

GUYANA AND FOLK

And Culture

Not what we say about
our blessings, but how we use them, is
the true measure of our thanksgiving.

W.T. Purkiser

Happy Thanksgiving



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Please join our Facebook group,
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*"Oh give thanks unto the Lord for he is good, his mercies endureth forever."
This famous biblical quote is very befitting as we celebrate Americas' most publicized and most recognized holiday: THANKSGIVING. There is so much for us to be thankful for, that we oft times forget our accomplishments and achievements that the Almighty has so graciously bestowed upon us, our dear land of Guyana and upon other nations worldwide. Thanksgiving provides a wonderful opportunity for family gatherings and sumptuous appetizing. It is a day of some significance, particularly in the busy lives of its celebrants.*

There are three special days in the month of November, namely, Election Day, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. This year Election Day will be remembered for the Republican domination of both the House and Senate seats in the United States. On Veteran's day, we honored members of the United States Armed Forces who served and fought valiantly to protect us, to keep the country safe, and to preserve our way of life, risking their lives and making that ultimate sacrifice.

We are indeed thankful for the past thirteen (13) years whereby GCA has continuously provided a stage through the arts, folklore, music, dance, performing arts, symposium and literary discourse to entertain, reminisce and articulate possible solutions to social problems and differences. The approach/focus of our cultural organization is not only to entertain, but also interactive and inclusive. Our recently concluded Symposium and workshops in Guyana have continued setting the stage for Masquerade and the revitalizing of this historic art form as we approach the 50th anniversary celebration of Guyana's independence in 2015. Our President Dr. Vibert Cambridge's article captures the essence, spirit, enthusiasm and continuity of the 2012 introduction of Masquerade Lives as "We Bridigin" forward.

The recently concluded 170th anniversary of Queens College in Guyana clearly set the stages for a plethora of nostalgic memories of "Good To See You Moments" and reaffirmation of "Long Time No See" expressions recapturing the formerly - All male - school days and the welcoming of the - Women of Queens College - their contribution, input and involvement bringing about a new dispensation.

Also in this issue we remind readers of the advisory from the Guyana Embassy effective January 01, 2015, whereby all Guyanese residents in the United States must be in possession of a valid Machine Readable Passport in order to undertake International travel. The old Guyana passports will no longer be accepted at international ports. Also Emergency Travel

Documents will no longer be accepted at International ports. Also in this issue we present a variety of articles including a commentary on President Obama's immigration reform and some effects it could have on the Guyanese and Caribbean community as Dr. Lear Matthews explains.

Let us all pause and give thanks to our God, for providing and for bringing us through recent illnesses and challenges.

Peace and Blessings

Edgar Henry, Editor November 2014



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF GCA

May the bounty of the season
fill your heart and your home.
As we pause to share the
happiness of this Thanksgiving,
we truly appreciate your loyalty throughout the year.

WE REMEMBER OUR GUYANESE HARVEST SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS & GIVE THANKS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO ENRICH OUR LIVES

*“We obligate ourselves to bring first fruits of our ground
and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree,
year by year, to the house of the Lord.”*

– Nehemiah 10:35



2014 GCA SYMPOSIUM SEASON: We Bridgin'

GCA will continue work on the rehabilitation of Masquerade started with the 2012 Masquerade Lives Symposium season.

Vibert Cambridge

Photographs courtesy Vibert Cambridge

Guyana
Cultural
Association
of New York
to contribute
to creative
arts
education
in Guyana

2014 GCA SYMPOSIUM SEASON: We Bridgin’

The 2014 season was held in Guyana as a partnership with Guyana’s Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sport. This was the second such partnership. The primary objectives of the 2014 symposium season were to:

- **Advance conversations with units of the Institute of Creative Arts and other units in the Department of Culture on ways the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. can contribute to creative arts education in Guyana;**
- **Agree to a program of activities to commemorate and celebrate Guyana’s 50th anniversary of independence in 2016;**
- **Continue work on the rehabilitation of masquerade which was started with the 2012 Masquerade Lives symposium season.**

The first event for the season was the day-long video conference held on Saturday, November 1. Participants in Guyana assembled at the Guyana National Services Sports Complex on Carifesta Avenue. Participants in New York assembled at Empire State College, Brooklyn, New York. Participants in New York included Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Claire Patterson-Monah, Edgar Henry, Rose October Edun, Carl Hazlewood, Dr. Lear Matthews, and Amanda Hall.

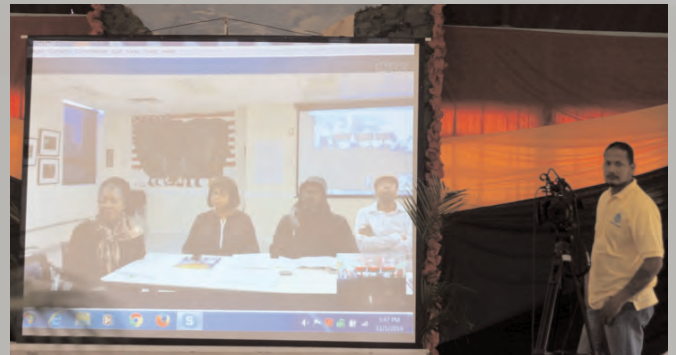


Symposium 2014 in Guyana



VIDEO CONFERENCE

Rose October-Edun making a point during the video conference linking Georgetown and Brooklyn on November 1, 2014. Also in photograph is GCA’s secretary, Dr. Juliet Emanuel.



View of the Brooklyn participants. L to R: Rose October-Edun, Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Carl Hazelwood, and Dr. Lear Matthews.

Among the participants in Guyana were: Mr. Otis Barry (Ann’s Grove Warriors), Mr. Jermaine Brooms (Ann’s Grove Warriors), Dr. Vibert Cambridge (Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.), Ms. Nadia Gamel Carter, National Archives, Mr. Jerome Cumberbatch (Torch and Showtime masquerade bands, Linden),

2014 GCA SYMPOSIUM SEASON: We Bridgin’



2014 GCA SYMPOSIUM SEASON: We Bridgin’

Mr. Andy Collins (Ann’s Grove Warriors), Ms. Beverly Cyrus (Lodge Secondary School), Ms. Jenny Daly (Museum of African Heritage), Ms. Vivienne Daniel (National Dance Company), Mr. Francis Farrier (Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc.), Ms. Linda Griffith (National Dance School), Ms. Megan Hazel (National Cultural Center), Mr. Okene Koama (National Art Gallery), Ms. Margaret Lawrence (National School of Theater Arts and Drama), Ms. Nadia Madho (Guyana National Museum), Ms. Bernadette McBean (Torch and Showtime masquerade bands, Linden), Mr. Learie McKenzie (Fire Red masquerade band, Essequibo), Ms. Andrea Mentore (Dewar School of Music and National School of Music), Teacher Raghu (Raghu’s tassa and tadjah band, Lusignan) Dr. Seeta Shah Roat (CEO, Guyana Learning Channel, Ministry of Education), Dr. James Rose (Director of Culture, Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sport), and Mr. Ivor Thom (E. R. Burrowes School of Art)

