



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,

I am sure that at this time, our thoughts naturally turn to Reunion 2008 and the fond memories we have of it. Our sisters and brothers in Toronto had been working overtime since August 2005 to host a spectacular Reunion linked to the vibrant Caribbean Carnival "Caribana".

At this end, we too had worked feverishly at our steel pans, dance steps, debating skills and vocals. Our numbers from Guyana exceeded 60. Once again, we were to be the largest group there.

On a somber note, we were to bid farewell to Mrs. Isaacs-Walcott, who retired as Headmistress at the end of July. BHSOSA has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the Headmistress during her tenure. We all wish her the very best as she moves into a new sphere of life (which we hope will include some kind of continued association with the school).

I very reluctantly had to accept the resignation of our treasurer Dorett Leander who is pursuing new avenues from the end of July 2008. Dorett has been a meticulous and efficient treasurer and member of the committee. We trust that she will find the time once again to serve on the BHSOSA executive.



TERRY STUART
President
BHSOSA (2007-2008)



The Bishops' High School

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Science Labs Refurbished

Several years ago, many alumni were aghast on learning that the science labs were in disrepair. Discussions began on how these vaunted facilities could be restored to the standards to which alumni were accustomed. Many could not imagine a BHS education without science experiments conducted in first-rate facilities and decided to roll up their sleeves to raise the funds necessary to restore the labs.

The New York Tri-state Chapter undertook to refurbish the Biology Lab. They have enabled current students to have the opportunity to dissect amphibians, rodents and insects in style. Hopefully, there are still those students who enjoy activities such as these and are willing to carry out experiments for their friends who would rather “drop dead” than touch any creepy crawlies.

Biology Lab



The Toronto, California, Washington, Barbados and UK/Europe Chapters contributed to the refurbishment of the Chemistry Lab. It is hoped that the budding scientists will use the equipment, chemicals and other material as intended and not create explosions as they try to make discoveries at a tender age.

Chemistry Lab



The time has come for BHS to retain its young scientists. It is expected that these new facilities (coupled with the requisite teaching staff) will enable students to enter the sixth form of the school to continue their studies in science rather than finding it necessary to enroll in that other school near the seawall.

The overseas chapters have done their part, well done... Now it's the locals turn to have the right people (teachers & students alike) in place to value this gift and to maximize its use, they certainly did help me. Plus the memories in those labs were great and now it's time for the current and future students to make their own memories. Well done all.

John M. Ramsingh B.Sc. (BIO)
Class of '98

Did You Know?

In 1960s, BHS hired three Sixth Form students as Lab Assistants, one for each lab, rather than hiring a full-time person. Among the Lab Assistants were Elsie Grant (Croal) for Biology and Terry Cooper (Stuart) for Physics.

They earned the grand sum of \$48.00 per month!

Wendel Roberts remembers that one Friday afternoon when the school had a half day, the 6th Form Zoology class had to stay in to dissect a rat. They were quite happy to deal with the rat, even on a half day. However, in the attempt to transfer the rat to the death chamber, the rodent escaped and people like Judith Coggins were on the table screaming while others like Wendel scampered out of the lab!! That was the end of the dissection but not the end of the class. Ms O'Jon found other work for them to do—discussing their marked assignments!

Bishops' Girl Takes Student Designer Crown

On her way to the top of the fashion world is 14-year-old Bishops' High School student, Sharda Eligon, who emerged the winner of the award, Cole Facts 2 Student Designer 2008. Sharda used this competition, held at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in July 2008, to display her skills and competencies as a young designer.

In its second year, the competition was promoted by designer Michelle Cole-Rose and entrepreneur Natasha Martindale and received support from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Students from 20 schools were invited to participate in the competition.

The first round of the competition involved 12 participants who created five pieces which were showcased at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall on May 9. After weeks of competition which required the participants to display their knowledge and skills before a panel of judges, the finalists were chosen. As a finalist, Sharda was one of the crowd favourites.

Sharda described the opportunity to interact with other young designers as a learning experience. She noted that she acquired sewing as well as social skills during the process. She also mentioned that when it came to the competition, however, "everybody was on edge."

Sharda's designs reflected excellent choices of cut and colour. Sharda received monetary and design-related prizes, including a one-year apprenticeship with designers, Michelle Cole and Trevor Rose, the couple behind the label "Facts and Roses." This will allow Sharda to hone her designing skills.

