



SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY
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FROM THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY **A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

EDITORIAL

Here we go again!

It's that time of year when I hear people wishing each other "Season's Greeting" or "Best Wishes for the Season (or Holidays)" or "Happy Holidays" or variations of these greetings. The greeting card industry is overwhelmingly guilty of using these or other similar phrases.

When I inquire what season or holiday is being celebrated, I get the answer: "Christmas".

If I ask the question why then isn't the word "Christmas" being used, I would get the sheepish answer that not everyone is a Christian, and that those who do not celebrate Christmas would be insulted or hurt at such an address to them, but they still wish to be included in the "general" celebrations which occur at this time of year (e.g. Santa Claus/Father Christmas(!), the giving and receiving of presents, the culinary efforts, etc.). The absurdity, inconsistency, and illogic of such an answer have never occurred to those offering such answers.

First of all, the answer is partially correct. The day of the 25th of December is designated on all calendars as "Christmas Day". It is celebrating a Christian event. In short, Christmas is a religious celebration – it is a holy day (holiday), and so is not a secular event like 1st July or Labour Day, etc. However, when Eid is celebrated for the two major Islamic festivals, or when Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are celebrated by the Jews, does anyone try to hide the names of these important religious events? The answer is: No! Then why is the word "Christmas" being swept under the rug? In the so-called "Western" world, the countries are overwhelmingly Christian (even if just nominally so). Therefore, burying the word "Christmas" is a religious discrimination against the majority to (seemingly) appease a minority (do they really feel insulted or hurt or excluded?). Does this sound familiar to anyone? Are there any other instances? About 50 years ago, this concept arose under the name of "political correctness"! There was no "man" or "woman" or even "human" (they all contained the proscribed word "man"); instead, there was a "person" (which contained the word "son" - a male!). A group (feminists) went so far as to propose that God was not a "man" but a "woman"! They obviously did not understand the concept of one God which has no gender or human properties! (Yes, I know what you will say. What about Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate on Christmas day? This is a case of God assuming a lower form by becoming "man", but this does not change the natural characteristic of God, but this discussion is beyond the scope of this article.) Today, such groups are designated as "woke" groups.

Moving on to the next point, one of the loudest woke groups of today is calling out for **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)** even where this concept has no application! This group seeks to promote the fair treatment and full participation of all people, particularly groups who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination on the basis of identity or disability. On the face of it, this is a noble objective, but it quickly runs into trouble if applied to certain large religious groups. The Islam religion is notorious for its treatment of women who are considered to be lower than men and are treated accordingly. The Catholics do not come out unscathed either – its leaders are all male who make all the decisions! It seems that religions are beyond the scope of DEI.

However, this is where ignorance comes into play, especially in the "western" world. Those who push DEI are mostly (at least nominally) Christians, but they do not seem to understand their Christian religion! I do not claim to have had any extensive education in "Comparative Religions", but I have a small amount of knowledge of the major religions. I was taught about and can speak knowledgeably about only one religion – Roman Catholicism, and I shall do so here.

We celebrate the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ because we believe that He is "God made Man" i.e. He is a "spirit" (no earthly form) who took on human form for one distinct purpose. As an infinite, timeless, and all-knowing God, He knows all the evil that ALL humans have committed in the past, present, and future, and has decided to assume the guilt of ALL mankind and pay reparations for this. To do so, He became a man who was to suffer the most horrid and painful torture and final execution to redeem ALL mankind.

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BOOK BY ALUMNA DR. JOANNE COLLINS-GONSALVES

Dr. Joanne Collins-Gonsalves is an alumna (1995) of St. Stanislaus College. She holds a PhD in History, is an Academic Historian and the Managing Director of the Historical Research International Inc. (Canada). Dr. Collins-Gonsalves serves on the Advisory Board of the Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, the Board of the Edmonton Heritage Council, and the Board of the Rotary Club of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, among other posts.

Dr. Collins-Gonsalves has more than 20 years experience in historical research, projects, and publications, and has authored over thirty (30) research projects, books, book chapters, academic articles, research papers, conference papers, and biographical profiles in total. She has also served as a Contributing Author with the Oxford University Press, and for the Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography edited by Prof. Franklin W. Knight and Prof. Henry L. Gates.

Her latest book, *Iris de Freitas Brazao, Legal Luminary and Trailblazer: Caribbean, Canada, Wales, England 1896-1989*, has been recognised by the University of London as one of three “fascinating items from the collections” of 312,000 volumes within the holdings of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) Library. The book was showcased across the University of London Senate House Library’s social media pages on 25-26 June, 2024, and was highlighted as part of a series of events to commemorate the



30th Anniversary of the School of Advanced Study which was formed in 1994. The significance of Dr. Collins-Gonsalves’ work is further noted when the two other items featured by the Senate House Library were from the 17th and 19th centuries (“An ordinance for abolishing of festivals - 8 June 1647”, as well as the Laws and ordinances, relating especially to Heligoland from the 19th century).

This captivating scholarly biography by Dr. Collins-Gonsalves delves into the extraordinary life of Iris de Freitas Brazao, the first woman Barrister-at-Law in the Commonwealth Caribbean. She was called to the Bar in 1929 at The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in England and returned to Guyana where she pursued a legal and public service career. In addition to Iris being the first female Barrister-at-law in the Commonwealth Caribbean, she was also the first woman in England and British Guiana (now Guyana) to prosecute a murder trial in 1932, among many other firsts.

Dr. Collins-Gonsalves noted that “I am very pleased that Iris’ contributions to the legal community are being celebrated. This recognition is also testament to the tremendous and meticulous research that went into writing this book. In addition, this is great recognition for Guyanese History, Caribbean History, and the ground-breaking career of Iris de Freitas Brazao.”

