

GUYANANAI FOLK

And Culture

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SCHOLAR, POLITICAL SCIENTIST
INAUGURATION OF

Ivelaw L. Griffith Ph.D.

NINTH
PRESIDENT
OF THE
FORT VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings in this season of blooming daffodils, tulips, water lilies, and chirping Kiskadees. We hope that you and your family had a wonderful Easter season and your kite flew as high as your dreams with de big baal-a- twine yuh bought at de corner shop.

The late Stuart Hall, Jamaican-born cultural theorist and sociologist, suggested that cultural identity is transformative, framed not only by shared experiences, but by memories, narratives, myth, history and the ways in which we search for meaning in our life space. The Guyana Cultural Association is committed to keeping the flames of cultural continuity and identity burning, by sustaining aspects of our heritage in the Diaspora through the arts, music, collaborative discourse and various heritage practices. In this issue of the magazine, we celebrate events, places, personal and professional achievements, creativity and innovations. Guided by the 2014 theme: We Brigin, the articles reflect our purpose of reaching back to move forward by highlighting how we lived and what we did then, showcasing accomplishments now and anticipating success in the future. We appreciate your continuing support in this venture.

Articles include traditional Easter activities; the colorful National Easter Parade; the inauguration of one of Guyana's scholars, Dr. Ivlaw Griffith, as university president; launching of the Shirley Chisholm Commemorative Postage Stamp; the voices of youth in academia, music and fashion; celebrating the National School of Dance 40th anniversary; a nostalgic excursion through the Promenade Gardens; celebration national poetry month with reminiscent pros; remembering Guyana's Music legends; report on an evening of nostalgia – keeping the work of Godfrey Chin alive; and more...

A luta continua (the struggle continues)!

Enjoy!

Lear Matthews



A photograph of two young girls participating in an Easter hat parade. The girl on the left is wearing a pink and green outfit with a large, elaborate pink hat decorated with colorful flowers and a white bunny. She is holding a basket filled with colorful flowers and Easter eggs. The girl on the right is wearing a yellow and orange outfit with a large, orange hat decorated with colorful flowers and a white bunny. She is also holding a basket filled with colorful flowers and Easter eggs. The background shows a park-like setting with trees and a building.

NATIONAL LIBRARY GUYANA

EASTER HAT PARADE

A Guyana Easter tradition held at the Promenade Gardens for over 25 years, first hosted by the YWCA, the Inner Wheel Club and now for the children by the National Library. The show is a throwback to the time when a woman's wardrobe was considered incomplete without a hat.

CELEBRATING GUYANESE ACHIEVERS

The scholar, political scientist and former professor began his term on July 22, 2013 after being unanimously voted in by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on June 21, 2013. President Griffith took the oath of office on Friday, April 11, 2014.

Forging a new period of progressiveness and bold academic initiatives, President Griffith's vision is to create an institution not only of rigorous academic offerings, but also student-initiated research and scholarship, inclusiveness, cultural diversity and global connectivity and preparedness. Those goals are reflected in the theme for the inauguration: "Dreaming and Doing: A Vision for Excellence Engagement."

Beyond the formality of the investiture ceremony, President Griffith's week of inauguration activities was a moment of celebration, campus and community camaraderie and reflection. It was an opportunity for the entire Fort Valley State family to pause and celebrate all that is unique and inspired about their esteemed institution. It also was a time to honor those ideals and standards that have guided the institution to its current place in time. And as the ceremonial garbs, medallions and traditional phrases were conferred upon

the Fort Valley's new leader, it was joined by the continued casting of the hopes and dreams of those who have relied on Fort Valley State's life-changing purpose and inherent leadership role as a institution of higher learning since 1895.

DREAMING AND DOING: A VISION FOR EXCELLENCE ENGAGEMENT:

Forging a new period of progressiveness and bold academic initiatives, President Griffith's vision is to create an institution not only of rigorous academic offerings, but also student-initiated research and scholarship, inclusiveness, cultural diversity and global connectivity and preparedness.



After acknowledging an enthusiastic response to his introduction, Ivelaw Griffith, PhD. immediately placed his position as the Ninth President of Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia in context.

He stated:

My inauguration ... is not just about me: it is an occasion of institutional renewal. Mine is the charge to lead us into the future but I am cognizant of the fact that we did not just magically get here. Our educational enterprise started with humble yet powerful dreams of 18 Black and White citizens who petitioned the Superior Court of Houston County in November 1895 for permission to establish a school “for the higher mental, and manual education of the youths and children of Georgia.” There was power in their passion, but not their purses. According to their petition, they had “no capital stock, but ... have in hand property worth seven hundred dollars ...

Indeed it was often daunting. Bankruptcy lurked around survival corners on many occasions. One of the 1907 journal entries of Assistant Principal and Financial Agent James Torbet noted: “Several times I was compelled to mortgage my horse and buggy, and twice my house and farm for small sums of money to meet our demands, paying banks 12 percent, and in case of some individual lenders as much as 20 percent for the use of money.

Against this background, Dr. Griffith went on:

Thus this Ninth Presidency builds on the tremendous work of those who labored long and hard in the educational, political, and financial vineyards since 1895.... I pay tribute to them all.

After a generous recognition to all his supporters, friends and family, in a commentary on Dreaming and Doing, he continued:

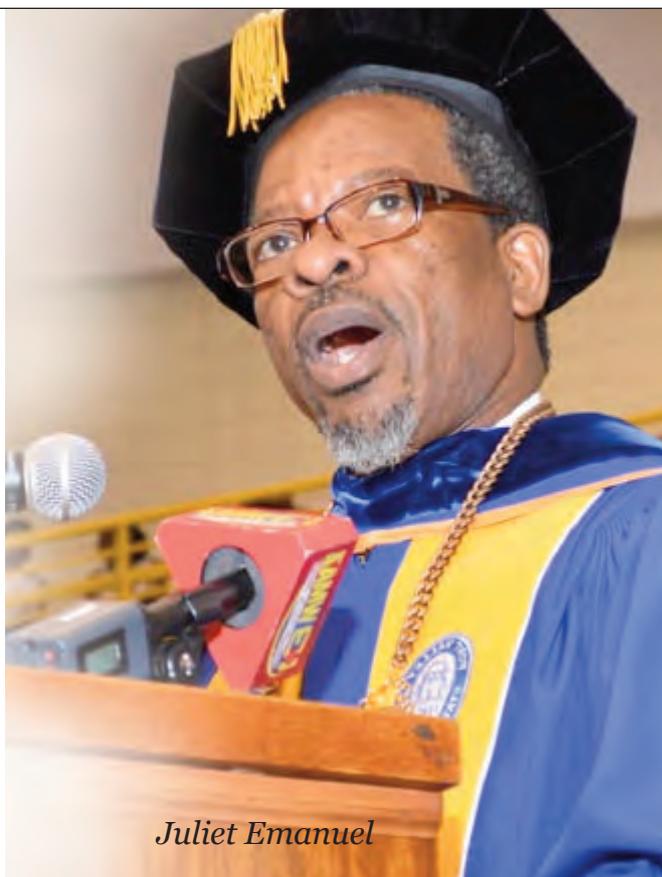
...Lucius Seneca is credited with saying: “fortuna est quae fit cum praeparatio in occasionem incidit,” ... “luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.” Yet luck revolves around chance, it lacks the kind on intentionality needed for the Dreaming and Doing required to help transform the lives of individuals and communities.

Quoting one of his intellectual heroes, Benjamin Elijah Mays, he said:

“The tragedy of life doesn’t lie in not reaching your goal ... (but) in having no goal to reach.”