As a result of her involvement in the competition, Sharda was invited to participate in Carifesta X. In preparation for this event, Sharda designed a costume to be featured at the apex on a pyramid during the opening ceremony. She incorporated various aspects of Caribbean culture and life such as cricket, music, the steel pan, flags, literature, Carifesta logos and palm trees.

Speaking about her inspiration, Sharda stated that this came from the environment around her. She said that her ideas emerged from observing natural things such as shapes in the sky.

Sharda's first experience of this kind came from participation in the Facts 1 Student Designer Competition held some years ago.

In addition to her talents in the world of design, Sharda has demonstrated academic prowess and recognition of the value of education. She has maintained a 70% average during the school year. She would like to be an astro-geologist and has found it easy to balance design and study since she likes them both.



Sharda



One of Sharda's designs



Facts 2 Model showcasing a redesigned Bishops' High Male Uniform: Shown during preliminary round in May 2008

Reflections on Reunion 2008: Building on the Legacy

Getting Ready

The anticipation was great. Planning began in 2006. "Yes, I'd like to be there." "Then join the Box Hand. That's one sure way that you'd be ready financially to jump up and wave when the time comes."

The Guyana Contingent took preparation for participation in Reunion 2008 quite seriously. Its members encouraged others to come along, wanting this to be the biggest and the most representative of the spectrum of BHS alumni descending on the host chapter. After all, Toronto was offering more than the reunion. There was Caribana and, of course, Last Lap Lime to enjoy.

One of the big questions facing potential participants was that of getting a Canadian visa. While a number of persons were already armed with a visa, the majority had to cross that hurdle. Most were happy to get the green light and, thus, lower their level of anxiety. A few, however, were disappointed at being refused a visa. There ended their dream of being a part of the revelry.

As the time drew near, Reunion Coordinator, Pat Gordon, had her hands full keeping track of the reunio-nites. We were leaving at different times, using different routes. Some of us were so excited that we hived off without ensuring that Pat could track us down if need be. But, as the saying goes, all's well that ends well.

All but one who left home headed for the reunion made it to Toronto.

Last Lap Lime

The first sightings took place at Last Lap Lime. The BHS Alumni table near the entrance to the Woodbridge Fairgrounds was attended by smiling, welcoming faces, plying BHSOSA and Toronto Chapter wares. The first

shrieks were heard as people greeted friends from near and far, ready to make the big connect that foretold of things to come the next day. Wandering around the grounds were those who chose to be in the mix as well as those who had come reluctantly. There were even a few alumni who would skirt the reunion activities. What is sure is that Last Lap Lime got many in the mood for the celebrations which began on Tuesday, August 5.

The Count Down

BHS Alumni and their guests took the Fairmont Royal York Hotel by storm. The hotel staff and their guests could not believe their eyes and ears. So many women and men flitting around with their various accents, few of which sounded as if they belonged in Toronto, much less in this majestic hotel in such numbers.

Questions such as "Did you see so and so?" "Have you seen so and so?" "What's your room number?" "When and where should we meet?" floated around the lobby. Hugs and kisses, mouths dropping open and the occasional disconcerted alumni whose plans for linking weren't as firm as they'd thought were evident in the lobby, the elevators and the registration area.

Curious hotel guests decided to seek answers. One couple could not believe that this was a reunion of persons who had attended high school in the far off land of Guyana. The husband remarked that he knew very few people at his college reunion which, of course, was nothing like this! The poor guy and his wife stood in amazement observing these positive, purposeful folks, seemingly always on the move or huddled together.

The Welcome Reception

Despite the grumbles and mumbles, the Welcome Reception afforded interaction within year groups as well as across the ages and provided some surprises. It was a pleasure to see Mrs. Abdool far away from the room above the staff annex where she managed the second-hand book collection. During the ceremony when presentations were made to teachers, Esther Burrowes glided across the floor beaming, despite the whispers that ill-health had prevented her from attending the reunion. The Toronto Chapter displayed one of the results of their efforts to play hosts by launching their composition, Celebrate 2008.

