



BHSOSA *Express*

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P.O. Box 101796, Georgetown, Guyana

E-mail bhsosa@gmail.com

www.bhsosa.org.gy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message 2

Tribute to Angela 3

Games Day 4

Senior Computer Classes 4

Mentoring Notes 4

Caricom Programme 5

Lower Sixth Programme 6

Support from the Chapters 6

Social Afternoon 7

Reunion 2008 Update 8

Upcoming Activities 8

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BHSOSA Executive 2006-2007

The current Executive Committee was installed on Saturday, October 28, 2006, at the Annual General Meeting of the BHSOSA in the Oswald Parry Hall. The Committee Members and their contact information are as follows:

President

Andrea Owen
Email: amowen@gol.net.gy
Tel. 623-7600 (C)

Vice President

Kathryn Eytile McLean
Email: alexeytle@hotmail.com
Tel. 226-3076 (O)

Immediate Past President

Lance Hinds
Email: lhinds@gol.net.gy
Tel. 623-2120 (C)

Secretary

Andrea Bryan
Email: secretarybhsosa@yahoo.com
Tel. 614-1414 (C)

Treasurer

Teresa Stuart
Email: coordbhs@yahoo.com
Tel. 222-3006 (H)
621-8018, 629-0373 (C)

Committee Members

Gillian Butts-Garnett
Email: gilliebutts@yahoo.com
Tel. 646-1907 (C)

Donna Morrison
Email: donna_morr@yahoo.com
Tel. 623-6254 (C)

Doreen Nelson
Email: dornel14@yahoo.com
Tel. 225-1735 (H)

Dorett Leander
Email: allileander@yahoo.com
Tel. 642-1428 (C)

Staff Representative

Hazel Friday-Burrowes
Email: hazelfriday@yahoo.com
Tel. 627-6562 (C)

Woodside Representative

Lynette Cunha
Email: cunhal_99@yahoo.com
Tel. 220-2297 (O)



The Bishops' High School

BHS/BHSOSA Mentoring Programme

Magda Pollard
Joyce Sinclair
Hazel Friday-Burrowes
Janice Jackson
Elizabeth Issacs-Walcott
Vidyaratha Kissoon
Gillian Butts-Garnett

Seniors Committee

Patricia Gordon
Geraldine Halls
Evelyn Hamilton
Janice Jackson
Wendell Roberts

About the BHSOSA

The Bishops' High School Old Students' Association is the association of alumni of the Bishops' High School. The Association was formed in 1933 by the then Headmistress, Mrs Wearn and was registered as a Friendly Society in 1997.

The three objectives of the Association are:

- 1) to encourage and foster the interest of alumni in the present day activities and aspirations of the school;
- 2) to make some contribution in the sphere of education by giving help primarily to the school and to the community in general; and
- 3) to help alumni maintain the ties of friendship.

The BHSOSA hosts many activities and implements several projects to fulfill its objectives.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Old Students,



Welcome to the first publication of the BHSOSA newsletter for the year 2006-2007. It has been quite a while now since BHSOSA has consistently published a newsletter on a regular basis. This situation is not conducive to building and maintaining a vibrant, robust and strong association. Our school's motto is "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might". If, therefore, we must have an old students' association, we must have one which functions properly and fulfils its purpose.

The primary objective of this newsletter therefore, is to ensure that the alumni is kept consistently and adequately informed of all significant projects, developments and events related to the association and school. It is hoped that this newsletter will prove to be interesting to the alumni.

The recent history of BHSOSA has not been filled with a huge number of exciting and successful events and activities involving a large number of the alumni. The hope is that the relaunch of the newsletter will assist in reinvigorating the association and will assist the association in realising its objectives. In that regard, I am issuing an invitation for the submission of ideas on the newsletter itself, on activities and events for the association and on initiatives which could be taken to further support the organisation and the school. Fellow alumni are asked to note the dates of upcoming events and we appeal to you to support these activities.