He remarked, after quoting from Langston Hughes’ 1926 poem, Dreams,”

Yet while dreaming is necessary, it is not sufficient; Doing also is required. ...



Juliet Emanuel

... this Ninth Presidency builds on the tremendous work of those who labored long and hard in the educational, political, and financial vineyards since 1895.... I pay tribute to them all.

And from the book of James, Dr. Griffith stated:

“Thus also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

After giving honor to a roster of remarkable alumni and alumnae of the institution, whose achievements straddle many endeavors current and past, Dr. Griffith recognized current dreamers. He listed:

We have many reasons to be gratified about contemporary points of pride. ... (We are) recognized by the University System of Georgia’s Teacher Preparation report as the State’s top producer of teachers of color (87%).

Ranked by the Online College Database as one of the “top Colleges in Georgia Shaping the Next Generation.”

CELEBRATING GUYANESE ACHIEVERS

There are future dreamers whose dreams we are obliged to help fulfill. Thus, we must recognize our challenges and pursue the opportunities that derive from them.

Juliet Emanuel

Improvements in Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology areas; Our Veterinary Science and Public Health Program continues to be one of only 22 similar programs in the country ... we are researching energy crops to reduce the dependence on foreign oil ... and for lumber.

Researchers are looking for plants to provide an alternative to current therapy that uses radiation and chemotherapy.

We are addressing the niche market for goat and sheep production ... and we assist small businesses interested in selling (related) products.

Further, he commented on the programs and successes of the College of Arts and Sciences (and) the Graduate Studies area, noting:

Our Dreaming and Doing of the last several decades have made us not just a formidable educational enterprise but also an economic one, sustaining lives and livelihoods of individuals and communities within and beyond Middle Georgia.

Clearly, though we cannot be comforted merely with pride of past performance and current educational and economic value. There are future dreamers whose dreams we are obliged to help fulfill. Thus, we must recognize our challenges and pursue the opportunities that derive from them.

These pursuits must be guided by six cardinal values: excellence, efficiency, continuous improvement, transparency, and inclusion.

We have the good fortune of being part of a forward-looking University System, and my team and I fully embrace the two over-arching goals of our System's Strategic Plan in relation to Completion and Excellence.

A fundamental challenge in pursuing these and related goals is the challenge to change; change some of the "what," the "how," and the "with whom" of our enterprise in order to deal with our four critical R's: Recruitment, Retention, Release and Resources. Along with these four R's we have the opportunity for enhancements in an A: Athletics. Meeting these chal-



Dr. Ivelaw L. Griffith

lenges requires that we embrace three Imperatives: Innovation, Globalization, and Partnership. ...

For us both institutional adaption and individual behavior modification are needed; some things need to be jettisoned, others altered, and many added for us to better

meet the needs of contemporary and future dreamers.

Thus we have launched:

An Honors Program...

An Undergraduate Research Program

A Dreamers Fund for Excellence Engagement

(A possible implementation) of a rainbow recruitment strategy

(Exploration of) Expansion of our Army ROTC

The Energy Conservation Program

(The Introduction) of Soccer as our 12th sport

Plans for a Center for Homeland and Global Food and Allied Security

Global interdependence is a reality that our university can ill afford to ignore. ... Our strategy must be connected to our mission of teaching, research, and community service.

Our Global Initiatives Council is a key aspect of executing that strategy. ...

In terms of aims, the Council will enable us to:

1. Recruit international students for undergraduate and graduate degree programs;
2. Acquire corporate, grant, foundation, international, governmental and other resources to sustain teaching, research, and other initiatives;
3. Create sustained study aboard programs that include academic, cultural, and athletic exchanges;
4. Strengthen international faculty collaboration, especially in relation to opportunities to pursue research grants and contracts.

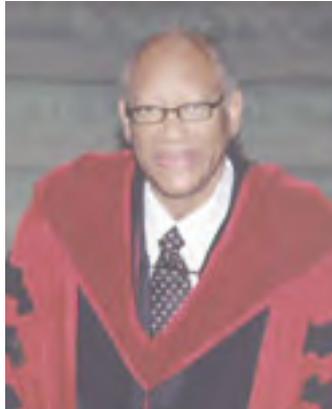
Dr. Griffith, after explicating further on the rebranding of the dream, concluded his address by accepting, with confidence and humility, the charge of the Ninth Presidency and the difficulties associated with achieving the fulfillments of dreams.

CELEBRATING GUYANESE ACHIEVERS

Vidur Dindayal

Celebrating Guyanese Achievers is a fascinating and rewarding pastime. It is also an education.

Among the endless list of achievers are Herbert Nathaniel Critchlow, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh and Sister Mary Menezes: Hubert N. Critchlow, father of the Trade Union Movement in Guyana. He established the British Guiana Labour Union in 1919, the first in the country and in the Caribbean. He represented the Caribbean at Union Conferences in Britain and Germany. He became a member of the Government's Executive Council.



Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, born at Goed Fortuin. He served on immigrant ships plying the route from India to the Caribbean, Fiji, and South Africa. Elected in 1931, to the Legislative Council, he was later appointed a member of the Executive Council.

Sister Mary Menezes, RSM, Emeritus Professor of History, a nun, dedicated her life to service of the needy. She headed University of Guyana's first MA programme.

Stephen Campbell was the first Amerindian elected onto the Legislative Council on 10 September 1957. On this date Guyana celebrates Stephen's achievements as a part of Amerindian Heritage Month.

Others on the illustrious list include, Baroness Amos, is UN Under-Secretary-General, Sir James Douglas, the First Governor of British Columbia; Judge Vibert Lampkin, Professor Cynthia Pine, former Dean of Dentistry, UK's University of Liverpool; Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Commonwealth Secretary General; Trev Sue-A-Quan, Research Engineer and authority on Chinese in Guyana; Dr. Ivan Van Sertima, his book *They Came Before Columbus*, revised the role of the African in the world's great civilizations; Professor Michael Woo-Ming, developed the first open-heart surgical team in the Caribbean at UWI, in 1967.

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SHIRLEY Chisholm

“UNBOUGHT AND
UNBOSSSED”

That was the slogan of maverick politician Shirley Chisholm, who shattered barriers, spoke her mind, stood up for the disadvantaged, and in 1968 became the first black woman ever elected to Congress.

Born on November 30, 1924 to a Guyanese father, Charles Christopher St. Hill and a Barbadian mother, Ruby Seale, Shirley Anita St. Hill would have chuckled at the stamp struck in her honor. Throughout her public life she retained surname of her first husband, Conrad Chisholm. She later married Arthur Hardwick of Buffalo, New York.

She was quiet but definite presence. Meeting her one would have thought of the quintessential Caribbean school teacher until she started to speak. Her convictions lent force to her voice. An admired presence in Brooklyn for many decades, she blazed a number of firsts within her many achievements.

This American politician was an educator and an author. From 1953 through 1964, a graduate of Brooklyn College/CUNY and Teachers College at Columbia University, she worked in the field of education. By her own acknowledgement, her early education in Barbados from age three to seven was integral to her academic success. From 1964, aware of inner city community needs, she made her successful foray in politics moving from the New York State Legislature to the House of Representatives by 1968 as the first black woman elected to the Congress. In 1971 she was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Her clear-sightedness where her goals were concerned led to her seeking and receiving a place on the Education and Labor Committee. Her background and expertise more than qualified her for this placement. By 1972, she became the first major party black candidate for President of the United States and the first woman to run for the Democratic Presidential nomination. She received 152 first ballot votes at the 1972 Democratic National Convention. She remained in the forefront of the hierarchy of the Democratic Party.

