



SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO
AND THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY

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Editorial

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

When I first assumed the post of Editor of the SSCAAT newsletter in 2007, my previous experience with producing a publication was in two very peripheral situations. The earliest was at the College when I was “asked” by Fr. Scannell to produce articles for the College annual magazine for a few years. The other was at UCWI in Jamaica where I was “recruited” (I can’t remember how or why, and definitely why I was so crazy to accept) to be the Circulation Manager for the official student newspaper, which also involved contacting students’ families throughout the West Indies to get them to subscribe to the paper.

I accepted the role of Editor of *News and Views* as I had been helping the out-going editor, Johnny Yip, during his tenure in the position, and no one else had expressed any interest in assuming the position. I believed that getting out a newsletter to the alumni was an important means of communication with them, and I did not want to see it fall by the wayside. There were no instructions or directions from the Executive about producing the newsletter, so I made up my own objectives though I never published them.

My basic concept was that the newsletter was to be by the alumni, for the alumni, and about the alumni. Articles included would be written primarily by alumni, but could also be articles which may be of interest to alumni though not written by alumni. As well, there would be “up-to-date” news of alumni, and this would serve as a conduit for alumni to reach out to contact long-lost classmates. Two-way communications would be invited by encouraging letters to the Editor with replies, if necessary, published in the following issue. Since my start, no one has ever expressed disagreement with these unstated objectives.

As my tenure grew and as I gained more experience, I realized that I had missed one important purpose of the newsletter, and that was to include news of what was happening at the alma mater. I have since included items to cover this defect but, if it seems that not enough news of this kind has been included, it was mainly because I lacked a steady source of such information.

The one disappointment I had was that there were no letters to the Editor, and this was probably my fault as I had never explicitly asked for them but simply assumed that they would be forthcoming. I did receive some short (one sentence) personal (not official) e-mails or had face-to-face interactions about the newsletter, but I wanted to have public discussions between readers.

So, this leads to my opening question: “What would you like to see in the newsletter?”

My fellow members of the Toronto Executive tell me that I need to address the “younger” generation but, as one of the “older” generation, I am not sure how to do so as I have never been taught nor have I ever had a mentor in the ways of journalism. My ideas are dismissed by my peers usually as being “old-fashioned”.

Two key points need to be remembered. First, all the work done by the Toronto Alumni is done by volunteers; there are no paid “employees”, and all contribute according to their skills or preferences. Funds raised are targeted to help the College, and we do not believe that we should spend such funds for professional help in creating a newsletter. Secondly, items can be published only if they are received, and this has been a major problem in the past and continue to be so in the present. We cannot print what we do not have.

We would like this newsletter to reach as many alumni/ae as possible, and it would help if recipients could provide the contact information of other alumni/ae with the assurance that we do not give out or sell this information to any other persons or organizations, and that we ourselves use this information only to contact them on issues concerning the College or the alumni/ae.

On an entirely different point, please remember that the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, now and in the near future. Even if you have received a partial or full vaccination, you can still catch the virus. The vaccination will either destroy the virus right away or give you only mild symptoms for a short time, but you may still be able to spread the virus before your body has been rid of it. Please continue to follow the rules for reducing the spread of the virus, especially in the continued use of face masks and the avoidance of large gatherings where social distancing may not be possible.

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(The following article has been taken (and edited) with permission from the archives of the British Province of the Society of Jesus, London, England.)

Biography of Jesuits at St. Stanislaus College - 24

FR. GEORGE POLLEN, HEADMASTER

Of none of the Pollens can it ever be said, happily, that they hid the talents which God had bestowed upon them in a napkin; but, of all of them, it must be affirmed that, either by accident or design, they developed along curious and unexpected lines. Anthony was a Chaplain in the Jutland Battle; Francis was in the Naval Brigade on the Nile in 1884; Arthur, who invented an ingenious automatic fire-control system, was the Naval critic for *Land and Water*, and was the first to put heart into the country after the Battle of Jutland, giving the right interpretation to the facts; Stephen was attendant on Viceroys and Kings at their Durbars and Coronations; John was of English martyr fame; George conducted chemical research in the Ural mountains; and all did half a hundred original and unexpected services as well.

Perhaps we need not now refer in any detail to the family history; it has been done well by the compiler of Fr. John's Memoir, and may likewise be read in *John Hungerford Pollen*, by Anne Pollen. We will only say that the father of these remarkable sons was closely associated with Cardinal Newman, and the mother with Archdeacon Manning in his pre-Catholic days at Lavington.

George Charles Hungerford Pollen was born on May Day, 1863, in Bayswater, and, when he was nine years old, went with the rest of the big family to Munster, Germany, where education could be had, good and cheap, and Catholic. In 1876, it became necessary to return, for Bismarck had set about de-Catholicizing his newly-acquired province of Westphalia. George therefore went to Stonyhurst for a year, and for another to the Oratory at Edgbaston. Neither of these schools can have had any influence on his character and, in all probability, his breadth of view came from travel and the quickening influence of the remarkable home circle. For two years after leaving the College, he studied at the Royal School of Mines in London, specializing in the chemical department of petrology.

