



BHSOSA *Express*

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President's Message

WHATSOEVER THY HAND FINDETH TO DO, DO IT WITH THY MIGHT... *Ecclesiastes 9:10*

Fellow Alumni,

On October 26, a new executive was elected. It is noteworthy that of the 12 persons elected, 9 of them, a young and vibrant group, had graduated in the previous 10 years (i.e., between 1998 and 2008). This augurs well for the future of the Association.

As a direct outcome of a follow-up to the Reunion, we were invited to send, for the first time, a representative to the Emerging Global Leaders Program which was held in St. Kitts from October 17 to 20 at extremely short notice. Because of a fruitful collaboration among the various Chapters and the School Authorities, Prudence Julien, a Form 4A student, chaperoned by Ms Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott, represented us. Prudence presented a report on the experience at the Annual General Meeting on October 26. A copy of this report can be found on page 5.

The recipient of the Lilian Dewar Prize for the Best Graduating student in English at the University of Guyana, Camanie Khedaroo, was presented with the prize on Dewar House Day, October 24, at the School. Ms Khedaroo, who lectures at the Tain Campus of the University of Guyana, was the guest of the Executive at lunch afterwards.

We closed off the year by sponsoring a Walkathon from the School to Conversation Tree and back which raised \$300,000 to be used by the General Fund; and, Carol Singing held at Claudette Harry's, to whom we express our thanks.

TERRY STUART
President
BHSOSA (2007-2009)



The Bishops' High School

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Bronze Woman Statue Unveiled

London's first public statue of an African-Caribbean woman has been unveiled as a memorial to women in the Caribbean community.

The 3m (10ft) high Bronze Woman statue of a woman holding a baby has been installed in Stockwell Memorial Garden, south London. The anonymous figure is based on a poem of the same name by Guyana-born Cecile Nobrega, who lives in Stockwell. The statue comes after a 10-year-long campaign by Ms Nobrega.

Olmec, a community investment foundation, raised £84,000 funding and found the sculptors and a location for the statue. The statue was unveiled by a "circle" of women of Caribbean origin including artist Anissa-Jane, Baroness Rosalind Howells OBE and Music of Black Origin (MOBO) Awards founder Kanya King.

Windrush Anniversary

An initial model of the statue was first designed by sculptor Ian Walters, who also created the Nelson Mandela statue in Parliament Square in 2005.

Following his death in August 2006, the project was completed by Aleix Barbat, a final year sculpture student at Heatherley's School of Fine Art in London.

Olmec director, Tanzeem Ahmed, said the

monument was "a tribute to the diverse communities that make up British society and a symbol of the potential of women everywhere". The installation of the statue marks the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush ship to Britain carrying 500 West Indian immigrants, and the 200th anniversary of the end of the transatlantic slave trade.



The statue is a tribute to African-Caribbean women.

Taken from http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/london/7658991.stm Wednesday October 8, 2008

A Dream Come True

Cecile Nobrega had a dream. She envisaged the creation of a monument honouring the contributions, efforts and experiences of Caribbean women. She crafted the poem "Bronze Woman" to express her understanding and appreciation of journey taken by Caribbean women and the strength of their character.

Cecile worked tirelessly to make that dream come through, enlisting support as she sold her idea to people near and far. Her vision took a major step forward when the project was launched on December 1, 1995. Working with a committee of 10 to undertake fund raising and other necessary activities, Cecile did everything possible to share her vision far and wide. She reached out to her extended family among the BHS alumni to join her on this jour-



ney, taking time to inform us of her dream at reunions and encouraging us to support her effort. Many did!

Cecile is a talented lady. She is an educator, writer and poet who continues to participate in the activities of her beloved UK/Europe Chapter of the Bishops' High School Alumni Association.

Cecile's tenacity and resolve remind us of the Bishops' High School motto: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with they might...." Her example is one which we all should take to heart for, without a dream and without the determination to realize that dream we will continue to ask ourselves the questions - "What is my purpose in life? How have I contributed to the development of my people, my country?" Cecile knows her answers.

Bronze Woman by Cécile Nobrega

Find me a place
in the sun
in the sea
on a rock
near an Isle
in the Caribbee:
There I will set her,
Honoured, Free!

Free
to be kissed and petted by the wind;
Free
to be washed with the brine of sweet and
bitter memoirs
Sin:
Free
to be stubborn and steadfast as night,
Dark is her Destiny
Wrong her right.

Woman of Bronze!
Symbol of Slavery
Free
Strength
sweat and toil,
who can foil
your quest
for best
to give your child?