Juliet Emanuel



USPS honors

Shirley Chisholm
with commemorative stamp



As with all of her other fights against discrimination of any sort, she remained conscious and critical of gender issues during her tenure in Congress which ended in 1982. After her retirement from a stellar career in public policy, she returned to the field of education serving at Mount Holyoke and Spelman Colleges variously.

Her autobiography, *Unbossed and Unbought*, chronicles her life up to 1970. She remained “unbossed and unbought”, commenting in her usual direct way on an attempt to discredit her integrity by those who questioned \$139.00 in one her financial declarations which are required of all person seeking public office.

Her list of achievements is a matter of public record. Her second book, published in 1973, expresses her summarization of her life and service - *The Good Fight*. In 2005, Shirley Chisholm died in Florida to which she had retired and is buried in Buffalo, New York.

SHIRLEY Chisholm

“UNBOUGHT AND UNBOSSSED”

She was a quiet but definite presence. An admired presence in Brooklyn for many decades, she blazed a number of firsts within her many achievements.

Juliet Emanuel

**AT 28 YEARS,
I WILL BE
RECEIVING
MY Ph.D. IN
CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING
IN MAY
OF 2014**

A major inspiration for me to follow through with my Ph.d. is the thought that my cousins, godchildren, nieces, nephews and others will have an understanding that the aspirations that they may have as eleven year olds are achievable.

**Nellone
Eze Reid, Ph.D.**

Born in Georgetown, Guyana to Neville and Orla Reid on February 28, 1986, my family and I immigrated to Brooklyn, New York in December of 1988. I graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 2004, where my major was Environmental Science. While still in high school, my interest in the sciences was peaked even further as an intern at the New York Presbyterian Hospital, assisting in cancer and diabetes research.

I received my Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering at Hampton University in 2008 and was an active member of professional organizations, such as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers. Currently, outside of life as a student, I actively volunteer throughout the Newark, New Jersey area as a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as well as in New York City by hosting fundraisers for local non-profit organizations throughout the year.

I successfully defended my dissertation on April 17, 2014 and will be receiving my Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) this upcoming May. Working closely with my advisor, Professor Robert Barat, my research focuses on the consequences of manipulating chemical properties of catalysts as it relates to sulfur oxidations. I have been fortunate enough to be published in Chemical Engineering Communications and the have had the opportunity to present my research in the Dana Knox Graduate Student Showcase in 2011; the Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York Spring Symposium in 2013; the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers National Convention in 2013; and the National Society of Black Engineers National Convention in 2014.

It truly is an honor to be among the small percentage of black men to have achieved their Ph.D's. There have certainly been a number of challenges. Successes and failures are to be expected at any level of research. As I was preparing for my defense a few weeks ago, I thought to myself, "What has inspired me day-to-day to pursue my Ph.D.?" Aside from a bit of insanity, I thought about a conversation that I had with a young lady, just weeks after I started at NJIT. I knew her since she was 11 years old. At the time she had the highest grades and the most ambition of anyone I had met. About a decade later, she had been struggling with her Chemistry course and asked me for help. As I attempted to tutor her over the phone, she became frustrated and said to me, "this isn't meant for people like us!" Words that broke my heart because I knew she had the potential to be successful in whatever career she chose. I realized she wasn't the only one that felt

... difficult does not equate to impossible.

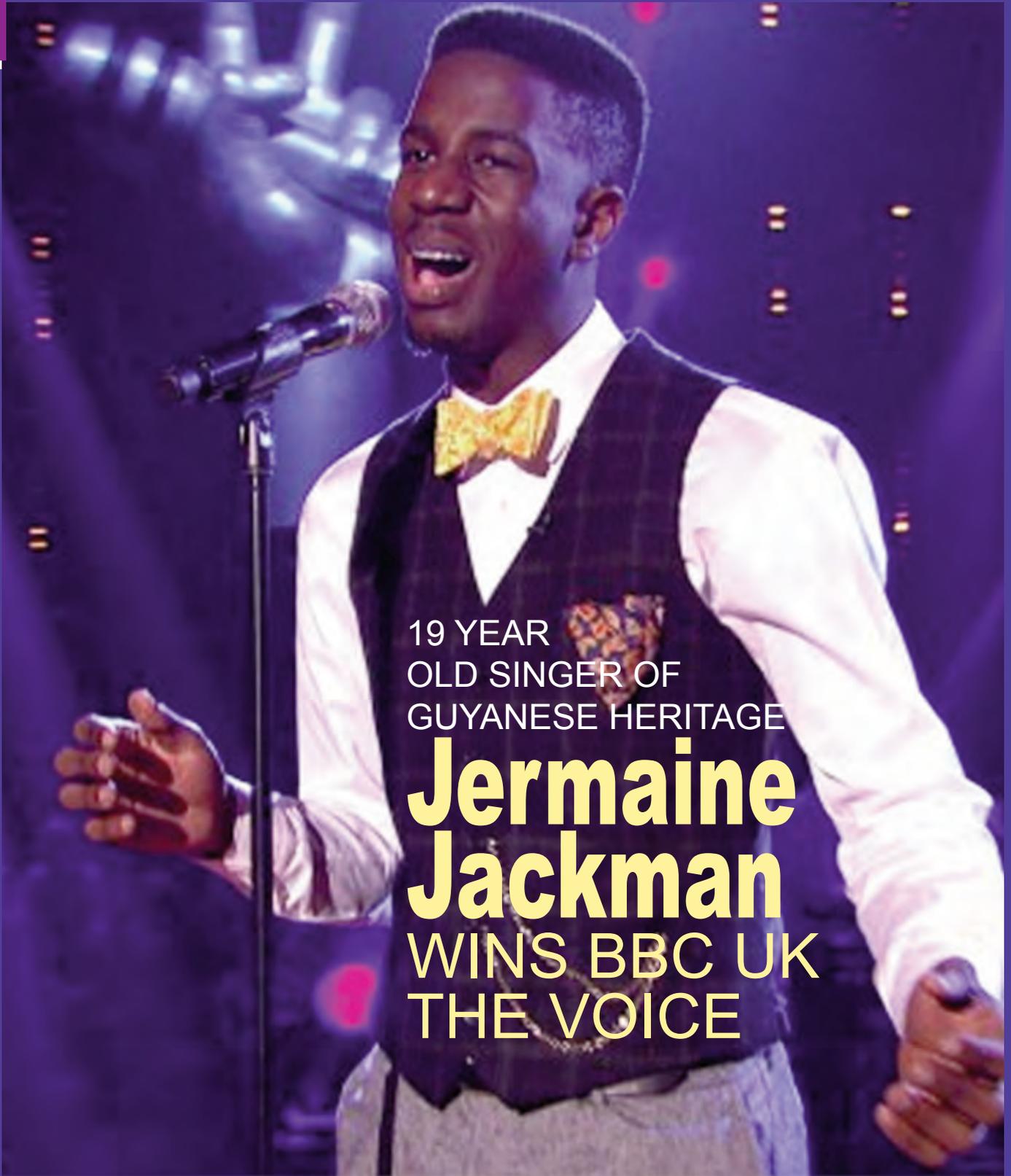
... it is ok to challenge yourself and strive to break past the "limits" of their potential.