The Business Meeting

The Business meeting was one with a difference. Since BHSOSA and the Chapters had submitted their reports for inclusion in the Reunion Magazine, the meeting enabled presentations on several topics, such as The HUB, a website designed to foster interaction among alumni, chapters and the association; the proposal for Guyana's involvement in a youth leadership programme run by York University; and the presentation by Guyana's Honorary Consul, Danny Doo-bay, who shared his vision of schools in Guyana preparing students for the technological age.

The School Hymn ends: "May each to each prove ever, True Comrade and True Friend." The potency of this sentiment was evident as an appeal for support to Company 5 resulted in a spontaneous donation of approximately US\$1,600.00.

Negotiation, upstaging, contention, concession and reconciliation were all evident as the site of the next reunion was discussed. The best laid plans can come to nought when alliances are

Reflections on Reunion 2008 (Cont'd)

forged, loud voices are sounded, several angles of a situation are considered and determination is evident. The final decision? Reunion 2008 is set for Jamaica, "the new kid on the block." The Jamaica Chapter can rest assured that assistance will be available from near and far. We are, after all, one big family!

The Cruise

The Wear Something White Luncheon Cruise was much anticipated. Under threatening skies, groups headed to the port by taxi or on foot, some anticipating a great distance to travel and others venturing out in footwear which presented a challenge on the sidewalk and then on the gravel near the tracks which was unwelcoming of pedestrians. In time, alumni and guests boarded the Empress of Canada for a sail on Lake Ontario.

Tables were rapidly secured by groups, leaving some souls no option but to head for the top deck. This spot turned out to be a popular place as it was the site of the bar, closest to the music and the venue for gyrating, jumping and jollification.

As we sailed along the water, there was a shout, "Look so-and-so over there!" Believe it or not, a poor soul had boarded the wrong vessel and could only look across at the hip-swaying comrades across the way.

Reminiscent of Guyana in days of yore, lines were ever present. Lines to board the vessel, lines for food service, lines to disembark.

The camaraderie continued.



The Great Debate

For those who experienced a day on the water, followed by shopping/liming and dinner or seized the time for another rehearsal, the Great Debate was a hard choice. It was anticipated by many and proved to be a source of unexpected (and unintended?) entertainment.

The Great Debate faced challenges from the outset. Fielding teams was anything but straightforward. In the end, on team comprised chapter members and an associate member from as far away as Australia. Another team, called Guyana, comprised two persons—one from Guyana, one from Barbados, with one person playing the role of two. Guess what? The Guyana team uplifted the Trophy after a valiant effort at presenting the moot: "Resolved that a BHS education effectively prepares students for both nationhood and world citizenship."

Congratulations Team Guyana!

Executive Meeting

The Executive Meeting decided that the venue for the international reunions will be by the Executive at reunions, the International Committee will be activated and the Chapters will provide financial support for the engagement of a counsellor for BHS.

The Cultural Evening

The many hours spent conceptualizing the presentation for the Cultural Evening, rehearsing the performance often without the full complement of artistes, discussion of the costumes, expression of disdain at the cost of the outfits, fine tuning the voices, adjusting the stage presence, "Oh, where is the banner?" were worth the effort for the Guyana contingent. The presentation of pan, dance, song and poetry was well received.

The Chapters pulled out all the stops to provide a showcase of talent. Florida's depiction of a Chapter meeting showed the importance of food to the proceedings. Toronto's street scene, with the refrain, "Ya tink ah mad!" had us in stitches. Jamaica's Jean Small in her school uniform,



knees exposed, recalled the experience of a child's concerns. Barbados' executives took to the stages with their flavour of scenes from BIM. New York displayed some of the many things the city had to offer. The statuesque "Lady Liberty" resplendent in her garb with torch held aloft complemented the leg-lifting dancers.

Guest artistes included Aunty Comesee and Monty Hamer. The programme was chaired by MC "The Crooner" Bill Newman who kept the audience in an uproar with his stories. Remember "The Purse?"

The cultural extravaganza was a fitting way to continue the euphoria which was in the air. For some persons, this was the first/only event in which they participated, allowing the reconnections to continue.

It's Dinner Time

The evening was one of gowns, glitches and glee. The good intentions of the hosts to manage the seating arrangements proved a major challenge. Once the decision was made to allow open seating, the mood changed for the better.

