



STEP BY STEP LEAP BY LEAP

UFONDWA USA
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with pride and gratitude that we present the University of Fondwa's Annual Report. None of what you read here would be possible without your steadfast commitment to education in rural Haiti.

This has been a year of meaningful achievement. Our student body has grown to 246, the largest enrollment in the institution's history, with 225 students pursuing their degrees on full tuition scholarships funded by your generosity. Equally encouraging is the changing face of our campus: women now comprise 41 percent of all students, a milestone that speaks to broadening access.

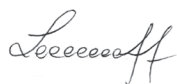
Campus life has grown in equally promising ways. Students established the university's first student government, our second annual debate competition sharpened critical thinking and public expression, and a long-awaited graduation ceremony honored those who persevered through some of Haiti's most turbulent recent years. Construction is now underway on two new dormitories, one for 150 female students and one for 150 male students, extending our reach to young people from even the most remote communities.

The road ahead holds both challenge and opportunity. Displacement within Haiti has increased interest in rural higher education, and UNIF is well positioned to answer that call. We intend to grow enrollment, launch expanded research programs, and establish advanced laboratories in veterinary medicine and soil science, fields central to food sovereignty in Haiti. To sustain that ambition, we are working to secure philanthropic commitments further in advance, ensuring that current students and those yet to arrive can count on the support they need.

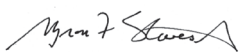
We are thankful for every member of this community who has chosen to invest in the University of Fondwa. Your belief in the transformative power of education echoes across our campus each day, in every student who walks through our doors and every graduate who returns to serve their community.

**Our student body
has grown to 246, the
largest enrollment in the
institution's history, with 225
of those students pursuing
their degrees on full tuition
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your generosity.**

With respect and gratitude,



Ludsonde Lafontant
University of Fondwa
Rector



Myron F. "Buddy" Steves
uFondwa USA
Board President

TWO STUDENTS, TWO JOURNEYS

Trezegueur Clerveau

I am a first-year student in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Fondwa. I was born in Laplenn, in the commune of Site Solèy. I grew up in a community where many young people my age did not have the opportunity to continue their education. Without those opportunities, some ended up getting involved in trouble. Seeing this around me made me realize early on how important education could be for my future.

My childhood was not always easy. My parents separated after many disagreements, and I went to live with my mother and my sister. The three of us shared a small room in a tin-roofed house.

Later, my mother managed to find better work, and we were able to move into a small home with two rooms. Even though life was difficult, my mother never stopped encouraging us.

In my family, education has always been seen as one of the most powerful tools

for building a better life. My mother often reminded me that education brings dignity and respect.

When I heard about the University of Fondwa, I learned that it was known for strong professors and students who go on to serve their communities. Receiving a scholarship to study here is one of the greatest opportunities of my life. It allows me to focus on my studies and dream about the future.

In my program, I am learning about veterinary medicine and the concept of One Health—the idea that protecting animal health also protects human health and the environment.

My goal is to use this education to improve the health of my community while also helping my family build a more secure future.



Farah Chery

I am 21 years old and I grew up in Zoranje, in the commune of Grand Gwav, where I completed all of my primary and secondary schooling.

I was raised by my mother, who played both parental roles in my life. She showed me what strength, courage, and determination look like. In my family, very few people have had the chance to attend university, but education and respect are values that were always emphasized.

Those values inspired me to continue my studies, even when financial challenges made that dream feel far away.

One day, a former classmate told me about the University of Fondwa and the possibility of receiving a scholarship. That conversation changed everything for me. I applied, and when I was accepted, I felt that a new door had opened in my life.

Today, thanks to my scholarship, I am studying agronomy and learning skills that will help me serve my community. In courses like Agricultural Practical Work, I spend time in the fields preparing planting beds, establishing nurseries, and learning how to grow crops. These hands-on experiences are helping me build confidence and deepen my passion for agriculture.

My goal is to become an agronomist who supports farmers and promotes sustainable agriculture in my community.

I want to be an example for others by helping farmers increase their harvests while protecting the land and the environment.



INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Democracy in Action at UNIF

Student councils play a vital role on university campuses, giving students a voice and helping them practice leadership and democratic participation. In 2025 students elected their new council representatives. In a close race, Stanley Sejour (Business Management) won the presidency with 94 votes, while Redando Deas (Veterinary Medicine) received 84 votes and will serve as vice president. The campaign energized the campus and showed the power of student engagement. As a third-year student, Stanley has pledged to represent all departments fairly. At UNIF, democracy is not only taught in classrooms, it is practiced through institutions like the student council.



The Power of Student Voice

For the second year in a row, the University of Fondwa hosted a month-long student debate series that brought the entire campus together. Each morning from 7–8 a.m., dozens of students stepped forward to debate major national and global issues—from food sovereignty to universal health care—while the full student body attended and engaged. Organized by fourth-year agronomy student Slanta Nicolas, the series helps students build confidence, think critically, and practice respectful civil discourse on complex topics. The competition concluded on February 13 with a spirited final debate. Congratulations to winners Lorie Francesca Riche, John Jamesely Theraud, and Tony Jean Baptiste (pictured center below with Slanta Nicolas, Stanley Sejour (far left) and Redando Deas (far right).



Supporting Student Research

At the University of Fondwa, a completed thesis is what separates a student who has finished their studies from one who holds a diploma. These in-depth research projects, similar in scope to a Master's thesis, can take months or even years to complete and must be defended before a panel of judges.

To strengthen this process, UNIF has introduced a more structured system of support. Each student is now assigned a Tutoring Team—similar to a thesis committee—typically composed of UNIF professors, though in some cases students may include faculty from other universities. This team works closely with the student to guide the research and ensure completion within six months after graduation. If that timeline is exceeded, students are responsible for covering any additional support costs. The Vice Rector for Academic Affairs oversees this process, working with faculty and students to provide clearer guidance, accountability, and the resources needed to help students complete their theses more efficiently and achieve their academic goals. Lorie Francesca Riche (top right) builds debate skills for future thesis defense; Guilene Ridor (left) defending her thesis on terra preta to earn her agronomy diploma; Professor Monise Guillaume (bottom right) motivating and inspiring students.

“What motivated me to choose UNIF is my desire to learn modern methods so that I can return home and help farmers increase their production.”

**—THAILANDE JEAN PHILIPPE,
SECOND-YEAR AGRONOMY STUDENT**



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Strengthening Community Through Digital Tools

The University of Fondwa has embraced several digital tools to strengthen both its campus operations and broader community. On campus, the university adopted Moodle to help faculty and students organize courses, share materials, and track progress, with all students accessing the platform through their university email accounts; two campus buildings are also equipped with satellite Wi-Fi to ensure reliable connectivity. Looking beyond graduation, UNIF is developing Baz La, a database designed to connect current students and alumni for networking, shared opportunities, and career development. Baz La will also play a central role in facilitating UNIF's pay-it-forward scholarship model, through which recipients pledge 10 percent of their future earnings to fund scholarships for the next generation of students, with the platform providing the infrastructure to track and manage these commitments.

Investing in Student Housing

In 2025, we broke ground on new student dormitories on recently purchased land, a milestone made possible by the generosity of UNIF's supporters. The two dormitories, one for female students and one for male students, are expected to be completed by August 2027, providing on-campus housing for a total of 300 students. As the university grows, younger students will live in the dorms while upperclassmen can continue renting rooms with local families, maintaining strong community connections. Recognizing that water has become increasingly scarce and truck deliveries are costly, a well was also drilled near the construction site to supply the new dormitories and campus. These dormitories will give students a safe, stable place to live while supporting UNIF's mission to expand access to higher education and strengthen the next generation of Haitian leaders.