Nellone Eze Reid, PhD.

that way. Where her and I are from, there aren't many chemists or engineers. And those that do achieve prosperous careers in science or technology seldom return to share their stories. Personally, I didn't know what a chemical engineer was until I went to Hampton University's open house and really didn't have a grasp on what Chemical Engineers did until my junior year in undergrad. With no proof that anyone with the same background had achieved the things we hope for, for most, goals remain impractical dreams.

A major inspiration for me to follow through with my Ph.D. is the thought that my cousins, godchildren, nieces, nephews and others will have an understanding that the aspirations that they may have as eleven year olds are achievable. That difficult does not equate to impossible. That it is ok to challenge yourself and strive to break past the "limits" of their potential. By staying true to who I am, and down to earth, I hope to never lose my connection with those I wish to touch.

With that said, I'm very excited for the next stage of my life, in which I hope to translate my problem solving and research skills into a successful career in technology consulting. But, I also hope to continue to do outreach programs, volunteer and remain visible to those who may need a little inspiration. NJIT has truly given me an opportunity to learn more about myself and has provided me with a platform to give back to my community. I want to thank my advisor, Professor Robert Barat, the Chemical Engineering department and the entire NJIT community for allowing me to grow and allowing me to take huge steps towards reaching my potential and goals. I also thank God for my friends and family for their relentless support and prayers, particularly my mother (Orla Nurse-Reid), father (Neville Reid) and grandmother (Elsie Nurse) for instilling within me the importance of pursuing a high level of education.



19 YEAR
OLD SINGER OF
GUYANESE HERITAGE

**Jermaine
Jackman**
WINS BBC UK
THE VOICE

The Voice UK crowns Jermain Jackman as its winner

The 19-year-old Londoner landed a major record deal after coming top in the public vote after the live final. The 19 year-old, from London's Hackney, was crowned the show's ultimate star after a nail-biting two-hour finale on Saturday night.

The news caps a dramatic season of the annual talent show, which enjoyed record-breaking viewing figures for the BBC.

His final performances were Miley Cyrus hit Wrecking Ball and Pure Imagination, from the 1971 film Willy Wonka And The Chocolate Factory. He performed the latter with his coach will.i.am.

The Labour Party youth coordinator for Hackney said on Twitter immediately after winning: "Work hard for your dream & you can achieve it. So humbled & blessed to of shared stage with all the artists this year. Thank you all."

During the series, the young Labour Party activist had revealed his ultimate ambition - to become "the first singing black prime minister" and he was shown meeting Labour leader Ed Miliband at a radio studio.

Once the announcement had been made, Jermaine's mentor - Will.I.Am - could be seen on the verge of tears as he watched from the judging panel.

Speaking to his protege, he said: 'You have a lot of work to do - and a lot of focusing to do. To make that claim - that you wanna be the first black Prime Minister - means a lot of people will giggle and dismiss you as being cute, but you can prove them wrong.'

He added: 'To go out there and do work in your community, that takes a lot of discipline and hard-word. This victory is more than just winning a competition. This will change your life.'

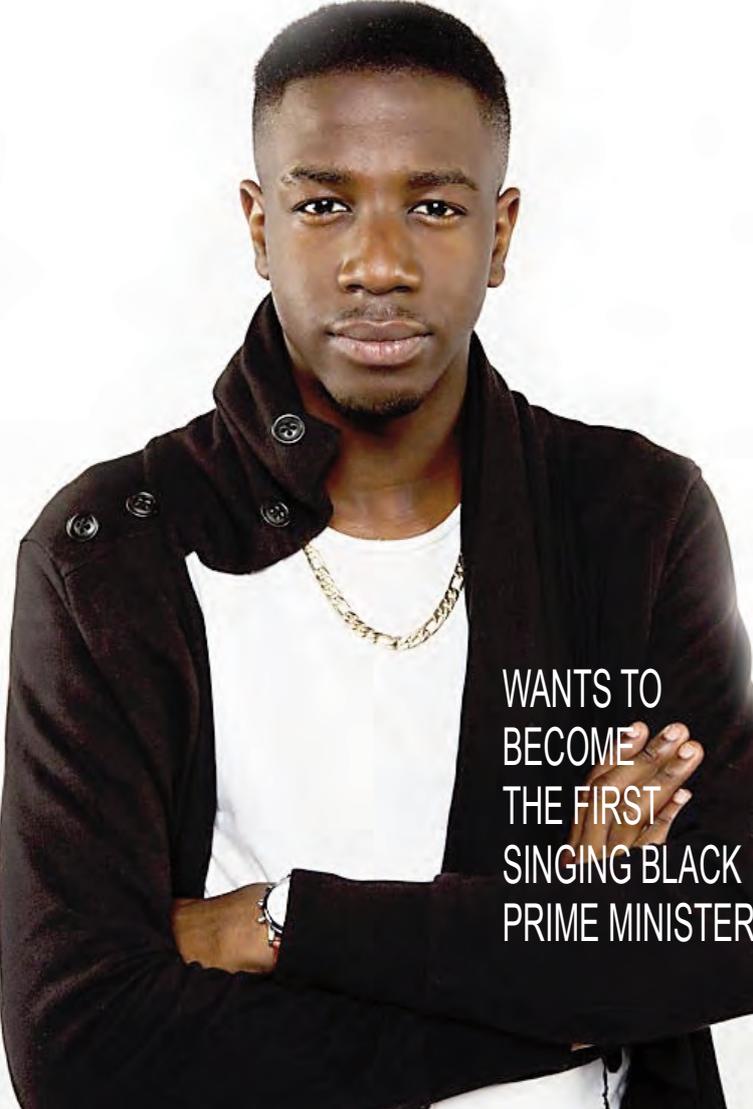
"I have been singing as long as I can remember. Ever since I was little I was writing songs and little rhymes with my twin sister. My parent s encouraged this creativity by buying me my first keyboard and sending me to piano lessons for children. I also sang in church where the love of music was rooted. I now perform as much as possible because of the passion.

I'm certainly not the typical 18 years old. In fact, I get called Granddad because of the way I act and my interests! I strive to achieve, both in education and music and I believe that I am able to do both. I'm still young and like to have many fingers and many pies. Music is a massive part of my life, it's what I do, and it is a reflection of what I go through. It's always been a dream of mine to sing around the world.

I auditioned for The Voice because of the support of my family and friends with hope to hear the yes from the coaches to increase my confidence. In life you always have the 'No'; it's the 'Yes' you need to strive for through hard work and determination."

In 2013, Jermaine Jackman visited Gyyana and sang at the St. George's Cathedral.

His father, David Forde, is from the village of Plaisance, East Coast Demerara, and many who met with Jermaine during his visit to Guyana can attest to him being proud of his Guyanese heritage even though he was born in London.



WANTS TO
BECOME
THE FIRST
SINGING BLACK
PRIME MINISTER

FOCUS ON YOUTH: DANCE AS A NATIONAL EXPRESSION

In April of this year, the National School of Dance will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. Since the school's existence many Guyanese dance enthusiasts have been able to view spectacular and breathtaking productions, and at the same time many have received training in dance.

It was after the 1972 Carifesta that Guyana recognized, for the first time, its full potential of dance as a national expression. Lavina Williams an American born who adopted Haiti as her second home, having lived there for over twenty-five years, conducted a three-month dance workshop in 1973 at the Umana Yana. Following this, projections were made for the building of a dance studio and place of training of the first batch dance teachers.

Thereafter, the National School of Dance was established in 1974.