ANDREA OWEN
President
BHSOSA (2006-2007)



BHSOSA Mourns the Passing of Executive Member

Tribute to Lakshmi Angela Osborne



We remember her as lively, her former classmates say that she was always jolly and had an infectious laugh.



Games Day March 24, 2007

Even though she was ill, Angela managed to have that bright smile as she supported the Executive in the BHSOSA fundraiser.



BHSOSA Executive Members at the funeral.



Lakshmi Angela Osborne served the BHSOSA with commitment and dedication as Secretary for a full term of three years and functioned as Secretary/Treasurer 2006-07. She passed on April 21, 2007 on board a medivac flight to Trinidad. She was 29 years and the mother of two.

Here is the tribute paid to her on April 26, 2007 at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Brickdam Cathedral) by her dear friend and former classmate, Necola Meyers, on behalf of the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association (BHSOSA).

Today, the Executive Committee and members of the Bishops' High School Old Students Association and the entire Bishops' High School family feel the shock, loss and sorrow at the passing of one of our very own. We understand that we are all eventually called to a final resting place after our life cycle is completed. This one comes however, as a shock to us because it seems too soon.

Lakshmi, known by most of the members of the Association as Angela, was so young, she seemed to have her whole life ahead of her. She is now gone. We must however console ourselves that the Heavenly Father in his eternal wisdom has taken Angela to a higher place and for a higher purpose. Therefore as much as it pains all of us today we must accept and understand that. We remember Angela very well.

We remember her as lively, her former classmates say that she was always jolly and had an infectious laugh. To us she seemed to

be laughing or smiling all of the time.

We remember her as sometimes being a bit exuberant. Many of her friends thought she made up for her size with sound.

We remember her as mischievous. The Immediate Past President of the Old Students' Association Lance Hinds often relates the tale of the night he asked Angela and some friends to keep a box of Farmers ice cream while he went to get the car. When he returned he found close to an empty box and a car driving off. We then realized Angela's fondness for chocolate ice cream.

We remember her as forthright. She never had any difficulty in expressing her opinion on a variety of issues. If you didn't hear it immediately you would have certainly gotten a call later on the topic in question.

We remember her as hard working. She was the Secretary of the Old Students Association from 2003 to 2006. She was one of the young brigade who donated her time and effort to an organization that was transitioning from the old to the young. She was committed and tireless in her support of the Bishops' High School family. There are so many activities that would not have been successful or completed without her constant input and support. She was always there ready to help (never mind we got a serious talking to when we went to her at the very last

minute to get things done) One of the more touching moments we remember was when Chairperson of the Board of Governors saw Angela at the last games day. She was very cheerful and when asked whether she should be there at our games day she said 'Of course....Why not? I want to be here and I am tired of the hospital'. These are moments that will stay with us forever.

We remember her as a dedicated mother who made the welfare of her children a top priority at all times.

Some of us knew she wasn't well and understood the difficulties that she faced. What some of us will never forget is how bravely she faced these difficulties and still lived her life on her own terms.

We remember Angela for all of these things and will never forget her. The Bishops High School Old Students' Association and the entire Bishops' Family will miss her dearly for she was a part of our future. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family and wish to assure them of our support during this difficult time.

Angela, you have gone to a higher place. We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ grants you eternal rest.



Games Day 2007

Held on Saturday, March 24, 2007, the Games Day proved to be an event full of fun for alumni across the ages as well as students and staff of the BHS.

The fundraiser included games which allowed those present to exercise their brain (e.g., Scrabble games) and brawn (e.g., cricket and tug-o-war). The event raised over GYD\$200,000.



Computer Classes for Seniors

Terry Stuart began classes for a group of senior alumni on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. Using the computer room of the BHS, which is maintained by the Toronto Chapter, she used the Easter break to take the group members through their paces, introducing them to the Internet and email over five days.

Because of the enthusiasm shown, Terry will continue the classes on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm, thanks to the support of the Headteacher, Ms. Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott.