Welcoming New Leadership in Veterinary Medicine

We are honored to welcome Dr. Héctor Guzmán Fajardo Rivero as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Fondwa. Dr. Guzmán brings decades of experience in veterinary education, research, and leadership. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in veterinary medicine, animal reproduction, clinical practice, and agricultural production, mentoring numerous diploma, master's, and doctoral students. He has led more than 20 research and technological innovation projects, focusing on dairy and beef production systems, reproductive improvement, and livestock management, and has published more than 90 articles and authored several books. His professional experience includes senior academic and administrative roles at multiple universities and research institutes, where he contributed to project management, strategic planning, and scientific innovation. Dr. Guzmán has also participated in more than 50 national and international conferences, sharing his expertise in veterinary sciences and agricultural development.



LEARNING WITH PURPOSE, RETURNING WITH IMPACT

Thaïlande Jean Philippe

I am a second-year Agronomy student at the University of Fondwa. I grew up on the island of Lagonav, in the community of Matènwa in the second section of Ansagale. Most people in my community make a living through farming and small trade.

**“For me,
success will
only matter if
it helps others
around me.”**

Life was not always easy when I was growing up. My parents did not always have the financial means to meet all my needs, especially when it came to things like healthcare. But they taught me the value of hard work. Before going to school, I often helped them in the fields, and those early responsibilities helped build the discipline that has guided me throughout my life.

In my family, some people were able to attend secondary school, but I am the first to have the opportunity to study at a university. My parents were not able to finish secondary school themselves, but they always told me that education is the most important inheritance they could give me. For my family, education is the key that can open the door to a better life.

I first learned about the University of Fondwa through my school. What inspired me most was its mission to train students to help develop their own communities. I wanted to learn modern agricultural methods so that I could return home and help farmers increase their production.

Receiving a scholarship has been a huge relief for me and my family. It allows me to focus on my studies without constantly worrying about how I will pay for the next month.

Through my studies, I am learning about agronomic science and sustainable development. One course on environmental management especially stayed with me because it showed how we can develop our country without destroying nature.

After graduating, I hope to start a farm and a small enterprise in my community that supports young people like me. I want to use what I have learned at the University of Fondwa to teach my community how to manage water and land more effectively. For me, success will only matter if it helps others around me.



READY TO LEAD, READY TO SERVE

Celebrating Our Graduates

In early 2026, the University of Fondwa held a joyful graduation celebration that had been planned and organized throughout 2025, making it an important milestone to include in this year's annual report. Because graduation ceremonies require significant resources and logistics, UNIF does not hold them every year. This celebration therefore honored graduates from the past five years, bringing together students, families, and faculty for a long-awaited moment of recognition.

The day's festivities included a formal ceremony and the conferring of degrees, followed by a large communal meal shared by the entire student body, graduates, their families, and friends. Loved ones traveled from near and far to celebrate the achievement, making the occasion a true community gathering filled with pride and joy.

In total, 42 young people from the most recent graduating classes completed their degrees in three essential fields: Veterinary Medicine, Agronomy, and Business Management. Their studies prepare them to address critical needs in Haiti, particularly in rural communities.

Although graduates have completed their coursework, some are still working on the final step required for a diploma: a thesis or capstone project comparable in rigor to a master's thesis. These projects allow graduates to apply their knowledge to real-world challenges and develop solutions that benefit their professions and communities.



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We thank you

FINANCIALS

Statements of Financial Position

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 33,359	\$ 377,222
Investments	976,644	353,657
Pledges receivable, net	108,101	454,047
Total Assets	\$ 1,118,104	\$ 1,184,926
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,222	\$ 18,571
Grants Payable	9,926	
Loans Payable	37,112	
Total Liabilities	\$ 51,260	\$ 18,571
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	\$ 18,750	\$ 284,101
With donor restrictions	1,048,094	882,254
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,066,844	\$ 1,166,355
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,118,104	\$ 1,184,926

Statement of Functional Expenses

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Program Services	General and Administrative	Totals	2024 Totals
Grants	\$ 1,795,586	\$	\$ 1,795,586	\$ 1,554,915
Professional services	33,200	108,964	142,164	107,766
Miscellaneous		11,841	11,841	7,954
Insurance		6,769	6,769	6,494
Travel and meetings		11,800	11,800	4,545
Total Expenses	\$ 1,828,786	\$ 139,374	\$ 1,968,160	\$ 1,681,674



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