



# SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY  
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Editorial

## THE CHANGING SCENE - SSCAAT TO SSCGAS

On request, the Executive Committee of St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto (SSCAAT) scheduled an Extraordinary General Meeting for Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, to consider a motion to dissolve SSCAAT. The full motion, which was properly proposed and seconded, was:

### BE IT RESOLVED

**THAT St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, aka SSCAAT, be dissolved according to Article XVI of its Constitution, and that notice of such dissolution be communicated to the Governments of Ontario and Canada,**

### AND

**THAT any and all indebtedness be resolved before the conclusion of the dissolution and all remaining assets, including the rights to all the names and abbreviations by which SSCAAT is known, as well as all copyrights, patents, or trademarks held by SSCAAT, be donated to the Charity, St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society.**

The meeting was attended by 36 members, either in person or by proxy and, after a brief discussion, the motion was carried by a vote of 33 for and 3 against. The President, Bunty Phillips, and the Treasurer, Alfred Carr, were appointed as liquidators, as legally required, to complete the dissolution process.

What impact does the dissolution of SSCAAT have on providing aid to the College in Guyana? The answer is: very little, as will be explained, which will require some historical background.

SSCAAT was incorporated in 1994 in the Province of Ontario as a not-for-profit (NFP) corporation. There are two important rules that an NPR must follow:

- it cannot provide receipts, for tax reduction, for monetary donations or for the fair value of non-monetary donations;
- it cannot accumulate money not used in any year into the following year, unless it is targeted for specific expected expenses e.g. rent, salaries, premises maintenance or expansion, etc. All "extra" money MUST be used by the end of the year.

The first rule made it very hard, if not impossible, to obtain sponsors for fund-raising events or to receive direct general donations from individuals.

The second rule made it difficult to be ready to provide immediate requested aid to the College. SSCAAT has followed an approach of holding several annual fund-raising events to enable it to have funds available when a request came from the College. However, just having funds available does not mean that SSCAAT could go to the College and tell it what must or needs to be done. That is outside of its jurisdiction. SSCAAT has to wait for requests to come from the College, which means that the money available

may be in excess of what is actually requested.

In its initial application for incorporation which was accepted by the Government, Section 7 outlines the Special Provisions for the corporation and includes under 7(b):

*Further to the attainment of the objects of the Corporation, the powers of the Corporation are:*

*(i) To invest funds in such manner as determined by the Board;*

By the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the almost 10 years of very active fund-raising efforts had begun to take a toll on the fund-raisers who were beginning to feel a sense of "burnt-out".

To counter this, the decision was made to reserve half of the annual funds raised (as this was about double what was being requested annually), which funds would be invested in financial vehicles which were "safe" (conservative) and would return a minimum of 5% annually. Should one of the regular fund-raising events fail or be dropped, the income from the investment would fill the gap without any physical efforts needed to be expended by the workers. This indeed was "skating on thin ice" as the accepted Special Provision seemed to contradict the government rule, but it proved its worth during the pandemic when large sums of money (in excess of \$30,000 Can) were requested by the College to set up remote on-line teaching to avoid the spread of COVID among the students.

By the middle of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, SSCAAT began to investigate turning itself into a charity which would make the above two rules for an NFP disappear. Application to become a charity now had to be made to the Federal Government through its CRA department. However, there are specific rules for conversion from an NFP into a charity, and SSCAAT discovered that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to satisfy these rules (some of which required absent historical data), so this approach was dropped. Instead, it was decided

*Continued on page 2*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

College Notes	
- Bobby Fernandes Scholarship Award.....	7
- Construction by the Students.....	8
- Inter-Secondary School Debating Competition.....	8
- Scouts at the College.....	8
- Youth leadership Development Competition.....	8
Coming Events.....	9
Contact Information.....	9
Editorial: The Changing Scene - SSCAAT to SSCGAS.....	1
More Memories of the Base.....	3
The Base.....	2
Fund-raising Events in 2022.....	4
Spring Dance 2022.....	3
Membership Form.....	9
Membership - Paid-up Alumni.....	4
Obituaries.....	5

## The Changing Scene - SSCAAT to SSCGAS

(continued from page 1)

to create a new corporation which would have no history but which essentially would have the same objectives as SSCAAT. At some later date, if the application of the new corporation for charity status were to be successful, all the functions of SSCAAT would be migrated to the new corporation, and then SSCAAT could be dissolved. In this way, the charity corporation, St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society (SSCGAS), came into existence in 2010.

It should be made quite clear that there never was any intention to create two working corporations with the same objectives. Two corporations were created only because that was the simplest way of ending up with the one final desired corporation.

