



# BHSOSA *Express*

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## President's Message

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

In this jubilee year of our nation's independence, we hope that this edition of the BHSOSA newsletter will continue the culture of excellence for which our alma mater is so well known. The purpose of this publication is to keep everyone informed and updated about alumni activities in Guyana and throughout the diaspora.

On reading the interesting articles and news items, old students and friends of the Bishops' High School will be able to recognize and focus on the current and future needs of the school, particularly to start a movement for technological enhancement and modernization of its facilities. Those of us in Guyana feel a strong commitment to pushing our alma mater further into the twenty-first century and are prepared to take up the challenge in this regard.

The Toronto Chapter has made a significant contribution to the development of the computer lab at BHS, with Denise Savory playing a key role. We are pleased to report that alumnus Rehman Majeed of Starr Computers is assisting with revitalization of the computer systems in the Library and the Science Department. Financial support for this initiative is being provided by the PTA and BHSOSA.

BHSOSA has focused on increasing our active membership this year. This is in line with my passion for increased membership worldwide and bringing more alumni into the fold. I am confident that by the time of our next reunion in Florida in July 2017, the Bishops' High School in Georgetown will be able to give a positive report of advancement in yet another area of its operations.

I encourage Chapters and individuals to contribute to this newsletter to keep all alumni, as well as our friends and families, informed of developments at BHS, actions taken by the Chapters and achievements of alumni globally.

## PATRICIA WOOLFORD

**President**  
**Bishops' High School Old Students' Association (BHSOSA)**  
**2015-2016**



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Old Students' Association**

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## Prize Giving 2016

The annual BHS Prize Giving Ceremony was held in the Oswald Parry Hall on Thursday, February 18, 2016. The Chairs were teachers Ms. Tamara Austin and Ms. Shelley Harris while the Feature Address was delivered by Dr. Karen Cummings, Junior Minister in the Ministry of Public Health. First Lady, Ms. Sandra Granger distributed the prizes. Ms. Winifred Ellis, Headmistress, presented a report on the school's performance and activities for the 2014-2015 academic year. The theme was "Striving to Forge Togetherness Out of Our Differences."

### Excerpts from The Headmistress' Report

It is my distinct duty and honour to present this report on the major activities and accomplishments for the academic year 2014-2015.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the Bishops' High School, learning and improvement permeate the culture of the school. In order to achieve that, we aim to celebrate not just achievement but also progress. This special ceremony is one way in which we recognize the achievement of our students and it also serves to encourage them to continue to excel. Our ultimate goal is to bring out the best in every student and to prepare them for the future. Our enduring aim, ladies and gentlemen, is to provide each student with a tailored curriculum and educational environment which will help them maximize their abilities to achieve their personal objectives.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is much more challenging than it sounds; our students have a great legacy to live up to - a legacy of culture, traditions and values. To uphold this legacy has become very difficult over the years. The social ills of the society most obviously will filter into the school. However, we press on with the task of creating beautiful minds. Martin Luther King said, "Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education." Amidst the odds, we intend to achieve this goal.

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#### Enrolment

Total enrolment for 2014-15: 361 girls, 270 boys  
 Entry to first form: 97  
 Entry to Lower 6: 60 girls, 37 boys

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#### External Examination Results

Due to the values inculcated in our children by devoted teachers, their own personal commitment to excellence and support received from parents, guardians and other support groups, our children's performance at CSEC and CAPE examinations continues to be remarkable. From 27 subjects written at CSEC, 16 subjects were awarded 100%; these are Agricultural Science, Biology, Economics, Electrical & Electronic Technology, Electronic Data Processing Management, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Home Economics Management, Office Administration, Physical Education, Principles of Accounts, Principles of Business, Social Studies, Technical Drawing, Theatre Arts and Visual Arts.

A total of 18 of the 92 students who wrote CSEC gained Grade 1 passes in eight or more subjects. The overall pass rate was 97.4%, the highest in the country.

BHS entered students in 17 subjects at CAPE, with 8 being written in both Units 1 and 2. Of the 26 papers written, students attained 100% passes in 17 papers as follows: Accounting 2, Information Technology 1, Caribbean Studies, Management of Business 1 and 2, Applied Mathematics 1 and 2, Pure Mathematics 2, Sociology 1 and 2, Biology 1, Chemistry 1, Physics 1, Literature in English 1, Performing Arts 1, Geography 1 and Spanish 1. The overall pass rate was 95%.