PLANNING FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

By all standards the November 1 symposium was a success. The outline for a program of activities for Christmas 2016 (“Happy 50th anniversary Christmas”) was developed. Among the projected elements for the program are:

- The premiering of a new theatrical production exploring/celebrating Guyana’s masquerade heritage.
- Interactive displays on Guyana’s masquerade heritage in the national museum system
- The launch of “reader “on Guyana’s masquerade heritage for use in national and regional educational contexts
- A fashion show inspired by masquerade costume heritage
- Premiering of new video and music products.
- An international masquerade festival featuring troupes from Caribbean territories [and diaspora communities] with Christmas masquerade traditions (Jamaica, Bahamas, St. Kitts, Belize, Montserrat, Barbados, Tobago, Canada, USA, Europe, and Guyana.)

The 2014 season also featured workshops in costume design and masquerade music.



Stanley Greaves.
Photograph by Godfrey Phil,
Photographer,
Ministry of Culture, Youth
and Sport

The creation and production of the December 2016 program will provide multiple opportunities to advance education and training opportunities for students in all of the schools in the Institute of Creative Arts.

Since the 2012 “Masquerade Lives” symposium there have ongoing efforts aimed at supporting the study and revitalization of masquerade in Guyana. The “flounce off” pioneered at Victoria in 2012 has been repeated with Ann’s Grove on the East Coast of Demerara as the venue for the 2014 Mashramani masquerade flounce off. Linda Griffith, Director of the National School of Dance and Andrea Mentore have been spearheading the efforts from the Department of Culture. In 2013, Linda Griffith produced with UNESCO support, the DVD Movements of the Masquerade Dance which catalogued Guyana’s masquerade dance movements.

The field work conducted by Griffith and Mentore since 2012 has allowed them to develop a clearer view masquerade culture in Guyana. Through their work there is now deeper appreciation of the regional variations present in Guyana’s Christmas masquerade traditions. Their research also noticed interesting innovations taking place in masquerade music. A participant in the 2014 symposium declared that contemporary masquerade artists are now “flicking, socaing, and cum-faing.”

The 2014 symposium also featured workshops in masquerade costume design and masquerade music.

The Costume Making workshop

The aim of the workshop, held at the E. R. Burrowes School of Art, was to redirect attention to the core design elements of the Guyanese costume heritage. Stanley Greaves provided the templates for the workshop.

The Masquerade music workshop

This workshop held from November 3 to November 6, 2013 was facilitated by Andrea Mentore. The aim was to launch an initiative to introduce participants to the penny whistle and encourage the musical fusions Griffith and Mentore encountered in the field. Sessions of the workshop were held at the National School of Music and NCERD’s recording studio, Battery Road, Kingston. Participants included students from the National School of Music, National School of Dance, Lodge Secondary School, and members of masquerade bands from East Coast Demerara, Linden, and Essequibo. The “performing” sessions at the School of Music and the NCERD’s recording studio provided opportunities for “master classes” by Rudolph “Putagee” Viverios and Jerome “Three Foot” Cumberbatch and an opportunity to experiment musically. In addition to traditional masquerade instru-

ments (bhoom, kittle, triangle, and flute), the dhantal, badim, harmonica, jaal, and bass guitar were also used.

The closing session for the 2014 Symposium season was held on the afternoon of November 6, 2014 at the E. R. Burrowes School of Art. It was a delightful moment. The participants in the costume making workshop and the music workshop shared the results of 4 days of work.

The 2014 season was an applied season. GCA’s Secretary, Dr. Juliet Emanuel described the season as “Practica.” It was delightful to see and to experience the participatory environment in which administrators, practitioners, and students were engaged in advancing work on crucial areas of Guyana’s masquerade heritage and in the process, developing learning and teaching opportunities for students in Guyana’s Institute of the Creative Arts (ICA).

The 2014 season consolidated the GCA/MCYS partnership and nurtured the confidence needed to move forward. GCA looks forward to returning to Guyana in December 2016 for a “Masquerade Exposition.”



You are invited to the
11th Annual
Fundraising Breakfast
of the

Caribbean American Social Workers Association, Inc.
(CASWA)

Saturday, December 6, 2014

St. Marks United Methodist Church
Adam’s Hall (New Location)

2017 Beverly Road,
(between 21st Street and Ocean Avenue)

B
Keynote Speaker:

Ms. Terrie Williams

Distinguished author, Motivational speaker
& Entrepreneur

For further information, please contact:

CASWA: (718) 922-0163

Elsa Kum (718) 864-5368

Genevieve Alleyne (917) 623-8457

Ismay Griffith: (347) 534-6275

Elaine Reid: (347) 432-9368)

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Donation: Adults \$30.00
Children under 10 - \$5.00

NETWORK, RELAX
PAMPER YOURSELF,
BE INFORMED

2014 GCA SYMPOSIUM SEASON: We Bridgin'

The Costume Making Workshop







The Masquerade Music Workshop



The Masquerade Music Workshop

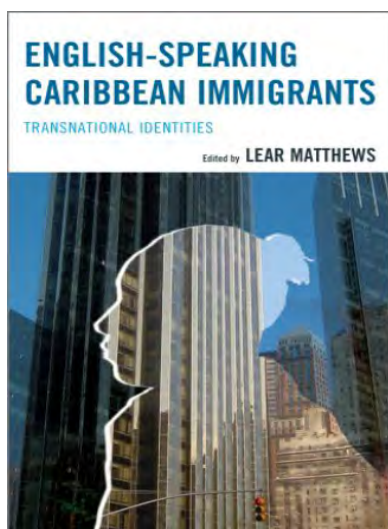


You are cordially invited to a

BOOK TALK AND PANEL DISCUSSION

ON

***IMMIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONAL
IDENTITY***



Panelists: Dr. Lear Matthews, Dr. Christiana Best, Desmond Roberts, Rose October-Edun, Margarita Samad-Matias

Moderator: Dr. Judith Anderson

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

DISTRICT COUNCIL 37 HEADQUARTERS, ROOM 200

125 BARCLAY STREET, NEW YORK, NY

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 212-815-1710

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



SETTLEMENT PATTERNS OF GUYANESE IMMIGRANTS IN NEW YORK

Lear Matthews

Reaction to the recent announcement by the president of the United States on the status of millions of immigrants is quite revealing. What has been a topic of some national importance has become a highly charged, simmering social issue churned by politics, economics and sentiments relating to ethnocentric ideals. The outcome of the Executive Action will affect some Caribbean immigrants among others, but a few may be understandably hesitant to take advantage of correcting their undocumented status.