Front row:
Magda Pollard,
Phyllis Taitt-Thompson,
Thora Chester (friend),
Vivienne Douglas-Daniels
Back row:
Florine Dalgetty,
Monica Agard-Greene, Patricia Fraser-Gordon,
Carmen Peterkin-Jarvis
Missing:
Jannice Niles-Simmons,
Patricia Kerry-Insanally, Terry Cooper-Stuart (Tutor)

I always wanted to have an idea of how the computer worked and when I was asked if I would like to join a Class for Seniors I was delighted to do so.

I think that the computer is one of the world's wonders and I am amazed how much can be contained in a comparatively small piece of equipment

I certainly find the computer fascinating.

Phyllis Thompson, aged 91 years

Comparing Notes on Mentoring

Vidyaratha Kissoon participated in a discussion on mentoring on the 'Spotlight' programme hosted by Grantley Walrond of HBTV 9 in February. He shared the model used to implement the mentoring programme for first formers of the BHS and Tutorial High School and examined similarities and differences between this programme and that currently being operated by the Georgetown Branch of the People's National Congress - Reform.



Vidyaratha Kissoon

Interested in being a Mentor?

Mentors are needed to provide guidance and support to students from September 2007. Information on the mentoring programme is posted on our website – www.bhsosa.org.gy.

Do join the mentoring team by sending an email to bhsosa@gmail.com with Mentoring as the subject.

CARICOM Programme 2007

The third form students continued the tradition of hard work and ingenuity in their preparation for the exhibition and cultural presentation on three CARICOM countries, viz., Jamaica done by Form 3A, St. Vincent and the Grenadines by Form 3B and Antigua and Barbuda by Form 3C.

Form 3A, the runaway winners, were outstanding, especially with the portrayal of Mrs. Portia Simpson-Miller by Lois Tilbury. The prize was a day trip to the Forestry Research Station at Yarrowkabra and Splashmins.

We thank the Washington Chapter who supported this programme with a GUY \$50,000 donation. The teachers and parents who unselfishly supported the students' enthusiasm and aplomb must be congratulated for their efforts.

Below are extracts from reflections on the experience written by students of Form 3A.

Niko Balkaran - Being a part of this wonderful experience has given me excellent skills that I know will help me in later life. Some of the skills that I know I possess are patience and bravery. I also learnt what leadership is really about. I learnt about the diverse Jamaican culture. The CARICOM Programme 2007 helped to bring out the inner West Indian I had in me and I am thankful for that.

Keri Basdeo - During this programme, we had both positive and negative experiences. Some of the positives were building models, socializing with my classmates and most of all was when we won and got to go on a trip to the Yarrowkabra Field Station and the Splashmin's Resort. Some negatives were not getting the full co-operation of all the students, sleepless nights and some occasional quarrels between the students. But in the end, if I got a chance to relive something from my school life, it would be the CARICOM Project.

Samanta Dhanraj - I think class 3A was lucky because we had talent, a wide imagination, hard workers and a gifted co-ordinator (Ms. Thompson). We worked diligently throughout the weeks, we were tired but it was exciting. We worked and made exhibits even unto the last possible moment.... Form 3A was the best! We were splendid both off and on stage. We had the crowd going – laughter, suspense. We had it....

The CARICOM Programme 2007 was the greatest moment of my life. I will cherish it because I don't think there will ever be another moment better than it. Congrats Form 3A!!

Jaclynncia George - Leading up to the Project Day, everyone contributed money everyday and this helped a lot for paying our expenses and buying materials for our props.... The trip was great. We went to Yarrowkabra Field Station on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway and also to Splashmins. We had fun and these days will always be with us forever.

Keishann Griffith - This programme built up a lot of confidence in me. It opened a door to the things I would never imagine myself doing. It brought me closer to my classmates. This was more like an unbreakable bond amongst us all. At the end of this wild, adventurous experience, when you've reached your victorious destination, there is an overwhelming joy that takes you over, for you would now know that all this hard work paid off.

Saliza Haniff - As the winners we are happy. Hard work has paid off. We asked God in the beginning for his help and we thanked him in the end. The Bible says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." We all delighted ourselves and he gave to us the desire of our hearts.