Reflections on Reunion 2008 (Cont'd)

The School Tie Gala, attended by over 800 persons, was less about the meal which was superb and more about the fun of togetherness and frolic on the dance floor. It afforded class/year groups and Chapters a chance to record their presence in official photographs.

The dance floor was rocking from the word, "Go!" This continued up to the last strains of "And ah nah going home til de morning come. And ah nah going home til ah see de sun!"

The Commemoration Service

This was a time for reflection on the week's activities and on school days long gone. To witness the talents of our own alumni as they played active roles in the service was humbling but also a proud moment.



As with other Commemoration Services, tears flowed as emotions welled in many bosoms. That bond forged among BHS alumni was strengthened as together we lifted our voices to sing the words of our school hymn which are ingrained our cellular memory.

Farewell Reception

The mood was a bit sombre after the Commemoration Service. Several persons opted to return to the hotel while many others stepped across the road to the venue of the final event.

Some aching knees trudged up two flights of stairs while others said, "I'll



wait for the elevator." Their owners were greeted with a lovely sight - an ice sculpture celebrating Reunion 2008.

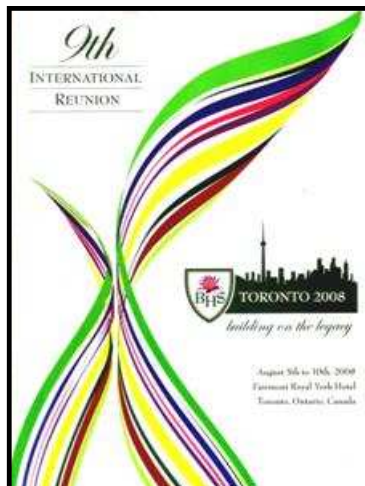
We continued to recognize more faces which we had missed earlier and pledged to stay in touch with classmates, relatives and friends.

Souvenirs and Things

The Registration Package contained



material which will certainly stimulate memories of Reunion 2008. Couched in an attractive red and black bag, the Reunion Magazine, pen, personalized note pads, post-it notes and essential bits and pieces indicated how much



thought and effort had been invested in working to ensure that participants were well equipped for the days ahead.

Tucked in the East Wing of the hotel was the Shoppe which allowed groups and individuals to ply their wares. The ever-present polo shirts and T-shirts attracted much attention. Authors found this a cosy place to tempt others with their literary productions.

On and Off the Bus

(by Penny Franklin)



A highlight during the reunion was certainly my trip to Niagara Falls! Getting on the right bus required a lot of persistence and ingenuity and that early in the morning! But I succeeded and was in the bus which was making the scenic tour. It was lovely weather and the ride to the falls went by quickly as it was spent chatting with my fellow passengers.

The view of the falls was terrific, especially after getting out of the bus and seeing the falls from close by. But not only the natural elements of the scenery were overwhelming, the buildings and landscaping really impressed me. After some hours spent admiring the falls, doing some shopping and having a look at the enormous casino, I got back on the bus and then we were driven around the area to see the falls from different places. It was a wonderful trip which I fully enjoyed.



Penny Franklin with Jennifer Jackson & a Mountie

Celebrate 2008: The Reunion Theme Song

CHORUS

Celebrate two thousand and eight!
Toronto, here we come!
B.H.S. days can't be done!
R-0-8, it's gonna be great!
We welcome ev'ryone -
Business and plenty fun!

Out of our history, we have a legacy
Of working with diligence
And playing with excellence.
It was there we learned how to live,
And it's here we come back to give.
Bishops High—the pride of her land -
Join with us to lend her a hand.

Repeat CHORUS

Those who were there before,
They opened up the door:
They taught us what we should know
And showed us the way to grow.
Let us praise the work of their hands.
Let us take this time to say, "Thanks!"
Hail to you and all who are gone.
Through our lives you are shining on!

Repeat CHORUS

Now, as we celebrate,
Let's all co-operate,
Planting the fruitful seeds
That our Alma Mater needs.

We must strive, with all of our might,
To ensure our school is all right.
Bishops' High, in all that we do,
We must say, "All kudos to you!"

Repeat CHORUS

Six lovely days have flown.
We must be heading home.
But, though we go away,
The memory's here to stay!
From this day, our mandate will be,
"Go and build on your legacy."
Bishops' High will never depart
From her place in ev'ryone's heart!

