented the services provided regularly by the Haitian clinic staff professionals.

An already desperate population, the January 12th earthquake shaped a different type of patient with more urgency, different medical needs and a suffering never witnessed before at the clinic. A medical-surgical team primarily from Tennessee was already in place at UCM when the Tuesday earthquake occurred. By week’s end the injured began to trickle in from the epicenter of the quake.



### First Earthquake Victim to Arrive at UCM

Quake victims with orthopedic and severe wound injuries migrated from the Port-Au-Prince area to seek medical attention and a place to live. Their injuries were unique and were compounded by the emotional trauma many had experienced by losing loved ones, homes and for some, everything.

No immediate orthopedic medical teams were scheduled for the UCM, but even before members of the medical-surgery team from Winchester Tennessee returned home, recruiting of general and orthopedic surgery teams had begun. Within 10 days, four teams—with team members from throughout the United States—were formed. The week, though remarkably successful, was emotionally draining. Through the skilled efforts of these general surgery and orthopedic teams many lives and limbs were saved.



### Orthopedic Team From Central Kentucky with Quake Arm Amputee Victim

U.S.-based nurses, doctors, dentists, lay persons, chiropractors, pharmacists, lab techs, radiologists, medical doctors, orthopedic surgeons, general surgeons, anesthesiologists and surgical techs as well as a host of support personnel, labored throughout the year. Visiting teams performed hundreds of surgeries, dental procedures, eye exams, glasses given and medical visits. In addition, continuing education and in-service training was provided for the Haitian staff. Ultrasound and EKG training was conducted for the Haitian staff as a response to their desire to elevate the care offered to an even higher standard.

The amount of progress made this past year by the clinic has been staggering. A year that has brought an even new sadness to Ouanaminthe has also seen much progress and much pain at the clinic. One could only believe God must be pleased with the work that has been provided by the hands of the many skilled medical personnel that came to Univers Centre Medical...the Lord has truly blessed the labor provided at Univers Centre Medical by the Haitian staff and visiting U.S. mission teams.

# C.O.C.I.N.A. Budget for Grants to and on Behalf of Institution Unvers and Unvers Medical Center (Fiscal Year September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011)

By: Bob Gillette, V.P. of Finance

<b>Priority A Items</b> These items are essential to be funded, to assure the effective and efficient operation of ongoing programs in Institution Unvers and Unvers Medical Center.	Amt U.S. \$
Lunch program for all students (students pay only 25% of actual lunch costs)	80,000
School operations and security	37,920
Administrator salaries (top 3 administrators)	61,428
All-Student Tuition Support, so that the tuition paid by students is affordable (student tuition and fees pay only a portion of total teacher salaries). This COCINA money is applied toward teachers' salaries and benefits.	144,500
Unvers Medical Center staff salaries. (COCINA pays salaries and benefits for the 25-person Haitian staff. The rest of clinic operating expenses are paid by affordable patient fees.)	150,083
Textbooks for students	12,000
Select Student Scholarships. To pay some or all of the tuition for poorest students and students from families that have multiple students enrolled.	13,000
2500 used folding chairs for multi-purpose room (shipped from U.S.)	7,500
30 used fold-up student lunch tables (shipped from U.S.)	600
Replacement motorcycle for Director Hugues Bastien	4,500
Equipment improvements in school kitchen	1,000
Hire a Facilities Manager (costs are for second half of fiscal year)	6,000
Expenses related to volunteer mechanic(s)	2,000
Shipment of one sea container from U.S. to Ouanaminthe	12,000
6 laser printers	2,270
COCINA fund raising and communications	35,000
Audit of FY 2009-10 COCINA financial records	3,000
Bank fees in Ouanaminthe	600
<b>Total for Priority A Line Items</b>	<b>\$ 573,401</b>

## Financial Donations & Board Information

Please make all checks payable to COCINA. If you want your contribution directed to a particular project, note the project on your check memo line. Mail checks to:

COCINA  
P.O. Box 12695  
Columbus, OH 43212

### Board Information

For information about Board meetings, membership and transactions, contact:

Bill Gibeaut | COCINA Board President  
wmgibeaut@aol.com

#### For information about COCINA finances, contact:

Robert Gillette | COCINA V.P. of Finance  
rggcpa@sbcglobal.net

Carol Davis | COCINA Treasurer  
cadavis@columbus.rr.com

#### For information or support of fundraising activities and communications, contact:

Bill Gibeaut (see above) COCINA V.P. of Fundraising & Communications

#### For roster of Board members:

Visit COCINA website: [www.haiticocina.org](http://www.haiticocina.org)

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# C.O.C.I.N.A. Budget for Grants to and on Behalf of Institution Univers and Univers Medical Center (Fiscal Year September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011)

By: Bob Gillette, V.P. of Finance

<b>Priority B Items</b> Desirable to find, but these items are not essential for the operation of ongoing programs in the school and clinic.	Amt U.S. \$
Travel for Ouanaminthe administrators and students	25,000
“Non-Government Organization” certification of Univers by Haitian government	5,000
Shipment of second sea container from U.S. to Ouanaminthe	12,000
Vocational education expansion into new programs	125,000
Air-condition selected school rooms	4,250
Construct wall or fence around school campus, for security	50,000
100 Computers and monitors, shipped from U.S.	20,000
Replace ceiling tiles in school with plastic tiles	30,000
PA-intercom/bell system in school	20,000
Storage building, forklift truck and pallet jack	100,000
Building reinforcements to resist earthquakes	25,000
Science laboratory and teacher	40,000
Upgrade school bathroom fixtures to be more durable	10,000
Metal shelving for kindergarten building library	10,000
Hire teaching staff specialists	42,000
Scholarships for I.U. graduates to attend Haitian universities	20,000
Jump-start chicken/egg farm economic development project	130,000
Third sea container shipment from U.S. to Ouanaminthe	12,000
Add second floor to kindergarten building (after Board’s March 2010 meeting, this was determined to be infeasible)	250,000
<b>Total for Priority B Line Items</b>	<b>\$ 930,250</b>



## Chicks = Eggs

*Institution Univers is planning a Chicken Farm to produce chickens and eggs for the Haitian people. It will cost \$4.50 to buy and raise one chick to egg-producing maturity. This farm will help the Haitians create eggs and chickens for retail consumption as well as sustenance for the farmers. For more information, write to [tom@turtleplastics.com](mailto:tom@turtleplastics.com).*

## The Earthquake Produces New Friends

By: Dave Mann and Hugues Bastien

The shaking of the earth lasted only a few seconds. But the shaking of the Haitian society has continued. An estimated 220,000 lives were lost. Well over a million were left homeless. And millions more were displaced to live with distant relatives, being forced to seek new communities, new work, new schools and daily provisions for their lives.

The significant challenge for Collège Univers as a school was the welcoming of the students from the displaced families. The reputation of Univers was such that when families arrived in Ouanaminthe, there was little discussion about which school they would attempt to enter first. The line was long. We decided that the catastrophic situation ruled against requiring a placement exam or obliging the parents to produce official documents, such as birth certificates and grade cards. Many had escaped their homes with only the clothes on their backs. So we simply accepted the applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis, believing the parents' statements concerning which class the students should be placed in.

We took absolutely as many "refugee students" as we possibly could. Every room that had been a storage room, or planned as a new classroom next year was cleaned up and outfitted with whatever chairs and desks and benches we could muster. New classrooms were created. Every existing classroom swelled to capacity with students. New teaching staff were hired.

At the start of the 2009-2010 school year, we had thought that the increase of the student body from about 1600 the previous year to 1700 was significant. But in February 2010, we burst the 2000-student barrier...2050 strong! An increase of 350 students, or 20% overnight. That's like starting a whole new school. The school staff considers it a privilege to be part of the redemptive work of God in the lives of these refugee students—helping to put back together a sense of order and purpose in lives that had been shaken—physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Some of the new students filtered back to the Port-au-Prince area toward the end of the school year as housing and jobs began to reappear. But most of these new families are choosing to stay in Ouanaminthe and remain part of the Univers family.

The devastation of the January 12th earthquake cannot be overestimated. But one blessing which we have seen in the aftermath is the making of many new friendships in the community of Ouanaminthe. What a blessing to be part of rebuilding Haiti—one life at a time.