Destiny Harry - Almost every student ate, slept and breathed Jamaica. I remember my friend and I, while walking on the road, stopped every time we saw something pertaining to Jamaica.

Zonel Hartley - Working for the CARICOM Programme took a huge toll on the minds and bodies of the students of Form 3A. This project has been all about tears, sleepless nights, sweat and thousands of mosquito bites. Anxiety and fear was all that coursed through our veins. At the end of the week it was time to showcase our talents and what we have been doing after school for the month.

The lights were on us now. Form 3B took the stage and wowed the audience. Now we prepared backstage, fingers crossed and heads bowed in prayer. We commanded the stage showing our talents, exciting the crowd and, from the results, we wowed the judges. Then it was Form 3C's turn. We sat in the audience praying that they would forget what they learnt or even fall. Unfortunately, they did a flawless routine.

Our fate now lay in the judges' hands. Sweat pouring from our faces and the murmur of children praying could be heard. The audience fell silent, it was decision time. The chief judge commented on our performances and announced that Form 3C placed third, 3B and 3A placed second and first, respectively.

We screamed in triumph because we felt it was a well deserved victory. Now we are excitedly reaping the benefits.

Lois Tilbury – Well, the CARICOM Project as you might know is loads of hard work. I played a major role in the CARICOM presentation because I got the chance to be "The Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller" and that was quite entertaining for me because of the way I presented myself. I was also Anansi the Storyteller....

Some good about the CARICOM Project was that it opened our minds to creativity and great ideas. We learnt how to sing as a choir, to not get frightened when we were performing, how to act and the way Jamaicans celebrate by music and dance, but most of all how to co-operate and spend quality time with each other as a group.

Lower Sixth Programme

Want to interact with current students? Here's your opportunity.

During the first term of the academic year, alumni interact with students in Lower 6 through a 6-part programme. They examine topics such as positive and negative aspects of self, communication and music with the students who engage in group discussions, role plays, poetry writing and other activities.

The programme begins in October and ends in November and takes place at BHS on Fridays from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm.

Facilitators, who work as a member of a team, will be given a booklet on facilitation and guidelines for conducting the sessions. They may participate in a training programme to prepare them for this role.

See the BHSOSA website for output from previous programmes. If you are interested, please send an email to bhsosa@gmail.com or contact Janice Jackson (Tel. 226-3619/jacksonj@solutions2000.net)

Toronto Chapter Does It Again



She also took time to get the computers up and running. As a result, the computer room now has roughly 22 Internet-connected computers while the library has 4.

The Toronto Chapter covers the yearly Internet fees (fortunately, this is now vat-free) as well as provides hot meals and some financial assistance to three deserving students.

During her visit, Susie met with some members of the BHSOSA Executive Committee, some members of the Board of Governors and the Headmistress, Ms. Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott.

Bravo Toronto!

The Toronto Chapter continued to support the BHS in 2007.

President Denise (Susie Savory) Archer presented additional computers for the Information Technology programme and CAN\$4050 to the laboratory improvement project.

President of the Toronto Chapter Denise (Susie Savory) Archer, presents cheque to BHS Headmistress, Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott towards Lab improvement project.

New computers in the BHS Information Technology Room



Social Afternoon of Games



**Scrabble players
deep in concentration**

Held on Saturday, June 2, 2007, an afternoon of games proved to be quite entertaining as the junior and senior members connected. Shrieks of merriment at the thought of

winning a game of Sorry could be heard throughout the Oswald Parry Hall. This was contrary to the invitation's wording of "quiet and sober games" which sparked its own controversy. Indeed we were not quiet (except for the Scrabble players keen on forming their words.)

We drank our Five Finger and cherry drink, ate our cheesestraws and cake and had a good time. Of course, it would have been better if the attendance was greater but all in all, it's good to knot those ties that bind.



New York Tri-State Chapter donates towards Labs

The Tri-State Chapter has donated 60% of the cost to complete the lab improvement project.