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#### Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities continue to be a hallmark of the Bishops' High School. Our children are not only exposed to House-level competitions, but they are given opportunities to be involved in activities suitable to their various passions. These activities were previously done in the afternoon, but due to the shift in culture and focus, many after-school activities had to be curtailed. Most are done at midday.

The Arts Club, the newest club formed in 2014, was created to help students develop their writing abilities. Children write poems, short stories, dramatic pieces and music. The overriding aim is to develop writing styles so that their work can be used in Elocution and Drama Competitions.

The Basketball team defeated St Stanislaus College and the Chess Team defeated Queen's College in November 2014.

Rebecca Harris was awarded two trophies for being the best Quizzer in the Inter-School Christian Varsity Fellowship Quiz.

Interested students in Grades 7 to 9 pursue swimming at Colgrain House on Wednesdays.

The Marching Band practises on Wednesdays. Students play the drum, saxophone and trombone.

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#### House-level Competitions

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Athletics:        | March Past Winner—Allen House<br>Track and Field winner—Wearn House  |
| Drama:            | Winner—Vyfhuis House<br>Best Actor—Travis Bruce<br>Best Actress—Jemina Holmes<br>Best Supporting Actor—Gabrielle Cummings<br>Best Supporting Actress—Shyra Bruce |
| Elocution:        | 1st Form—Lawrence Poole<br>Lower School—Shaquille Edwards<br>Middle School—Masud Lewis<br>Upper School—Melissa Adolphus<br>Overall Winner—Allen House            |
| Impromptu Speech: | 1st Form—Elion Beaton<br>Lower School—Jemina Holmes<br>Middle School—Tkeisah Waldyk<br>Upper School—Alistair Dick Grant<br>Overall Winner—Baskett House          |

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#### External Competitions

We believe that learning should involve a wider spectrum of awareness other than the classroom. We constantly encourage our students to be involved in co-curricular activities which will help to broaden their

knowledge of many subject areas. These children were involved in many competitions organized by the Ministry of Education and private entities.

- Lisa Saul won the Poster Competition organized by the Guyana Energy Agency.
- The Dance Troupe placed second in the 14-17 years category of the Mashramani Competition.
- The Steelpan Orchestra placed second in the Mashramani Pan-O-Rama Competition sponsored by Republic Bank.
- The CAPE Performing Arts class participated in the dramatic production of "The Lion and the Jewel."
- Two students, Edun Corbin and Hanani Ben Lewi, were selected to participate in the University of Guyana Impromptu Speaking Competition on legal issues. Edun Corbin was adjudged BEST SPEAKER.
- Form 3C placed first in the CARICOM Project with their presentation on Antigua and Barbuda.
- Science students presented a project on solid waste disposal and biodigester at the Sagicor Exhibition.

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**Conclusion**

We at the Bishops' High School have been working assiduously to ensure that our students get a quality education. We have in our midst, persons with different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. We have forged togetherness out of our differences for optimum performance. For us, unity is one of our greatest strengths. Perhaps that is why we are this successful.

**First Lady, Sandra Granger, presenting prize to Omesh Dhanram**



**Paying It Forward**

BHSOSA's presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> BHS Reunion in New York in 2014 celebrated Cecile Nobrega's Bronze Woman, a dream which took the form of a poem and later a 10-foot bronze sculpture of a woman holding a child; the sculpture is located in the **Stockwell Memorial Gardens** in south London. Cecile's connection with BHS, which began in 1930 when she entered BHS at the age of eight years, has come full circle.



Cecile performed well academically, even though she had to compete against much older scholarship girls. She ably demonstrated her creative skills, being particularly noted for her poetry and music.

On Tuesday, May 24, Cecile's son, Bruce, visited BHS to carry out a responsibility inspired by Cecile. Mr. Nobrega presented a cheque for £2,000.00 which Cecile bequeathed to the BHS toward an annual award of £100.00 to the student who produces the best literary, (particularly poetic) or artistic piece each year. He indicated that the Nobrega family will consider further contributions to enable the award to be given for more than 20 years.

The members of the BHS Steelpan Orchestra demonstrated their skills, much to Mr. Nobrega's delight.