## Michigan Medical Team Encounters Challenging Patient Problems

By: Dr. Michael Papenfuse, Anesthesiologist

A team of 17 people mostly from Saginaw, Michigan and Hopevale Church provided medical, dental, chiropractic and evangelism work at Univers Centre Medical during the week of May 22-29. Dr. Michael and Debrah Papenfuse led the team with Dr. Tony DeBari, an orthopedic surgeon; Dr. Ryan Michelson, a dentist; Dr. Mike Dense, a chiropractor; and Brian Aubin, a nurse anesthetist from Minnesota. Pastor Ken McGillivray and Jerry Schuitman led the evangelism team. We were able to perform surgery on 36 patients during the week—mainly orthopedic problems. A nine-year-old girl came with 4 inches of her ulna, forearm bone, sticking out of her skin from an open fracture she sustained 2 years ago. Yes, two years!! She and her mother were very grateful for a normal-looking and functioning arm.

We also took care of a 70-year-old man who had fractured the front part of his mandible (lower jaw) in a motorcycle accident one week prior. He came in very sick with a very severe infection. He had been seen by 5 other hospitals with no help. After Dr. DeBari saw this patient he said, "I have never seen this or done surgery on a jaw, but with God's help I have a plan." God did provide in a mighty way. We had to remove most of the front portion of his jaw, which was a very tricky anesthesia, and drain the infection from his face. With IV antibiotics he was doing very well by the end of the week. We treated at least five people for fracture revisions from injuries sustained in the earthquake in Port-au-Prince four months earlier. We also repaired the fractured arm of a gentleman who was a refugee from Port-au-Prince, and had no family or friends in Ouanaminthe; he had been attacked in Port-au-Prince with machetes and almost killed.

Dr. Ryan Michelson saw many dental patients, cleaning and pulling many teeth. He was also able to provide some cosmetic work with white fillings in the front teeth. His patients were very appreciative. Dr. Mike Dense (chiropractor) was a huge help all week, seeing many patients with neck and back pain. He was able to treat a young woman with abdominal pain who was having difficulty going to the bathroom due to her pain. He was a huge help in keeping the rest of the team going, and also treated many of the translators as well.

Our evangelism team acted as "hospital" chaplains praying with many of the surgical and dental patients. They also provided spiritual support to many patients for who we couldn't provide surgery. A young woman was brought to the clinic, carried in her bed, with a very severe wound and infection in her lower leg. She arrived at the clinic screaming and wailing that the evil spirits from Voodoo had done this to her. Pastor Ken stepped in and we laid hands on her and prayed for her. It was the most amazing transformation we had ever seen. It was like I had given her a Valium to calm her down. We were then able to provide her surgical care to help heal her infected leg. God is truly amazing!

Our team received many more blessings by serving than we feel we provided in our services to patients.



## Meet Institution Univers Librarian Manouchka Antenor

Serving Students with Her Heart and Life Experiences

By: Pam Mann

I asked Institution Univers (IU) librarian Manouchka Antenor for an interview so that I could write an article for the COCINA newsletter. That gave me an excuse to learn why she was so popular with our newest students, displaced by the earthquake. Very often I have seen new students at her desk in what appears to be intense conversation...Manouchka looking serene and attentive.

Manouchka has been librarian since September 2009, after an initial experience with IU attending the adult education program. Born in Fort Liberty, Manouchka spent early high school years in the capital and then finished high school in Ouanaminthe. She lives with her parents in Ouanaminthe while much of her extended family lives in Port-au-Prince. It was already warm in the morning when I entered the library.

**Pam Mann (PM):** Why do you have the windows closed? It's hot in here.

**Manouchka (MA):** Oh, sometimes I open them. When they're closed, it keeps the dust out.

**PM:** How do you like your job so far?

**MA:** I love the wonderful books to manage and I enjoy seeing them put into the hands of students. What I do not like is when students do not take care the books. A library is a rare treasure which not all the students have learned to appreciate and protect.

**PM:** How would you like to improve the library?

**MA:** The students always want more comic books and novels. With the younger students, comic books are the most popular.

**PM:** Do the students use the foreign language books?

**MA:** Yes, the books in English are very popular. However, we have very few books in Spanish. Both students and teachers would love to check out Spanish books if we had more Spanish novels, particularly. I also hope that next year there will be a fixed time for each class to visit the library to avoid having too many students at one time.