In this picture, BHSOSA's Immediate Past President, Lance Hinds (left) hands over the cheque to the contractor, Mr. Alistair Meredith of Concept Woodworkings, on Thursday, January 4th 2007.

Both Alistair and his business partner, Deryck King are old students and their company has done work for the school before.

Motto:
"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." -

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Projects and Donations

- ◆ Washington Chapter has sent eight (8) boxes of art supplies and GUY\$200,000.
- ◆ The Florida Chapter has donated a 56" Television with DVD Player.
- ◆ New York Chapter has given US\$2000.00 to HM Sees Fit Fund and US\$500.00 towards Prize Giving.
- ◆ The BHS Alumnet Group created a fund and has since contributed GYD\$10,000 as well as three (3) months Grounds Maintenance.



Upcoming Activities

Monthly meeting of Executive Committee

– Every 2nd Thursday

Sept 15 - Seniors' Musical Evening (at BHS)

Sept. 30 - Walk-a-thon to Stadium (from BHS)

Oct. 27 - Annual General Meeting (at BHS)

Dec. - Carol Singing (Date & Time to be announced)



Condolences

BHSOSA expresses condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni who have passed or have had family members pass during 2006-07:

- Ruth Wilson Lindner (Mother, Dec 2006)
- Leila Jagdeo (Partner, April 2007)
- Magda & Mavis Pollard (Sister, April 2007)
- Lynette Cunha (Mother, Dec 2006)
- Angela Osborne (April 2007)
- Doreen Barrington and Soyini Barrington (Husband and father 2007)
- Janice Jackson (Sister, May 2007)
- Donna McRae-Smith (Sister)
- Chanderpaul Persaud Jr. (CP) (Father 2007)
- Donna Ramsammy-James (Mother)



Prayers for Health, Wellness and Healing

The BHSOSA in collaboration with the Chapters has instituted a global prayer circle to give support to alumni who are ill, recovering from illness or whose relatives are ill or have passed. Alumni are invited to participate at 9.00 am on the first Friday in each month.

Please submit names to be included to Teresa Stuart (coordbhs@yahoo.com) by the Tuesday preceding the first Friday.

Email Contact Information — BHSOSA Chapters and Current Presidents:

Canada

Denise Archer : dcarcher@sympatico.ca

Trinidad and Tobago

Margaret Buckmire : mgbuckie26@tstt.net.tt

Washington

Desiree Chapman : caribi7@yahoo.com

California

Margaret Estwick : bhscal@earthlink.net

Barbados

Yvonne Moses-Grant : moresgy@caribank.org

NY Tri-State

Denise Roman : denrom18@yahoo.com

Jamaica

Joy Pilgrim : jpilgrim@uwimona.deu.jm

South Florida

Gina Singh : gd23singh@gmail.com

UK/Europe

Allison Tyndall : iatyndall@aol.com



Reunion Update

The 9th International Reunion of the alumni of BHS will take place in Toronto from **Tuesday, August 5 to Sunday, August 10, 2008.**

The theme of the Reunion is *Building on the Legacy.*

The programme is as follows:

Tuesday, August 5

Registration and Welcome Reception

Wednesday, August 6

Business Meeting

Thursday, August 7

Cruise Lake Ontario
The Great Debate

Friday, August 8

Niagara Falls Day Trips
Chapters' Executive Meeting
Cultural Evening

Saturday, August 9

Dinner/Dance Gala

Sunday, August 10

Commemoration Service
Farewell Reception

The dates of the Reunion have been chosen to coincide with Caribana (the Canadian answer to Mashramani) and the Last Lap Lime on Monday August 4th.

Members of BHSOSA are reminded that a Box Hand is in operation for persons who would like to save for the reunion. Please contact Terry Stuart at coordbhs@yahoo.com or at 222-3006 if you are interested in becoming involved.

Newsletter Staff:

Layout/Design:
Andrea Bryan

Content:
Janice Jackson
Yvonne Holder
Teresa Stuart
Andrea Bryan



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