CHORUS 2

Celebrate two thousand and eight!
We have to shout it loud:
Toronto made us proud!
R-0-8 was certainly great.
(Toronto sings)
We thank you, ev'ryone,
We hope you had some fun.
(Everyone else sings)
We thank you, ev'ryone,
Yes, we had lots of fun!
(ALL)
Farewell to ev'ryone,
Now de Reunion done!

Guyana Groove!



Basking in the Memories

As is now customary, the Guyana contingent to Reunion 2008 met at the home of Donna Ram-sammy-James to continue the reunion high. The reunionites shared photographs and memories amid the ever-present waist-bites and brews. After improvisation with the screen (a sheet), adjustment of the projector ("the one I'm accustomed to isn't like this") and manipulation with the cord ("there's a point over here"), Terry showed the photographs sent by Beverly Barker. That allowed some persons to realize that particular persons were at the reunion. It was with regularity that someone said, "I didn't know that so-and-so was there." This led to comments such as: "Yes, she was sitting at the table with 'Mavis' at the Business Meeting," "We spent a lot of time together," and "I saw her at the Commemoration Service for the first time."

The reunionites learnt about some of the activities of the class/year gatherings and the excitement these generated. They also reflected on the experience and identified areas where different approaches could have led to greater efficiency and satisfaction, indicating that these ideas could be of benefit to the hosts of future reunions. These included:

- Access to a listing of participants and their location to facilitate contact;
- Wider publicity of the location of the "shoppe" and the opening hours;
- More opportunity for discussion of school-related issues during the business meeting;
- Reunion of shorter duration.

The gathering learnt that concern was expressed about the welfare of the students. As a result, Chapters have agreed to contribute to the engagement of counselor. This will be discussed with the school administration and the Ministry of Education.

The pan players have decided to continue developing their skills and to offer the opportunity to others to join the steelband. The steelband is now a permanent feature of BHSOSA, one which allows alumni to benefit directly. Rest assured that in addition to increased adeptness in beating pan, benefits include camaraderie, commitment and mental exercise!

2011 is just around the corner. Reunionites were reminded of the chance to prepare for Jamaica by throwing "box hand." This has worked well in the past for many.



BHS Student for Leadership Training

About the Programme

In 1999, the York University Emerging Global Leaders Programme (EGLP) was first offered to full-time students of the university. It has been expanded to include a version for high-school students from Ontario and an international version. That international version was inaugurated in 2004 as the Scotiabank - York University Emerging Global Leaders Programme and offered the opportunity for local high school students in Barbados to acquire leadership skills. The international programme has now been extended to include high school students from other Caribbean countries.

The international programme takes the form of a 2-day retreat during which several workshops are held, with attention being paid to cross-cultural communication and team building. It addresses concepts such as goal setting and success and enables students to reflect on their strengths and areas for growth. It exposes the students to the knowledge and skills of professionals and experts from business, academia, government and the private sector.

The EGLP is designed as a co-curricular activity to outline the benefits and challenges of leadership in a global context and provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their academic study with their knowledge, skills and attitudes whilst putting this into practice among their peers and within their communities.

The EGLP also prepares participants to think about leadership critically by exposing the participants to a

variety of perspectives, theories and leadership-related activities. This programme is neither the beginning nor the end of the participants' development, but is seen as one step in the lifelong learning process, providing value to both the participant and society as a whole.

Guyana's First

Prudence Julien, Form 4 Arts student of the Bishops' High School, has been selected by senior staff members of the school to attend the EGLP in St. Kitts from October 17 to 20. Members of the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association (BHSOSA) in collaboration with its California, New York Tri-State, South Florida, Toronto, UK/Europe and Washington Chapters have covered the cost for the airline tickets and additional accommodation needed due to travel constraints out of Guyana. Prudence will be chaperoned by former Headmistress, Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott.

Initially Guyana was not included in the list of participating countries. However, at the intervention of Tamaisha Eytte, daughter of President of the Jamaica Chapter, Sarah Eytte, and after correspondence with the Coordinator, Craig Wright, Guyana (through the Bishops' High School) was added.

In 2010, there will be a follow-up programme to assess the progress of these participants.

Andrea Bryan



Young ones queue for entry



On the catwalk—bottles?