This article does not address the ramifications of the president's "Administrative Relief". However, because the topic of immigration is on the front burner, this is an opportune time to share an important dimension of the Guyanese immigrants' experience, i.e. their settlement patterns in New York, particularly since they comprise the 5th largest immigrant group in New York City (Jamaicans being the 4th largest). The upswing in Caribbean migration to the United States was greatly enhanced by the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act. Since then, New York's foreign-born population has more than doubled to 3 million – a population that comprise the third largest city in the U.S.

The following characteristics of the city's Guyanese immigrant population are drawn from the New York City Department of City Planning report, *The Newest New Yorkers* (2013 edition). This information represents a significant trend, since New York City is home to a large contingent of people from the English Speaking Caribbean.

There were 139,900 foreign-born Guyanese in New York in 2011. About 6-in-10 Guyanese immigrants in New York City lived in Queens, 3-in-10 in Brooklyn, and the rest primarily in the Bronx. Not only was the Guyanese population in the U.S. concentrated in New York, but it was also highly clustered within the city, primarily in southwest Queens and central and eastern Brooklyn. These areas account for three quarters of Guyanese in the city. The two largest Guyanese neighborhoods, South Ozone Park (21,200) and Richmond Hill (11,100), were both in southwest Queens and were home to nearly one-quarter of Guyanese in the city. South Ozone Park in particular experienced substantial growth since 2000, adding well over 3000 Guyanese-born residents. The Guyanese immigrants in South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill were primarily of Asian Indian descent. Farther west, Jamaica (6,700) and Queens Village (4,800) were the 3rd and 5th largest Guyanese neighborhoods respectively.



In Brooklyn, East New York was the largest neighborhood of Guyanese settlement, with a foreign-born Guyanese population of 5,400. Here and in adjacent Canarsie (3,600) there was substantial growth in the Guyanese population since 2000, but the same was not true in most of central Brooklyn. In Brooklyn's core, where Guyanese were primarily of African descent, major neighborhoods such as Crown Heights (4,000) and East Flatbush-Farragut (3,600) saw declines of over 20 percent in their Guyanese populations. Compared to other immigrants, Guyanese have the highest proclivity to make New York City their home, with more than half of them doing so.

"According to Joseph Salvo, Director of NYC Population Division, there has been a recent "dip" in the number of English Speaking Caribbean immigrants in New York City. Speculations about the cause of this decrease include the following: U.S. Visas are not granted at the rate that they were in the past; out-migration to other States such as Georgia and Florida; and an increase in the number of deportations. He also noted that this decrease has affected the total Black population in New York, since the U.S. census includes "West Indians" in its count of "Black Americans". An interesting fact is that Chinese immigrants have surpassed immigrants from the Dominican Republic as the largest immigrant group in New York City and the fastest growing group is Ecuadorians, ranked sixth among foreign-born groups.

The above-stated figures attest to the numerical prominence of Guyanese immigrants in New York. For obvious reasons they do not include the undocumented, some of whom are likely to benefit from the merits of affirmative immigration relief, particularly if followed by comprehensive immigration reform. Rather, the data focus on the settlement patterns of Legal Permanent Residents and naturalized U.S. citizens. Regardless of immigration status, the enclaves allow them to keep their cultural practices alive through community networks and transnational ties. Notwithstanding the ebb and flow of international migration or the continuous debate about a "broken immigration system", Guyanese are among the immigrant groups that impact the city's economic growth, shaping its diversity and demographic history.

Guyana and International Education Week 2014 at Ohio University



Guyanese students and faculty with Gaiutra Bahadur. L to R: Theleisha Desouza (M.A.I.A., Latin American Studies, specializing in visual communication), Deandra Walker (undergraduate, Honors Tutorial College), Juneann Garnett (M.A.I.A., Latin American Studies, specializing in development economics), Dr. Patricia Cambridge (faculty, E. W. Scripps School of Journalism and academic advisor, Caribbean Scholars Association), Gaiutra Bahadur, Yaphet Jackman (M.F.A., Film), Jolana Watson (undergraduate, School of Media Arts and Studies)

Vibert Cambridge

Photographs courtesy of Vibert C. Cambridge

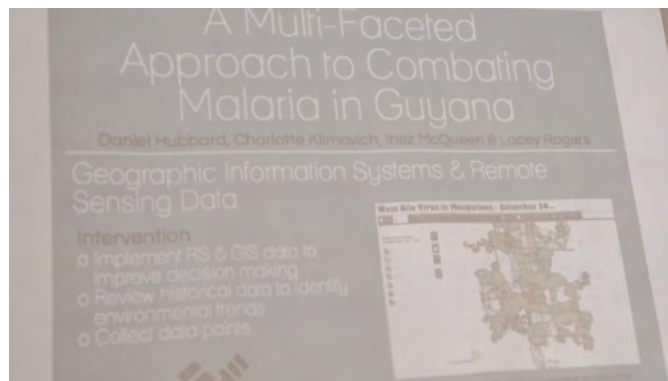
International Education Week 2014 was celebrated at Ohio University from November 15 to November 20, 2014. International Education week is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education and is “part of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.”

Guyanese students and faculty made valuable and visible contributions to the successful week which also marked the 50th anniversary of Ohio University’s Center for International Studies. Among those contributions was the lecture by Gaiutra Bahadur on her critically acclaimed book *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Adventure and the Global Health Case competition* which focused on developing strategies to control and eradicate malaria in Guyana.

This proposal came from students in environmental health science, public administration, nursing, and biology.



This proposal came from students in organizational communication, sociology, political science, and business administration.





GUYANA AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK AT OHIO UNIVERSITY

Global Health Case Competition

The Global Health Case competition was the result of a visit paid to the University of Guyana and Guyana's Ministry of Health in February 2013 by Dr. Randy Leite, Dean, College of Health Sciences and Professions; Dr. Calvin James, Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University's Heritage Osteopathic School of Medicine; and Dr. Mario Grijalva, Director, Ohio University's Tropical Disease Institute.

On Thursday, November 20, six teams of students, the finalists in the Global Health Case Competition 2014 presented their proposals for addressing the malaria challenge in Guyana to a panel of judges. The case to which the finalists had to respond was developed by a team led Guyanese-born Dr. Calvin James.

The six interdisciplinary teams were made up of undergraduate and graduate students from the following many disciplines and fields of study at Ohio University—mechanical engineering, civil engineering, community health, development studies, media and social change, communication studies, Spanish, health services administration, community health services, exercise physiology, organizational communication, sociology, political science, business administration, communication and development, biological sciences, film, environmental sciences, environmental health sciences, public administration, geography, geographic information systems, nursing, and biology.