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 1)

During His life on earth, He showed no favouritism but addressed ALL in preaching love and peace, attempting to conquer the world not by the sword but by word, love, and example. Christianity, then, created at His birth and spread by His followers after his human life on earth ended, is one of love, peace, and joy to ALL without exception. DEI has been a founding characteristic from Day One.

Therefore, Christmas celebrations are for EVERYONE without exception, and this must be acknowledged in our greetings. We have been given “free will” (a separate topic), and so we are free to either accept the greeting or reject it, but the greeting always remains.

So, in keeping with the spirit of the season, on behalf of St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, we wish ALL

A VERY MERRY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS

AND

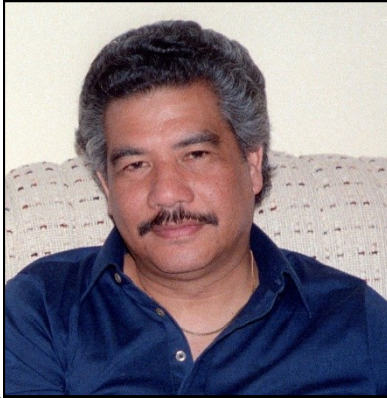
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR IN 2025



Adoration of the Shepherds by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

OBITUARIES

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of **Alumnus (50-52) Edmund Appin** died suddenly on 6 December, 2024, in Luton, England.



he established the Aardvark Animal Hospital. For over 35 years, Peter dedicated himself to his practice, serving the community with unwavering commitment, often staying late to accommodate clients and their pets.

Peter's contributions extended beyond his practice. He was actively involved in numerous community, civic, and religious organizations, including the South Florida Veterinarian Medical Association and the Humane Society of Greater Miami. His dedication earned him the inaugural Charles Pusey Award and the title of Veterinarian of the Year for the State of Florida.

Peter is survived by Jane, his loving wife of 53 years, as well as by 2 of his 13 siblings, **alumnus (54-62) Chris Fernandes** and Anne Marie Reigber; his children, Peter (married to Jocelyn) and Beth (married to Todd); and his cherished grandchildren, Mason, Gabrielle, and Mitchell. Known for his generosity, kindness, and love of animals, Peter also had a passion for photography and music. His legacy of compassion and service will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Alumnus (47-54) Peter Thomas Fernandes, a beloved veterinarian and community pillar, passed away on 24 September, 2024, in Glenwood, Maryland, U.S.A., at the age of 86. Born on 21 December, 1937, in Guyana, Peter's life was marked by a passion for family, animals, education, and service.

After attending St. Stanislaus College and before pursuing higher education, he was a professional cyclist, representing Guyana, and he even raced goats. His academic journey led him to the University of Wisconsin where he excelled in the School of Agriculture, earning numerous accolades and graduating as valedictorian in 1966. He furthered his studies at Cornell University, obtaining his degree in veterinary medicine in 1970.

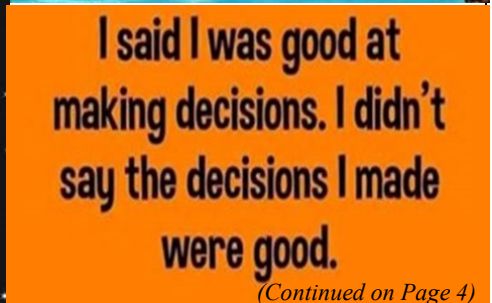
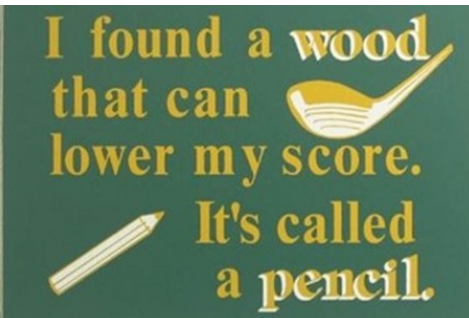
Returning to Guyana, Peter worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and ran his own small animal practice. In 1978, he migrated to Miami, Florida, where



his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren all will cherish their time with their Dziadzia (grandpa in Polish) as he was able to spend the last decade of his life in Maryland with them. His blessed memory will serve as a lasting guide for them. He will be sorely missed, but we know he is watching over his loving family.

A memorial service will be held on 4 January, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel at St Mark's Catholic Church, 5601 S Flamingo Road SW, Ranches, FL 33330.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



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COMING EVENTS

The following is some information about the Society’s upcoming events to the end of 2024 and for 2025. As you can appreciate, the events in 2025 are still in the early stages of planning, and you will be informed as the planning crystalizes.

New Year’s Eve Gala

By popular demand, this again will be on at the same place as the last two years, Scarborough Convention Centre, 20 Torham Place, Scarborough, on Tuesday 31st December.

The cost will be \$135 per person, with a tax deductible receipt for \$45 per person or \$90 per couple. Payment must be paid in advance to *paysaints@gmail.com*.

There will be a meet-and-greet session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. during which complimentary non-alcoholic cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be served. At 8:00 p.m., a full dinner will be served with a choice of one of four entrées. There will be two bottles of wine per table with dinner.

There will be champagne and party favours at midnight, and a late-night snack table will be available.

Entertainment will be provided by the band, Triple Play, supplemented by DJ Tee Cee.

All proceeds from this event go to assisting St. Stanislaus College in Guyana.

For further details, please contact one of the following:

Paul Abdool - 416-297-7585

Bernard Arokium - 647-967-3278

Alfred Carr - 416-441-1720

Des Jardine - 416-902-5047

Jimmy Fung - 416-278-0344

Spring Dance

The tentative date for this event is Saturday 26 April, from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., at the West Rouge Community Centre, 270 West Rouge Drive (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/ Port Union Rd.). The cost and what it covers will be announced at

a later date.

Golf Tournament

This year, we be will be returning to the Lebovic Golf Club, 14012 Leslie St., Aurora, Ont. L4G 7C2 (west of HWY 404 and just north of the Bloomington Road) on Friday 11 July. The cost and what it covers will be announced at a later date.