With SSCAAT dissolved, the only obvious change will be in the name which will be published over all documents – SSCGAS instead of SSCAAT (see the front page of this newsletter).

The two corporations had had their constitutions changed

or created to ensure that only one membership fee was required, and a paid-up member of either corporation automatically was also a paid-up member of the other. Thus, no action or new payment will be required by existing members.

SSCGAS will take over the running of all the known annual fund-raising events which will be organised and run by the same people as before.

In fact, it simply will be “business as usual”, but under “new management”.

With SSCGAS, tax receipts can now be provided for donations, and the CRA allows the accumulation of funds, providing that a specified fraction of the annual income is spent each year.

A further (though lesser) benefit is that the Government will refund about 70% of any HST which was collected on purchases made in the operation of the corporation.

We say a fond farewell to SSCAAT, but it has outlived its usefulness.

## THE BASE

*By Alumnus (46-51) Dave Martins*

Looking back at it, so many years later after it came into being, that was the name, The Base, most commonly used to refer to Guyana’s international airport, Atkinson Field (now the Cheddi Jagan International Airport), which had been built during World War Two, as the jumping-off point for US Air Force planes, from North America, headed for the Far East and Europe. When the War ended, although the Americans continued to operate there for some time, the Base became a kind of weekend retreat for Guyanese, particularly those living in Georgetown and villages to the east. There was a modern wooden guest-house, operated by the Cossou family, along with the many 2-bedroom buildings in what Guyanese called the “cottage area”, then fully occupied by workers and general staff for the airport, servicing the many flights coming and going. In recreation, it was also the site of several volleyball courts and tennis courts, and a sprawling cricket field used by resident Guyanese and their friends.

On weekends in particular, the place was often jammed with affluent Guyanese, often entire families drawn there by the full-size fresh-water swimming pool in the daytime and by the bathing possibilities at adjacent Kamuni Creek which could be reached via the public road from town or, for Atkinson residents, by a short drive to the northwest.

I’m not sure who was responsible for the pool maintenance, but it was efficiently done, considering the amount of use it generated – getting a swim on weekends could be difficult – and the very close proximity to the “Cottage Area” with all the family accommodations. Facilities on The Base were generally spare, with only one major restaurant, operated by the Cossou family in their Guest House single-storey unit, about a 10 minutes drive from the airport proper. Services such as laundry, haircut, etc., usually required a trip to Georgetown or some place on the East Bank main

road. Entertainment, generally, was sparse, with often the only source being the Guest House movie night operating with rudimentary equipment and very limited choice. Nonetheless, simply because of the smallness of the market and the choices, the movies were well attended, and it was somewhat amusing, on sunny days, to see crowds of people taking in the occasional volleyball game, which would break out on late afternoons or weekends, on a clay court in the cottage area, only a few yards away from where people lived. Although the wide Demerara River was just a 5-minute drive from the residential section, fishing and other river activities were rarely seen – the stelling was not the most inviting structure – and young people, in particular, were often quick to tell you “what a boring place” the Base was, even as their parents generally loved it.

By comparison, mainly because of the swimming pool and the volleyball games, friends from West Demerara and Georgetown, were delighted to be invited to drive up and spend a few hours on The Base although, in retrospect, the volleyball was often comical, and residents could be very averse to all these strange bodies cavorting in “our pool” and splashing the senior folks sunning at poolside.

I lived for many years on The Base in my sister Theresa’s home. Her husband, Joe Gonsalves from Clonbrook, was the Atkinson Fire Chief for many years and was a hero in the place, following a major fire in Georgetown when water pressure there ran low. Joe had come to the rescue, driving hell-bent in the mobile Atkinson Fire Tender, to rescue a couple of buildings in danger.

The Base remains in my memory as a place of great calm and isolation, very conducive to contemplation, for creative persons of whatever stripe, as well as a place of varied talents and some overblown egos,

*Continued on page 3*

**The Base***(continued from page 2)*

where it was possible to see cooperation making things possible, and to come to appreciate the abiding quiet in this isolated enclave in the midst of deep sandbanks and beds of clay. Such was The Base, a unique creation in a distant

place, with a completely different terrain from the one most of us grew up with on Guyana's North coast. To drive through that area now is to look back and be amazed at how it came about and where it went.

**MORE MEMORIES OF THE BASE***By Alumnus (50-58) Bunt Phillips*

I was still very young when I was taken to The Base for the first time. It was very soon after WWII had ended as it was still under the control of the US government.