One night a woman
says the Book,
went to Him late,
late in the gloomy darkness
of the night;
Went to Him, the Light,
for places for her sons
the left, the right
to sit beside Him.
Chide her not!
Mother instinct is the same
today
as then
for evermore
however mild,
she seeks the betterment
of her child.

Bronze Woman!
You were no different
When you laid with massa boss,
Free
or

forced
you knew there was no loss
of favours
food:
Food for the black and hungry brood,
Mulato-Eurasian child money
subsidised economy,
guaranteed
a step away
from want and need:
a step away
from toil and sweat
the heat of day:
Pray
Feel no hurt
with those who talk
of illegitimacy
and illiteracy,
Social stigmas - Language Craft;
Feel proud
that you have done your part:

Stained your skirt
with water-mark
waist deep
paddy beds
cane fields
to keep
stinted stomachs
hungry mouth
salt and rice
such sacrifice
as those passed on many know of
Death!

Consumptive death
Malarial death,
visited troolie huts
clean earthen floor
the same as
Overseer, Manager
before
promotion
to driver
extortion
child labour.
All this you bore,
Feel hurt no more.

Feel Joy
with those who served the mine,
today your sons and daughters shine
like the bright gold

you bartered for,
in great professions,
Music, Medicine, Law.

White Man's purse
has no curse
his seed
no need:
but Men
poor Men
they run away
after the night
the day
is done
they're gone
through need
disown their seed
then you are left alone
Bronze Woman
father-mother
Caribbean Woman
To play a dual role.

Stalwart woman-man
With the sun in your bones
and the bloods in your veins;
strength in your heart
and love in your limbs,
Your buxom breasts
hang down
like juicy brown mangoes
in the mouth of your child,
Your eyes are determined
Yet gentle and mild,
Who can help but set you
Bronze Woman
above!
Who can help but cherish
This monument of Love.....

Then find me a place
in the sun
in the sea
on a rock
Near an Isle
In the Caribbee:
There I will set her
Bronze Woman
Free
Honoured for shaping
Our Destiny.

New Executive Installed

The Executive of the BHSOSA has a new, younger face. Installation of the Executive at the Annual General Meeting held in the Oswald Parry Hall on Saturday, October, xx, 2008, answered the call for more recent graduates of the Bishops' High School to become involved in the association.

It is hoped that this signals the re-energizing of BHSOSA, with new ideas being advanced and greater participation in activities being realized.

The members of the Executive are as follows:

President:	Terry Stuart
Vice President:	Hazel Friday-Burrowes
Secretary:	Alethea Puranram
Asst Secy/	
Treasurer:	Tamika Griffith
Treasurer:	Jason Porte
Immediate	
Past President:	Andrea Owen
Committee	
Members:	Ravi Singh Jonelle Ashby Nicholas Fraser Nadia Singh
Special Advisor	
PR	Andrea Bryan
Special Advisor	John Ramsingh
(Youth & Sports)	
Staff Repre-	
sentative	Malkia Payne
Woodside	
Representative	Jannice Simmons

The Executive Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 5.00 pm.



Back Row (L-R): N. Fraser, J. Ramsingh, A. Bryan, T. Griffith, N. Singh, J. Ashby, R. Singh & M. Payne
Seated (L-R): T. Stuart, A. Puranram, H. Friday-Burrowes & J. Porte

What the Students Said

The students of the Lower 6th participated in the programme on self-development and leadership for the 11th year. Of the 35 students who attended at least one session, 54% attended BHS up to the 5th form.

Reasons for entering Lower 6th included to be better prepared for entering the world of work or university, to delay entering the world of work or university, to develop a sense of responsibility and maturity, to satisfy parents and to wear a skirt.

Some of the challenges faced in Lower 6th are adjusting to a new environment (many rules), wearing a skirt rather than a tunic means having to press the entire shirt, having to set the example for the junior students, a lot of work to cover in a short period of time, a higher degree of self-study and lack of sports in school.



The students appreciate the academic nature of their school life. However, they would like more atten-

tion paid to their social development. In this regard, they would welcome the opportunity to participate in form parties and school fairs. In fact, one student who entered BHS in 1st form stated that he felt out of place since sports was not an integral part of the school programme.



These students entered Lower 6th without an appreciation of the nature of the programme.

Having observed their predecessors, they believed that they would be able to coast through the year. They subsequently discovered that the workload was heavy and would require much discipline if they were to succeed. The students noted that this had taught them to investigate situations before making a decision.