Caribjam

Again like this year, this event will be a joint venture with the Guyana Christian Charities at the Pickering Recreation Complex, 1867 Valley Farm Rd., Pickering, on Sunday 3 August. The cost and what it covers will be announced at a later date.

Fall Dance

The tentative date for this event is Saturday 25 October, from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., at the West Rouge Community Centre, 270 West Rouge Drive (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/ Port Union Rd.). The cost and what it covers will be announced at a later date.

St. Stanislaus Feast Day

This event, which celebrates the saint and the school after whom it is named, includes a Mass, followed by a get-together where light refreshments will be served at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 432 Sheppard Avenue East (on the north side about 100m west of the Sheppard/Bayview intersection) on either Saturday 8 or 15 November at 1:30 p.m. There is no charge for attending, but the Mass Offertory collection will be donated to the church in appreciation of the use of the church facilities. More information will be forthcoming at a later date.

New Year’s Eve Gala

This will take place on Wednesday 31 December, and the costs and other details about this event will be announced at a later date.

2024 FALL DANCE REPORT

On Saturday 26 October, 2024, for the first time since COVID, SSCGAS held a Fall Dance which took place at the Rembrandt Hall in Scarborough. This was a new venue for SSCGAS, and a new format for our fall dance.

The Hall provided a sit-down dinner, with complimentary hors d’oeuvres prior to dinner. Attendees had to purchase their drinks from the bar which was operated by the Hall. DJ Get Busy provided a good mix of music to keep guests entertained before and during dinner, and then kept the

dancing going until 12:30 a.m.

While we did not achieve the planned numbers of guests, those who attended enjoyed the evening, and several were complimentary about the Hall. The raffle added \$670 to the revenue for the dance.

SSCGAS thanks all who came out to support the organization in its continuing fund-raising efforts that remain important for the students of St Stanislaus College in Guyana.

MORE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Pre internet chat room using An old version of windows...



No matter how long you have traveled in the wrong direction, you can always turn around.



MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2024. Membership is based on the calendar year.

CANADA (89)

Paul Abdool⁵
Lance Alexander⁴
Howard Amo
Alwyn Appiah¹
Paul Archer¹
Glen Armogan³
Bernard Arokium⁴
Marcellus Arokium⁴
Bernard Austin
Michael Barrington²
John Rene Bayley
Vince Bettencourt⁴
Teddy Boyce²
Ian Camacho⁶
Paul Camacho⁴
Alfred Carr⁵
Wilfred Carr⁴
Joseph Castanheiro³
(*dec*)
Bob Chee-a-tow
Sydney Chin⁴
Gerry Chin-sam¹
Ivan Choo
Tony Clarke⁵
Paul Crum-ewing²
Richard DaCosta²
Edward DaSilva²
Russell D'Abreu
Derek D'Andrade³
Terry DeAbreu
Gregory DeCastro
Rupert DeCastro³

Peter DeFreitas⁴
Andre DePeana¹
Roger Devers⁴
Raymond Dias²
Jerome D'Oliveira
Paul Duarte
Joe Faria³
Raymond Fernandes
Keith Fletcher¹
Andre Fredricks⁸
Darwin Fung⁴
James Fung¹
Richard Gomes⁷
Harold Gonsalves
Neil Gonsalves⁴
Ken Hahnfeld⁵
Albert Hamilton¹
Paul Hazlewood
Monty Henson¹
Desmond Hill³
Andrew Insanally
Richard James²
Desmond Jardine⁴
Clayton Jeffery⁵
Anthony Jekir⁴
Gregory Kellawan³
Amanda King¹
Vibert Lampkin⁵
John Lopes¹
Colin Nurse¹
Anthony O'Dowd⁵
Michael Persaud
Renuka Persaud

Compton Pestano¹
L. A. Phillips³
Carl Ramalho (*dec*)
Marcelline Ramcharan³
Linden Ramdeholl
Romeo Resaul⁴
Bryan Rodrigues
Joseph Schuler⁴
Savitri Seenauth⁵
Maurice Serrao
Robin Shaw
Michael Singh⁴
Albert Smith²
Peter St. Aubyn³
Cecil Subryan²
Albert Sweetnam⁵
Michael Texeira¹
Arthur Veerasammy⁴
Vibert Vieira⁴
Paul Vincent
Howard Welshman⁴
David Wong⁴
Brian Yhap¹
John Yip⁵
Angus Zitman¹

AUSTRALIA (1)

Lennox Yhap²

BARBADOS (1)

Geoffrey DeCaires⁴

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1)

Deep Ford¹

GUYANA (1)

Fitzgerald Yaw³

TRINIDAD (3)

Richard Harford¹
Ronald Harford¹
P. I. Gomes⁸

U.K. (7)

John DaCosta¹
Julio Faria¹
Tony Gomes⁴
Leyland Grant¹
Neville Jordan⁵
Charles Kennard
Raymond Pan-cham¹(*dec*)

U.S.A. (35)

Clydewyn Anthony²
Mark Anthony²
Mark E. Anthony²
Wayne Austin²
Lloyd Barker²
Stephen Budhu²
Rev. Andrew Chan-a-sue¹
Ronald Chanderbhan⁵
Dalip Etwaroo

Bernard Friemann⁵
Trevor Gibbs²
Edward Gouveia
Philip Greatehead
Leyland Hazlewood²
Michael Heydon¹(*dec*)
Lloyd Houston³
Edward Isaacs²
Wilfred Jack¹
George Jardim⁵
Kenneth Jordan³
Jolyon King⁴
Nevrindra Mangru²
Christopher Martin²
Vince McBean⁴
Carlyle Moore¹
Godfrey Nurse¹
Hugh Christopher Patrick²
Horace Persaud²
Hugh Rodrigues³
Peter Rodrigues³
Richard F. Rodrigues³
Gyanda (Eric) Shivnairain⁴
John Sparrock³
Leyland Thomas³
Jolyon Williams²

VENEZUELA (1)

Michael Chin-a-loy²

There are 139 paid-up members. (*dec* - deceased)

Notes :

1. These (26) alumni have paid in advance through 2025.
2. These (26) alumni have paid in advance through 2026.
3. These (18) alumni have paid in advance through 2027.
4. These (25) alumni have paid in advance through 2028.