The proposals and presentations were rich. The winning team, along with two faculty members will travel to Guyana next summer to operationalize their plan. In the interim, Dr. James along with the members of the Global Health Initiative at Ohio University are looking forward to continuing their work with the University of

Guyana and the Ministry of Health on developing and delivering innovative interdisciplinary teaching and learning programs that will benefit Ohio University and Guyanese students and faculty. For further information of the Global Health Initiative, please visit: <http://www.ohio.edu/globalhealth/>

Guyana and international education

International Education Week provided another opportunity to focus on the contributions Guyana and Guyanese are making to academic life at Ohio University. Guyanese undergraduate students are doing well academically and demonstrating outstanding leadership in student governance. Guyanese graduate students are performing in a stellar manner.

Juneann Garnett has been the winner of the prestigious John Cady fellowship for the 2014-2015 academic year. She was also inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society in spring 2014.

Guyanese graduate students at Ohio University are also studying areas that are of relevance to contemporary Guyana and Latin America. For example, Theleisha Desouza is studying the intersection of visual communication, gender, and sexuality. Her Master's thesis will explore how Spanish-speaking undocumented immigrants are framed within the Dream Act debate in the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Sharmon Thomas's area of specialization is environment and development. Her current research focuses on environmental justice and disaster management in Guyana. Sharmon was recently inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa—a national leadership honor society. Another Guyanese graduate student, Shauna Torrington was also recently inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa.

Juneann Garnett's area of specialization is development economics. Her thesis topic is "Bridging the gap between agricultural innovation and implementation: The way forward for Guyana."

Guyanese students at Ohio University are outstanding ambassadors. They are demonstrating that Guyanese students are responsible, dedicated, and capable of sustaining work of very high caliber. Through their performance they are making manifest the benefits of international education. It is hoped that more Guyanese students will come to OU and continue to nurture the relationships that have been growing for more than four decades. Among Ohio University alumni with Guyanese connections are Dr. Vincent Adams, Dr. Lear Matthews, Neil Fraser, Dr. Vibert Cambridge, Dr. Patricia Cambridge, Dr. Leonard Lewis, Gail Ann Bunbury, Walter Alexander, Carolyn Walcott, Denise Hopkinson, and Alexis Stephens.

THE GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC. WILL CONTINUE TO REMEMBER MURIEL GLASGOW WITH DEEP LOVE AND RESPECT.



Muriel

SHE CONTRIBUTED TO GCA'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE & PROPAGATE GUYANA'S RICH HERITAGE

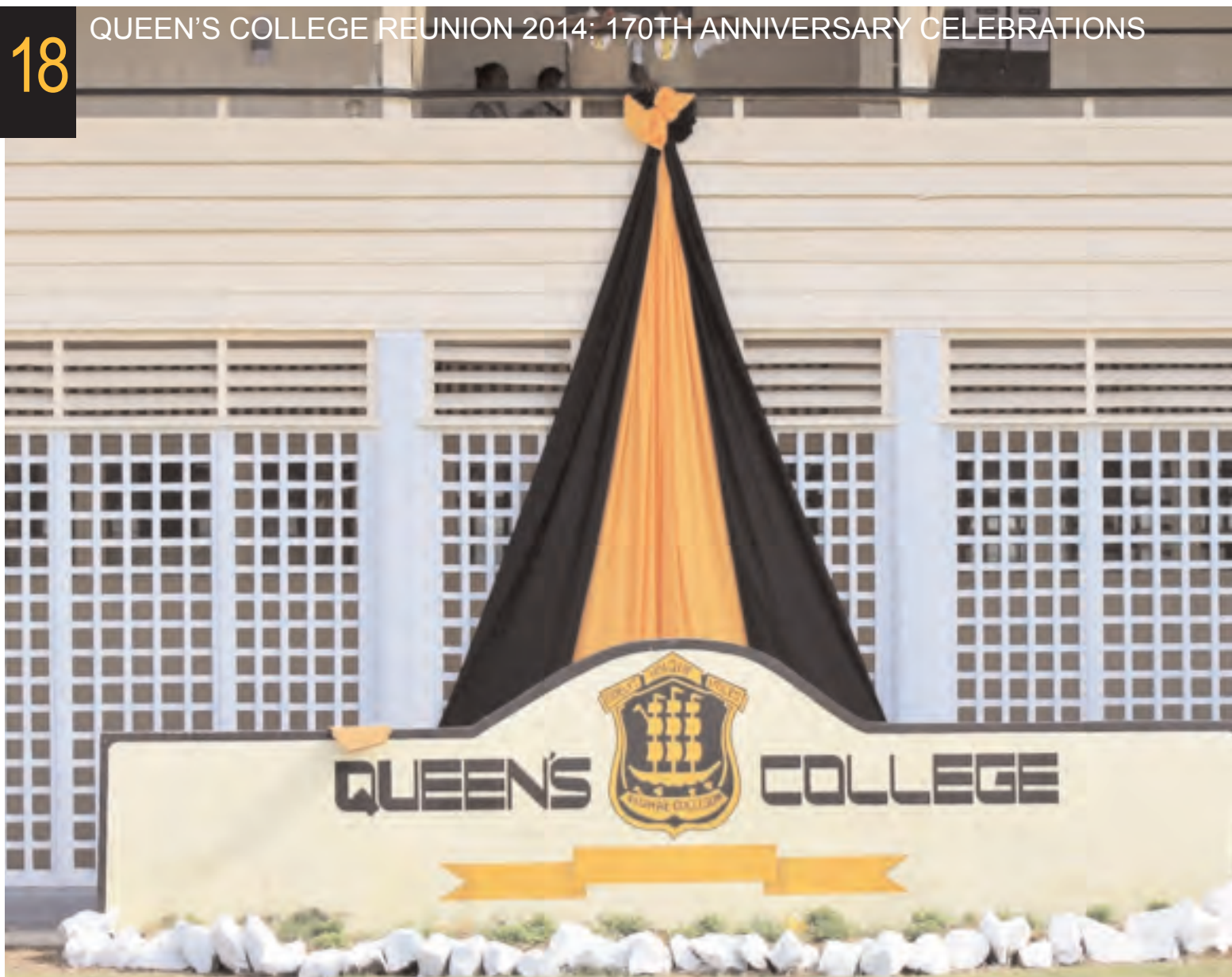
Muriel Glasgow was always admired for her confidence, charm, sophistication, style, and intellect. She was inspirational! She was one of those young women in late-colonial British Guiana who demonstrated by academic achievement and visions that nobody or anything was going to keep them down. In so doing, she reaffirmed the heritage of the strong Guyanese woman and inspired a generation.

For 12 years, Muriel shared her knowledge and experience with the Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. As a member of the Board she was active in the launching of the symposium series and the promotion of STEM education in GCA's summer camps for Guyanese and other Caribbean children in New York. By her example, as a pioneer in the use of social media, she encouraged GCA to develop and maintain contemporary communication platforms.

Muriel's sense of style was legendary. And this sense of style and elegance contributed to GCA's ongoing quest to be tasteful in all aspects of work. We in GCA had the good fortune to see Muriel the "ideas generator" at work. She was not a top-down leader—she sought to empower and was committed to sustainability.