**PM:** I have noticed how much the new students like coming to the library and the attraction does not seem to be the books. (MA smiled.)

**MA:** Some of our new students lost parents in the quake. When IU opened three weeks later, those students were still grieving. They needed someone to talk. I was available. I am here all day to serve students. The new students were our neediest.

**PM:** I understand you also lost family in the quake. Perhaps the students sense that you understand their loss.

**MA:** My aunt died immediately but my cousin was trapped on the first floor of a building. Two days after the quake, when the phone service started up again, I got a phone from my cousin. She pleaded with me to send help. It was not a location where she could give a clear address. And in those first days, everywhere there were people trapped without means to free them. None of my family ever found her. I had another cousin in Leogane who was hit in the head. She was pregnant. Both she and the baby are fine now. That's how the quake was: lives lost, lives spared...the survivors trying to make sense of it all. When the students are so young, it's very hard.

**PM:** I'm glad the students have you to help them.

**MA (smiling):** Some of them call me "mami" (familiar form for mother) and stop in at my parents' house to visit and chat. What is life but helping each other along the way?

## Institution Univers Recognized as a "Top-10 School" by Haiti Ministry of Education

By: Dave Mann

In the 2008-09 school year, Institution Univers had 1,600 students in grades pre-K through 13. The Haitian Ministry of education follows the French system of having 13 grades. The success of Institution Univers was demonstrated again by achievements of students, who excelled in the June, 2009 national required academic testing at certain grade levels. All 169 sixth and ninth grade pupils except one passed their examinations.

The national examinations at the 12th and 13th grade levels are highly rigorous, yet 100% of Univers' thirty-three 12th grade students and 100% of the fifteen 13th grade students passed these notable tests. This far exceeds the Haitian national statistics, because nationally, only 26% of 12th and 13th grade students achieved a passing mark on these same government-required exams.

Based on this performance on national tests, The Haiti Ministry of Education announced in September 2009 that Institution Univers is "one of the top ten schools in the nation."

A contribution of **only \$95** provides a full tuition scholarship for an elementary student (see article on page 10)

# Help Rebuild Haiti...One Life at a Time

Please Contribute to Support the Students' Education and Children & Adult Medical Services

By Bill Gibeaut and Dave Mann

COCINA and the education and healthcare projects we support in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, have been blessed this past fiscal year with adequate funding from hundreds of individual donors, many churches and some philanthropic foundations. Institution Unvers is achieving its mission of providing excellent education programs in grades K through 13 for 2050 students and outstanding student test performance on required national tests. Unvers Medical Center (UMC) has significantly increased the numbers and kinds of patient problems that the 26-person Haitian staff has treated in the past year. The clinic added a Haitian optometrist and a dentist to its staff recently. School fees paid by students' parents and clinic visitation and service fees paid by patients have been kept affordable based on local economic conditions. Student tuition and other student fees provide only about 35% of the annual operating costs of Institution Unvers. The other 65% of school operating costs are provided nearly entirely by COCINA. The fees that patients pay for clinic visitations and related clinic services provide only about 40% of the UMC annual operating costs; the other 60% (i.e. staff salaries) is provided by COCINA.

Page 6 of this newsletter contains the COCINA Board-approved budget for grants to and expenditures on behalf of Institution Unvers and Unvers Medical Center. The fiscal year for this budget starts September 1, 2010. The "Priority A Budget Items" at the top of that table are essential to be funded in order to assure continuation of the ongoing operations of the school and clinic at the present level and quality

of services. The funding needs of COCINA for "Priority A Budget Items" for the school and clinic in the last fiscal year ending August 31, 2010 were a total of \$421,540. In contrast, COCINA needs to obtain \$573,000 for "Priority A Budget Items" in the current fiscal year which started September 1, 2010.

This big year-to-year increase in needed COCINA funding is due primarily to substantial increases in wages granted to all



140 employees of the school and 26 employees of Unvers Medical Center. In the school and clinic, there is substantial upward pressure on wages due to: 1) The parliament recently increased the national required minimum wage from \$1.63 U.S. per day to \$5 U.S. per day. Some of the school and clinic staff were being paid below the new daily minimum wage and therefore must receive a significant increase. 2) Increases for the lowest paid staff causes other staff to expect somewhat comparable increases. 3) A local good private school is currently paying its high school teachers more than Institution Unvers. 4) The government schools, as bad as the educational program is, pays teachers more than Institution Unvers. And...5) there were no pay increases granted to UMC or I.U. employees during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2010.