5. These (14) alumni have paid in advance through 2029.

6. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2030.

7. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2031.

8. These (3) alumni has paid in advance through 2032.

SPECIAL NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP

Membership is paid by calendar year i.e. January to December. Therefore, membership up to 2023 expired on 31st December, 2023. If your name is not in the above list, you are no longer a paid-up member. Please submit your membership fees as soon as possible. See page 8 for the membership form and address, or pay electronically at www.torontosaints.com.

The fee is \$25 (Can) per year but, if you pay \$100 (Can) for 4 years, you will receive an extra year for no further charge. Selecting the multiple year membership will mean that you will not need to worry about having to remember to pay the fees for the next five years.

SMILES

*Walmart had to remove 50,000 milk cartons for their labels to be changed from "Open here" to "Open at home".

*Circuses struggle to find new clowns as top prospects continue to go into politics.

*In order to make an appointment with his doctor, a man had to update his computer operating system, download an app, get a username, choose a password, log in to a health portal, navigate to messages, and then write his doctor. By then, it was too late...he had died.

TEACHING SCIENCE AT THE COLLEGE

Fr. John Marrion S.J. (see biography in the *Toronto Alumni June 2013 issue of its newsletter which can be found on the web-site www.torontosaints.com*) arrived in British Guiana (BG) in August 1930 and immediately joined the teaching staff at St. Stanislaus College. In the following year, Fr. George Weld (see biography in the *Toronto Alumni March 2019 issue of its newsletter which can be found on the web-site www.torontosaints.com*), the Headmaster of the College, was appointed to be Bishop of BG, and Fr. Marrion assumed the Headmaster post.

Fr. Marrion, who had studied Maths and Science and had taught these subjects in England, decided to introduce Science at the College, and assigned some rooms on the top floor of the Weld wing (the original building). He had a concrete floor laid down for the laboratories but, in 1941, he was forced to resign due to ill health. At the same time, there were difficulties in acquiring equipment and inventory due to the world war and, also there was a demand for more students at the College. This meant that the laboratories were reduced to one, the Chemistry lab where Physics also would now be taught, and the freed-up rooms became classrooms for the influx on new students. This meant that, while Science was still being taught, the level was not good enough for students to take public exams in these subjects.

Fr. Herbert Feeny S.J. (see biography in the *Toronto Alumni March 2015 issue of its newsletter which can be found on the web-site www.torontosaints.com*), who had studied Science and had taught both Physics and Chemistry in England, arrived in BG and immediately became the Senior Science Master at the College. Science teaching improved immediately, but there were still problems with having only one laboratory, so the decision was made to allow students to sit the School Certificate science exam but not for two subjects (Physics and Chemistry) but for one subject, a combined "Physics with Chemistry" exam. Another advantage was that the students were taking the Senior Cambridge Certificate examinations which did not require a practical exam in science.

However, in 1949, the Cambridge exams were switched for the Oxford & Cambridge exams at the "Ordinary" (O) level and for the London exams at the "Advanced" (A) level, and both sets of exams not only were of a higher standard but also demanded practical exams in both Physics and Chemistry. Fr. Feeny had a secular Master who helped in the science teaching, but the students continued to be allowed to sit only the one combined exam at the O level, and the science subjects were not taught for the A level as the subjects were examined separately and the college was unable



Fr. Herbert Feeny S.J.

to teach at this level. In 1952, a change was made, and students were allowed to take Physics and Chemistry as separate exam subjects, but the Physics with Chemistry was still available as well as a General Science exam. By 1950, the school was overcrowded and the Headmaster, Fr. Brian Scannell S.J. (who had assumed this post in 1949 (see biography in the *Toronto Alumni March 2015 issue of its newsletter which can be found on the web-site www.torontosaints.com*)) had started planning an expansion of the school and had been working with Fr. Feeny to determine the needs of the school for the teaching of science at the A level. Plans were drawn up, and the construction of a new wing (now named the Scannell wing) was started, and it was to include two separate labs for Physics and Chemistry. The new wing was completed in 1952, and classes started to be held in it in the middle term of the calendar year. However, the official opening did not take



The new (Scannell) wing in 1952. Note the ground floor which is empty but later to become the new science laboratories.

place until Wednesday 5th October of that year, but the construction was still incomplete as the two science labs were to occupy the ground floor which was still void of anything because of the lack of funds to complete it. However, funds were raised and, by 1955, the new labs were completed for the first 6th Form science class to be held in the first term of the new school year. This was helped by the return of Fr. Marrion and the hiring of a new secular teacher from England to assist Fr. Feeny in the teaching of advanced Physics and Chemistry.

Fr. Feeny continued to be the fixture in the science labs, with assistant Masters coming and going, until 1970 when he retired after 24 years at the College. Fr. Marrion might be called the instigator, but Fr. Feeny definitely was the implementer. There probably isn't any other person, religious or secular, who can claim as long a service to the college as he can. In retrospect, he surely can be regarded as the "face" of the College.

L. A. (Bunty) Phillips

WEEK OF CELEBRATIONS IN GUYANA 8th OCTOBER TO 14th OCTOBER, 2024

In 2023, the family (in England) of Fr. Feeny decided to honour him by establishing a scholarship in his name to enable a qualified Saints student to attend the University of Guyana (UG) for four years. They would contribute half of the cost, and the other half would be raised by other donors. The St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society (SSCGAS) volunteered to fund the second half. Fr. Feeny spent 24 years (46 – 70) as a Senior Science Master at the College and would be known to many Saints alumni. Therefore, SSCGAS decided to invite alumni to donate to the scholarship, and it would contribute the remaining amount. Some alumni did do.