Prior to occupying its present location, the National School of Dance was housed at the Guyana Teachers' Union Hall in Woolford Avenue with classes spear-

headed by Madame Lavina Williams Ms. Saskia Luckoo. The first batch of students included teachers and the first graduation was held in 1974. Among the graduates were Mrs. Mildred Lowe who later became chairman of the Department of Culture and Vivienne Daniel one of the principal choreographers of the National School of Dance and National Dance Company.

In 1975 the National School of Dance opened its doors at the National Park with five levels of teaching, these being Beginners, Preliminary, Elementary, Intermediate and Advance, being offered. Over the years other benabs were added.

From 1974 to 1976, Madame Lavina Williams was the sole director and instructor of the dance school. Pamela Moseley-Williams and Linda Griffith worked as understudies with Williams from 1975 until she departed. Other persons who worked in the interim until a new director was appointed were Malcom Hall, Monica Viera, and Sonja Abbott.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DANCE TURNS 40

MCYS – J
January 23, 2014





In 1977 Geraldo Lastra, a Cuban, became the new Director and continued the work of Lavina Williams.

In 1978 he introduced a new dimension, the formal auditioning of students and in 1979 the formation of the National Dance Company consisting of students from the advance class of the National School of Dance. Linda Griffith and Vivienne Daniel trained graduate teachers were members of this first group.

Ms. Daphne Rogers assumed duties as Administrator of the National School of Dance and the National Dance Company. After Lastra returned to Cuba and continued in this position. She was also directly responsible for co-coordinating the Dance Teachers Training Programme until she assumed duties as administrator of the National Cultural Center.

After Lavina Williams departure the school benefited from tuition from Cuban instructors in mainly modern and classical ballet training. The successors of these Cuban instructors were Guyanese dancers who have successfully completed the Dance Teachers Course.

Deryck Reid, a trained classical dancer who studied dance in Cuba assumed directorship from September 1980 to 1986. He was succeeded by Phillip McClintock from 1983 to 1986. Phillip, an exponent in Khatak dance received a scholarship for training in India. He was also instrumental in helping to forge a unique Guyanese style with amalgamation of the various dance styles learnt over the years. Linda Griffith M.S. assumed office in 1987 after the death of Phillip

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DANCE TURNS 40

McClintock and continues in that position.

Students who reach the Advance level in the school are drafted into the Company. Some have been given the privilege of performing in other schools and Companies in the Caribbean and North America.

Some of the highlights of the National Dance School is the participation of the dancers in national events, and others hosted by private institutions. Additionally, the schools holds regular recitals such as Studio to Stage and Kaleidoscope. Some of the other recitals including Thoughts of Love, the Enchanted Caribbean and Suites Revista are pulled off by the National Dance Company.

Through the dance school, dancers have been able to showcase their talents and skills overseas at festivals such as Carifesta. These activities also gave them the opportunity to learn new aspects of dance.

The main fact that the school is largely attended by children indicates interest by Guyanese in dance, while at the same time highlights the scope of the institution.

Atisha Roselyn Gaskill

...no stranger to community work, she has a passion to give back to her community at Sister's Village, Berbice



MISS WORLD GUYANA CONTESTANT

Her platform is
“Raising
Awareness on
Human
Trafficking,”

Atisha Roselyn Gaskill

Rose October-Edun

“Raising Awareness on Human Trafficking,” formally known as Trafficking in Persons (TIPS) – a problem that is plaguing especially the CARICOM region. Atisha’s focus is on how this issue is affecting Guyana, with her primary goal to raise public awareness of this issue.

Atisha is no stranger to community work and has been doing so nationally and internationally. Nationally, during the Christmas season, her membership of a youth church group allows her to bring joy to the elderly at a local nursing home, through caroling. Internationally, she has continuously donated food and clothing items to the less fortunate individuals in Virginia, Washington, DC (in the US); and clothes and school supplies to churches in Georgetown, and Sister’s Village in Berbice (in Guyana). Atisha notes that she has a passion to give back and make a difference in the lives of others.

Atisha acknowledges delight in being amongst a bevy of equally talented young adults, and notes they are all Ambassadors of Guyana, regardless of their placement in the pageant. She congratulates her peer-delegates of the Miss World Guyana pageant, and looks forward to this life-changing experience.

Atisha Roselyn Gaskill is a 19 year old first year student of Northern Virginia Community College, whose long-term goal is to become a Forensic Psychologist. She is vying for the Miss World Guyana pageant’s crown where she represents Region 4: Demerara-Mahaica. This pageant is scheduled for the evening of Independence Day, May 26, 2014 at The National Cultural Center in Guyana. Although this is Atisha’s first pageant experience, she is confident about capturing the crown.

Atisha attests that she has personally grown since her decision to vie for this pageant’s crown. She confirms her pageant preparation is a huge part of her development, as noted by the revelation of her beauty with a purpose platform, and other areas of the pageant, as guided by the pageant’s coordinators. Her platform is

THE PROMENADE GARDENS - A PLACE WITH A FASCINATING HISTORY

Trees, plants and shrubs mask its fascinating history from the days of slavery, students still use it as a quiet place to study, even though with less frequency, persons still seek solitude there; lovers still visit to be close to each other in pleasant surroundings.

Sukhdeo Ramsaroop, who was the Superintendent

of Parks and Gardens held his position for nearly 41 years before retiring in 1988.

But what of the Garden's history? Sukhdeo who during his tenure soaked up a lot of history of local gardens and parks said that previously, the Promenade Gardens served as a place where slaves were hanged. Slaves, he explained, were tried at the courts and taken to what is now the Parade Ground - Independence Park, and hanged. Later they were buried on the site where the Promenade Gardens now stands.

He stated that at that time, Georgetown was not as extensive as it is now and the beach extended to where the Promenade Gardens is now located.

However, the city grew from land deposited by the sea. There arose the need for a Government House. It was decided that Government House would be established on the southern half of where the Promenade Gardens now stands while in the place of the gardens would be the Parade Ground.



*Gwendolyn Baptiste,
Guyana Chronicle, May 1992*

Yet, even though the Promenade Gardens has been the venue for many a romance and many new found friendships, there is also an unpleasant side.

Like many other gardens, it has had its share of suicides and robberies. There was even a murder decades ago, which has remained within the memories of several Guyanese.

A Surinamese, he siad, went to Holland where he pursued studies in the medical field and was qualified as a doctor. During his stay in Holland, he fell in love and got married.

On his way back to Suriname with his wife, the boat encountered problems and was docked in Georgetown to undergo repairs.

He and his wife decided to see what Guyana had to offer and he made his way to the Georgetown Hospital while his wife went to the Promenade Gardens.

She never got to enter, Sukhdeo said, for she was stabbed by a man just as she was about to enter. She was rushed to the same hospital where her husband was visiting. Unfortunately, he was there when his wife was brought in and pronounced dead on arrival. He vowed never to return to Guyana.

THE PROMENADE GARDENS AT ONE TIME BOASTED THE LARGEST RANGE OF WILD ORCHIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

The History:

The Promenade Gardens, located on a portion of what was once a field known as Parade Ground, where slaves convicted of being involved in the 1823 East Coast Rebellion were hanged. Originally, the entire area was used for military parades and training.

The grisly history of the area had long moved some members of the public to suggest it be made into a public garden, perhaps as a way of honouring those victims of an inhuman system.

In 1851, after funding was obtained, steps began to transform the site into a garden which was completed in 1853; seats were constructed for the public in 1859.

Occupying one city block, with its main entrance located on Middle Street in Cummingsburg, the Promenade Gardens was designed by a Trinidadian botanist.

The Bandstand situated within the Gardens was erected in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Completed in 1897, it is considered the oldest bandstand of three in the city.