Write on the memo line of your check if you want to direct your contribution to either the school or clinic or to a particular program. Otherwise it will be treated as a general contribution and used where it is needed most. Make check payable to C.O.C.I.N.A. and mail to P.O. Box 12695, Columbus, Ohio 43212.

## Here are some things your contribution could support:

- \$40 would provide COCINA's subsidy for a daily lunch for one student for a whole school year (students pay only \$13 per year)
- \$10-\$20 would buy a textbook
- \$95 would provide a full tuition scholarship for an elementary student whose family is unable to pay any tuition
- \$1200 would provide one month's salary for one of the clinic doctors
- \$120 pays for 10 hours of operation of clinic generator (i.e. diesel fuel). Clinic is open for patients 6 days per week.
- \$450 would provide one month's salary for one of the clinic nurses



UMC Dentist Jacquelin Anglade examining a patient.

## Azurene Jean-Baptiste

Director of Univers des Petits (Preschool and Kindergarten)

Interviewed by Pam Mann

Azurene Jean-Baptiste is better known as Ma Colinyo or *Ma Co*, for real short. (“Ma” is short for Madame and Colinyo is her husband’s first name.)

It was the second week of June, 2010 when I walked into Ma Colinyo’s office in the kindergarten building. She and two teachers aides were busily stapling children’s artwork and activity papers into their final folders for the school year. She decided she could answer questions without interrupting her current project, typical of the multi-tasking her job requires.

Ma Colinyo is Ouanaminthe born and raised. She and her husband were high school sweethearts at the public high school in Fort Liberte. They have two daughters, Tamara and Dharianne, who are both secondary students at Univers. Since Univers first opened its doors in 1994 in the two-room school house on Rue Espangole, Ma Co has been teaching at IU’s preschool. She recalled with a chuckle how Katiana Angrand, a 2010 Univers grad, cried and cried as a three-year old. “Now Katiana is a graceful poised young lady. I have seen a lot of changes,” Ma Co said.

This is Ma Co’s first year as pre-school/kindergarten director. Even without the earthquake and the resulting increased student population, it would have been a challenging year. “Now I have the task of sharing my classroom approach with teachers who might be struggling. It’s one thing to do something yourself. It’s quite another thing to share what you know in a way that a colleague can receive it.”

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: “It’s that very dynamic of helping and supporting the teachers and aides.”

Q: Do you miss the close teacher contact with the children?

A: “No, because my new position also is about ensuring their success. And I still do things which give me one-on-one time with students. For example, as we evaluate our five-year-olds’ handwriting, I help those who are struggling with their remedial work.”

Q: What improvements would you like to see in the preschool?

A: We always struggle with number of students per classroom. There is no easy solution. There are more people who want to send their children to Univers than we can serve. We have 40 children in a preschool or kindergarten class room with one teacher and one aide. I have even accepted up to 50 per class room because not all families finalize their registration in the fall. I worry, about what if they all do commit to Univers? This building [which opened two years ago] allowed us to add more students but still the demand grows.

Q: This article will be read by supporters of Univers in the U.S. Do you have anything you would like to add?

A: Of course! I want to say Bravo! A million thanks! How would we ever have what we have today if these dear friends had not come alongside Hugues and the founders. In 1994 we gathered three-year-olds and prayed that God would enable the vision laid on our hearts. Now we have not only the preschool but all thirteen grades, UTEC [adult education] and the UMC medical clinic. Within these institutions, we nurture hope for our nation. And why do we have all this? Because God has also given us friends who care.



## Univers Grad Quake Victim Walks Again After Lower Leg Amputated—A Miracle in Haiti

By: Pam and Dave Mann

Lynne-Vie Dutreuil was one of the fifteen in the first graduating class of Institution Univers in June 2009. At the time of the quake she was in Port-au-Prince with a friend looking for an opportunity to continue her education. When the ground began shaking she tried to exit the building she was in, but without success. A wall collapsed on her and pinned her leg. Many others deeper in the building ran in panic, running over the wall, not knowing she was beneath it. For about an hour, she was under the rubble not knowing what would happen. Fabienne, her friend, returned inside the partially collapsed building to look for her fellow graduate. Her leg was freed, but it was badly mangled. Two days later, it had to be amputated because of the damage and grave risk of infection. Two days later again, she returned to Ouanaminthe in one of the “mercy trips” that Univers administrators organized. Receiving medical care from Univers Medical Center, including visiting mission medical and surgery teams, she was fitted for a prosthesis to help rebuild her life.