However, changes have a habit of occurring and, in this case, Guyana had become blessed with a financial largesse due to its oil resources. Shortly after the announcement of the scholarship plan, the Guyana government stated that, starting in 2025, education at UG would be free for qualified Guyanese students, so that the proposed scholarship was no longer viable.

After learning of the change, the member of Fr. Feeny's family, who was in charge in England, visited Guyana to assess the situation and to find out how the family could still help the College. He found the two science laboratories in a rather sorry state, a fact known already to both the College's Board of Governors and the Ministry of Education. He then offered financial help for any renovations to be made to the labs. The Ministry and the College already had been developing a plan, including costs, for the renovation of the labs, to be completed during the school's 2024 summer holidays to make the labs ready for use at the start of the new school year in September. The Guyana government promised to cover half of the costs, and the remaining half had to come from donations by other organizations and individuals. Fr. Feeny's family pledged the amount which it had promised for the scholarship, and SSCGAS agreed to donate \$20,000 US to the project. Those alumni, who had already donated, agreed for their donations to be transferred to this project, and other alumni were invited to follow suit.

Since Fr. Feeny was instrumental in getting the first labs up and running at the school, the renovated labs were to be known as The Fr. Feeny Laboratories. The renovations were completed on schedule, and the official opening on 8th October, at which some alumni were present. The following article is an account of what took place at the time of the official opening.

After several months of planning and discussion about how to honour Fr. Herbert Feeny, the family of Fr. Feeny and the Board of Governors (BOG), with input from the alumni associations, decided to proceed with a renovation of the Physics and Chemistry laboratories. The school completed the renovations with financial support from Fr. Feeny's family, the Guyana Government, the alumni associations, alumni, and the Jesuits.

The Board of Governors, with assistance from the Administration, and the Toronto St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society (SSCGAS), organized a gathering in Guyana to celebrate the dedication of the science laboratories to Fr. Feeny. The initial concept transformed into a week of celebrations from 8 October to 14 October, 2024, that honoured Fr. Feeny, celebrated the opening of a new staff room paid for with a bequest from alumni Ron Harford, and provided an opportunity for alumni, the Feeny and Harford families, and other friends and family members to gather in Guyana. While the visitors trickled into Guyana on various flights from the UK, the USA, Canada, and the Caribbean, the majority arrived late night on October 7. Our Immigration contacts facilitated our entry into Guyana, and then Raymond Shaw and Robin Low had our transportation waiting for us to take us to our hotels.

Assembly, Business Meeting, Lunch and Dedication Ceremony

The following morning of 8 October, Raymond and Robin once again arranged our transportation to the school for the Assembly in the Marion Forum. It was an impressive sight to see the students neatly dressed in their uniforms and seemingly quite comfortable in their setting. Rupert DeC-

astro and Alfred Carr, among others, addressed the students. Rupert outlined a history of the Toronto organization, and Alfred stressed the quality of education at Saints that alumni had received and the importance of lifelong learning as our World changes. Robbie Fernandes, the Games Master enjoyed the most enthusiastic reception, with the announcement of recent inter-house competitions, of which Galton House was the ultimate winner. The As-



sembly concluded with the presentations of the DeCastro Bursaries by Rupert, and the Albert Sweetnam Bursaries by the HM, Mrs. Donna Lewis Isles, followed by performances from the choir, the new steel band, and a poem recited by a student.

Continued on page 9

Week of Celebrations

(Continued from Page 8)

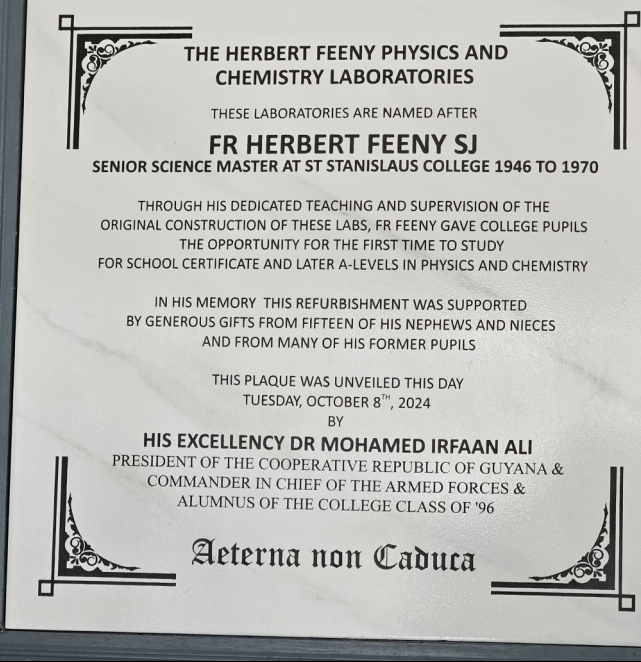
Following the Assembly, representatives of the BOG, the alumni associations, the PTA, some teachers, the Administration, and the HM met to discuss plans for the school. There was a good exchange of ideas and, because the alumni had to attend a lunch hosted by the President of Guyana, the group decided to resume discussions later in the week.



As indicated, while non-alumni attended lunch at another venue, all alumni attended a lunch hosted at State House by the President of Guyana, Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali, an alumnus of the College. Dr. Ali welcomed the alumni and recognised the Feeny and Harford families. He outlined his vision for Guyana and the role of education in achieving this. In reply, Dr. Kofi Dalrymple, a member of the BOG, thanked the President for hosting the alumni. At the conclusion of the lunch, the guests returned to their hotels.