Mr. Nobrega pointed out that his connection with BHS goes beyond his mother. In fact, his father, Romeo Nobrega, attended Miss Vyfhuys' school which evolved into BHS.

**Headmistress, Winifred Ellis with Bruce Nobrega**



## BHS Hosts Culture Day

BHS held its third Culture Day on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. This year's event was extra-special as many alumni, who returned to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Guyana's Independence, took the opportunity to visit their alma mater, go down memory lane, move to the vibes and sample local fare.

Clad in national colours, a team of 50 students paraded from the National Library to the entrance of the school, then performed a physical routine much to the delight of the audience. The marching band accompanied the team.



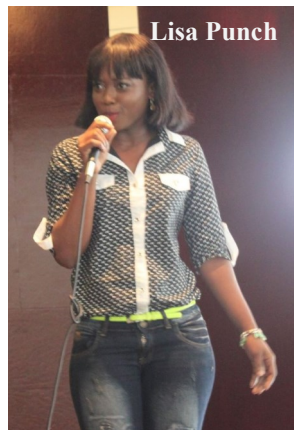
The backdrop for the stage was impressive, featuring aspects of the emblem chosen for the Jubilee.

The cultural presentation showcased talents of current students, alumni and local artistes. Kelly Hyles, the Guyanese teen who lives in New York and has been accepted to 21 universities, including the 8 Ivy League schools, encouraged the students to follow their dreams.



Gavin Mendonca took the audience down memory lane, the Yoruba Singers performed one of their staples, Lisa Punch belted out contemporary sounds while Calvin Burnett and Kwesi Edmonson had students, alumni and guests rocking, jumping and waving.

Gavin later reported: "It was such a privilege, with a great sense of nostalgia, to return to the Hall of the Bishops' High School, Guyana to perform for Culture Day 2016. I performed 'Small Days' and 'Not A Blade Ah Grass' and was received by a roaring applause, the loudest one yet.



cious!

The hallowed Entrance Hall was transformed into a tea room. There, Sondra Davidson-Lowe, President of the PTA held sway. The company of fellow tea drinkers was as much appreciated as the delicacies served.

That, made my entire year.

A big thank you to my former teachers who have supported my music career over the years, and who invited me to be a part of this awesome day. Labor Omnia Vincit."

Palates were teased by the variety of food items on sale. The selection included roti and curry, chow mein, quiches and coconut biscuits. A member of a group of friends wondered how authentic the pholouri was. Another said, "Yes, it tasted like peas." No doubt many experiences of pholouri with more flour than peas had made her suspi-



The plaiting of the Maypole brought back memories of "small days" and the May fairs which were enjoyed by many of the visiting alumni.





Alumni in the Shade

## Visitors from Afar

The Headmistress' office was abuzz as alumni came by for a trip down memory lane, to chat about the needs of the school, share plans and make contributions. For some, it was an opportunity to witness the flow of traffic - students, teachers and support staff - wanting to gain the Headmistress' attention and expecting an immediate response.

Peggy Edwards, President of the Toronto Chapter, worked diligently with staff of the Science and Agricultural Science programmes to ensure that needed equipment and other material would be procured through support from Chapters. She also presented a cheque representing the Chapter's contribution to the Lunch programme.



Headmistress & Peggy Edwards

Dingaan Stephenson of the UK/Europe Chapter delivered microscopes and textbooks which he sourced for the Science department.

Wayne Knight, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the New York Tristate Chapter, presented a cheque for the Lunch Programme, Prize Giving, HM's Sees Fit Fund and white boards.

Several other alumni, including Paul Hodgson, Chair of the UK/Europe Chapter, visited the Headmistress. Some wanted to find out about the needs of the school.



Headmistress, Shelley Harris & Dingaan Stephenson



Headmistress & Wayne Knight

## BHSOSA Holds Fundraiser

Opportunities for entertainment were many during the Jubilee celebrations. Yet several alumni chose to head to the Loft on Friday, May 27 for a night of fun and frolic at a lime arranged by BHSOSA. Some came solo, some brought their partners while other were accompanied by relatives and friends.

The scene was familiar with men congregating while the ladies chatted. That didn't last too long as the music hit the airwaves and the ladies decided to take to the dance floor. This served as an incentive for some men who decided to jump to beat.