Identifying positive and negative attributes promoted greater self-understanding and recognition of similarities and differ-

ences among the students. The way in which these characteristics influence relationships with others was examined. Concerns expressed included a lack of communication with parents because of a fear of their wrath or "tripping out," an inability to manage time, being unable to express feelings especially in contentious situations and fear of speaking in public.

Several students found the programme of value. Comments included:

- I was given the opportunity to speak my mind and give my opinions on various topics. This helped to relieve stress.

- Well, I would say I learnt a lot. This programme has changed my attitude, behaviour and the way in which I relate with others.

Roxane George was a valuable addition to the team of facilitators comprising Janice M. Jackson, Vidya Kissoon and Magda Pollard.



BHS Student Attends Leadership Training

The joys experienced on my trip to St Kitts can be described as simply exhilarating. Coupled with the excitement of visiting a new country and even being stuck in another, was the looming opportunity to bring to light the talent and intellect of The Bishops' High School and more so, my country, Guyana.

Even though we arrived one day earlier, my chaperone and Headmistress, Mrs. Isaacs-Walcott, did not skip a beat in keeping me fully enlightened on locations and sights around me so although my primary learning program had not begun, I was able to gain foreknowledge on what lay before me.

On the 1st day however, I was able to aid my mentors and facilitation team in setting the tables for other participants - which was a small but valuable lesson in leadership - that as leaders we pave the way for others and make them feel catered for in our atmosphere. With games referred to as "icebreakers" helping to release the tension in the air and helping us familiarize strangers and transform them into teammates and friends, the pace for the rest of the program was set. We were also given snacks and sweets in between speeches and our regular breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet style.

Also the basic goals of the program were highlighted which were (1) to equip us with all the skills necessary in order to be an effective leader by means of interaction and participation that called for crucial thinking and (2) allowing us the opportunity to display the leadership qualities we all need to possess and build on as Emerging Global Leaders.

After being assigned a roommate we were given a tour of The Marriot Hotel with all its grandeur, its spacious environment and multi-purpose facilities - spas, pools, ballrooms, games rooms, malls and much more all overlooking a beautiful seemingly blue sand and sea beach in St. Kitts.

We were able to listen and enjoy speeches from individuals with varying backgrounds, circumstances, cultures and statuses. All proved to be very effective and held my interest very well since they were ever so often, animated and employed the use of power point by means of a projector as a visual aid. From all the speeches we were able to grasp a few common points:-

1. Good leaders model the way for others.
2. Good leaders are principle centered in areas such as equity, justice, honesty and service.
3. Good leaders are continually learning which reminded me that we never do know enough since new things are being brought forth as we take them in.
4. Effective leaders are goal oriented in that they have clearly set in mind what they want to achieve and they work their way toward their goal
5. They inspire and enable others to act and challenge the status quo in that they ask the awkward questions - the ones everyone wants to know but is never brave enough to ask.

During the period of my stay we also had a group identity project in which we named ourselves and created an identifying poster based on our thoughts and this taught me how to listen to varying opinions and ideas and incorporate them in such a way that it neither seemed self centered or foolish on my behalf. This indeed taught me teamwork.

One of my joys was being able to share with persons my Guyana - its attributes such as its luscious fertile virgin forests with a budding ecosystem along with its geography using visual aids of animals and places to do so even explaining our symbols and this indeed generated lots of interest and drew attention to my country's finer assets.

I have also been given a huge task to complete within my school called a "Community Project" in which my topic is litter and I was required to put pen to paper to outline my strategy for getting participation in this endeavor and given a 1 yr period to complete it and give a feedback to EGLP.

We also had a reception in which we were able to have a marvelous time eating, conversing and dancing the night away under the observing eyes of our mentors and chaperons. A talent show was done showcasing poetry, persons composing their own songs and playing them, piano rendition and many other unusual talents. It proved very fruitful and the program facilitators and mentors indeed saw my diligence reflected in my work and were as delighted as I was to have me here for such a wonderful experience.

Prudence Julien

Jamaica Chapter

As the Reunions rolled by, Joy Pilgrim valiantly reported on possibilities in Jamaica. She continued to encourage the alumni in Jamaica to believe that they could expand their essay, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, to craft a new chapter in the history book of the Bishops' High School.

The Jamaica Chapter was birthed on February 17, 2008 with the election of an Executive Committee comprising:

President Sarah Wilkinson-Eytle
 Vice-President Sonia Mitchell
 Treasurer Lavonne James
 Secretary Allison Fung
 Asst Secretary/
 Treasurer Janice Bisnauth-Miller
 Public Relations
 Officer Joy Pilgrim

The new kid on the block scored a major coup at Reunion 2008. When Jamaica was nominated as the venue for Reunion 2011, the uproar at the Business Meeting demonstrated that BHS alumni come in all colours. Some plans were thrown into array. For others, particularly members of the Guyanese contingent, Jamaica proved attractive; no visa would be required!