My immediate family of five, plus an aunt, another aunt and her husband, and an adult cousin (as best as I can remember) were packed into two cars which set out from Georgetown on a Sunday morning. The trip to get there was an event in itself. The road surface started out to be decently paved (for those days) but, perhaps half way there, it changed to two paved strips on which the drivers had to try to keep their tyres in order to get a "smooth" ride. After a while, the strips disappeared, and the road surface was a combination of clay, pebbles, and small stones, which made the drivers slow down almost to a crawl to avoid doing damage to the cars and their passengers.

About two miles from our destination, the road surface changed abruptly, and we were travelling along the smoothest and best-kept road in the country – it had been built and maintained by the US Forces at the Base.

Finally, we arrived at The Base which was identified by a fence with a gate and a hut just inside the fence. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces guarded any further advance, and all visitors had to stop to explain their reasons for entering, even if going only to catch or meet a commercial flight as the runway inside was the only one in the country capable of receiving commercial aeroplanes.

My memory of the rest of the day is a bit fuzzy at this point, but there were some definite high points which I can still remember clearly. I remember walking along a wooden covered sidewalk outside of some one-storey wooden

buildings which stood beside a runway. In one of them were items (including processed food) for sale; it was Base PX (post exchange) where the members of the Armed Forces could buy U.S.-made products. When I exited the PX, I heard a loud noise and, right in front of me, a U.S. single-seat fighter plane landed and stopped right in front of me, and the pilot got out. I was in absolute seventh heaven! This was the first time I had been close to a plane, and a fighter at that! This certainly was something to remember.

My second memory was at the swimming pool. It was surrounded by a high wire fence, and the entrance/exit was a guarded turn-stile. While there were many people availing themselves of the facility, it seems that only Base personnel were allowed in. However, if you had a contact, you could get a pass to enter and go for a swim.

My last memory was leaving the Base. There was a line-up of cars to do so! It seems that, while you were allowed to purchase items from the PX (if you had U.S. dollars), you could not take them off the Base. Basically, the Base was U.S. territory, and all customs and immigration rules applied at the "border". I saw a car literally stripped down, with all of its seats taken out while a thorough search was made of it. I guess that the guards thought that the driver looked suspicious and might be a smuggler!

Once the war was over and the U.S.A. had no further use of the Base, it reverted to ownership by the B.G. government, and it became "wide open" for anyone to go there.

**SPRING DANCE 2022**

On 23 April, 2022, for the first time in three years, the St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association – Toronto and the St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society held a social event at the West Rouge Community Centre. Government regulations with respect to social gatherings during the COVID pandemic had prevented the two organizations from holding their annual dances prior to 2022.

COVID continued to be a factor in our planning, and attendance was reduced from the numbers that would normally support our event. However, those who attended were treated to an evening of renewed camaraderie, drinks, a good mix of music by our DJ, and a good meal from our new caterer. While some of our past attendees were missing, it was reassuring to see some new faces jumping up or line-dancing on the dance floor, or having a drink, while chatting with friends who had not met for some time. The raffle for prizes, donated by members of the Executive

Committee, was a success, raising \$880.

The success of the evening was attributable to the efforts of the organizing committee to plan the event in the face of ongoing uncertainty about COVID, and arrange catering for the meal. The sterling efforts by ticket sellers to get tickets sold, and volunteers to set up the hall and the bar and to strip the tables at the end of the night played a huge part in our achievements for the night. In particular, we must recognize the visitors from the USA who not only supported the dance with their presence but some of whom assisted in the set up and take down of the party room. Many attendees commented, as they were leaving at the end of the night, that it was good to be able to dance again and that they had enjoyed the evening.

We look forward to welcoming those who missed this event to our next event which we hope to hold in the near future.

### MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2022. Membership is based on the calendar year.

<b>CANADA (91)</b>	Terence Devers	Anthony O'Dowd <sup>2</sup>	<b>BRAZIL (1)</b>	Stephen Budhu <sup>4</sup>
Paul Abdool <sup>2</sup>	Neville Devonish	Michael Persaud <sup>2</sup>	Stephen DeCastro <sup>1</sup>	Rev. Andrew Chan-a-sue <sup>3</sup>
Lance Alexander	Raymond Dias <sup>4</sup>	Renuka Persaud <sup>1</sup>		Ronald Chanderbhan <sup>2</sup>
Howard Amo <sup>2</sup>	Ron Dias	Compton Pestano <sup>3</sup>	<b>DOMINICAN</b>	Dalip Etwaroo <sup>2</sup>
Alwyn Appiah <sup>3</sup>	Jerome D'Oliveira	L. A. Phillips	<b>REPUBLIC (1)</b>	Bernard Friemann <sup>2</sup>
Bernard Austin <sup>2</sup>	Paul Duarte	Carl Ramalho	Deep Ford <sup>3</sup>	Trevor Gibbs <sup>4</sup>
Gregory Badley	Joe Faria <sup>5</sup>	Marcelline Ramcharan	<b>GUYANA (1)</b>	Edward Gouveia <sup>2</sup>
Malcolm Barrington <sup>1</sup>	Raymond Fernandes	Linden Ramdeholl <sup>2</sup>	Fitzgerald Yaw Jr.	Philip Greathead <sup>2</sup>
Michael Barrington <sup>4</sup>	Keith Fletcher <sup>3</sup>	Romeo Resaul <sup>1</sup>		Leyland Hazlewood <sup>4</sup>
Gerard Bayley <sup>1</sup>	Andre Fredricks <sup>5</sup>	Bryan Rodrigues	<b>TRINIDAD (2)</b>	Michael Heydon <sup>3</sup>
John Rene Bayley <sup>2</sup>	Darwin Fung <sup>1</sup>	Peter St. Aubyn	Richard Harford <sup>1</sup>	Edward Isaacs <sup>4</sup>
Teddy Boyce <sup>4</sup>	James Fung <sup>5</sup>	Savitri Seenauth <sup>2</sup>	Ronald Harford <sup>1</sup>	Edwin Jack
Ian Camacho <sup>3</sup>	J. Neil Gonsalves <sup>1</sup>	Robin Shaw <sup>2</sup>		Wilfred Jack <sup>3</sup>
Paul Camacho <sup>1</sup>	Ken Hahnfeld <sup>2</sup>	Asoka Robin Singh		Kenneth Jordan
Alfred Carr <sup>7</sup>	Brian Hall-Stevenson	Michael Singh <sup>1</sup>	<b>U.K. (7)</b>	Jolyon King <sup>6</sup>
Wilfred Carr <sup>1</sup>	Albert Hamilton <sup>3</sup>	Albert Smith <sup>4</sup>	John DaCosta <sup>3</sup>	Joey Lopes
Joseph Castanheiro	Hugh Hazlewood <sup>1</sup>	Vanita Soman <sup>1</sup>	Julio Faria <sup>3</sup>	Nevrindra Mangru <sup>4</sup>
Bob Chee-a-tow	Paul Hazlewood <sup>2</sup>	Akisha Somrah <sup>1</sup>	Tony Gomes	Christopher Martin <sup>4</sup>
Sydney Chin	Monty Henson <sup>3</sup>	Cecil Subryan <sup>4</sup>	Leyland Grant <sup>3</sup>	Carlyle Moore <sup>4</sup>
Gerry Chin-sam <sup>3</sup>	Desmond Hill <sup>1</sup>	Albert Sweetnam <sup>2</sup>	Neville Jordan <sup>2</sup>	Godfrey Nurse <sup>3</sup>
Ivan Choo <sup>2</sup>	Andrew Insanally <sup>2</sup>	Michael Texeira <sup>3</sup>	Charles Kennard <sup>2</sup>	Hugh Christopher Patrick <sup>4</sup>
Tony Clarke <sup>7</sup>	Richard James <sup>4</sup>	Arthur Veerasammy <sup>1</sup>	Raymond Pancham <sup>3</sup>	Horace Persaud <sup>3</sup>
Paul Crum-ewing <sup>4</sup>	Desmond Jardine <sup>1</sup>	Vibert Vieira <sup>1</sup>		Peter Rodrigues
Richard DaCosta <sup>4</sup>	Clayton Jeffery <sup>2</sup>	Paul Vincent <sup>2</sup>	<b>U.S.A. (31)</b>	John Sparrock
Edward DaSilva <sup>2</sup>	Anthony Jekir	Howard Welshman <sup>1</sup>	Clydewyn Anthony <sup>4</sup>	Jolyon Williams <sup>4</sup>
Terry DeAbreu <sup>2</sup>	Amanda King	David Wong <sup>1</sup>	Mark Anthony <sup>4</sup>	
Tyrone DeAbreu <sup>1</sup>	Vibert Lampkin <sup>2</sup>	Brian Yhap <sup>3</sup>	Mark E. Anthony <sup>4</sup>	
Gregory DeCastro <sup>2</sup>	John Lopes <sup>3</sup>	John Yip <sup>2</sup>	Wayne Austin <sup>4</sup>	<b>VENEZUELA (1)</b>
Rupert DeCastro	Geoffrey Luck	Angus Zitman <sup>3</sup>	Lloyd Barker <sup>4</sup>	Michael Chin-a-loy <sup>4</sup>
Andre DePeana <sup>3</sup>	Michael Mendes de		Satynanand Bhagrat-tee <sup>1</sup>	
Clive Devers	Franca <sup>1</sup>	<b>AUSTRALIA (1)</b>		
Roger Devers	Colin Nurse <sup>3</sup>	Lennox Yhap <sup>2</sup>		

There are 136 paid-up members.