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. will always remember Muriel with deep love and respect. We will always remember her generosity, sophistication, style, and dedication.

We will always love you, Muriel.



THE QC 170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Vibert Cambridge

Photograph courtesy of Vibert Cambridge (Raleigh House, 1955-1961)
As Eric Azeez reminded us, "QC at 170 years was older than Canada."

Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. on-line Magazine

Over the past few months this online magazine has been encouraging a conversation on the state of the Caribbean diaspora in New York and in the case of Guyana's a sustainable role for the diaspora in building the nation. A recent thread in that conversation has been the "high school reunion."

In his recent writings on the Caribbean diaspora in New York, Dr. Matthews has focused on hometown associations. In his article "School Reunions—A Vital Caribbean Diaspora Connection," Dr. Lear Matthews provided the attributes of a "hard core" high school reunion and identified their roles in national development.

According to Dr. Matthews, July 2014 was the season for "high school reunions." In July 2014, Bishops High School, Cambridge Academy, Christ Church Secondary, and Tutorial High School held reunions. The Bishop's High School 11th International reunion was hosted by the New York Tri-State Chapter from July 22 to 27 at Hyatt Regency, Hauppauge, Long Island, New York. Dr. Lear Matthew's article "Tutorial High Alumni Reunion Celebrates 75th Anniversary in Guyana" provided valuable data on the performance of an important reunion moment in Guyana in July 2014.

QC's 170th anniversary reunion which took place in Guyana from October 26 to November 1, 2014 had all of the attributes that Matthews predicted—a "rare and unique opportunity to physically and emotionally revisit and reconnect with your alma mater and friends;" take "trips to various locations in the homeland;" a "Business Meeting, designed to identify and plan projects for the school;" "fund raising;" an awards ceremony and an formal Dinner Dance. The theme for the 170th anniversary was "170 Years of Dynamic Influence."

The Reunion BBQ on Sunday, October 26 at QC provided many "good to see you again" moments for many generations.

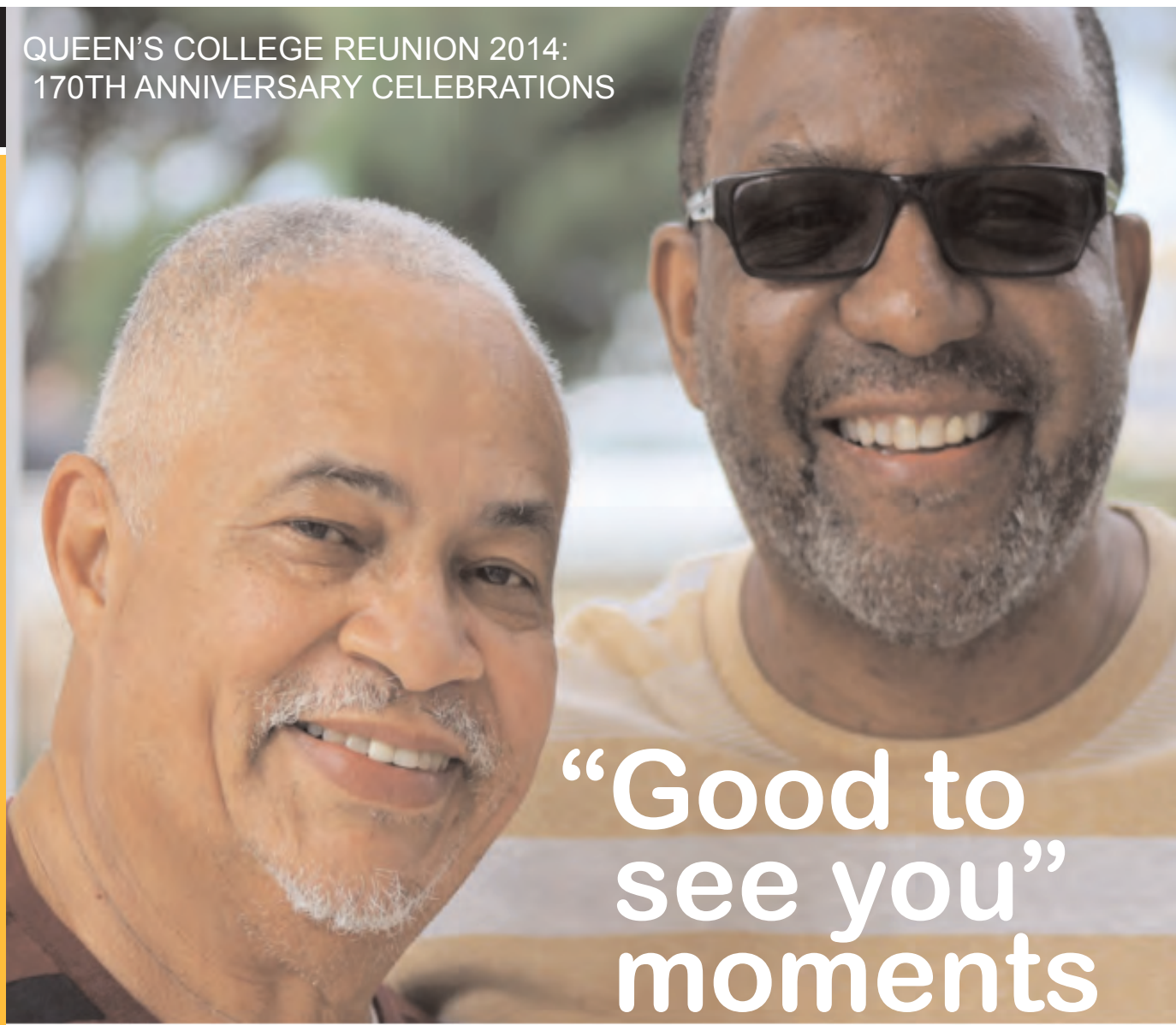
Special General Assembly, Monday, October 27

The Special Assembly on Monday, October 27 provided that "rare and unique opportunity" for the alumni gathered "to physically and emotionally revisit and reconnect with [their] alma mater and friends." The intergenerational assembly was characterized by rousing singing, motivating addresses, and the visibility of the performing arts. The feature address was given Professor John Rockford, Stanford University.

It was also a celebration of achievement and giving forward. The Women of Queen's College (WOQC) organized the "Bridging the Past and Present, Looking to the Future" conference and workshop on Tuesday, October 28 at QC. See article "Women of Queen's College in this edition for details on WOQC.



