



SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO AND THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY

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FROM THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY ELECT 2023 - 2024 EXECUTIVES

At the Society's Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto on Sun. 24 Sept., 2023, the following were elected to the **Board of Directors** for the 2023 - 2024 year :

Chairman of the Board: Malcolm Barrington

Vice-Chairman: Tyrone DeAbreu

Directors:

Paul Abdool
Stephen Budhu
Alfred Carr
James Fung
Renuka Persaud

Bunty Phillips
Art Veerasammy
Godfrey Whyte

The following were elected as **Officers** :

President: Malcolm Barrington
Vice-President: Tyrone DeAbreu
Secretary: Stephen Budhu
Assistant Secretary: Art Veerasammy
Treasurer: Bunty Phillips
Assistant Treasurer: Alfred Carr

Editorial

WHAT IS THE TIME?

"I can't believe that it's that time of year again!"

"I can't believe how fast the time has flown by!"

"I have to do it now...or never!"

We often make statements like the three preceding ones above. We are talking about that intangible yet truly real thing – time! But what exactly is "time"? We have an intuitive (gut feeling) notion about time and it plays an important part in our lives, but exactly how is it defined? The two well-known physicists, Einstein and Hawking, who have worked closely with time never actually got around to defining it, but simply used it as one of the four main properties of nature (length, width, height, and time – we live in a 4-dimensional world). If we use a dictionary, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines time as:

A finite extent or stretch of continued existence, as the interval separating two successive events or actions, or the period during which an action, condition, or state continues; a finite portion of time (in its infinite sense); a period. Frequently with preceding modifying adjective, as a long time, a short time, etc.

The definition uses words, like *extent*, *stretch*, *interval*, and *period*, which really are just indeterminate measures of time (and even uses the word *time*) to define *time*! It would seem that no one has a clear definition of the word, but the OED definition is about as best as we can come to having a definition, so we can just go along with our intuition about "time", realizing the most important part of "time" is its measurement.

At a high level, we divide time into three categories – past, present, and future. The past is what has happened before the present and is a known fact; the future is what is yet to happen and is completely unknown; the present is...well, now or, at least, neither the past nor the future.

What is the present? Five minutes ago, that is the past; five minutes forward from now is the future. If we keep reducing the five minutes on both sides of present, we will reach a point where the past and the future meet. In other words, there is no present or, rather, there is a present but it is merely the border or dividing line between the past and the future! Just consider that, by the time we finish saying the word "now", that "now" is in the past!

This is a strict (or logical or mathematical) definition of the present, but that is not how we live. We live in periods or stretches of time. Such periods could be a day or a month or an era or an eon of time! If we are 50 years old, that means that we have existed for a period of 50 years. If we have lived in the second Elizabethan era, we have lived from 1952 through to 2022.

The fact that we usually look at time

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What Time is it?*Continued from page 1*

as periods or stretches infers that there is a beginning and an end, even though the end may be in the future (e.g. our death) and has not yet occurred. Generally, when was the beginning of time? If we look at time from a religious perspective and are monotheistic, we will have a belief in an all-powerful, eternal, infinite creator who IS, i.e. who has always existed and has no beginning or end. For such a person, there is no concept of time. The concept of time, therefore, has been created by and for humans. How many persons (at least, in the “developed” parts of the world) do not wear or carry a time-piece? I would hazard a guess of very, very few. So, when does our general time start (as opposed to our individual time i.e. our birthdate)?

It does not matter whether you believe in creationism or evolution, there was a start, regardless of how it happened. The most generally accepted theory is the scientific theory of the “Big Bang”. (Note that accepting this theory is not incompatible with the existence of a single creator, but that’s a different story.) This states that, about 13.7 billion years ago, there existed an infinitely hot and dense single point which inflated (exploded) and stretched out (continues to do so) to form the universe that we know today. At this point, we have no way of knowing how or when this action (and time) will come to an end.

This is all fine and good for astrophysicists, but is meaningless for the average person who has a much shorter experience of time. Anthropologists have estimated that the earliest anatomically modern human (*Homo sapiens*) existed about 200,000 years ago i.e. humans have been around for 0.0015% of the time since the Big Bang. We need an even shorter period of time for time to be useful. Such a structure was devised in 525 by Dionysius Exiguus, a 6th century eastern Christian monk, to enumerate years in his

Easter table. He introduced the abbreviation AD (*Anno Domini* – in the year of the Lord) to measure the years since the birth of Jesus Christ, though it was not used widely until the 9th century. The years before that were assigned the abbreviation AC (*Ante Christum* – before Christ) which also was not used very much (much anthropology did not exist in those days). As the Latin language died out, being continued to be used mainly by the Christian Church, AC was translated into the language of the country of use, and BC (Before Christ) was introduced in the English-speaking world. BC eventually became the standard throughout the world.