This gave him an introduction to Russia, whither he journeyed in 1881, working in the research laboratories at Ekaterinburg and Schluselburg. The latter is a seaport in Western Russia, not far from Leningrad; Ekaterinburg – it has quite a different name now – is in the heart of the Urals, and the halting-place of the Trans-Siberian route. It has the unenviable notoriety of having been the scene of the massacre of the Imperial Family of Russia in 1918. Mineralogically, it is an important copper and gold mining centre, where much assay work is done in bullion. This latter fact may explain the abrupt transition of the young chemist from the Ural Mountains to Threadneedle Street in London.

He returned to London in 1883, and took up a position at the Bank of England, not, by the by, in the assay office but in the accountancy branch. It lasted six years, wherein his

originality found vent in the compilation of an Interest Table which was in use in the counting house for many years. Then, while working on a subsidiary course in the Institute of Actuaries, he threw up his work in Banking and went to Manresa House on the last day of April, 1889.

His fellow novices were men of such age as F. Woodlock, J. Welsby, E. Hansen, and James Bridge; and, save for the inevitable waste, they are still strong in the Province now. The second year of noviceship was carried through at St. Leonard's; Philosophy followed immediately on his Simple Vows, and it was succeeded by a year at Stonyhurst as Choir-master and as a student of Law.

In 1895, he went to his Theology at St. Bueno's when, besides the avocations usual to such a status, he excavated the bone cave at Ffynnon Bueno, and the results were published in the Geographical Society's Quarterly Journal in 1896. But it was not the first time that he had distinguished himself in this form of research. Early in 1893, he submitted to the Geographical Society a series of fossils which, in conjunction with Mr. Waterschoot, one of the secular philosophers, he had unearthed just below the Hodder bathing places. In Fr. John Gerard's account in the *Centenary Record*, they are described as belonging to the Yoredale series; but later geological maps seem to make it clear that the real horizon was rather that of the carboniferous limestone which is much broken and confused with shale at this point. Omitting further details, we may say that "Ph. Polleni" is a method of describing the trilobites which were mapped by Professor Phillips, while "polleni" denotes a hitherto unknown species which is placed to the credit of Fr. Pollen. Readers, hungry for more, may turn to the *Geological Magazine*, December 1893, where the beautiful plate and monograph of Dr. Woodward may be found. In connection to these two works, Fr. Pollen was accorded a Fellowship of the Society.

The Tertianship over, Fr. Pollen was Headmaster at St. Stanislaus College in British Guiana. We say "Headmaster" but there was only one other Master, Fr. Frank O'Donnell. The building up of an efficient college was his chief preoccupation and, owing to a dearth of assistants, he trained natives of the colony as schoolmasters. These received local recognition on passing English Senior Local Examinations. Two of these became missionary priests in Africa. Cooperating with his Superior, Fr. Henry Beauclerk, he obtained possession of a new and entirely central and suitable site for the College, on which his successor has recently opened an up-to-date and commodious building.

His favourite geological studies being impossible, as 500 feet of mud subsoil intervened between the rocks and the surface, he turned his attention and that of his pupils to agricultural botany and entomology, and

Continued on page 3

Fr. George Pollen*(Continued from page 2)*

became an authority on the local phases of these subjects. He returned to England in 1909 and was stationed at Farm Street, London, where he edited the church Periodical, the *Farm Street Calendar*, and directed a Sodality which became, under his guidance, a source of vocations for missionary nuns.

Perhaps the year 1915 marks his greatest and most permanent work; for it was then that he took over from Fr. E. Buckland the management of the Retreat House at Oakwood Hall, Romiley. In these days, we know the value of such retreats for working men, which Fr. Plater had advocated so unsparingly and which had been pressed on so unflinchingly by Fr. Buckland and his successors. But strong conservative opposition prevented the clergy, both regular and secular, from giving any encouragement whatever to the men of their Parishes. Was not the Men's Guild enough, and monthly Communion? No, it was not, any more than the course in our Elementary Schools is a complete mental and moral education for growing boys and girls in a Protestant country. Against this dead-weight of opposition Fr. Pollen had to contend; and he had to contend also against the war-problem, with its shortage of men and provisions, and its high prices. Thus, we find him putting a warning note into the *Catholic Times* that, if retreatants would wish to sugar their tea, they must bring that condiment with them as the small available supply had to be reserved for cooking.

Gradually by slow degrees, amid heart-breaking failures, Fr. Pollen's view came to be accepted. The men themselves were excellent apostles; but the Superior had to be constantly organising new methods of approach and conciliation. On top of it was the financial situation: neither Oakwood nor Rainhill could pay its way, let alone the initial purchase money, and repairs and alterations had somehow to be accomplished. A small quarterly, *The Cohort*, gave public expression to all these anxieties, and, what is more, it showed that there was a way out of them. In 1923, thanks to the good offices of Mr. Stapleton-Bretherton, his house at Rainhill, now known as Loyola Hall, came into the possession of the Society. A better house, with a far more easy means of access, and, at long last, the successful

termination of his ten-years' tussle with the clergy led to a renewed impetus in Retreat-work. Although he carried on at Loyola Hall for four years, he had then, in 1927, to hand over its management to a younger man.