Persons who hadn't seen some of their friends as yet were able to connect. They gathered in groups and also mingled with the diverse crowd.

## Forging Collaboration

BHSOSA has joined the Board of Governors, the Parent-Teacher Association and BHS to form the BHS Development Committee. This Committee will adopt a holistic approach to the development of the school, collaborating on initiatives, coordinating efforts and reducing duplication.

The Committee is currently working to address the needs of the school as identified by staff. It has reached out to alumni through year groups and networks. It has also tapped resources through the PTA and BHSOSA and envisages a role for the Board as liaison with the private sector.

The Committee will prepare a master plan for the school which will be shared with members of the BHS family such as the Chapters and individuals as well as with the Ministry of Education.

## Meet the Counsellor

It was the Business Meeting at the 9<sup>th</sup> Reunion held in Toronto in 2008 that alumni expressed their willingness to support the employment of a counsellor for the school. Unfortunately, the proposal did not meet favour with the officials of the Ministry of Education at that time.

Time has passed. Perspectives have changed. So, in 2015, alumni who entered BHS in 1960 decided to take action on this front. Several made contributions to realize this dream. The result is the appointment of Sharon Prescott who joined the staff of the BHS on April 14, 2016.

Ms. Prescott holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Guyana as well as certificates in Counseling, Early Childhood Development and Social Work. She has interacted with students, staff and parents as she seeks to improve interpersonal relations, raise self-esteem and self-worth and counter negative influences in the lives of those she serves.

The Ministry of Education has agreed to the establishment of the position of Counsellor.



## Former BHS Head Girl Sets Up Animation Network



Jubilante Cutting, right, and Caiphus Moore, a senior artist for EA Games, were present at a Just Youth it Conference held last year

Jubilante Cutting, former BHS Head Girl and second-year student at the University of Guyana has initiated the setting up of Guyana Animated Network, the first such network in Guyana. In 2015, Jubilante was the first recipient of the New York Tri-State Chapter Scholarship to the University of Guyana.

## Alumni Receive National Awards

President David Granger announced National Awards on the evening of May 25 during the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Independence. The following six alumni received awards.

**Maureen Massiah** received the Cacique Crown of Honour for her outstanding service in the field of education and religion.

Four alumni received the Arrow of Achievement.

**Florine Dalgety:** for her long and outstanding service as an educator, especially in the area of science.

**Melissa Ifill:** for her commitment and advocacy in the fields of labour, human rights and education.

**Wendy Rudder:** for her dedicated service in the fields of education and music.

**Glenna Spencer:** for her long, dedicated and outstanding service in the field of religion.

The Medal of Service was awarded to **Vivienne Daniel** for her long and dedicated service in dance education.

## Maureen Kellen-Taylor's Reflections **GOOD TO BE HOME** by Claudia Small

Maureen attended the BHS from 1951 to 1957. She visited the school on May 24 along with C.C.H. Pounder and other friends.

"I did not expect to visit BHS in May. We drove by when it was closed and I took a photo or two and thought that was that.

I should have known however that we would return because it was soon apparent that BHS was an important social marker not only in Guyana but also wherever Guyanese reside.

It is strange to revisit a place after nearly 60 years. I expected it to be very different from my memories. The buildings actually looked much the same - different color paint - and the grounds were much smaller when I attended - but the uniforms and the atmosphere were really familiar.

I remember being on the stage a few times in plays and singing in the school choir, although that day I was caught unprepared to be onstage and address the school. Looking out at all the faces of the students it was easy to remember what it was like to be a BHS girl (although there were no boys in those days).

There have been many times over the years when I have felt enormous gratitude for the BHS education even though some of the teachers thought I was a nuisance and often commented that I did not try hard enough. After we left Georgetown and went to England just a few months before the GCE exams, my report cards from the English school were spectacular - I even scored 100% in Arithmetic. My Maths teacher would have fainted - my father thought it was a typo and sent my report card back.

My writing skills saw me through graduate schools to a PhD. At BHS, I learned to love literature - Shakespeare and Shaw. The French I learned was good enough to get me a job as a flight attendant with Pan American and I visited many of the places that Miss Campbell taught us about in Geography. But the art room was where my heart resided. That was where I really wanted to excel in Miss Broodhagen's eyes. Art remains my passion and I have had very interesting and rewarding jobs in the arts field over the years.