Notes :

1. These (24) alumni have paid in advance through 2023.
2. These (29) alumni have paid in advance through 2024.
3. These (24) alumni have paid in advance through 2025.
4. These (23) alumni have paid in advance through 2026.
5. These (2) alumni have paid in advance through 2027.
6. This (1) alumnus have paid in advance through 2028.
7. These (2) alumni have paid in advance through 2029.

### FUND-RAISING EVENTS IN 2022

The Government of Ontario has removed most (if not all) restrictions to gatherings and movements of people, introduced to combat the COVID-19 virus. Once again, we have been able to hold a fund-raising event (the Spring Dance – see elsewhere in this newsletter) which was successful in spite of the lower than expected attendance. Normally, we would hold four more events during the rest of the year - the Golf Tournament, Caribjam, the Fall Dance, and the New Year's Eve Gala.

The golf players have come back with a vengeance, and the tournament is sold out! There have been difficulties with organizing Caribjam, so we have decided not to hold this event this year. At this time, we still plan to hold the last two events of the year, so keep tuned for future announcements about them. We are anxious to welcome back our "regulars" and those who would like to join us for the first time.

### HAVE A LAUGH

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half-blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to black-outs. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.



## OBITUARIES

**Colin Bobb-Semple (57-59)** was born on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1945, in British Guiana and died on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, in London, England. He is survived by his wife Glenda, children Dominic, Coleen, and Martin, and grandchildren Domero, Nayah, and Saffron.



He attended St. Stanislaus College from 1957 to 1959 when he emigrated to the UK at age 14, enrolling at St. Ignatius College in North London. He earned an LLB degree from the University of London before qualifying as a Solicitor in 1974. He was also the recipient of an LLM

from Brunel University, and practiced in several areas, including criminal defence.

He was a former Senior Lecturer at The City Law School, as well as a former Senior Lecturer on the then Bar Vocational Studies course, teaching on a wide range of courses from 1989 to 2009. Starting his City stint at what was the Inns of Court School of Law (ICSL), he lectured students in Criminal Advocacy, Criminal Litigation and Sentencing, Criminal Evidence, Conference Skills, Casework Skills, Negotiation, Opinion Writing, and Human Rights.

He was also the subject leader on the Sentencing module of the LLM in Criminal Litigation, and deputy course leader on the programme. Colin also ran additional evening classes for law students as part of the ACA.

Over the course of his time at City, he was a role model to hundreds of students from the UK and overseas. Close former colleague and Senior Lecturer in The City Law School, Keith Simpson, said Colin "was considered to be a beacon of progressive thought, anti-racism, and a fount of encouragement for those seeking to enter a White and privileged Bar".

He was one of several leaders fighting for racial justice in the 1970s and 80s - particularly difficult decades for African-Caribbean, African, and Asian people living in England - frequently publishing articles related to law and race relations.

Colin was a member of the Race Relations Sub-Committee for the National Council of Civil Liberties in the 1970s and, in 2007, he received a Lifetime Award from the Black Solicitors Network for his accomplishments in the areas of legal education and practice.

His published works notably include *Because I See Death!: The 1958 Notting Hill & Nottingham Racial Terror Attacks* and *The "Blood-Stained" Sugar Empire of Queen Charlotte*. He was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts in May 2021.

A member of the Bar in his native Guyana and in the islands of St. Kitts & Nevis, Colin put his fine legal mind to the service of law reform, heading a team of law revision consultants to the Guyanese Government from 2010 to

2012.

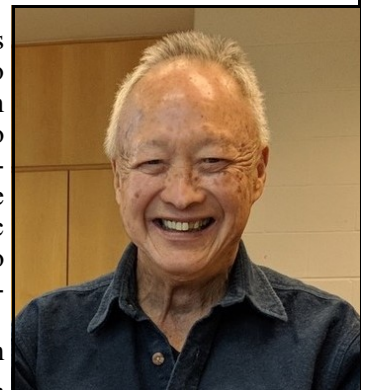
His ex-colleague, Professor Peter Hungerford-Welch, Associate Dean (Postgraduate & Professional Programmes), said: "Colin was so kind, caring, and generous - a truly lovely colleague. The students absolutely loved him."