Ill-health and a severe motor accident, which involved the breaking of two ribs, called for a less arduous existence; and he was given light work on the Church staff of Stamford Hill. In the February of 1928, he underwent, in a London Nursing Home, a very severe operation, attended with meagre results, and from which he was long recovering. Though far from well, for he was now permanently an invalid, he spent two years at St. Beuno's as Spiritual Father. Hoping to be able soon to undertake great activities, he went in September to Stonyhurst for his retreat. The following week, he became too ill with congestion of the lungs to finish, and was anointed, but recovered sufficiently to go to Preston. He was making favourable progress, but complications set in, resulting in his death, which took place on 19th October, 1928.

The funeral took place in Preston Cemetery on Wednesday, after Requiem Mass in the Church of St. Wilfrid, Preston. *Requiescat in pace.*

The following appeared in the December number of *The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street*.

"A Gentleman of the Bank of England. - The death of the Rev. Fr. George Charles Hungerford Pollen, S.J., on October 19th, removes one of the most distinguished men who have served in the Bank. A man of many and varied talents, he had begun his career as a Chemist at Ekaterinburg, in Russia; he entered the Bank in 1883 and left in 1889. During his stay here, he constructed an interest table, which was in use for some years.

"Fr. Pollen was ordained in 1898. During the course of his noviceship, he had excavated the Ffynnon Beuno cave in North Wales, discovered the fossil Ph Polleni, and been made a fellow of the Geological Society. His duties as a priest took him to Georgetown in British Guiana, where he took up the study of agriculture, botany, and entomology. He was also an accomplished linguist. Later, he served at the Church of the Jesuit Fathers in Farm Street."

PORTRAITS OF THE "FATHERS"**The Jesuit Priests at St. Stanislaus College**

A Personal Remembrance by Carlyle Moore (Alumnus 1949-1955)

Fr. Scannell. The Principal and Leader of the group of Jesuit priests who have distinguished themselves by their unwavering dedication to the cause of educating young minds in Guyana. The Jesuits have established a well-deserved reputation for excellence in the field of education. I was impressed by his calm demeanour and his ability to maintain a high degree of concentration at all times. I appreciated the kindness and generosity he showed to my mother and me, especially his acceding to the request by John Fernandes (then Chairman of the Kitty Village Council which awarded my scholarship) that I be admitted to the College in the middle of the academic year.

Fr. Lynch. He taught Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics (what is now regarded as the Mechanics portion of the Physics curriculum) and Religious Doctrine (R.D.) - an interesting combination. I was struck by his masterful presentation of Mathematics as a logical system of principles to be followed systematically. He taught me the essence of successful problem-solving: obtain a grasp of fundamental concepts, select the relevant principles, and apply them to the problem at hand. This has become my *modus operandi* and has been my philosophy of teaching throughout my career.

His lectures on "Proofs of the

Continued on page 5

MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2021. Membership is based on the calendar year.

CANADA (104)

Paul Abdool³
Lance Alexander¹
Howard Amo³
Alwyn Appiah⁴
Glenmore Armogan
Bernard Austin³
Gregory Badley¹
Malcolm Barrington²
Gerard Bayley²
John Rene Bayley³
Teddy Boyce
Ian Camacho⁴
Paul Camacho²
Alfred Carr³
Wilfred Carr²
Joseph Castanheiro¹
Bob Chee-a-tow
Sydney Chin
Gerry Chin-sam⁴
Ivan Choo³
Tony Clarke³
Paul Crum-ewing³
Richard DaCosta
Vivian D'Andrade
Edward DaSilva¹
Terry DeAbreu³
Tyrone DeAbreu³
Benedict DeCastro
Gregory DeCastro³
Rupert DeCastro¹

Peter DeFreitas
Frank Delph
Andre DePeana⁴
Clive Devers¹
Roger Devers¹
Terence Devers¹
Neville Devonish¹
Ron Dias¹
Jerome D'Oliveira
Paul Duarte
Joe Faria¹
Raymond Fernandes
Keith Fletcher⁴
Andre Fredricks¹
Darwin Fung²
James Fung
Mike Gomes
Trevor Gomes
J. Neil Gonsalves²
Ken Hahnfeld³
Albert Hamilton⁴
Hugh Hazlewood²
Paul Hazlewood³
Monty Henson⁴
Jocelyn Heydorn
Desmond Hill²
Yale Holder
Andrew Insanally³
Richard James⁵
Desmond Jardine²
Clayton Jeffery³

Anthony Jekir
Aubrey Kellawan
Gregory Kellawan
Amanda King
Vibert Lampkin³
John Lopes⁴
Geoffrey Luck¹
Gerard Martins
Michael Mendes de Franca²
Colin Nurse⁴
Anthony O'Dowd³
Michael Persaud³
Renuka Persaud²
Compton Pestano⁴
L. A. Phillips¹
Carl Ramalho
Marcelline Ramcharan¹
Linden Ramdeholl³
Paul Reed
Alexander Rego
Romeo Resaul²
Bryan Rodrigues
Raphael Rodrigues
Peter St. Aubyn¹
Savitri Seenauth³
Robin Shaw³
Asoka Robin Singh²
Michael Singh²
Vanita Soman