Dedication Ceremony

The highlight of 8 Oct. was, however, the dedication ceremony for the Fr. Herbert Feeny Physics and Chemistry la-



laboratories, and the Harford Staff Room. The School dedicated the Staff room not only to Ron Harford but also to two former masters, Stanley Marques and Dr. Leslie Cummings. This well-orchestrated event clearly showed the detailed planning that the organizers had undertaken. The school choir and the steel band gave several performances, including the National Anthem

Continued on page 10

Week of Celebrations

(Continued from Page 9)

and the School Song. Dr. Dalrymple gave opening remarks, and Roger Devers of SSCGAS paid a tribute to Fr. Feeny, as he was his former lab assistant. Members of the Feeny and Harford families provided an overview of the manner in which the decisions to renovate the laboratories and the staff room came about.

A medley of patriotic songs, including "Leave me a River" (composed by recently deceased alumnus Dr. Dave Martins) performed by students and supported by the music teacher, preceded the feature address by His Excellency, Dr. Irfaan Ali. In his address, Dr. Ali, recognised the long service given by Chris Fernandes to Saints and Guyana. He announced the Government's intent to create an Innovation Fund to promote innovation in Guyana and that Saints would have a role in the use of this fund. He stated also that the Government would provide funding to start the work on the new Saints sports field, together with a three-storey building, to be ready in 2025. Following his address, the Head Mistress, thanked all the speakers and in particular the President, and the Feeny and Harford families, for their support of the school. Immediately afterwards, the President cut the ribbon to officially open the Fr. Herbert Feeny Laboratories and the Harford Staff Room. Many of the guests stayed on afterwards to enjoy the cocktail party.

Baganara Resort

On Wednesday 9 Oct., a group of 30 crossed the Demerara River to drive to Parika where they were transported by boat, first to Fort Island, a former Dutch fortified island, and then to Baganara Resort. At Baganara Resort, some of the visitors took the opportunity to swim in the river after lunch, before we boarded the boat for the return trip to Parika and our transportation to our hotels in Georgetown.

Kaieteur Falls and Appreciation Dinner

Thursday was a free day, and many of the visitors arranged their own private outings, visiting with family and friends in some instances. On Friday, a small group of 13 travelled to Ogle International Airport and flew to Kaieteur Falls. For some, this was the first time that they had had an opportunity to view Kaieteur Falls up close. Unfortunately, a persistent shower dampened the event for the entire 30 minutes walking to and from the Camp to the Falls. This was the only time during the week when we had any rain. After viewing Kaieteur Falls, we flew back to Ogle and then returned to our hotels in time to get ready for the Appreciation Dinner on Friday evening.

Most of the alumni and other visitors still in Guyana attended the Appreciation Dinner. Many of the teaching staff, including the Head Mistress, the PTA, BOG members, and the local Association attended. It was a casual, relaxed atmosphere with attendees mixing freely throughout the evening and making new friends. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a bouquet by the Head Mistress to Mrs. Shelley Anne Harris to recognise her stellar assistance in organizing and managing the week of Celebrations. In recognition of Chris Fernandes' contribution over many years as Chair of the Board, Alfred Carr pre-

sented Chris with a piece of original Inuit Art on behalf of St Stanislaus College and the alumni.

Continuation of Business meeting, website planning, and "liming" at the Pegasus

Saturday 12 Oct., 2024, saw alumni from the associations in Guyana, BRASS, and SSCGAS meet with members of the Board, PTA, and School Administration to continue the Business Meeting that had commenced on 8 October. Attendees agreed on a plan of action going forward and identified several priorities which the team will consider in developing the agreed Strategic Plan for the School.

A discussion followed on how to maintain the new school website and keep the material kept current. Ryan Devers will continue to work with the local staff, and the Toronto Society will assist with financial support.

On Saturday evening, most of the visitors went to the Pegasus Hotel to enjoy a relaxing evening poolside, listening to the live music, and having dinner. It was a pleasant evening enjoyed by all.

Picnic at Bounty Farm

With an awareness that the week was rapidly ending, we journeyed on Sunday morning to Bounty Farm, after some people attended Mass at Brickdam Cathedral. Our last day in Guyana, for most visitors, turned out to be yet another warm, sunny day. At Bounty Farm, we were treated to a splendid lunch with refreshments. Some sampled the pool. Some volunteered to play dominos in an impromptu tournament featuring players from Etheridge, Butler, and Galton Houses, the original three. Butler House emerged as the winner of the tournament. Shortly afterwards, the attendees travelled back to their hotels to prepare for the majority to leave Guyana on various flights the following day and thereby bringing an incredible week to a close.



Conclusion

Everyone who travelled to Guyana was effusive in his or her praise for the manner in which the week was so well organized. A big vote of thanks goes to Chris Fernandes, the Chair of the Board, and Mrs. Harris, the School Administrator, supported by a fund raising team and others, for providing overall direction.

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Week of Celebrations*(Continued from Page 10)*

Raymond Shaw and Robin Low managed our transportation, with assistance from an alumnus in the GDF, and they resolved many issues. Raymond and Robin were available at all times of the day and, without their support, the visitors would have had challenges in getting from their hotels, and other accommodations, to where they needed to be. In addition to the fore mentioned, other members of the Board of Governors, like David Singh and David Fernandes fully

supported and managed the Business Meetings.

Last but by no means least, was the graciousness of His Excellency, Dr. Irfaan Ali, in hosting the alumni at lunch and attending the Dedication Ceremony for the new laboratories and Staff Room. Dr. Ali stayed on after the event on Tuesday night sharing his views on many subjects with alumni and others.

*Alfred Carr, Chairman and President
SSCGAS*

A NOTE FROM SUSAN FRYER

Susan Fryer is a niece of Fr. Feeny. She attended the celebrations along with David Feeny, a nephew of Fr. Feeny.