A well-known monument in the Garden is the Mahatma Ghandi monument in honour of the international icon of peace and advocator of non-violence.

It has been suggested that the Promenade Gardens at one time boasted the largest range of wild orchids in the Caribbean before it fell into disrepair.

The site was rehabilitated in 2006 and the Bandstand refurbished in 2009.

In its earlier years the Promenade Gardens was used for several civic functions including entertainment by music bands; today, after refurbishment, it remains the site of many public and private events, including the popular annual Inner Wheel Club's Easter Hat Show, weddings, and fashion photo shoots to name a few.



THE BEST OF GUYANA - **MUSIC LEGENDS**

It was no surprise that Harry Whittaker, born into a musical family on December 13, 1922, would follow the footsteps of his father.

He first showed signs of musical greatness when he taught himself to play the harmonica, which was presented to him as a Christmas gift by his mother. He hit the spotlight at the tender age of 14 as a clarinet player in his father's band. Harry's father was familiarly known as "Tucky."

However, it was an act of fate that Harry started to play the Alto Sax. The incident occurred one night at a dance when he was playing out with his father's band. His father had gotten drunk and couldn't play. The brave Harry felt he could not let his father's fans down and with the experience gained from playing the clarinet, the gifted young man who bestrode the Guyanese musical world like a colossus, picked up his father's Sax and entertained the fans.

From that day, young Whittaker never looked back. He probably liked the touch, tone and everything else about the Alto Sax that it became his pet instrument and he never swapped it for any other.

It was with this instrument that he stamped his authority as he fitted in neatly with the top band,

the Syncopators led first by pianist Ferdinand Eversley, and later by Tom Charles. He also played for a short while with the Washboards, another top band of that era.

Harry dominated the music scene, drawing crowds from near and far. He handled his instrument like a true master.

In 1956 Harry saw himself in the role of a band Leader for the first time when he put together his first unit. The Caribbean All Stars which featured Clem Thomas on drums, Richard "Janno" Giles on Trumpet, Wally Stewart on tenor sax and "Barber Boy" Cranmore on guitar. The group lasted for a short while but Harry continued to blow his Sax.

What can be considered as a major achievement in his life took place in 1964 when freelance drummer Sebastian Broomes put together a unit called the "560 Jazz Quartet" and featured Harry on Alto Sax

SPOTLIGHT ON

Harry Whittaker

TALENTED AND GIFTED SAXOPHONIST WHO WENT TO NO MUSIC SCHOOL AND WROTE NO MUSIC EXAMS, WAS AN OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN WHO MASTERED THE ALTO AND TENOR SAX, CLARINET, GUITAR, ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC BASS



A Saxful of Harry!

Leroy Cummings, Guyana Chronicle, 1991

The Quartet performed regularly at Radio Demerara and successfully recorded an album on October 11, 1964. The LP "A Saxful of Harry" became a world seller. It featured some popular tunes which Harry rearranged, giving them the Harry Whittaker magical touch.

That only whetted his appetite and he obviously longed for more. So in 1965, the Harry Whittaker All Stars was born. This group under Harry's expert leadership quickly got down to recording with singers such as LLord Canary (Malcolm Corrica), King Fighter, Lord Inventor (Eddie Hooper), and many others, all of whom Harry arranged music for.

He also arranged for Bill Rogers, Guyana's Shanto King and his work with him will remain a Guyanese classic. Evelyn John also had a touch of the Harry Whittaker magic with the popular "Roll the Stones of Hindrance Away."

The jazz pioneer, whose music reached out to all, was a very versatile musician and this was enhanced by his ability to work with different artists, playing music from the 30s to the 80s, from Jazz to Calypso.

In 1969, in Georgetown, the great arranger, composer and pianist Duke Ellington toured Guyana with a star studded orchestra. The Duke's entourage included such greats as Paul Gonsalves, Johnny Hodges, Louis Armstrong and Cab Calloway.

Harry Whittaker was included in a Jazz ensemble to entertain these Jazz celebrities. His performance was so stunning that they were all impressed and he was offered jobs in the US and Canada. Harry refused.

"We all can't go" he told the Duke. "If we all leave Guyana what's going to happen?"

As a true son of the soil he remained to see the art of jazz music maintain its rightful place in Guyana.

Harry continued his dominance over all, playing with the Police Band and with other groups.

On May 26, 1976 the National Cultural Centre was declared open with a show called "Span of Times." This show featured a number of Guyanese creative artists.

Around 1978, Jazz which had suffered a decline, was given a boost with the advent of the Harry Whittaker Jazz Sextet, later regarded by the Downbeat Magazine as one of the finest in the Caribbean.

This group was frequently commissioned to perform and became a reputed unit, well known for its Sunday afternoon concerts which attracted hundreds of Jazz fans.

Jazz, with the presence of Harry, made quite an impact on the local scene. It was responsible for the resurrection of many of the old stalwarts who had gone into the doldrums.

Harry Whittaker...

a music legend and jazz pioneer who influenced the music scene in Guyana for over forty years.

During his career, Harry had some outstanding performances with guitarist Adrian Van Sertima, tenor-saxist Duce Jeffrey, Bassist Rector Shultz, vocalist Billy Wade and drummer Art Broomes.

Harry also teamed up with with Tenor saxist Roddy Fraser with whom he played for twelve years, Juke "Wabblers" Canterbury on bass, Ivan Knights on drums, Alton Hall on keyboards and Ricky Richards on vocals.

He was also responsible for bringing to light some great young talents, such as Nelta Wyatt and Compton Hodge.

Harry Whittaker was very committed to his music and was heavily influenced by the great Charlie Parker. Nevertheless he possessed a style unquestionable his own.

In 1963, there was an unofficial friendly competition between Harry and "Count Profitt" of the Washboards, who was regarded as the best of his time.

Harry's supporters sported the slogan "Little Axe cut down big tree," while Profitt's fans countered with "Rude Boy Suck Acid Grapes."

That was a day of music, sweet music. Sax against Sax and both men commanded their instrument with such a high degree of professionalism that it was hard to decide the winner. Harry received the nod.

Harry Whittaker will be remembered as a musical legend and Jazz pioneer in Guyana. He graced the music scene for over forty years.

After a performance at the John F. Kennedy Library, Harry Whittaker took his final bow on July 1, 1985.

An Evening of Nostalgia: the work of Godfrey Chin" The audience comprised of a variety of citizens including former Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal.

Performing the duty of Master of Ceremony, was veteran broadcaster and Communications expert, Vic Insanally. He spoke of knowing Godfrey since their boyhood years, growing up in Georgetown and experiencing the many unique events and activities which are recorded in Godfrey Chin's book of "Nostalgia".

The introduction to the "Evening of Nostalgia" was done by prize-winning poet and novelist, Dr Ian McDonald. He related discussions which he had with Godfrey about writing another book of "Nostalgia", being aware of the many more materials which Godfrey possessed and which are not yet published.

Then there was a well-produced reading of excerpts from Godfrey's book "Nostalgia", by students from Queen's College, Marian Academy and the Richard Ishmael Secondary School. Every excerpt flowed smoothly one into the other. Thanks to the capable direction of Joyce Jonas.

Reading nostalgia about the Theatre Guild of Guyana, was Al Creighton of the University of Guyana. He was followed by Folklorist Allan Fenty who read excerpts from Godfrey's "Growing up in Kitty". (Kitty was then a village, which was later seeded into Georgetown). Next to the microphone was Major General (rtd.) Joe Singh, who read a segment from "Nostalgia" about "Living in Tenement Yards". The retired Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force even shared his own nostalgic experiences of living in a tenement yard during his early years in the city, after leaving his Canal Number One home on the West Bank of Demerara, while attending Queen's College.