Akisha Somrah²
Peter Spooner
Brian Stevenson¹
Albert Sweetnam³
Michael Texeira⁴
Arthur Veerasammy
Vibert Vieira²
Paul Vincent³
Howard Welshman²
Godfrey Whyte
David Wong²
Brian Yhap⁴
John Yip¹
Angus Zitman⁴

AUSTRALIA (1)

Lennox Yhap¹

BRAZIL (1)

Stephen DeCastro²

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1)

Deep Ford⁴

GUYANA (1)

Fitzgerald Yaw Jr.¹

TRINIDAD (3)

Richard Harford²
Ronald Harford²
John Jardim (dec)

U.K. (7)

John DaCosta⁴
Julio Faria⁴
Tony Gomes¹
Leyland Grant⁴
Neville Jordan
Charles Kennard³
Raymond Pancham⁴

U.S.A. (17)

Satyanand Bhagrattee²
Rev. Andrew Chan-a-sue⁴
Ronald Chanderbhan³
Ronald DeAbreu
Dalip Etwaroo³
Bernard Friemann³
Edward Gouveia³
Philip Greathead³
Edwin Jack¹
Wilfred Jack⁴
Kenneth Jordan¹
Jolyon King⁶
Joey Lopes¹
Godfrey Nurse⁴
Hugh Christopher Patrick
Hugh Rodrigues¹
Peter Rodrigues¹

There are 135 paid-up members.

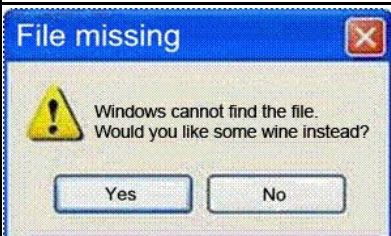
Notes :

1. These (26) alumni have paid in advance through 2022.
2. These (22) alumni have paid in advance through 2023.
3. These (29) alumni have paid in advance through 2024.
4. These (21) alumni have paid in advance through 2025.
5. This (1) alumnus have paid in advance through 2026.
6. This (1) alumnus have paid in advance through 2028.

SPECIAL NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP

Membership is paid by calendar year i.e. January to December. Therefore, membership for 2020 expired on 31st December, 2020. If your name no longer appears in the above list, 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.

We remind you that 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.



"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."

Portraits of the “Fathers”*(Continued from page 3)*

Existence of God” (from causality, law and order in nature, design, etc.) were memorable, if not entirely convincing to me, either then or now. But they provided a point of reference from which I developed my own ideas on that eternal question which has occupied the minds of scientists and philosophers for so many years: “Is there a God?”

Fr. Feeney. The Science Master. Tall, engaging and with a wry sense of humour. I was excited by the Chemistry experiments we did in class and enjoyed growing copper sulphate crystals at home. But I was less enthused by the “preps and props” that constituted so much of the Chemistry curriculum at that time. Fr. Feeney was equally adept as a Physics Teacher, and I soon found that the background in Mathematics provided by Fr. Lynch was an indispensable companion to an aspiring Physics student. From then on, I concentrated exclusively on Physics and Mathematics.

Fr. Gill. It is one of the ironies of colonial history that students in British Guiana, located in a sea of Spanish-speaking countries, should be taught French as their only foreign language (besides Latin). Père Gill was clearly very knowledgeable about French language and culture and, under his expert tutelage, I developed a passionate love of the language. My only regret is that I never learned to speak it fluently.

Fr. Boase. Quiet, humble, and self-effacing, the most “priestly” of all the Masters, thoroughly devoted to his calling. He was a great Teacher, renowned as much for his patience as for his knowledge of Latin and Roman History. His presentation of Cicero’s *Pro Milone* was as compelling as a modern courtroom drama. The famous line: “*Sed quis ignorat maximam illecebram peccandi esse spem impunitatis?*”

“*But who does not know that the greatest inducement to sin is the hope of impunity?*”

remains as true today as in Roman times.

My one and only “fall from grace” at the College resulted in a punishment (six ferulas) administered (reluctantly, almost apologetically) by Fr. Boase. The experience was more painful to him than to me.

Fr. Earle. I dubbed him “the aristocrat” because of his noble bearing. Though relatively short in stature, he was a commanding presence and exuded an air of quiet confidence and competence. His teaching of *Julius Caesar* was an enlightening and uplifting experience. His soft-spoken delivery made the words of Shakespeare come to life. He made it clear early on, in his characteristically understated but compelling tone of voice, that “Caesar is not the hero ... Brutus is the hero.” Such were the power and beauty of his interpretation of the play that I can still recall many of its more dramatic moments, e.g. the confrontation between Brutus and Cassius:

Cassius

That you have wronged me doth appear in this:

You have condemned and noted Lucius Pella
For taking bribes here of the Sardians.
Wherein my letters, praying on his side
Because I knew the man, were slighted off.

Brutus

You wronged yourself to write in such a case.