I felt most honoured to be giving an hour long talk to a class of 16 year old girls in the newly refurbished science labs at "Saints". The plaque to Uncle Herbert is in the background. The topic was entitled: "Fertility awareness - introduction to the Billings Ovulation Method®".

All those years ago, Uncle Herbert was



having tea in my home in England and, upon learning what I did, he said, "We really need you in Guyana". This, it is hoped, will be followed up with a teacher training course given by the Trinidad and Tobago affiliate listed on the official Australian website: www.billings.life. The photo was taken by David Feeny before heading off to Kaieteur Falls by aeroplane on the Friday of Celebration Week.

NOTE:

For those interested in seeing the students using the new science labs and the renovation of the staff room, there is a Facebook video, approximately 5 minutes in length, which can be viewed at the following site:

<https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=867488102220533&vanity=guyanancn>

LETTER FROM DR. CHRIS FERNANDES TO SSCGAS**The St. Stanislaus College Board of Governors**

c/o John Fernandes Limited
24 Water Street, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592•226•3241/2, Fax: 592•226-1881

November 25, 2024

Mr. Alfred Carr
President
St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society
Toronto
Canada

Dear Alfred,

The last six weeks have been hectic for me but I am happy to share with you that the opening of the new labs at the college was a resounding success. I cannot overstate the value of your support, that of the Feenys, the Harfords, and our overseas alumni, especially that of your Association.

I would like to sincerely thank you and your Executive for the tremendous support, both financial and otherwise, that we have been receiving from you since the appointment of our Board in October 2005.

We are aware that your average age is rising with every

year and you may soon be unable to continue hosting the numerous fund raisers to continue to assist as you do. As I have mentioned when you were here, with the help of the Jesuits we are setting up an endowment fund for the school. If managed well enough by our Trustees, it may be able to mostly replace the financial input we have been receiving from you.

Thanks again to all of you and to the "wood ants" that were ultimately responsible for your initial formation.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Fernandes C.C.H.
CHAIRMAN

c.c.: Mr. Art Veerasammy
Dr. Kofi Dalrymple
Dr. David Singh
Mrs. Donna Lewis-Isles
Mrs. Shelley Anne Harris
Ms. Jimelle Joseph

COLLEGE NOTES

CHAIRMAN OF BOG RECEIVES AWARDS

Recently, Mr. Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the Board of Governors (BOG) of the College, received awards from several groups. This would come as no surprise to anyone who knows of his wide experience in business and in social, cultural, humanitarian, and sporting activities in Guyana, all on top of his long tenure as the first and, since 2005 to date, only Chairman of the BOG, and being on the Board of St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital, Georgetown.

Chris pursued his tertiary education at the Irish Management Institute and Pennsylvania State University, and then joined the family business where he is currently the Chairman of John Fernandes Group of Companies. After displaying his skills in the management of the family business, he was elected as the first President of the Shipping Association of Guyana Inc. over the period 1995 – 2002. He also held the position of the Chairman of the Caribbean Shipping Association. Also from 2003 to 2010, Chris also served as the Hon. Counsel for Germany to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

In 2002, the Government of Guyana recognised his long and dedicated service in the field of Commerce and Shipping by awarding him The Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA). Additionally, in 2007, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) for his outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions to the business community and the wider Society.

This year, the Chancellor of the University of Guyana (UG) informed him that the Special Conferral Committee of the University considered him to be of the highest calibre of humanity and an exemplar in the field of international business and innovation, and that they unanimously agreed to confer on him the singular distinction of an honorary doctoral degree. Chris received this award at a ceremony on Thursday, 7th November, 2024, at UG.

In addition, the Shipping Association of Guyana honoured Chris with a Lifetime Achievement Award to recognise his high level of guidance and achievement in the industry.

Throughout his life as a student at the College and later as an alumnus, Chris has been very active in the sport of field hockey, and he has trained many top players in the country. These “Hockey Boys” have thanked and presented an award to their “Skipper” who has “helped to mould them into

the men they have become”.

In a recent letter to the Ministry of Education, Dr. Chris has announced that he will be stepping back from the role of Chairman of the BOG of the College, effective as of the



last day of this year, but stated that he will continue to sit as a member of the BOG and continue to give advice to both his successor and the Board as a whole.

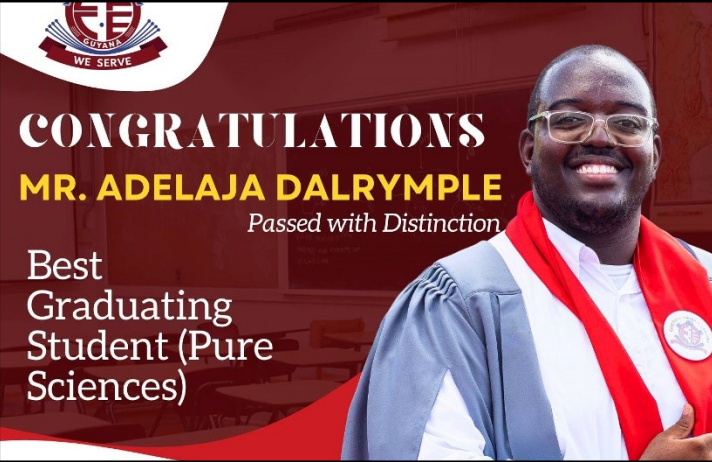
On behalf of the all the alumni of the College, the Toronto Alumni Society wishes to offer Dr. Chris our most sincerest thanks for the hard work he has done in leading the College to its superior education and extracurricular status in the country, and wishes him all the best in his “semi-retirement”, but still look forward to seeing him around in our visits to the College.



TEACHERS SUCCESSFUL AT CERTIFICATION

St. Stanislaus College is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of Mr. Adelaja Dalrymple and Ms. Rashanna Murray!
Both of these dedicated educators have successfully completed their certification, with Distinction, from the Cyril Potter College of Education which has offered professional teacher training since 1928.