A guest—all smiles

Scenes from Fun Day 2008



Han Granger-Gaskin (1st Form 1981), Athina Gaskin (1st Form 2007), Vidyaratha Kissoon (1st Form 1981)



Dorett Leander—The Chit Lady!

Gem Scott-Fletcher, Iris Chang-Yen-Beharry, Janice Jackson (1st Form 1960)



The Honour of One

Desiree Patricia Bernard (1950-57; Mary House)

The announcement of the conferment of the status of Honorary Doctor of Laws on Justice Desiree Patricia Bernard was unexpected but certainly welcome to many who are associated with her. Members of BHSOSA were pleased and certainly deem it to be well-deserved. The Alumni have noted the many successes of her career as she had moved from solicitor to magistrate to judge to Chief Justice to Chancellor of the Judiciary and recently to Judge on the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Award was conferred on Justice Bernard on November 3 at the 2007 Convocation of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine by the officiating Chancellor, Professor the Hon. Sir George Alleyne. Professor Barbara Lalla, the Public Orator of the University, read the citation detailing her career and her many contributions to the NGO community and professional organizations in Guyana, in the Caribbean community and at the international level.

I was very pleased to be specially invited to attend the ceremony and to experience the special atmosphere of dignity and scholarship still very evident in our Region.

Desiree has always been a functioning member of BHSOSA across the decades. We continue to enjoy her companionship and benefit from her support when needed. We value "the ties that bind" and are proud of her achievements. We congratulate her and sincerely wish her continued successes in the future.



Angela-Eunice (Marshall) Rickford (1960-67; Mary House)

Angela-Eunice (Marshall) Rickford joined the faculty of San Jose State University in 1996 as an Assistant Professor. She rose to the level of Associate Professor in 2002. As a result of her tenacity, commitment and talents, Angela received promotion to the rank of Professor in 2008, this being achieved in the short period of 12 years.

Writing on behalf of the university administration, Carmen Sigler, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs stated:

"Congratulations! Your excellent performance, as demonstrated in your record of achievement and as indicated in the reviewers' evaluations, has earned you promotion to the rank of Professor.... Your promotion reflects the confidence that your colleagues, President Kassing and I have in your continuing contributions to San Jose State University."

BHSOSA adds its congratulations to Angela on her latest academic achievement.



The Meaning of BHS

BHS facilitates development mentally, socially and physically through a variety of experiences, both in the classroom and through co-/extra-curricular activities. It enables students to develop many skills and talents, some of which would remain hidden otherwise. It is a place where people are given an opportunity to make a valuable contribution, develop a sense of dedication, self-esteem and self-control. For some, school is like a home, a place where they can grow. The experiences gained in school are also considered challenging. One student saw school thus: "like a flower, it is the root from which I will bloom."

Perspectives of Lower 6 Students 1996-97

Alumni among 2008 Guyana Cultural Association Awardees

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York recognizes the achievements of individuals and contributions by social and business entities in cultural development through its annual award scheme. It has included two alumni among the awardees for 2008. They are Avis Joseph, musicologist and Cicely Rodway, poet and educator.

AVIS JOSEPH (1964-71; Mary House)

Educated at the Bishops' High School, Georgetown, the Royal School of Music, London and the University of the West Indies, Avis Joseph is an associate of the Royal School of Music and music teacher and choir director of many Churches in the New York area. Her subject areas are: music education, violin, piano, clarinet, steel pan, saxophone, guitar, vocal music, rudiments and theory of music .

From Guyana to the Bahamas, Bulgaria to Pyongyang, Havana to London to the United States, Avis has adjudicated at Calypso, Steel band, Music Festivals and other music competitions and was host of "Mid Morning Classics" on the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation. She has performed in the Sound of Music in Georgetown, My Fair Lady and Boys from Syracuse in Nassau, Bahamas, at CARIFESTA and at the World Festival of Youths and Students in Havana, Cuba and is currently the organist at Grace Episcopal Church in Carona.



CICELY RODWAY (1954-62; Victoria House)

To her students, Cicely A. Rodway, Ed.D. is teacher: dignified, accomplished, wise, a bearer of knowledge. But in the very soul of this quiet woman lies a soul that has been marked by the stripes of experience. The very essence of this triumphant spirit takes form in the poetry for which she is honored today.