Cassius

In such a time as this it is not meet
That every nice offence should bear his comment

Brutus

Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself
Are much condemned to have an itching palm,
To sell and mart your offices for gold
To undeservers

Cassius

I, an itching palm!

You know that you are Brutus that speak this,
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

I did not immediately pledge to become a student of Shakespeare, but the impression made by Fr. Earle was strong and long-lasting. If he were not a priest, I thought, he could have become a great Shakespearean actor or director.

Fr. Marques. A somewhat intimidating figure, he kept you on your toes at all times. His booming, trademark, “BOARD, ALL OF YOU,” as he rapped his knuckles on the blackboard commanded the attention of everyone in the room.

Fr. Khan. It was an honour and a pleasure to be his classmate and friend for many years, from the tentative steps we took in Form II to our more confident posture in Form VI. He was invariably top of the class, and the more ambitious among the rest of us struggled to achieve parity with the high standard he set. It came as a surprise when, somewhere in the mid 1950s, he announced his intention of becoming a priest. This did not curtail our friendship, however, and we remained in close contact throughout my University years and early working life. Eventually, Fr. Khan left the priesthood. Subsequently, he became Principal of SSC, and implemented a number of initiatives at the College, including the operation of a College Farm to inform students of the role played by agriculture in society and heighten their awareness of environmental concerns.

For those interested, the biographies of these priests can be found in the following issues of the newsletter which can be accessed at “News and Views” on the web-site, www.torontosaints.com.

Fr. Boase *March 2014*

Fr. Earle *N/A*

Fr. Feeney *March 2015*

Fr. Gill *December 2014*

Fr. Khan *June 2019*

Fr. Lynch *June 2015*

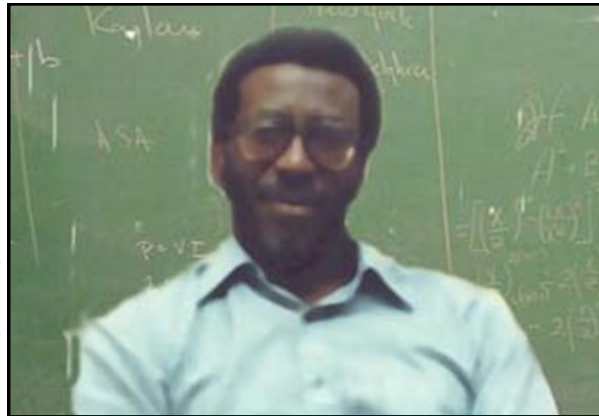
Fr. Marques *June 2014*

Fr. Scannell *March 2013*

Continued on page 6

Portraits of the “Fathers”*(Continued from page 5)***A note about the author***By Bunty Phillips (Editor)*

Carlyle Moore was two Forms ahead of me. He never came to my immediate notice until his last two years at the College during which he was a Prefect with powers of issuing detentions or ordering lines to be written or reporting back to the teaching staff. The word soon got around the lower school to beware of the dreaded duo, “Khan and Moore”, and avoid them at all costs. (Khan was Ken Khan who became a Jesuit priest and later the Principal of the College.) Fortunately for me, I never had a “run in” with either of these two fearsome keepers of order.



In his final year at the College, Carlyle was the runner-up for the Guiana Scholarship which was won that year by Jerome De Freitas, also of Saints. Carlyle went on to Trinity College, Cambridge University (1958-60) where he gained his B.A. (Hons) in Physics.

He took the post of Lecturer in Physics at the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, from 1961 to 1968. He then went on to the Georgia Institute of Technology (1969-73) where he gained his Ph.D. in Physics, earned by his thesis: *Non-conservation of Lepton Number*

in Nuclear Double Beta Decay.

He returned to Guyana to serve as a Lecturer in Physics at the University of Guyana from 1973 to 1976.

He then moved on to Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, where he was an Associate Professor of Physics from 1977 until his retirement in 2018.

During his time at Morehouse, he produced a number of technical papers for the U.S. Government:

1. Feasibility of Measuring Pulsed X-ray Spectra Using Photoactivation of Nuclear Isomers

AFOSR (Air Force Office of Scientific Research) Report, Arnold AFB, TN (1990).

2. Current Flow in the Plasma Erosion Opening Switch

AFOSR (Air Force Office of Scientific Research) Report, Arnold AFB, TN (1992).

3. Coupling of an Inductive Storage Generator with Plasma Erosion Opening Switch (PEOS) to a Plasma Radiation Source (PRS) Load

AFOSR (Air Force Office of Scientific Research) Report, Arnold AFB, TN (1993).

4. Biogas Technology in Guyana: A Feasibility Study
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Engineering Technology Division (1995).

He has authored a number of papers outside of Physics, including: *"History of the Israel-Palestine Conflict"*.

FUND-RAISING EVENTS IN TORONTO IN 2021

The COVID-19 virus is still with us, and there are both good news and bad news with respect to its status in Canada and, specifically, in Ontario.

