



International Student Spotlight

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Shining the Light on: *Shaday White*



If you listen closely, you can almost hear the heartbeat of Kingston—the lively rhythm of buses weaving through Half-Way-Tree, the laughter echoing from schoolyards, the scent of patties drifting from street corners. It is in this vibrant capital city of Jamaica that **Shaday White** first opened her eyes to the world. Later, her story continued in the cool, mist-kissed hills of **Manchester**, where lush greenery, quiet mornings, and strong community values shaped most of her formative years. These two landscapes—Kingston’s energy and Manchester’s calm—together formed the backdrop of a young woman destined for purpose.

But Shaday’s journey was not without heartbreak. At just **three years old**, she lost her father. In the shadow of that loss, something powerful emerged: an unbreakable bond between Shaday, her mother, and her sister. They became each other’s strength, each other’s motivation, each other’s safe place. Their unity became the foundation on which Shaday built her life.

A Scholar Shaped by Determination

From elementary school straight through to university, Shaday navigated Jamaica’s rigorous education system with resilience and grace. She attended **Manchester High School**, where she earned her diploma in Business, and later continued her academic journey at the **University of the West Indies, Mona**, graduating with a **Bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management**.

Yet, like many young graduates in Jamaica, she faced the harsh reality of limited employment opportunities in her field. Instead of becoming discouraged, Shaday stepped into a classroom as a **teacher’s assistant**—a decision that would change the trajectory of her life.

Her natural professionalism, warmth, and ability to connect with students did not go unnoticed. Teachers, staff, and even the headmaster repeatedly encouraged her: **“You are good at this.”** **“Why not get certified and have your own classroom?”**

Their words planted a seed. And soon, Shaday began searching for a pathway to become a trained educator.

A Search That Led to God's Plan

Shaday's only concern was time. After years of study, she wanted an **after-degree program** that would recognize her previous credits and shorten her journey. She searched tirelessly, hoping to remain in Jamaica—close to her mother, close to her comfort zone.

Her search led her to **Burman University**.

At first, she resisted the idea of leaving home. She even visited **Northern Caribbean University**, hoping to find an equivalent program there. But the doors did not open. Instead, she found herself in ongoing conversations with **Mrs. Julie Grovet**, whose gentle persistence reminded her that Burman had a place for her.

In August, Shaday walked into the embassy—still unsure, still hesitant—and walked out with a **study permit for Canada**.

It was then she realized:

All her attempts to stay in Jamaica were not obstacles—they were redirections.

God was calling her to Burman University. Shaday has always made the deans list ever since her entrance into Burman University

A New Chapter in Canada

Today, Shaday is in her **final semester** of the Elementary Education program. The once shy, timid young woman from Kingston and Manchester has blossomed into a **confident, friendly, and courageous leader**.

She serves as a **Student Resident Advisor** in Riverton Hall and works with **Custodial Services**, always ready to lend a hand wherever she is needed. Her kindness is consistent, her work ethic unwavering.

Shaday has shared her testimony in churches across Canada, inspiring congregations with her story of faith, perseverance, and divine direction. Although she is not a Seventh-day Adventist, she deeply appreciates the **spiritual atmosphere** on campus—the worship moments, the prayers before class, the sense of reverence that reminds her of her early school days in Jamaica.

A Vision for the Future

Shaday dreams boldly. One day, she plans to **build an elementary school**—a place where children can learn, grow, and be nurtured in an environment shaped by her own experiences and values. She hopes to make a meaningful contribution to the global educational landscape, carrying forward the lessons she has learned in Jamaica, Canada, and everywhere in between.

As she prepares to walk across the stage on a Sunday morning in May, diploma in hand, Shaday stands as a testament to resilience, faith, and purpose. Her journey reminds us that sometimes the path we resist the most is the one God has crafted specifically for us.

Burman University celebrates you, Shaday.

Your story enriches our campus, inspires your peers, and reflects the beauty of our global community. We are proud to shine the spotlight on you.