Cicely Rodway, mother, grandmother, academic, champion of the workforce, social worker, therapist, uses her poetry as a surgeon uses a knife. She slices away old scars of past experiences and, like new skin, the insights revealed find their meaning in the common threads of life lived in a society marked by silences.

Her focus on *raison d'être* has permitted a voice that calls old times to order, examining as she does the several layers of that which may be called "truth." The community that she so closely interrogates in her verse is the subject of her collection of poetry, *Sunstreams and Shadows*, Africa World Press, 2002, which is also found in an audio recording. Her second collection is *Women Who Laugh at the Wind*, 2007. She is currently composing a series on the experiences of men.

This scholar reads her acclaimed poetry at colleges, universities, libraries, academic conferences and other institutions.

Cicely A. Rodway, Ed.D. exemplifies the spirit that dares to be brave.

Taken from: <http://www.guyfolkfest.org/bios2008.htm>

Condolences

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



- Eugenie Harris (Death of husband)
- Thelma Joseph & Damian Joseph (Death of mother & grandmother)
- Beverly Ann Roberts & Gillian Sue (Death of mother)
- Bibi Shadick (Death of brother-in-law)
- Erwin Roberts (Death of father)
- Lee-Ann & Lindani Abraham (Death of grandfather)
- Shanell Joseph (Death of uncle)
- Family of Grace Reid
- Zephine Payne-Wailoo & Dorothy Payne (Death of father & brother)
- Elfrieda Bissember (Death of father)
- The Robertson family (Death of mother)
- Gillian & Margaret Austin (Death of father)

à bientôt

Ms. Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott joined the staff of the Bishops' High School in 1990 as Graduate Senior Mistress, teaching English Language and English Literature. She rose to the position of Deputy Headteacher in 2000 and assumed the post of Headteacher in 2004, upon the retirement of Ms. Maureen Massiah.

BHSOSA expresses its sincere thanks to Ms. Isaacs-Walcott for contribution to the school and, more particularly, to the students who will undoubtedly make their mark in Guyana and further afield.

Shelly Harris, alumna and Graduate Mistress/Head of Science at the Bishops' High School, shared her perspective on the importance of Ms. Isaacs-Walcott in her life and to the BHS family.



Not very many persons knew that Ms. Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott and I, did not become acquainted for the first time at The Bishops' High School, but in fact share our ancestry, with our parents, grandparents and numerous uncles and aunts, all coming out of the renowned village of Hopetown. In fact 'Liz' was always 'Aunty Liz' to me during my formative years.

From my first day at work as a Science teacher at Bishops' and my subsequent time there, I have always been comfortable. My work was never stressful, as my big cousin was also there with me. At the time when I joined the BHS staff, Ms. Walcott was a Senior Mistress. I was immediately struck by her enthusiasm and eagerness to perform her tasks. Her energy supply seemed limitless, and she was always engaged in some activity or the other, forever on her feet.



Elizabeth was eventually promoted to Deputy Headmistress and then finally to Headmistress. She never once acted like or intimated to anyone that her promotions were her due. Instead, she worked diligently at whatever post she held, and she did so without fear or favour and with commitment.

When it was time for Ms. Massiah to retire, those of us who knew 'Liz' and trusted the judgment of Ms. Massiah were confident that Bishops' was in 'good hands'. Elizabeth assumed her role as the new Head of Bishops' with her usual forthright candor, unshakeable integrity and the conviction of her own values, which so mirrored those of our beloved school.

Her few detractors soon abandoned their doubts as to her suitability for the post, as in her first year as Head, Bishops' recorded its best ever CSEC passes, a tribute to the efforts of her predecessor, which assisted her immensely. And thus it continued... the tradition of excellence to which we had all become accustomed.

At the helm, she faced many challenges, but she kept our school on an even keel. Our school remained 'top notch' and a force to be reckoned with in every competition we entered.

Too soon, it seemed came Liz's time to retire. Although we knew it was approaching, many people mourned her retirement. She, with her typical foresight, tried to prepare her staff for the parting of our ways, by constantly telling us about "the inevitability of change."

I miss her! Elizabeth's devotion to all things Bishops' won her praise and commendation from students, both past and present, but most of all, she won a permanent place in our hearts.

Congratulations! Head Teacher!! Thank You, my friend!

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