The good news is that we seem to be finally “over the hump” as the daily number of new cases in Ontario is steadily decreasing, and the vaccinations have resulted in about 65% of the populace in Ontario having received at least the first shot to date. The combination of decreasing daily new cases and increasing number of vaccinations has enabled the Government of Ontario to allow some outdoor activities, including golf, to take place, so that our two golf tournaments, in July and August, will be taking place as scheduled, though still with some restrictions concerning social distancing and the size of gatherings of people.

The bad news is that, for the foreseeable future, the wearing of protective masks remains mandatory for all indoor public places, the size of non-essential gatherings is limited to five people, and a social distance of 2 metres or six feet apart must be maintained. We do not expect these restrictions to be lifted very soon, so this means Caribjam (in August) and the Fall Dance (in October) are cancelled again for this year. No firm decision has yet been made about the New Year’s Eve Gala, but it is highly probable that it will not take place as the restrictions may be lifted too late to enable us to start making the preparations.

The prime reason for the existence of the Toronto Alumni

organizations is to provide aid to the College. Last summer, the College was forced to keep the school closed right through to the end of the year. The Board of Governors decided to make a strong push to have the College ready to re-open in some form by the beginning of 2021. It developed a plan for offering on-line teaching to the upper classes and to set up the classrooms to enable social distancing for students attending in person in the lower classes. This plan was no trivial undertaking as students had to have the technology in their homes to be able to connect to the school, and the school had to have the appropriate technology installed to enable teachers to communicate to their on-line students. The cost involved was at least \$30,000 (Can) which was not readily forthcoming from the Government, so the College turned to us and, even though we had raised no funds in 2020, we had capital on hand to provide the necessary funds to the College.

However, the pandemic is still far from over, and the school also has other ongoing needs. This year, we will be able to raise funds from our golf tournaments. We invite the alumni/ae to contribute to the support of their *alma mater* by making donations to our registered charity, St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society. Tax receipts will be issued for amounts equal to or greater than \$20 (Can), and the receipts may be used to defray taxes on any Canadian income.

OBITUARIES

Alumnus (60-67) James DeFreitas passed away on Thursday, 15 April, 2021, after celebrating his 71st birthday on Monday, 12 April, 2021, in Trinidad after a brief battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Ann DeFreitas, and their combined 5 children plus grandchildren.

Alumnus (47-53) John Andrew Quail passed away on 13 March, 2021, at the age of 85 in Georgetown, Guyana. He was the son of the late Dr. Charles Augustus Quail and Nelly Agatha Quail. He was the husband of the late Gloria. He leaves behind his wife Vivien, and children An-

drew, Jackie, Pierre, Charles, and So-
 raya, and his grand-children Jason, Ste-
 phen, Harrison, Omira, Alicya, Alexan-
 dria, Emanuelle, than, and Caleb.
 He was the brother of Charles, Joseph,
 Louis, Lincoln, Winston, Michael,
 Ann, Titus, and the late Gerry, Carey,
 Herman, Ignatius, Anthony, Kathleen,
 Jessie, and Julie.



COLLEGE NOTES

COLLEGE GAINS NEW HEADMISTRESS

On 21 April, 2021, Ms. Rebecca Persaud was seconded from Tutorial High School to act as the Principal of the College for one year.

Ms. Persaud replaces Mrs. Fazia Baksh who was seconded to the Ministry of Education after several years as Principal, during which tenure she worked most diligently and effectively in guiding the College into the position of the No. 1 Secondary School in Guyana in 2019, based on the superb results achieved by the students sitting the CSEC and CAPE examinations. On behalf of all the alumni, the Toronto chapter wishes to express its most grateful thanks to Mrs. Baksh for her contribution to raising the standard of education not only in the College but throughout the country, and we wish her all best wishes as she progresses through her career path.

Ms. Persaud comes to the college with high academic credentials and an outstanding career in education. She has earned the degree of B.Sc. (Sociology), with distinction, from the University of Guyana, where she won the Professor George K. Danna Award for the Best Graduating Student with the Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Republic Bank Award for Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

In addition to her University credentials, she had earned the Trained Teacher's Certificate from the Cyril Potter College of Education, a Certificate in Education management from the Ministry of Education, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education, with distinction.

In her teaching career, she was an Assistant Mistress at the Bush Lot Secondary School (West Coast, Berbice), an Assistant Mistress at the Riverstown Primary School (Riverstown, Essequibo Coast), Head of Department of Social Studies at Abram Zuil Secondary School (Abram Zuil, Essequibo Coast), Graduate Head of Department of



From left to right: new Headmistress Ms. Rebecca Persaud, past Headmistress Mrs. Fazia Baksh, Deputy Headmistress Mrs. Roxanne Foster.

Social Studies at Beterverwagting Secondary School (Beterverwagting, East Coast, Demerara), Graduate Head Teacher at St. Barnabas Special School (Bourda, Georgetown), and finally Graduate Head Teacher at Tutorial High School before moving on to St Stanislaus College. Over the last eight years, Ms. Persaud also served as a Part-Time Lecturer in the Sociology Department at the University of Guyana.

On behalf of all the alumni, the Toronto chapter welcomes Ms. Persaud to the College, and expresses its best wishes in her future endeavours in leading the College to further success.