**Alumnus (53-58) Vernon Volny (Bonny) Chung** passed away 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, at the age of 80. He was born on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1941, in Georgetown, Guyana, and attended St. Stanislaus College. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 54 years, Jeannette, his cherished children Duane (Damini), Nicole, and grandson Maximus. Bonny was the son of the late Agnes and Darwin Chung, and will be missed by his siblings Patsy (Roy Chan), Shirley (Rollo Lee), Hewley (Merle Cyril), Noel (deceased), and Denise (Peter Lee), and siblings-in-law Pachon Chin (Lucille Chin), Joseph Chin, Joan Tang (Oswald Tang), Merle Lee (Berwick Lee), Stephanie Bacchus (deceased), Jacqueline Headecker (Garth Headecker, deceased), Anthony Ming (Selina Jameer), family friends Barbara Rego (Raymond Rego, deceased), and in-laws Sneha Nagpal (Kanwarjit Nagpal, deceased).

Bonny immigrated with his wife, Jeannette, and family to Canada in 1972. He began his new profession as an auto mechanic and worked at several major GM dealers. He became a senior mechanic and went on to teach auto mechanic courses at Centennial College.

Bonny loved fishing with friends, camping with family, and loved to return to Guyana

for hunting. Bonny was a good friend and always willing to help, especially in his neighbourhood. Jan and he loved going on road trips and cruises. He loved doting on his grandson Maximus.



**John Simon de Freitas (49-50)** was born on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1940, in Georgetown, British Guiana, and died on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, in Madeira, after a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Dianne (née De Freitas, whose brothers **Jerome** and **Clive** are Saints alumni), and four of his children.

The following is part of a tribute by his daughter, Maria Helena 'Mel' de Freitas.

My father, John Simon de Freitas, a committed Guyanese patriot, was born on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1940, the eldest of three children in Georgetown, then British Guiana, into a thoroughly Portuguese commercial background. All four of his grandparents were born in Madeira, but both of his parents were born in Georgetown.

He was also born into a thoroughly religiously observant and active Roman Catholic family. His father was a staunch supporter of

Continued on page 6

**John Simon de Freitas (49-50)***(continued from page 7)*

the St. Vincent de Paul society as was John Simon in adulthood. His religion gave a sense of duty and devotion to other people. A naturally extremely sociable and sympathetic boy – he had friends from all walks of life.



He attended St. Agnes Primary School and St. Stanislaus College (49-50 in Prep), before being sent at the age of ten to a Jesuit school, Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, England. This was a wonderful formative experience. He formed close and lifelong friendships and excelled in English Literature, History, French, and Fencing. This happy period ended with a sudden shock – the unexpected death of his father. Aged just sixteen, his

touchstone, his moral compass, and his security was gone. Immediately, he left school to do a business course in London.

Two years later, he returned to the then colony to work at the family business, the Central Garage. Formed in 1919, the company sold Chevrolet, Buick, Vauxhall cars and, most significantly, Bedford trucks, which contributed to the development of motor transport in the country, and also supplied various accessories and spare parts.

He entered work in difficult times. His mother had battled to fill the void left by his father. With help and, through her intelligence, persistence, and diplomatic skill, Zelia de Freitas was able to save the business and leave it as a prosperous company for her children.

My father became Managing Director in his early twenties and served in the position until retirement in 2001, his tenure broken only during 1977 to 1979, when he moved to Madeira.

He was most proud of the sacrifice of his own father, Celestino, who would sell trucks to East Indians from the Corentyne for \$1 down. At this time, banks were difficult for the ordinary man from the countryside to access. These accounts were kept in the top left hand drawer of the desk, passed from father to son. Over time, he learned that rice farmers from the countryside were people of honour and integrity.

The racial troubles in BG of 1962-4 greatly influenced him. His duty was to guard the Central Garage nightly. Details of the violence he suffered directly were hard to prise out of him. The Abraham family, who were close family friends and neighbours in Hadfield Street, were massacred. Eight members of the family were murdered in what was an apparently racial and political attack. My dad, who drove the three survivors to hospital, often said that, if a race war ever started, he would leave Guyana. These experiences haunted him and left him always on the lookout for how trouble could start.

He married Dianne in 1965 in Brickdam Cathedral, and

five children followed. Our house was opposite the church, so we had no excuse for being late. We grew up with a sense of duty, the importance of honesty and gentleness. He was a wonderful family man. We saw him every day. He was gentle giant, a lively storyteller, with a wonderful sense of humour and endless curiosity about people and their worlds. Every Sunday, he took us swimming, giving my mother a nice break.

We watched my dad struggle through the climate of increasing corruption and authoritarianism, and as most people we knew emigrated. By the mid-1970s, a sense of the best being past had turned to desperation. We left to live in Madeira, leaving his younger brother, Philip, to run the family firm. I blabbed that we were leaving the country and was told off by my headmistress, Mrs Stephens. It was a time when people ran out secretly.