INTERGENERATIONAL
Here is the oldest "old boy" living in Guyana" with the youngest QC student



“Good to
see you”
moments





QUEEN'S COLLEGE
REUNION 2014:
170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

**There were many “good
to see you again” moments
for my generation at QC—the
65 and over generation**



QUEEN'S COLLEGE REUNION 2014:
170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



QUEEN'S COLLEGE REUNION 2014:
170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Special General Assembly

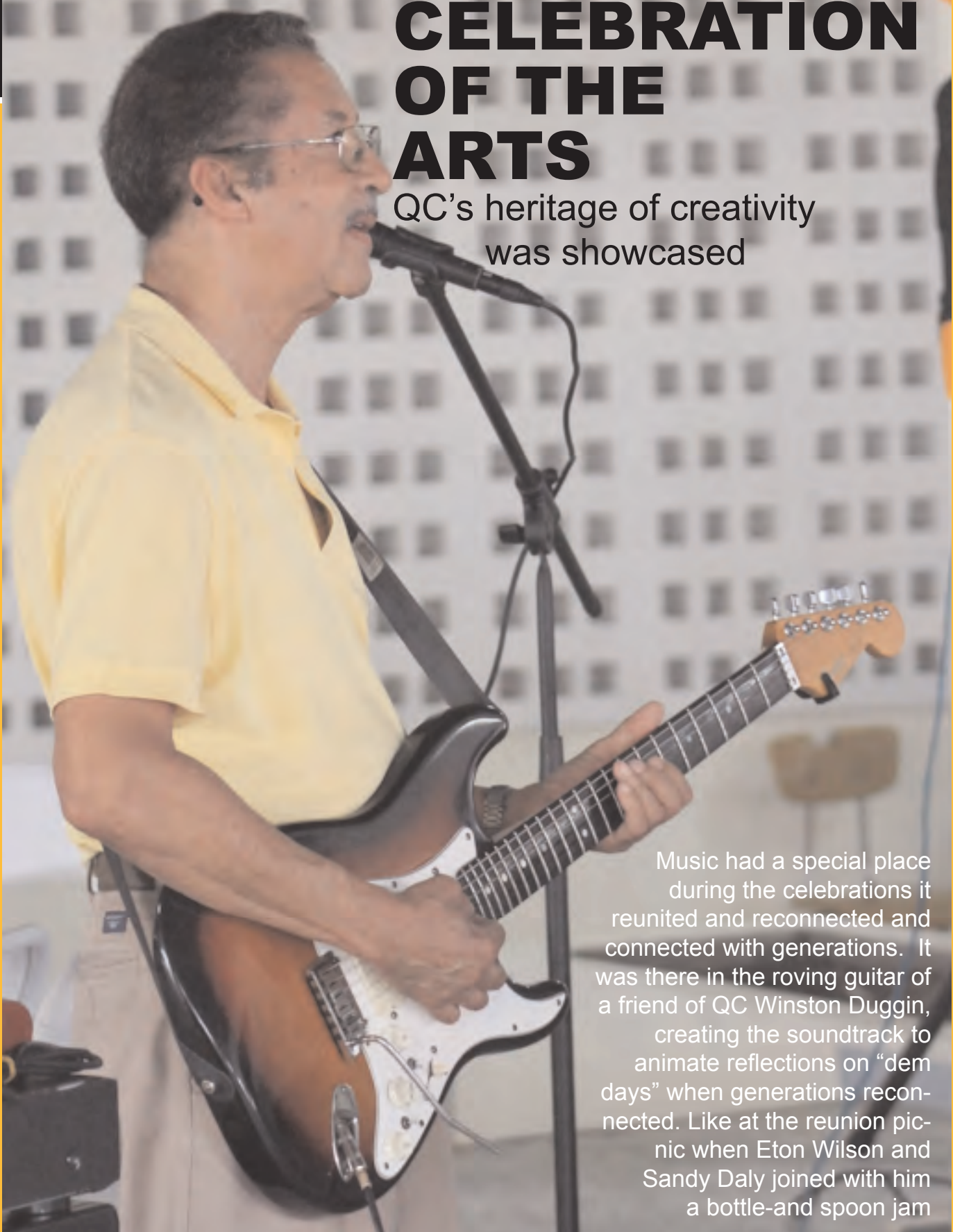
THERE WERE MOMENTS OF REAFFIRMATION





CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

QC's heritage of creativity
was showcased

A man with glasses, wearing a yellow polo shirt and light-colored pants, is shown in profile from the waist up. He is playing a black and white electric guitar and singing into a microphone on a stand. The background is a white wall with a grid of small square holes. The image is framed by yellow vertical bars on the left and right sides.

Music had a special place during the celebrations it reunited and reconnected and connected with generations. It was there in the roving guitar of a friend of QC Winston Duggin, creating the soundtrack to animate reflections on “dem days” when generations reconnected. Like at the reunion picnic when Eton Wilson and Sandy Daly joined with him a bottle-and spoon jam

GRATEMUR SCHOLAE

an evening of entertainment which showcased music composed by QC alumni and performed by QC students, alumni, and friends of QC.

It was also the communal singing, more than six hundred men and women, boys and girls singing a song that sowed the first seeds of transcendence for generations—Reginae Collegium—at the Special Assembly on Monday, October 27.

MUSIC COMPOSED BY QC ALUMNI:

- The National Anthem (RCG Potter),
- Way up Demerara (RCG Potter),
- Oh Guyana (Hilton Hemerding)

And there was Gratemur Scholae an evening of entertainment which showcased music composed by QC alumni and performed by QC students, alumni, and friends of QC. The evening also paid tribute to Mr. Roy Geddes who created and built QC's first steel band in 1972. In addition to celebrating creativity, Gratemur

Scholae also announced the launch of an ICQC project to establish a center of excellence in the creative arts at QC by 2019—QC's 175th anniversary.



Gratemur Scholae was live streamed. And alumni at home and abroad enjoyed the evening. As Dev Prashad in Toronto noted:







THE FUTURE

A taste of the richness of QC's contribution to Guyanese musical life was provided in the souvenir publication *Laude*.

Laude surveyed the history of music and creativity at QC and was developed to complement Norman Cameron's *History of QC* and Laurence Clarke's *Records of Excellence*.

The 170th anniversary celebrations were also about bridging of generations. The WOQC conference and workshops was about intergenerational mentoring. The 170th anniversary celebrations were not about "parachuting in" and profiling"--it was about nurturing relationship and encouraging collaborative research. The colloquium on the history of the move of QC from Brickdam to Thomas Lands was a joint effort between Dr. Paloma Mohamed and QC students:

The future of Guyana will depend on imagination, creativity, innovation and active participation in the global cultural economy. This is evident and enshrined in National development plans and recently revitalized Institute of Creative Arts. The proposed center of excellence for the arts at QC will have a special role in this.

LAUNCH OF ICQC PROJECT TO ESTABLISH AN ICQC A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT QC

Queen's College has a rich heritage of creativity to build upon. The center of excellence at Queen's College is to be seen as a crucial development in the structuring of a comprehensive and coherent approach to creative arts education and training system in Guyana.

The Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts at Queen's College can have a catalytic effect on Guyana's entire creative arts education and training system.

Moving forward

The development of the center of excellence at Queen's College will require coordinated and sustained work on multiple areas: facilities, curriculum development, human development, partnership development, creative arts seasons, and fundraising.

Confidence moving forward

Backstage Gratemur Scholae, Theater Guild, October 31, 2014. Ms. Jackie Benn, Principal of Queen's College smiles with satisfaction and confidence in the future.



Faces at intermission and end of performance interactions





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Additionally, with effect from January 1, 2015, Emergency Travel Documents would no longer be accepted by international airlines in place of a passport. Therefore, the Embassy would cease to issue these documents as of January 1, 2015.

In view of the foregoing, Guyanese Nationals are, therefore, urged to ensure that their Machine Readable Guyana Passports are valid or apply well in advance for new or replacement Machine Readable Passports, before finalizing travel plans to Guyana or any other country.

Embassy of Guyana
Washington, D.C.
October 31, 2014



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Monty Blackmore

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QUEEN'S COLLEGE REUNION 2014: 170TH ANNIVERSARY

Queen's College of Guyana first opened its doors on August 5th, 1844 as an Anglican Church grammar school that provided an elite education for boys. Throughout much of its early years, the majority of those enrolled were fee-paying. However, the number of scholarships increased rapidly as time went on until fees were completely abolished in 1963 in favor of a more equitable access based on academic performance at the Common Entrance examination. Yet the school continued to privilege one gender over the other.

That changed in 1975 when, for the first time in its history, the doors of Queen's College were opened to girls. Girls who had excelled at the Common Entrance examination in 1975 were admitted to 1st Form. Girls were transferred from Bishop's High School into 2nd, 3rd, 5th and Lower 6th Forms.

It is interesting to note that this occurred during an era in which many premiere American educational institutions were embracing more equitable admissions policies and, more specifically, coeducation. Yale and Princeton Universities accepted their first female students in 1969; Dartmouth University did so in 1972 with Harvard University following in 1977. Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire is a

private college preparatory school and one of the oldest secondary schools in the United States. The Academy admitted girls for the first time in 1970. The prestigious Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, which educated both Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, admitted only boys until 1973. Horace Mann in New York City, ranked the second best preparatory school in the US in 2010 by Forbes, re-embraced coeducation in 1975, the year that Queen's College - indeed all schools in Guyana - embraced the same.

In this context, and with a social trajectory from its inception, coeducation at the elite Queen's College can be viewed as the next logical step in the natural progression toward a more just system of education, a system that seeks to lessen the advantage of class, race, and gender while maintaining highly competitive academic standards. Students who need more challenging academic stimuli should be able to find a home at Queen's College regardless of their socio-economic status, their gender, their race or their ethnicity.

Women of Queen's College of Guyana



QUEEN'S COLLEGE REUNION 2014: 170TH ANNIVERSARY

WOMEN OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE

BRIDGING THE PAST AND PRESENT LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



With this in mind and as we prepared earlier this year to celebrate the school's 170th Anniversary in Georgetown, Guyana, a group of alumnae agreed that we would attend and that we would organize an event in Guyana to observe the upcoming 40th anniversary of coeducation. Overall, we wanted the 170th reunion to include something more meaningful, impactful and sustainable for the school, something that would be open to participation from alumni and students regardless of race, gender, class, age, or home country. We agreed that the women of Queen's College would remain primary organizers of that "something" and that the focus would be on sharing our collective knowledge and experiences with current students. To facilitate the engagement of women, we created a women-only Facebook group for Queen's College alumnae, faculty and staff, and named it Women of Queen's College, or WOQC, to reflect who we are. (The group currently has over 625 members.) We successfully pushed to secure a time slot on the reunion's official schedule.

The event developed was a mini-conference targeting current students, with sponsorship from Laparkan Trading Limited, Camex Restaurants Inc., and the Queen's College of Guyana Alumni Association (NY), Inc ("QCAANY"). We are thankful for the efforts of Patrick Stephens, Ian Jones and John Campbell,

President of QCAANY, who facilitated the Laparkan sponsorship. We also acknowledge the efforts of Saran Nurse who was instrumental in obtaining the Camex Restaurants sponsorship as well as donations of paper products that were used during the event.

Titled Bridging the Past and Present, Looking to the Future, the mini-conference featured ten concurrent workshops presented by alumni of both genders and a former deputy headmistress. In addition to the presenters, there were fifteen volunteers, almost all of whom were alumnae. Approximately two hundred current students attended the workshops as well as the panel discussion and the reception that followed. The conference was very positively received by students as demonstrated by their active engagement and feedback. The students were thrilled to play a more meaningful role in the 170th reunion; they were thrilled to interact with the "old heads."

Evaluation instruments were developed for workshop attendees and event volunteers. The workshop evaluations are currently being analyzed. However, a cursory review revealed positive feedback. We gained significant insight from the volunteers' evaluation. Key findings from this evaluation were as follows:



We are Women of Queen's College.

- All respondents felt that the workshop topics were good or excellent.
- 33% of respondents felt that the one-hour duration of the workshops was “too short” and the remainder felt the duration was “perfect.”
- Regarding future events, 50% of respondents would like annual events, while only 16.6% preferred events held every five years.
- On the question of the duration of future events, a half-day and a full day tied for the top selection, each being the choice of 33.3% of respondents.
- When asked whether students from other schools should be invited to future events, 58% of respondents preferred to focus on Queen's College students. Furthermore, 83% of respondents felt that future events should be held at Queen's College.
- 50% of respondents would like the next event to be held in the autumn, compared to 25% in the spring and 17% in the summer.
- Career planning, mentoring and time management were the top recommendations for future workshop topics.
- Respondents had a number of reasons for volunteering for this inaugural event. Reasons included a desire to share their experiences and give back, interact with students, affect change and empower the students. Other reasons included a love for our alma mater and a deep belief in the value of the institution.

The results of this evaluation will inform our decisions as we plan for the future of this initiative.

Overall, the women of Queen's College were influential in key components of the 170th reunion. Sharon Kreuter, the Secretary of Queen's College Old Students

Association ("QC-OSA") in Guyana, was instrumental in drafting communications about the reunion in the weeks and months leading up to the reunion on October 26th that was then shared with alumni worldwide. Dawn Holder-Alert organized the well-attended cocktail party at Georgetown Cricket Club, and the reunion's finale, a wonderful gala at Parc Rayne. Paloma Mohammed worked tirelessly as the director of Gratemur Scholae, a near sold-out celebration of Queen's College's contribution to Guyanese musical life from 1844-2014 that was held at Theatre Guild. Michelle Mickle Foster appeared on the Learning Channel's program, Spotlight, to discuss her views from the Diaspora. Further, together with the President and Immediate Past President of QCAANY, Ms. Foster and I met with the Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand (herself a WOQC), and the Chairman of Queen's College Board of Governors to advance an important Needs Assessment of the school. The Needs Assessment was designed by Ms. Foster as a direct result of her involvement with the WOQC and its Students' Conference. Mizana Gonsalves helped organize the International Committee of Queen's College ("ICQC") Annual Business Meeting. Headmistress, Jackie Benn, collaborated and handled the demands on her and her school with unrivaled finesse and professionalism. These are just a small subset of the women of Queen's College who worked to make the 170th Reunion the success that it was.