VACCINATION OF STAFF AT COLLEGE

Introduction and Background

Alumna Dr. Karen Gordon-Boyle organized a panel of doctors to discuss COVID-19 vaccination and share their knowledge and experience on the disease with teachers and

staff at St. Stanislaus College. The meeting was virtually hosted via Zoom on Tuesday, 25 May, 2021 at 11 a.m. The following medical doctors attended the session:

Dr. Oneka Scott and Dr. Ertenisa Hamilton.

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Vaccination of Staff at College *(continued from page 7)*

Both doctors are former students of the College. Dr. Scott serves in the Maternal and Child Health department and Dr. Hamilton manages the Family Medicine Program within the Ministry of Health. One other doctor, Dr. Farrah December, was scheduled to attend, but unable to do so due to other commitments.

The forum was chaired by **Dr. Kofi Dalrymple**, President of the Bridge Association of Saints (BRASS), a U.S. Alumni Association. Dr. Dalrymple previously worked as a scientist in the vaccine industry and is currently a consulting engineer to biopharmaceutical companies in the U.S.

Main Session

The main presentation was given by Dr. Oneka Scott. A wide range of areas on the disease and vaccination was covered during the presentation. Key to the discussion were the signs and symptoms of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the various vaccines and vaccine technologies available for immunization against the virus. Dr. Scott emphasized the personal nature of health, discussed herd immunity, and advocated that everyone seriously consider their moral responsibility in slowing transmission of the disease. She explained that all the vaccines so far are effective against COVID-19 and provide effective and durable training for the body's immune system, so when it actually encounters the virus, it's ready to mount an optimum response.

Question and Answers

The main presentation was followed by a question and answer session to allow participants the opportunity to raise concerns and share comments. Participants asked a set of questions, including the following:

1. Q: Some vaccines, for example the AstraZeneca vaccine, are not yet authorized in the U.S., but are being administered in Guyana. Should there be a concern?

A: Each vaccine requires clinical studies to be conducted. The U.S. requires those studies to be conducted within its borders. Studies for some of those vaccines are still ongoing in the U.S. Therefore, they are not yet authorized. Those vaccines have received authorization in other countries where the studies have been completed.

2. Q: If herd immunity is required, shouldn't children also be getting the vaccine?

A: In most cases, and especially in a pandemic, the focus is primarily on those affected by the disease. Although children have suffered from the disease, by far the group most affected are adults and individuals with certain comorbidities. Therefore, the prudent strategy is to protect the most vulnerable groups first. Vaccines for children are currently being investigated.

3. Q: Why was the COVID-19 vaccine developed so

quickly when it usually takes a very long time for other vaccines to be developed?

A: Under normal circumstances, vaccines are developed with limited resources where principal investigators of clinical studies often have to find volunteers and financial resources to execute the studies. Further, there may be other vaccine products in a corporate setting that compete for the same resources, while personal schedules of workers could also affect vaccine development time. However, in the case of a pandemic, significant resources have been dedicated to the COVID-19 vaccine development, and governments and corporations have come together to share scientific information to significantly reduce development time. In addition, vaccine research and development for previous outbreaks of similar type viruses has provided information to speed the process along.

4. Q: Should vaccinated adults still wear masks? Can they transmit the virus to their children and others?

A: As we continue to learn more about the disease, it is still recommended that vaccinated individuals in Guyana continue to wear masks out of an abundance of caution, especially among others who are not vaccinated.

5. Q: Why is India suffering so significantly from the disease when many of the vaccines are made in India?

A: India is a large and diverse country with a wide range of socio-economic challenges. In some areas, the lack of medical resources, including medical personnel is a major challenge. In addition, while many of the vaccines are made in India, they are intended to supply other areas of the world.

6. Q: What is the pharmacovigilance process like in Guyana that allows for adverse reactions to be reported?

A: Guyana participates in the vaccine pharmacovigilance program through CARICOM. Adverse effects to vaccination are monitored within sections of the population and reported. (Note: One teacher commented that she had side effects from taking the vaccine, but it was no different from other vaccines she had previously taken. She reported that she has always had side effects of vaccines. She also indicated that the Ministry of Health had followed up with her after taking the COVID-19 vaccine.)

7. Q: What are the side effects of the vaccine?

A: The side effects will vary based on individuals. Some individuals may not experience any noticeable side effects, while others may experience some symptoms of the disease. These side effects are indications that the immune system is being challenged and is working to develop antibodies to confer protection against the real pathogen.



Colin Moses, the longest serving member of staff, volunteered to be the first to take the jab. Dr. Hamilton was one of his students.

Vaccination of Staff at College *(continued from page 8)*

8. Q. What is the most effective (best) vaccine to take?

A: All the vaccines are effective. The current indications of vaccine efficacy are based on clinical studies with a section of the population. However, as the vaccine is administered, we get an opportunity to collect more information on effectiveness. (In a funny, but yet serious, way, Dr. Dalrymple facetiously opined that the best vaccine is the one

being administered on the day you show up to be vaccinated!)

The meeting concluded with the doctors and the Chair encouraging participants to consider getting vaccinated, seek out credible information, and help to stem the spread of false narratives.