At the end of the furore, the President of the Jamaica Chapter graciously accepted the challenge presented so soon in its life. While there was some consternation "There're only a few of us!", the possibility of making this a truly international reunion by enlisting assistance from around the globe loomed large.

The Spirit of Christmas

The rain did not prevent the annual carol singing from taking place. It made its presence felt but alumni had a date to be kept on Friday, December 19, 2008 at the home of Derry Harry, the ever-gracious hostess.

As usual, the evening was one of festivity, feasting and fun. The senior class was well represented and ensured that their voices were

heard.

The pan players demonstrated their prowess to the enjoyment of the audience.



Members of the Senior Class



Another Lawyer

Rushell Liverpool was admitted to the Bar by Justice Roxane George in October 2008. Rushell, a former head prefect (2002-03), completed the Legal Education Certificate programme at the Hugh Wooding Law School.



Justice Roxane George, Rushell, Sandra Kurtzious, Professor Aubrey Bishop

In her address to the court, Rushell expressed her gratitude to God whose guidance, help and strength, she noted, enabled her to successfully complete the preparatory activities leading to her assumption of the roles and responsibilities of an attorney-at-law. She also acknowledged the support received from her family as well as the sacrifices which they made.

Rushell promised to uphold the ethics, rights and responsibilities of the profession. She stated that she would remember the following words of Mr. Nagashwar Prasad, ex-judge Patna High Court:

"Besides attaining intellectual heights, a great lawyer has to rise in moral stature. His honesty should be unquestioned and unquestionable. No temptation should move him for his path of rectitude. No favour or frowns should be able to deflect him from his duties to the client and to the court ...He should be cool, collected, sweet in his language and manner towards his client and court...tolerant to his adversary."

Adapted from kaieteurnews.com, October 30, 2008

New Washington Executive

The Executive Committee of the Washington Metropolitan Area Chapter for the term 2009-2011 was elected at a Luncheon Meeting held December 10, 2008. The Committee comprises the members:

President: Annetha BLAIR Hall
Vice-President : Joy ALLEYNE Hinds
Secretary: Dawn OSMAN Murray
Asst. Secretary: Neibert WILSON
Treasurer: Desiree Mc DONALD Simons
PR Officer: Audrey ALLEYNE
Committee Elon CALLENDER
Members: Holder, Darcy JACK Headley

Ex-Officio Member: Lilette Kitt

Why, Oh, Why?

It was with horror that we learnt of the murder of Alicia Foster, an alumna who was beginning what was expected to be a sterling career. Her death and the manner in which it occurred sent shivers down the spines of many and raised questions about the country in which we live and the people who inhabit this country.

The question "why?" reverberated in many minds, crossed many lips and yielded no answers. Is this the fate of the youth of Guyana, people who want to make a contribute to the development of a country they love? Will their loyalty continue to be exploited by those whose self-interest is the dominant factor with the well-being of the country and its citizens being unimportant? What message does this send to the youth of Guyana? Is their security of no consequence? Are their skills and integrity of no value? What vision of a future here can they craft?

Alicia's death was sobering and also a jolt. It provoked some alumni to share their confusion, anger and pain at the senselessness of the act and stimulate a desire to take action.

I'm always baffled by how heartless people can be. This is another senseless death. Very sad. Condolences are extended to all her family, friends and colleagues. She was the year ahead of mine but there's no doubt that she was one of the most quiet and pleasant students at BHS. Those who can remember her can attest to that. RIP Alicia.

Lindani Abraham

Grief at death, and anger at what Guyana has become. We are no longer safe as much as we would like to think we are.

Vidya Kissoon

✪✪

I too was very shocked when I heard the news of Alicia's tragic passing. The news has touched all those who have heard, especially some my colleagues . We do intend to attend her funeral service. I would like to suggest that we as members of the BHSOSA, do something together for our fallen colleague. We can probably attend the wake as a big group. I know a lot of past BHS alumni, who would want to express their condolences to her family.

OR

✪✪

I extend sincere condolences to the Foster family, my fellow BHS family members and the friends of Alicia Foster. Her smile and pleasant disposition will always be remembered. She was one of the most pleasant students in my time as a teacher at BHS. I know exactly how her BHS classmates feel...the classes of 1992 and 1993 have lost too many of their members too AND THAT HURTS!!! May her soul rest in peace in the Lord!