There was a short period of "Remarks from the floor", when a few members of the audience shared their thoughts about the evening's event. The Vote of Thanks was given by Isabelle de caries, daughter of the late David de Caries who owned and lived at Moray House.

Francis Quamina Farrier

AN EVENING OF NOSTALGIA



THE LIFE-WORK OF GODFREY CHIN

His book *Nostalgias* was a classic of its kind: They are wonderfully entertaining. Here we see the art of living in all its glorious variety thrown on to Godfrey's own special canvas.

Ian McDonald

In the last conversation I had with Godfrey, amidst the multitude of evocations that continually cascaded out of his extraordinary memory, he told me about bird-whistling competitions and donkey-cart racing in Guyana long ago and described to me the hundred and one manifestations of that condition of bewitched infatuation in a man or a woman called *typee*. I urged him to do extended Nostalgias on all these subjects and he promised he would get around to it. He never did and I am still saddened at the thought of how much the nation lost in the passing of that absolutely unique chronicler of Guyana's rich social history.

His book *Nostalgias* was a classic of its kind. Here are six points about Godfrey's *Nostalgias* which make them

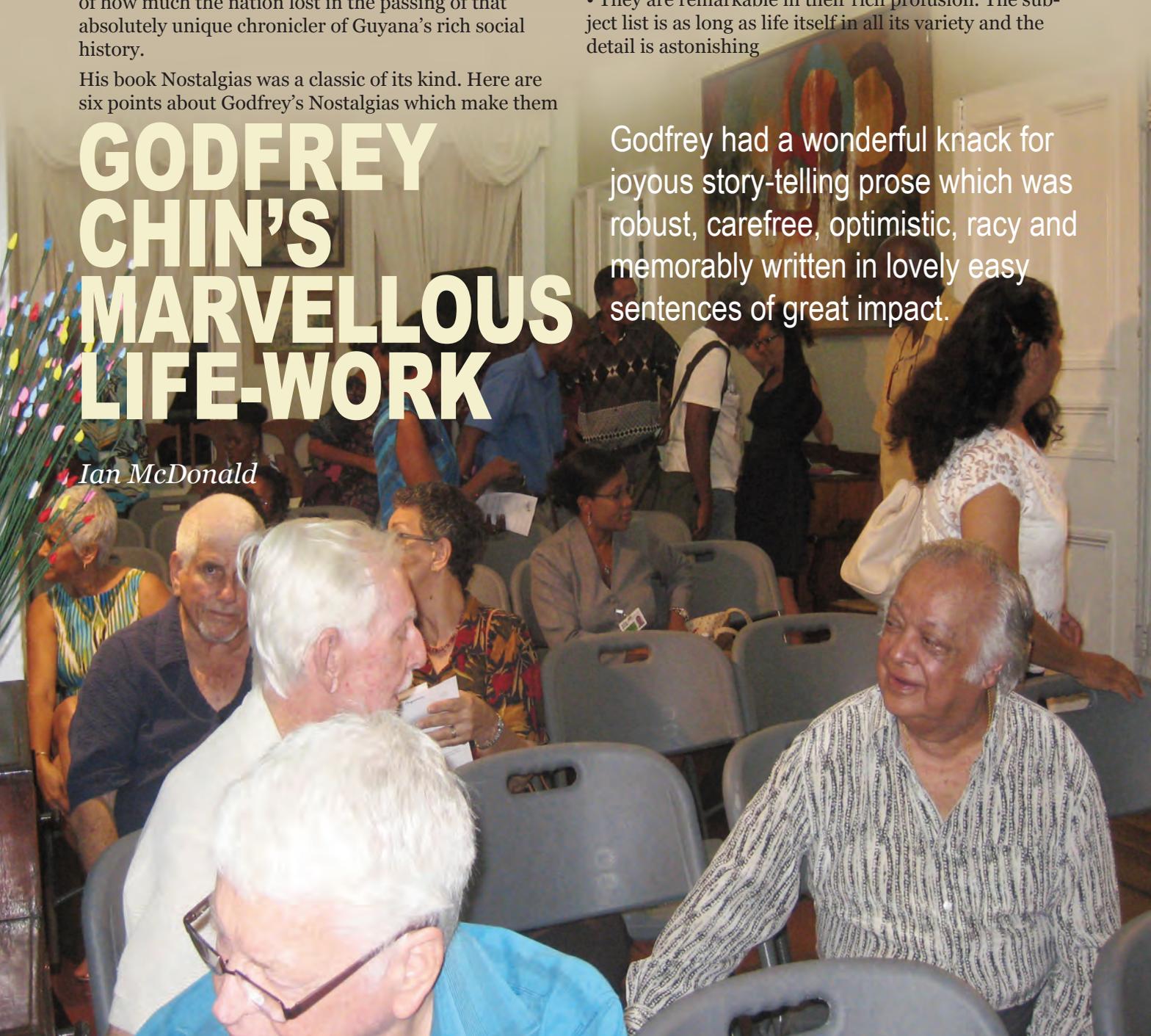
truly compelling and valuable:

- They are wonderfully entertaining. Here we see the art of living in all its glorious variety thrown on to Godfrey's own special canvas.
- They are an extraordinary feat of memory and creative recall. Very few people have the gift of photographic memory which delves deeply into the past and even fewer have the wonderful gift of making recollection come so vibrantly alive.
- They are remarkable in their rich profusion. The subject list is as long as life itself in all its variety and the detail is astonishing

GODFREY CHIN'S MARVELLOUS LIFE-WORK

Ian McDonald

Godfrey had a wonderful knack for joyous story-telling prose which was robust, carefree, optimistic, racy and memorably written in lovely easy sentences of great impact.



AN EVENING OF NOSTALGIA:

The never-ending profusion of exact memories crowding Godfrey's gallery again and again is astonishing and never-ending. Anyone could suggest a subject to Godfrey – sweeties, say, or seawall or sugar estates or dominoes or the old Durban Racetrack or anything you like – and, hardly pausing, Godfrey could produce a Nostalgia which will make you laugh and wonder and say yes that is how it was.

- the Nostalgias marvelously enhance and enrich our lives by bringing to vivid life again events, people, ways of enjoying ourselves, sports, festivities, food, frolic and a thousand and one things which had faded from our memories and our lives and now live again as fresh as ever.

- Godfrey's style was all his very own and was immediately recognizable and perfectly suited to its purpose. Godfrey had a wonderful knack of joyous story-telling prose which was robust, carefree, optimistic, racy and memorably written in lovely easy sentences of great impact.

- Finally, Godfrey's Nostalgias make a truly remarkable, even unique, contribution to our social, cultural, sporting and general history. This is valuable, priceless material for historians. I think what a treasure these Nostalgias are not only to ordinary readers but also will be to historians and scholars decades and more into the future. His Nostalgias delight us now and in future they will provide a wonderful fund of knowledge for those who research and look into how we once lived.