Dr. Kofi Dalrymple

2020 EXAM RESULTS – GUYANESE STUDENTS TOP IN CARIBBEAN

Analyses of the results of the May/June 2020 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and of the July/August 2020 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) examinations were published in May 2021, and Guyanese students were found to be the top performers in the region.

While two students from Queen’s College (QC) were the country’s top performers at the 2020 CSEC examination and at the 2020 CAPE examinations, St. Stanislaus College maintained its performance as being among “the top” secondary schools in Guyana for these exams.

CSEC

The Caribbean Examinations Council provided a list of Guyanese students who had secured Grade One in eight or more subjects at the CSEC examination, and the list contained the names of three hundred sixty two (362) students. Of these, fifty (50) secured twelve (12) Grade Ones or more, with **Kayla December** of St. Stanislaus College being in 22nd position with thirteen (13) Grade Ones and one (1) Grade Two. Other notable St. Stanislaus students were **Meshach Jordon** with 11 Grade Ones, **Nathon Brasse** with 10 Grade Ones, and **Dafina Nials** with 10 Grade Ones, 2 Grade Twos, and 1 Grade Three.

CSEC TOP PERFORMERS



Kayla December Meshach Jordon Nathon Brasse Dafina Nials

A further breakdown of the 362 candidates to determine, by school, the number of students achieving eight (8) or more Grade Ones shows St. Stanislaus College to be in 4th position with thirteen (13), well below the leader, QC, at 50.

However, while QC may have had better individual performances, when counting total the number of Grade 1 to Grade 3 passes, QC had 98.4% whereas St. Stanislaus achieved 99% which was an overall superior result.

The school recorded 100% Grades 1 to Grade 3 passes in 21 subjects of the 28 offered at the CSEC level.

“The diligence of these students and their parents’ involvement in their academic journey have certainly been com-

pensated,” the school said in a statement.

Exhilarated at the performance of the students at the 2020 CSEC examination, Mr. Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the School Board, said he has certainly seen the reward from the introduction of the ‘Back to Basics’ Programme in 2014, the dedication of the hard-working staff, the involvement of The Board and Alumni Associations, the diligence of students, and the commitment of the parents.

CAPE

The College has also seen an outstanding performance at the CAPE examination with a pass rate of 76% Grades One to Three, and securing a 100% percent pass rate in ten of the 29 subjects offered at the College.

Sherlock Langevine was crowned the overall Top performer for CAPE with a combined total of 11 Grade Ones, six Grade Twos and one Grade Three. Noteworthy performance in CAPE Unit One was captured by **Abdul Subhan** who attained six Ones and two Twos while Sherlock took the spotlight in Unit Two with eight Ones, five Twos and one Three, followed by **Shanique Paulsingh** with five Ones, two Twos and one Three.

Mr. Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the Board of Governors, said he is appreciative of the dedication of the staff, members of the Alumni Associations, the Parent Teachers’ Association as well as the commitment of the students and parents who worked together to make the dreams of the College realized while ensuring that the motto of the College is etched into the lives of its students as they continue their journey away from St. Stanislaus College.



Sherlock Langevine

CSEC EXAMS 2021	Grades 1 to 3
English A	100%
English B	100%
Mathematics	100%
Information Technology	100%
Agriculture Science	100%
History	100%
Geography	100%
Biology	100%
Physics	100%
Chemistry	96%
OVERALL AVERAGE	99%

CAPE UNIT 2 2021	Grades 1 to 3
Management of Business	89%
Entrepreneurship	100%
Geography	100%
Biology	95%
Pure Mathematics	94%
Environmental Science	100%
Chemistry	84%
Physics	75%
Economics	72%
OVERALL AVERAGE	78%

<p style="text-align: center;">Publisher: St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto M1S 1V2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editorial Committee: L. A. (Bunty) Phillips, Paul Camacho, Michael Persaud, John Yip</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contributing Writers: Dr. Kofi Dalrymple, Jesuit Missions, Carlyle Moore, Bunty Phillips, St. Stanislaus College</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Photographs: Internet, SSC</p>	<p>St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, founded 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Saints News & Views welcomes contributing articles from its membership. The publisher reserves the right to edit or publish all submissions solely at its discretion.</p>
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COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 10 Jul., 2021	Golf Tournament	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	\$200 (3 drinks, and snacks on-course)
Fri. 30 Jul., 2021	Caribjam	Thornhill Community Centre 7755 Bayview Ave, Thornhill, ON L3T 4P1 (At Bayview Avenue at John Street)	CANCELLED
Wed. 11 Aug., 2021	Golf Tournament	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	\$200 (3 drinks, and snacks on-course)
Sat. 16 Oct., 2021	Fall Dance (Dinner: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)	West Rouge Community Centre 270 Rouge Hill Drive, Toronto (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/Port Union Road)	CANCELLED
Fri. 31 Dec., 2021 (TENTATIVE)	New Year's Eve Gala	tba	tba

Alumni Association Membership Form

Please complete this portion and return it with a cheque for \$25.00 (Cdn) for 1 year, or \$100.00 (Cdn) for 5 years payable to:

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

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