In the second half of the 20th century, “political correctness” (PC) began to raise its head in all things. AD and BC were viewed as Christian symbols and, therefore, was not inclusive of non-Christians! The scientific community decided to adopt new abbreviations – CE (Current or Common Era) and BCE (Before the Current or Common Era). However, when did the Common or Current Era begin? For ease of transition, the start was not changed, so the era started with the birth of Jesus Christ which definitely not inclusive of non-Christians! As Juliet said in Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet* : “*A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.*”

It has happened also with Christmas. 25th December is a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a Christian religious celebration and obviously is not meant to be all-inclusive. Hence, we see PC continuing to be active, and more “Christmas” cards expressing “Happy Holidays” rather than “Merry Christmas”.

Therefore, on behalf of the Executive of the Toronto Alumni Society, I wish to offer everyone

a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Adoration of the Shepherds (1622)

by Gerard van Honthorst,

Cologne, Germany

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

By Alumnus (46-51) Dave Martins

There are all sorts of strange tales about my song “*Not A Blade O’ Grass*”. Some I’ve heard second-hand, but some folks, believe it or not, have actually come to me directly to assert categorically that they know exactly how the song came about. A couple times, I’ve been told, “Burnham pay yuh to write dat song.” One fellow, fully blocked, told me that Mr. Burnham had even suggested some of the words. In fact, while Brother Forbes certainly used the song for his own ends, he had nothing whatsoever to do with its creation. For that, you have to go to the late Pat Cameron. Here’s the story, unabridged.

Tradewinds were in Guyana on tour in the ‘70s while the Venezuela border row was brewing. I had done a long interview with Pat at the radio station in High Street; chatting off the air afterwards, she said to me, “Dave, Guyanese follow your music; you should write something about this Venezuela story, man.” I said to Pat, “Girl, I don’t write those kinds of head-on songs, and this is a delicate subject. Somebody else should do it.”

But Pat Cameron was a persistent lady. She followed me out to the car, continuing to make her case, so I drove off with her notion in mind. On the way back to the hotel, I was thinking about the border issue and its impact on Guyana and, for some odd reason, my mind ran to a famous speech by one of the Indian chiefs resisting the white man’s invasion of the American west. The Indian spoke about his people’s love for their land - that they would not give up one river, not one buffalo, not one valley, not even one blade of grass. In a flash, it hit me; that was the way to write the border song – it should talk about Guyanese love for Guyana and not mention Venezuela at all.

I got back to the Pegasus, borrowed an acoustic guitar from Bobby Hunter, locked myself in the hotel room, and shut off the phone. Some songs can take weeks or months to write; I wrote *Blade O’ Grass* in about an hour.

That’s the first interesting aspect; I had not written a song that fast before, and I haven’t since. The other aspect is that I didn’t fully grasp the reach of what I had written. I knew it was a concise piece, and it was emotional, but those ingredients don’t always result in a great work, so I left Guyana, pleased with the song but with no inkling of what was to follow.

Back in Toronto, with Pat Cameron’s premise in mind, we went into the studio and recorded the song as a single. In addition to the Tradewinds guys, I got my daughter, Luana, to do the flute part, and we played the song with a slow drum beat. Remember that we were a Caribbean band playing mostly win’ down music, but it just felt right to do it at that slow tempo. I pressed a few copies, 45 rpm recording – remember those? – and sent them off to Freddie Abdool, our man in Guyana .

If you’re a Guyanese, you know the rest. The song took off like a savannah fire. At one point, it was the first song played on the radio station every day, and people began referring to it as “Guyana’s second anthem”. Like any suc-

cessful song, *Blade O’ Grass* had gone straight to the heart of something Guyanese felt; it was a song they could sing and not offend; it became a craze. Two weeks after it was out, I got a call from the Guyanese Consul in Toronto (Vic Persaud, if I recall) saying that the Mr. Burnham wanted to buy 100 copies of the song, and I of course agreed to provide them at cost. I should check on this part of the story some time, but I never got to know precisely how the Kabaka distributed the recordings. I do know that when we came to Guyana around Mash, again on tour, he invited the band to the Culture Centre for a private session in the meeting room upstairs. In our chat, he told me he loved the song – his favourite line was “*not one cuirass*” – and, at one point, he turned to Viola and suggested she “make some curry for the boys”, but that’s another story for another time.

When you write a song, as I mentioned recently with Hooper and Chanderpaul, most of the time you never know where it’s going to go. *Blade O’ Grass* immediately went to a special place and in a special way, and it has become a song for Guyanese like no other. Thirty-plus years after it came out, Guyanese know the words and even the arrangement – they will “la la” the introductory flute lines and they will stand up and sing the chorus word for word. Many times when we perform it, I move the band away from the mike and let the crowd sing the chorus; it’s their song in their language about their place, and they own it.