Shaundell Ferrier

And Yet Another!

Shortly after Alicia Foster's death, the BHS family learnt of the passing of Ancel Semple whose life was snuffed out in a road accident . Reflecting on Ancel's life, an alumni noted that "will always be

remembered as jovial and funny...always the one the remember things that happened since we were in **First form** (that everyone tried to forget)."

The pain and sorrow expressed in the words of Ancel's "crew member" remind us of the words of the School Hymn - "Bound by the ties of friendship from school days to the end..." and that the relationships forged should allow us to celebrate in times of joy and survive the sorrows together."

★★★★★★★★

IT IS SO HARD TO ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE NOT WITH US ANYMORE. Kenon and Angela will be happy to have your company in heaven now but we will surely miss you, lightening up the rare "crew" meetings. It is especially hard for me since I have missed so many of those over the last few years. The number of the "BHS powder crew" is slowly decreasing...too early. Your absence will be definitely be felt. THIS IS SO HARD FOR ME TO TYPE. I am and deeply saddened and in deep shock. Farewell, my friend, and may your soul rest in peace.

Shaundell Ferrier

★★★★★★★★

We can probably acquire a wreath on behalf of BHSOSA. Something, Anything. WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING. THIS IS TOO MUCH. IF ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS PLEASE SHARE.

.... All these persons were full of potential and indeed touched the hearts of all who knew them.

Jonelle Ashby

Condolences

BHSOSA expresses condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni who have passed or have had family members pass between October and December 2008:

- Family of Betsy Pounder
- Family of Alicia Foster
- Family of Ancel Semple
- Family of Ron Souvenir
- Grandison Robinson (Death of mother)
- Hazel Friday-Burrowes (Death of brother)
- Miriam Ally-Mohamed (Death of father-in-law)
- Family of Agnes Jones



Board Recognizes Contribution of Headmistress

The Bishops' High School for decades has been churning out stellar performances via students that have been privileged enough to attend the premier learning institution, and primarily because of the cadre of dedicated teachers and administrators that preside over the daily proceedings.

Once again, the Board of Governors of The Bishops' High School had reason to be proud of the performance of the school's students at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations.

This year, the school recorded an overall percentage pass of 95.3 per cent, with 34 of the students securing Grade One passes in five or more subjects.

As such the Board saw it fit to pay tribute to its outgoing Headmistress, Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott and the band of devoted teachers and to the members of its many Overseas Chapters, who support the school.

Many of the old students of The Bishops' High School would remember Ms Walcott as a devout disciplinarian but as one of the most charming persons one will ever meet. Most persons would describe this consummate professional as a result-driven teacher and administrator who embellished in a "no-nonsense approach towards getting her work done".

At a small but impressive ceremony held at the Dutch Bottle Café, the Board members presented a gift of appreciation to Mrs. Walcott for her many years of dedicated service to the school.

The Bishops' High secured 100 per cent passes in fifteen subjects, namely Agriculture Science, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Food and Nutrition, Home Economics, Integrated Science, Office Administration, Social Studies, Spanish, Information Technology, Human and Social Biology, Electronic Data Processing and Typewriting.

"The school remains proud of its percentage passes in English A - 98.7 per cent, English B - 92.76 per cent, Physics - 94.72 per cent.

According the Board of Directors of the school, it is hoped that now that the Science Laboratories have been refurbished by some of its Overseas Chapters, more of its students would opt to remain at the school to offer science subjects at the Advanced Level.



Ms. Isaacs-Walcott receiving a token of appreciation from Chair of the Board, Joyce Sinclair

Taken from www.kaieteurnewsonline.com

Titbits about the Bishops' High School

- The Bishops' High School was founded 1870 by the Anglican Church as a ladies' school. It was known as the Woodside House School. Boys attend the school in the early years.
- The school was moved to its current location in 1921. The building used formerly housed Queen's College.
- The emblem, featuring the Victoria Regia, was designed in 1910 and the motto, "Labor Omnia Vincit," was added to it.
- A new building was officially opened by H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, Hon. W. L. Heape, C.M.G. His Excellency also laid the cornerstone. This building is currently in use.
- The Parent Teachers' Association was formed in 1953.
- Physical education was added to the curriculum in 1958.

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If you have any comments or suggestions about the newsletter or would like to submit an article or reflections, please write to us at BHSOSA, P.O. Box 101796, Georgetown, Guyana or email us at bhsosa@gmail.com or secretarybhsosa@yahoo.com.