Lynne-Vie Dutreuil in Univers Medical Center with her leg in dressing and receiving IV antibiotics

Everyone can see this miracle on YouTube. Randy, the U.S. pharmacist/pastor who has been coming to UMC for the last five years on medical trips, took the video. He has an amputee friend who works in the prosthesis industry, who was key in this transformation of Lynne-Vie’s life.

To see Lynne-Vie take her first steps, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXyFZdKO4XM>

# About COCINA

## And the Programs it Supports in Northeast Haiti

By Bill Gibeaut

Hugues Bastien, born in Haiti, came to New York City in 1976 to join his family and to be educated up through college. Even while in the United States, Hugues kept close ties with his impoverished native area of northeast Haiti. As a church youth leader in a Brooklyn church, Hugues promoted mission activities, and in 1986 took a team of 30 young adults to the Urbana Missionary Conference. As musicians played the Steve Green song “People Need the Lord,” Hugues received a strong nudge from God to serve as a missionary. Later, Hugues discerned that his missionary field was to be back in Haiti.

With the help of friends, Hugues founded Coalition of Children in Need Association (COCINA) in 1990 as a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization to support educational and spiritual needs of children in Ouanaminthe—a community of 100,000 people in northeast Haiti. Hugues moved back to his hometown and led a team to establish a Christian school, *Institution Univers*, in 1994, to provide a program for children that would be much better than what is provided in local public schools. The school was started with 84 kindergarten students and three teachers. Each year a grade level was added, and school facilities were constructed to keep up with the additions of students and grade levels. All class levels have a daily Bible period. The entire school had 2050 students by spring of 2010. The school is on the French system, having 13 grades. June 2009 was the first high school graduation, with fifteen 13th- graders graduating. The June 2010 13th grade had 43 graduates. The school employs 140 full-time and part-time local people.



Healthcare is also a critical community need in Ouanaminthe. In the 2001-04 time period, Hugues Bastien collaborated with the Board of Directors of COCINA and an architectural designer to obtain funding and a design for a three-story medical clinic. *Univers Centre Medical* was built in 2005-06. This primary care clinic was designed to provide various medical, surgical, dental and eye-care services to all people in the Ouanaminthe area.



The building includes rooms for a pharmacy, medical examination and treatment, laboratory tests, dental services and eye services, plus a surgery center, birthing area and recovery area. The Univers Centre Medical began meeting medical needs soon after its construction was completed in 2006. Mission teams came from the U.S. for several weeks per year to perform services in the clinic. But the ultimate goal was to have a Haitian staff that would operate the clinic year-round. In 2008, COCINA obtained funding to hire a Haitian staff of 24 professional and support personnel. This staff now includes 2 physicians, an optometrist, dentist, pharmacist, lab technicians, nurses and essential support personnel. The clinic is open 5½ days per week all year.

COCINA was established primarily to provide financial and management support and mission teams to help Institution Univers school be successful in its mission. COCINA expanded its involvement in Ouanaminthe to include adult vocational education and construction and staffing of the medical clinic. The COCINA Board of Directors has 25 members from across the United States.

The vocational education program of Univers is called *Univers Technique et Commercial*. In 2010-11, COCINA is supporting Director Hugues Bastien in the expansion of vocational education from what has been just classroom-based courses (e.g. computer operations, business accounting) to laboratory courses in commercial/industrial sewing and auto/vehicle mechanics. Funding has been obtained from foundations and an international aid organization to build a new building for these two new programs, purchase all the equipment and to hire a program administrator and two instructors.

In 2010, COCINA added “economic development” to its mission statement, knowing how critical it is to provide jobs for Haitians in order to rebuild the country. COCINA has received funding and commitments for funding to jump-start a chicken-egg farm outside Ouanaminthe that will have several thousand laying hens initially.