At his death Godfrey was working on scores of projects – some just more of his famous Nostalgias, some major historical investigations, all precious. Not long before he died I spoke to him about a project close to my own heart – the compilation of the histories of all sports in Guyana. All of them, as well as the great clubs, deserve to have their stories written. I was going to suggest to the Ministry of Sport, the Sports Council and the Guyana Olympics Association that they commit themselves to such a project and for this purpose recruit Godfrey, that human dynamo, that one-man resource team, to assist. Godfrey was hugely enthusiastic and said he would do it like a shot. He already had a lot of the stuff in his archives and in his God-given, unique brain – especially in the case of hockey and squash – and he was ready to accept the challenge. I was full of hope. But without Godfrey's energy and drive and ideas and wonderful, contagious love for what he was doing, nothing will happen to that important cause. And sadly nothing will happen to scores of other important causes which had been afire in his mind.



**GODFREY
CHIN'S
MARVELLOUS
LIFE-WORK**

Godfrey's Nostalgias make a truly remarkable, even unique, contribution to our social, cultural, sporting and general history. This is valuable, priceless material for historians. I think what a treasure these Nostalgias are not only to ordinary readers but also will be to historians and scholars decades and more into the future.

Ian McDonald

If only Godfrey had just, say, 5 years more to go on with the work, think what a cornucopia of additional Nostalgias, memories, collected documentation, exhibitions of his gradually accumulating thousands of pictures and the unforgettable historical insights we would have received into our communal possession. What we might have had is an unsurpassed national archive of our previously lost yesteryears.

Godfrey was an indispensable resource. His legacy is a priceless national asset. I think we should try in some way to amplify that legacy. I know for sure there was enough material for at least another book of Nostalgias, perhaps two or three more Nostalgias. I think an effort should be made to organize this material and publish it.

THE SWEET DELIGHTS OF OUR CHILDHOOD



FUDGE



ROCKCRESS PATTIES



MITTAI



CASSAVA PONE



PHLOURIE



TENNIS ROLL & CHEESE



SALARA



To share and preserve the “Delights of Yesteryear” I choose to endorse these as “the sweets of our childhood” because each and every one of us has from infancy, from bottom-house kindergarten, been encouraged, motivated, coaxed, cajoled, inspired on the threshold of public school learning with the promise of a “penny to buy sweetie.”

While today’s young ones are thrilled and entertained by Television and video games - all \$100.00 ransoms from permissive parents who spoil them rotten, but stunts their growth, stifles their imagination and restrict maturation, let’s ponder a while what a penny, 3 pence, a bit, a shilling, procured for us, yesteryear, in our El Dorado, Guyana.

Our initial “jill” purchased three 10inch sticks of home-made “stickiee sweetie, color darker than the brown sugar ingredients, from the huckster tray at the public school gate. Other popular favorites were green mango with salt and pepper, a peeled orange, slices of pineapple, cassava or corn pone. a pack of mitai, a bunch of ginips, where the twins can be shared.

On the subject of sweets, before Chico’s and Continental DaSilva’s Factory at East and Murray Streets was our top confectioner around 1950s. Tons of sugar, boiled on wallaba fires, thermometer ready, were poured on huge greased slabs to cool. Additives determined the batches of sour stick, butter scotch, toffee balls etc.

Peppermints would, of course, require white sugar, mint flavor added, clinging on a hook against the wall; all sweets hand rolled, cut to lengths and wrapped in grease proof paper by volunteer school kids where rewards were the short ends to take away. Insert a rubber band for ‘jump and kiss me’ or a bamboo chip for lollipop. Never done was just a rock hard ball, a dentist delight. Nuttin was layers of nut butter inserted into the sling red sweet, necessary for flakiness - somewhat like good roti.

Sugar cake, including chip-chip, plus fudge and marshmallows would be a homemade cottage industry, while rockcross was the designer version - two colors; red and white with grated coconut on top.

At the parlor cake shops, a wide variety of cakes and pastry filled our voracious appetite for flour, and included buns, coconut biscuit, sweetbread, bajan, collar, round-the-world, salara, white eye, rock buns and chester. Chester was unsold bread returned, soaked and rebaked, somewhat like a fruitless black-cake. For more than a penny, the gourmet pastry would be pine tart, patties, Chinese cake or cheese straws. Specialties included tennis roll and cheese, butter flap, phourie, potato ball, channa and quenches,

FOUR BICYCLES ONE LIGHT

"Jubalax Pay: Poetry of People, Places, Politics and Philosophy".

By John G. Morris

Was four bicycles one light;
four battered rusty bike
Pedaling in tandem, just watch them.
Was Lacon and Dandy, the Bard and me
On a moonless night, we took flight
Pedaling down a long, long country road,
determinedly we rode.
Going to Kortbetrad village
to a party, were we.
Lacon bicycle had no brakes; Dandy bicycle
had the rattle and shakes.
Johnny bicycle was a fright,
Bard bicycle had no light.
Four bicycles, one light, keeping it tight.
The lead light parted the darkness
like the red sea,
not a word was spoken
as we labored in anticipation,
for a rollicking country time jollification.
Four bicycles, one light, thru the night
We never looked back at the darkness behind,
mind steadfast on the grind.

*Pedaling, pedaling towards the goal,
pedaling to have, pedaling to hold.
Four bicycles one light,
and there was no fright.
The dance was rocking
when we breathlessly arrived;
a bottom-house affair a spruced up dive.
Walls of coconut branches,
sawdust on the ground,
the juke box blasting calypso sound.
Circles of yellow light
came from the gas lamps;
mesmerizing mosquitoes and flying ants.
The coal pot in the yard was full of food;
eatin from an edoe leaf
and getting in the mood.
A saga boy was drinking
bush rum from a tinin cup,
Country girls was slipping and sliding up.
We immediately jumped into the fray,
as Sparrow and Kitchener held sway.
Lacon was eatin and dancing
at the same time;
Johnny was begging and dancing
at the same time;
Bard with two women was dancing
at the same time.
Four bicycles, one light;
What a memorable sight.
Four bicycles one light, teenagers' delight.*

Brief Bio of John G. Morris

John Morris was born and raised in New Amsterdam, Guyana. He is a prolific writer and poet, currently Professor of Sociology at Edison College in Punta Gorda, Florida. His collection is published in a book entitled "ICHABOD: Poetry of People, Places, and Politics Philosophy". ISBN 978-0-9858842-9-1
www.mybookbroker.com

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for publication to:
Lear.Matthews@gmail.com
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Pamela McKenzie

extends an invitation

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"Moray House"
Watercolour by Carol Fisher, 1979
© Moray House Art Collection Ltd

Moray House Trust

~ Culture Matters ~
239, Camp & Quamina Streets
Georgetown
Guyana

Tel: (592) 226 0724 - Email: MorayHouseTrust@gmail.com
Website: www.morayhousetrust.com

Moray House Trust
is pleased to invite you to
Screening of a Documentary:
Mazaruni Journey
by Francis Quamina Farrier

Date: Thursday, April 24th, 2014
**Venue: "Moray House", 239, Camp & Quamina Streets,
Georgetown**
Time: 5.30 p.m.

- Please use the Camp Street Entrance -
which is now wheelchair accessible

~ We do hope you can join us ~
RSVP

Tel: 226 0724 ~ Email: MorayHouseTrust@gmail.com

Moray House Trust

The Moray House Trust is a legacy of the late David de Caires (31.12.1957 - 1.11.2008).

It was proposed by his children, Brendan and Isabelle, and his widow, Doreen, as a cultural initiative to foster and preserve artistic expression, and the diverse culture of Guyana. The Moray House Trust is a modest endeavour aiming to support and contribute to the good works of many other Guyanese and to keep true to its own vision, which says in part:

"...We believe that the health of a nation, in the broadest sense, depends on a vibrant and varied local culture ... that a culture thrives and develops where ideas circulate and are robustly debated and interrogated..."

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