As we lean into 2015, we look forward to the 40th anniversary of Queen's College's coeducation. QCAANY will host a weekend of events from April 24-April 26, 2015 that commemorates this historic occasion. The expectation is that women's contributions will be honored. Meanwhile, Ms. Dawn Holder-Alert is organizing a group of WOQC to create a commemorative stamp in Guyana. Other activities will be made public as they become more fully formed.

Fundamentally, the Women of Queen's College is a grassroots community that encourages alumnae all over the world to get more involved in alumni affairs and in the advancement of our alma mater and our country. We are enormously grateful for the education we received and the opportunities that arose as a result. Many of us have excelled in our professional spheres and in our private lives. We are mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, aunts, friends who seek opportunities to give back. We are loyal and useful everywhere. We are Women of Queen's College.

OSHAG HELPING IN TREATMENT OF CANCER IN GUYANA



Members of OSHAG take time out for a photo opportunity with some of the nurses in training and GPHC's Public Relations Officer, Mitzy Campbell (at extreme left).

Kaieteur News

Even as Guyana, along with the rest of the world, celebrates Breast Cancer Awareness Month, keen efforts are being made to ensure that nurses within the local health sector have the wherewithal to offer the related services.

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has forged collaborations with the Organisation for Social and Health Advancement for Guyana (OSHAG), a Non-Governmental Organisation based in New York and also registered here.

Nurses drawn from a number of health facilities, regionally, were yesterday exposed to the expert knowledge of medical members of OSHAG in the GPHC's Resource Centre. As the primary presenter Dr. Trevor Layne, a Haematologist/ Oncologist, delivered lectures on the administration of cancer treatment and generally how to deal with Chemo-therapy. Sessions continue throughout this week.

Dr. Layne, who was born in Grenada, is a Board Certified Medical Oncologist who has for 15 years been involved in the teaching of doctors to become Oncologists. He himself has been practising for at least two decades but was desirous to be a part of the efforts to support Guyana.

"My aim here would be to get some kind of organisation together with the physicians in Guyana in order to give some standard of care in terms of treating cancer patients. We hope to try to get close to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), the standard used in the United States as a guideline to treating patients with cancer including and depending on the patient's stage of cancer," Dr. Layne said.

He shared his conviction that it is imperative that even after the OSHAG team leaves there should be some degree of continuity.

Also facilitating the sessions yesterday were nurses from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of New York, New York. Some of them have been practising for more than 20 years.

According to President of OSHAG, Carol Bagot, Dr. Layne will also be conducting a Continuous Medical Education (CME) forum with practicing doctors on Thursday. It is hoped that the local nurses will also avail themselves for this exposure.

"It is a wealth of information and we are hoping that after today all of the nurses will be prepared to work in the Chemo-therapy Room (based on the information) they receive from Dr. Layne and the team," said Bagot.

TREATMENT OF CANCERS ARE NO LONGER JUST TOXIC DRUGS ... WE HAVE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE AND MUCH MORE PLEASANT DRUGS TO TREAT PATIENTS NOW

And Dr. Layne disclosed that it is his belief that any local doctor with an interest in Oncology or even a few nurses should be sent to the United States every year in order to do CMEs in order to better become acquainted with the NCCN guidelines. "There should be some kind of (quality) continuity of care for regular folks because we are quite aware that the people who have money probably can pay; they can go to the United States but I think that all patients should be given the opportunity to be given the same kind of treatment," Dr. Layne said.

This is particularly imperative, he noted, since cancer is swiftly becoming one of the leading killers.

Currently the number one killer is cardiovascular disease, Dr. Layne informed. "I'm sure that a lot of people can relate since they have either had a family member or someone very close who has died from cancer or has cancer," Dr. Layne said.

He noted that while there has been an evident spike in the disease there have been lots of advances in its treatment as he pointed out that "treatment of cancers are no longer just toxic drugs that will cause your hair to drop and you can't sit or stand for days...we have much more effective and much more pleasant drugs to treat patients with now," said Dr. Layne.

Bagot, speaking of the collaboration with OSHAG and the GPHC, said out that it was all brought to fruition through intense work that entailed the efforts of OSHAG's Vice President, Ms Kareen Lambert.

"She was instrumental with myself and Dr. Layne and the nurses from Sloan Kettering to put this whole programme together which we want to be continuous," Bagot informed.

The visiting team comprises close to one dozen individuals supporting the effort to train the local nurses. Among the other team members are: Dr. Theophilus Lewis, Ms. Sybil Chester, Nurse Rose Mason, Nurse Stacey Pharrel and Nurse Latesha Smith.

According to Bagot while the GPHC already has in place an Oncology Room, "what we are doing is try to

strengthen what they have and make it more efficient." She said too that Chief Executive Officer of the GPHC, Michael Khan, was very supportive. He ensured that the collaboration was realised as was (GPHC's) Public Relations Officer, Ms. Mitzy Campbell.

OSHAG was formed in 2000 by Bagot, a Berbician who migrated 25 years ago. She currently holds a Masters Degree in Human Service Administration.

OSHAG members have been coming to Guyana ever since its establishment to offer health care support. In 2005 the group partnered with the Caribbean Medical Mission and the New Amsterdam Public Hospital and currently doctors affiliated with the Caribbean Medical Mission are in New Amsterdam facilitating clinics and surgical procedures.

Yesterday their medical services were offered at Manchester and Lancaster while today they are scheduled to be at Belladrum, Wednesday at Mahaica while they will venture to Buxton on Thursday and Friday at Enmore. "So we are doing a lot with regard to touching base with the various communities regarding health issues," Bagot told this publication.

Lambert, OSHAG's Vice President, also a Guyanese by birth residing in the United States, told this publication yesterday too that the move to collaborate with the GPHC was premised on the fact that "we have been finding more and more cases of cancer thus the need for this particular venture.

"Every year we come we are finding people who are undiagnosed thinking it is an abscess... but some may have breast cancer, cervical cancer; there are a lot of cancers," said Lambert. It is for this reason, she added that the visiting team has been facilitating surgeries to deal with cancers as she emphasised that "this is a great, great need for this country and for the Caribbean."

According to GPHC's Nursing Services Director, Sister Audrey Cory, the support from OSHAG could not have come at a more opportune since keen focus is being directed to the treatment of cancer, particularly breast cancer which has been increasingly affecting younger women.



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