Mr. Dalrymple was the top performer in Pure Sciences, while Ms. Murray secured the second-best position in their program.
We congratulate them on this remarkable accomplishment and wish them continued success in their careers.



STUDENTS OUTSTANDING IN EXAMS



STUDENTS RECEIVE NEW MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The College has been trying to expand its (extra-) curriculum by introducing music to the students, in both vocal and instrumental areas. Vocals do not require individual musical instruments, other than the voice. However, instrumental music requires individual musical instruments, and this means that these instruments must be acquired.
Since music is not yet part of the academic curriculum, the government would not subsidize the costs of the acquisition of instruments, so the College appealed to the Toronto alumni (SSCGAS) to help acquire the needed instruments. SSCGAS reviewed the request and agreed to provide the funds for the purchase.
The instruments were obtained, and the students expressed their thanks and sent a photo of some instruments in use.



HELPING OUT TO ENHANCE LIVES

The administration and staff at St. Stanislaus College possess and foster a high sense of volunteerism. Thus, it was with great ease and joy that this institution ran with the Ministry of Education’s vision of reviving volunteerism in schools. Consequently, under the supervision of Ms. Shelley Anne Harris and led by Ms. Melanie Alphonso, the St. Stanislaus Volunteerism programme was revived and took off with a new fervour. To hone leadership skills among our students, two of them, Rihanna Sears and Rehana Indar, were selected as student leaders, treasurer and secretary, and tasked with functioning in these capacities.

Operations commenced on 13 October, 2023, with a total of 28 volunteers. Over the months, this total increased to 60 volunteers at present. From cleanup projects to donations, the club has since embarked upon an exciting and fulfilling journey of “Helping out to Enhance Lives”, which is our mission. Last Christmas, our Christmas drive brought in donations of both cash and kind which were distributed to selected orphanages and elderly homes, while this year’s Easter project saw us donating grocery items, clothing, and toys to two villages in the Rupununi. The volunteers also took part in the countrywide cleanup campaign which was held in February, and executed regular



fundraisers like ‘sweet tooth’ and hotdog sales. These sales, which were executed over a period of nine months, were geared at accumulating funds for our “Pinktober Project” to the Cancer Institute.

With many more projects on the table, the club hopes to expand its horizon and continue serving to live out its motto: “A little help goes a long way”, and its vision: “A brighter tomorrow for as many as we can, made possible by today’s deeds as much as we can”. We have witnessed the growth and development of our volunteers and we are proud of them and what they do in giving back to society.

PRESIDENT PRESENTS CHEQUE TO COLLEGE

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has pledged \$500,000 annually to the Board of Governors of St. Stanislaus College to establish a debating and impromptu speech award in honour of the late Lorraine Meertins who was regarded as an exceptional teacher. The president made the announcement while commissioning the refurbished Physics and Chemistry laboratories and staff room at the secondary institution. In his address, President Ali said the creation of the Lorraine Meertins debating and impromptu speech award will stimulate a tradition in impromptu speech, debating, and poetry.

Reflecting on his time as a student at the College, President Ali spoke of the profound influence that the institution had on his life and how it helped to shape his future endeavours by providing him with a well-rounded educational experience. He emphasised that this same transformative experience awaits all current and future students, given that the school continues to foster essential values of generosity, creativity, initiative, and academic excellence. According to the head of state, the school’s strength lies in its ability to develop well-rounded, civic-minded individuals with diverse talents and skills.

“We don’t want this institution to focus only on academics. The strength of this institution is in creating rounded individuals, creating and understanding the talent of everyone who passes through here, building on that talent, and giving them the best opportunity to deliver that talent to the population,” he emphasised.

President Ali also spoke of the need to create an ecosystem at the school that will foster innovation, entrepreneurship,

and the development of new products and technologies that inspires students to go beyond and above their traditional academic pursuits.

He also called on the school administrators to take the lead in areas such as environmental studies, climate science, and low-carbon development strategies, and find ways to integrate them into the students’ education.



STUDENTS PART OF GUYANA TEAM

Two students, Jamine Bellingy and Akira Watson, represented Guyana at the 2024 Inter-Guiana Table Tennis Games, and succeeded in winning gold medals.



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Alfred Carr, College Archives, St. Stanislaus College

St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, with foundations in 1993, is devoted to making St. Stanislaus College the best educational institution in Guyana. It provides financial aid and other aid to the college, which was founded by Fr. Langton S. J. in 1866. Formerly run by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests, the school was taken over by the Government in 1976, with Government-appointed teachers replacing the clergy in 1980.

Saints News & Views publishes four issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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The Editor, St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2.

You also may contact the Editor, Bunty Phillips, by e-mail at lpPhillips@st-stanislaus-gy.com

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Tues. 31 Dec., 2024	New Year's Eve Gala	Scarborough Convention Centre 20 Torham Place, Scarborough	\$135 per person
Sat. 26 April, 2025 (tentative) (7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.)	Spring Dance (Dinner 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)	West Rouge Community Centre 270 West Rouge Drive (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/ Port Union Rd.)	<i>tba</i>
Fri. 11 July, 2025 11:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	<i>tba</i>
Sun. 3 Aug., 2025	Caribjam (with Guyana Christian Charities)	Chesnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 26 Oct., 2025	Fall Dance	West Rouge Community Centre 270 West Rouge Drive (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/ Port Union Rd.)	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 8 or 15 Nov., 2025 Mass - 1:30 p.m. Social - 2:30 p.m.	Mass to honour St. Stanislaus Kostka and College, followed by meet-and-greet with refreshments	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church 432 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON (west of Bayview Ave.)	<i>Not applicable</i>
Wed. 31 Dec., 2025	New Year's Eve Gala	Scarborough Convention Centre 20 Torham Place, Scarborough	<i>tba</i>

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