By late 1979, we had returned. Most people we had known were gone, and the country's mood had dived. The racial divide continued. The increasing poverty continued to menace. My dad, always generous, gave money to many victims of poverty.

My dad's support of the Roman Catholic Church extended to the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, the Nazareth Home, the St. Vincent de Paul society, and the Catholic Standard, the latter being particularly important to him as he supported Father Morrison and David de Caires in their attempts to publish a free speech newspaper. In 1986, he collaborated with David and Doreen de Caires, Martin Carter, Miles Fitzpatrick, Vic Insanally, Ken Gordon of the *Trinidad Express*, and Oliver Clarke of *The Gleaner* newspaper of Jamaica, to produce a free national newspaper, the *Stabroek News*.

In the 1980s, the taxes on new vehicles were greatly increased and as a result, very few persons could afford to buy them. The ensuing smuggling of second-hand vehicles from Japan became the norm, and this unfair competition severely affected Central Garage. Around the same time, an expansion of the company was planned in which the service and spare parts departments would have been moved to a new location, and the showroom would remain at the High Street location. To this end, the Central Garage purchased land at the Ruimveldt Industrial Site, Georgetown; however, the land was conscripted without compensation by President Burnham but, during this time, my father continued to pay the property taxes. In the mid-1980s, the next President, Hugh Desmond Hoyte, compensated the de Freitas' for the Ruimveldt land. My father's gratitude to Desmond Hoyte for this justice never dimmed and, in 1992, he aligned himself with the PNC under Hoyte in whom he saw the country's first real chance of success.

In 1997, he became an elected member of the Guyana Parliament where he served until 2001 when he migrated to Madeira. Despite this parliamentary post, he noted that he never joined the PNC, but was a part of what later came to be formally termed the Reform arm of the PNC, now the PNCR.

His recreational interests included

*Continued on page 7*

**John Simon de Freitas (49-50)***(continued from page 8)*

playing volleyball and watching cricket. He was a member of the GCC and, most all, enjoyed playing bridge. He learned to play at school in England and, in Guyana, served as both the President and Secretary of the Guyana Bridge League, representing the country at Bridge tournaments in Trinidad, Barbados, French Guiana, and Suriname.

A fluent Portuguese speaker, John Simon was appointed as Honorary Portuguese Consul to Guyana in 1992. He held the position until 2001. In this, he followed in the footsteps of his maternal grandfather, S.S. de Freitas, who also served in this post in 1928. John Simon's duties included legalising documents and assisting Guyanese of Portuguese heritage with their investments in Madeira. He also lobbied within the Caribbean with Ambassador Julio Mascarenhas to acquire a seat for Portugal on the United Nations Security Council. He assisted in the promotion of the 1998 Lisbon World Exposition. At the end of his tenure, he was awarded the Order of Merit by the then President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio, for his distinguished service.

His connection with Madeira was lifelong. He often remarked that his three aunts, all of whom had lived there at one time or another, brought him up. There were childhood visits, early adulthood visits and, in adulthood, he maintained a house and a flat there. We spent most holidays there.

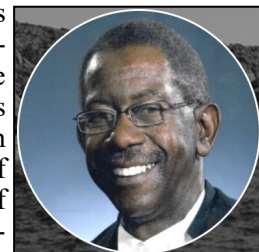
He died on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, in Madeira, after a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife and four of his children.

**Alumnus (46-52) Judge Vibert T. Rosemay** was born on 30 September, 1935, and died on 28 April, 2022, after a series of health complications. He is survived by his wife

Joyce, their daughter Carol, grandchildren Nadia and Camille, sister Pat, brother Victor, and many nieces and nephews who were inspired by his adventurous spirit. He had a passion for history and politics, and enjoyed talking about important historical and political events with his family and friends.

He attended Saints where acquired his GCE (Ordinary Level) of the Universities of Oxford & Cambridge. He migrated to Canada and earned his LLB from Dalhousie University in 1969, and was called to the Bar of Ontario and admitted as a Solicitor of Ontario in 1971. In 1973, he was appointed a member of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism. In 1978, he co-founded the Delos Davis Law Guild in honour of one of the first Black lawyers in Ontario. The Guild was the forerunner of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers. In 1983, he was appointed Queen's Counsel.

He was appointed a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in December 1991, making him the fifth Black Judge in Ontario. Alumnus Justice Vibert Lampkin attended his Swearing-in Ceremony and recounted that Rosemay "jokingly said that when he (*Rosemay*) was born, his mother named him after me (*Lampkin*); when I (*Lampkin*) went to Saints in 1944, his mother sent him there; when I became a lawyer, he decided that he wanted to be a lawyer also and, when I was appointed to the Bench, he wanted to follow me there". He presided in Brampton and retired from the Bench in 2010 at the mandatory retirement age of 75.