The wisdom I want to share with today's students is this: 'Follow your passion and this will nurture your soul - but also make sure that you soak up the rest of your education - this will give you something to fall back on.'

Many blessings to the Bishops' High School community and may your dreams come true."



There were 6 of us who travelled to Guyana. Included were my daughter who left Guyana when she was two years old, so she has no knowledge of the country, and my granddaughter who was born in Canada. We all had a wonderful time and they all want to return.

It all started when we arrived at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. We were welcomed by those beautiful dancers. We knew we were in Guyana.

Our greatest challenge was transportation as our base was Republic Park. We soon learned how to use the "mini buses", and had the kind of experience you can only get travelling this way. My ears are still ringing on account of the loud music.

We attended the Culture Day at Bishops. The Flag Raising ceremony was quite nostalgic. The entertainment after the ceremony was different from what I had expected being an alumna of the 60's. Nuff said.

We attended the float parade which had quite a "carnival" air. Some of the floats were really good.

Recently we read a travel advisory on Guyana warning people not to go to Stabroek market, Tiger Bay and Albuoystown. I don't know who wrote it but all I can say it's all "sour grapes".

We walked everywhere, from Stabroek market to Bourda market numerous times. along Regent Street and Robb Street. We never encountered any problems.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the party at the Loft. It was good to see old friends and catch up.

Anyone going to Guyana who has not been in quite a while, there are two things you must remember, a portable fan and a small towel. It is hot.

Alas, 'tempus fugit' and we had to leave this beautiful country but with promises not to stay away so long.



## Remembering Janice Maison née King

The Bishops' family lost one of its stalwarts in July 2016. Janice Maison née King was much loved and appreciated by alumni young and old. Here is an excerpt from the tribute presented by Wendel Roberts on behalf of BHSOSA.

“Janice attended The Bishops' High School from 1961-1966 and was a Member of Baskett House. It was at this school that she would have received her foundation in Home Economics on which she concentrated her studies and built her career. Janice was the Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor's of Education Programme at the University of Guyana in 1985 and Graduate Head of Department in Home Economics at the North Ruimveldt Multilateral School 1985-1991. She obtained her her MSc in Nutrition from Manitoba University in 1991 and was appointed Director, Food and Nutrition Policy, Ministry of Health in 1991. She held this position until 2005. Janice has had an illustrious career in the field of Home Economics both locally and internationally and has been an exemplar to many.

BHSOSA cherishes the relationship enjoyed with Janice. She was a Reunionite, participating in our triennial International Reunions and the Guyana Presentations at these events. I remember that very creative cake which she decorated for Reunion 2002 which was held in Guyana! At the 2011 Reunion held in Jamaica, she was my partner in modeling non-traditional Nigerian Dress for a Wedding in our pageant entitled "Tradition". What grace and charm she brought to these events!

Janice was active in fund-raisers for BHSOSA especially the Easter Dinner and Dance.

The BHSOSA Seniors Programme has benefited from her since it was Janice who prepared the Black Cake for our Christmas Cheer Hampers over the years. About three years ago when the Seniors Outing was being planned for Splashmins and we needed a birthday cake for the event, I emailed Janice and requested a donation of this cake. Janice replied that she was happy to fulfil that request but that she was out of the country; however, her friend, Norma Washington, would do the honours. And it was done! Thank you, Janice and Norma. Janice also participated in our Seniors Tea Party, named "September Affair" at which she gave a talk on Nutrition and Health Practices for Seniors. I remember the time when I delivered her cheque for the Black Cake a bit too late and offered apologies and thanks for her benevolence. She replied: "Wendel, I cannot be any other way. That's how we were brought up." We then had a brief conversation on the changing times and how we could pass on these values to the young....

Our friend and alumna has finished her course in this life. We cherish the interactions she has had with us and the lasting impressions she has made on the lives of so many. We give thanks to God, whom she served, for His Hand and mercies on her life for making her the progressive, beautiful and fun-loving person that she was. We thank God for the fortitude which she demonstrated as she faced life's challenges....

May she rest in peace and rise in glory! Amen.”

### Save the Date!!!

Thursday, December 15th at 6.00pm

Annual Carol Singing at Derry Harry's residence, 217 Cedar Court, Lamaha Gardens

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