**COLLEGE NOTES****BOBBY FERNANDES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

A Scholarship Fund, supported financially by the Toronto Alumni Society, has been set up in Guyana in the name of the late alumnus Bobby Fernandes.

One of the main criteria of the scholarship is that it will go to someone who cannot afford financially to obtain a tertiary education.

This year's selection committee consisted of Robert Fernandes (the son of Bobby Fernandes), Headmistress Mrs. Rebecca Persaud, and College Teachers Miss Rashanna Murray, Mrs. Arlene Duff, and Mrs. Najuma Greenidge.

The committee decided that the best approach would be to identify the students whom they knew, from their history at Saints, to be in financial need instead of opening up the application process to the general student population. It reached out to 3 students from the 2021

graduates and found Stayce Forde to be the most compelling case.



*Mr. Kashir Khan, Chair of the Guyana Alumni Association, making the presentation of a laptop computer and bag to Stayce Ford*

Stayce is presently enrolled at UG in the first year of the Physiotherapy programme. During her interview, she indicated an interest in working with the students in our after-school sports programmes. The committee is satisfied that she will follow through on this commitment since, as they discussed with her, it would be mutually beneficial because several of her assignments during her time at UG will require her to work with athletes.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Stayce for success on her current course in life.



## COLLEGE NOTES

## GUYANA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

On 7 March, 2022, the Chinese Embassy and Ministry of Education of Guyana jointly launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> Guyana-China Friendship Youth Leadership Development competition. To mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Guyana, the participants in this year's competition will be invited to produce an artwork under the theme "50 years of Guyana-China Cooperation", and the number of awardees will be doubled.

The Leadership program will take the form of a competition that will focus on three areas; a community-based project, critique of a work of art, and participation in sports activities such as athletics, gymnastics, dance, and swimming.



Mr. Kashir Khan, Chair of the Guyana Alumni Association, making a presentation to T'Sehai Holder for her participation in the Youth Leadership Development competition

There are eight participants in each of Guyana's 11 education districts, and the winner in each district will receive US\$1000.

The competition is ongoing and, already, participants from the Georgetown Education District performed their talent pieces in the auditorium of Queen's College. Among these participants were six students from Queen's College, one from St Rose's High School, and **T'Sehai Holder** from St. Stanislaus College.

T'Sehai placed second in the Physical Challenge competition and has commenced her own Youth Empowerment Workshop, under the name of UP-LYFT, for her community as part of the project initiative in youth development.

## JOF HAYNES MEMORIAL INTER-SECONDARY SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION



St. Stanislaus College has fielded a team in the annual JOF Haynes Memorial Inter-Secondary Schools Debating Competition and, in the first round in its Region, it came up against the team from Bishops High School.

The moot debated was: "Schools should be allowed to

mandate hair styles as part of their uniform", and the Saints team came out victorious!

We offer congratulations to the team and wish it best wishes as they compete against the other schools.

## SCOUTS AT THE COLLEGE

Scouting is alive and still well as is evidenced by the accompanying photo.



## CONSTRUCTION BY THE STUDENTS

The school library is currently being refurbished. Part of the refurbishment will be the installation of new display shelves (see accompanying photo) which will be constructed by some of the students under the supervision of their teacher, Mr. Charles. The school will be providing the raw material, and the work will be part of the students' base assessments.





Page 9	<i>SAINTS NEWS &amp; VIEWS: Volume 28, Issue 2 - 13 Jun., 2022</i>		
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<b>COMING EVENTS</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Sat. 9 Jul., 2022	Golf Event (SOLD OUT)	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	\$300 per person (includes 3 course plays, 2 meals, a snack on-course, and 3 drinks)
Fri. 29 Jul., 2022	Caribjam	<b>CANCELLED</b>	
Sat. 15 Oct., 2022	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)	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 31 Dec., 2022	New Year's Eve Gala	Scarborough Convention Centre 20 Torham Place, Scarborough	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 22 Apr., 2023	Spring Dance	West Rouge Community Centre 270 Rouge Hill Drive, Toronto (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/Port Union Road)	<i>tba</i>
<b>MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>			
<p><i>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:</i></p> <p><b>St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1S 1V2</b></p>			
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<p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p>_____</p>			
<p><b>Phone (Res.) :</b> _____</p>			
<p><b>(Bus) :</b> _____ <b>Amt. enclosed: \$</b> _____ <b>Year graduated:</b> _____</p>			
<p><b>Alternately, you can use e-transfer by making your payment to: <a href="mailto:paysaintssociety@gmail.com">paysaintssociety@gmail.com</a></b></p>			