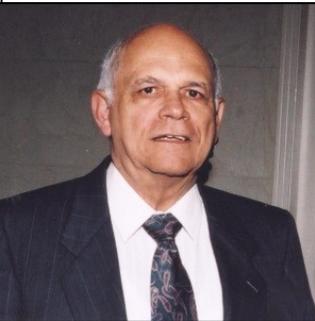
They will sing some of my other songs – *Cricket in the Jungle*, *Honeymooning Couple*, *You Can’t Get*, *Boyhood Days*, etc. – but not like *Blade*. That one they stand together, arms around each other, and send it up like an anthem. To see a crowd of people, sometimes far from their homeland, in that state from a song, is a very special experience. Almost every time it happens, it gives me goose bumps; a couple times it has brought water to mi eye.

A final piece: when the song was raging, on one of our trips here, the Government asked Tradewinds to play at the Square where Philip Moore’s wonderful Cuffy monument stands. The song was like gasoline-and-match with the crowd – you only had to play the intro line and they were off – so there was this eruption when we started it, and there were thousands ringing the stage, many of them singing with us. It was live on radio; it was euphoric. As we got to the second verse – “*We love the open country of the Rupununi...*” – I spotted a kinky-haired youngster in front, about 10 years old or so, singing his heart out with us, so I pulled him up on stage, lowered the microphone, and got him singing the chorus by himself. When he got to the end, he sang, “*Not one cuirass; we guh bus’ dey ass.*” There was an enormous explosion from the crowd; they must have heard the roar all by Bourda. People were jumping up; a few were literally rolling on the ground.

So, to Pat Cameron, “Whatever part of Heaven you are, take a bow – you had a hand in this.”

OBITUARIES

Alumnus (46-53) Frank Boothby Delph passed away peacefully in Scarborough, Ontario, on 18th October, 2023, at the age of 88 years after many years struggling with dementia.



He is survived by Mary, his wife of 63 years, his children Frank (Cathy) and Diane (Charles), his grandchildren Jamie (Kristina), Danielle (Brendan), and Candice (Jacob), his great-grandchildren Talulah and Phoebe, his sister Clare Faria, and nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his brother Richard, sister Sheila, and parents, Philomena and Frank.

Born in British Guiana, Frank and his family immigrated to Canada in 1964, settling in Scarborough, Ontario. He was a member of the Land Surveyors of Ontario, and ran Delph & Jenkins Ltd. with co-founder Kevin Jenkins. During that time, he surveyed many important Toronto landmarks including the SkyDome, CN Tower, and Pearson International Airport.

He loved reading, listening to and watching the news; quizzing his grandchildren about Guyanese slang, and was keenly interested in world history and geography. He was a complicated man, and his family will remember Frank,

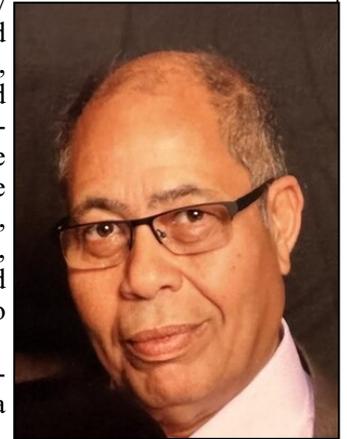
amongst ourselves, in our own ways.

His family would like to thank the staff and volunteers at Rockcliffe Care Community for their patience and dedication to his daily care over the last few years of his life.

Alumnus (62-68) Patrick Ian Smith passed away peacefully on 29th September, 2023, at the age of 72.

He will be forever missed by his loving wife, Promela, and cherished by his dear children, Pete, Sacha (Joel), Sean, and Sabrina (Eric). He was the beloved son of Genevieve and the late George Smith, and the proud grandfather to Christian, Zariya, Andrés, Arianna, Ava, Nathaniel, and Vaeda, and adoring great-grandfather to Amias, Aleyna, and Ezra.

Patrick will always be remembered by his siblings, Pamela (late Hugh), George Jr. (Lucy), Andrew (Deborah), and Andrea (Cassian). He will be held dear in the hearts of his family, relatives, and many friends. At St. Stanislaus College, he was a member of the College Scout Group.



ARMY HELICOPTER CRASH IN GUYANA

On 6th December, 2023, a Bell 412EP helicopter, operated by the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), crashed during bad weather in western Guyana, about 30 miles east of Arau near the Venezuelan border. It was carrying senior GDF military officers and was bound for a military outpost in Arau, reportedly to conduct a routine inspection of recently bolstered GDF defenses in the area.

Five out of the seven on board were killed in the crash. Those who died were Col. Michael Shahoud (Cmdr., 1st Infantry Battalion), Brig. (rtd.) Gary Beaton (Project Engineer, GOG), Lt. Col. Michael Charles (Pilot), Lt. Col. Sean Welcome (Reserve Battalion), and Staff Sergeant Jason Khan.

The two survivors were Lt. Colonel Andio Michael Crawford (Special Forces Squadron) and Corporal Dwayne Jackson.

The following article was written by alumnus **Amanda King**, a former member of the Executive of the Toronto Saints Society, in honour of one of the deceased.

A REFLECTION ON A TRUE SON OF THE SOIL

“When you can love the little birds & fish”

When you can love the little birds and fish, like he did, then your heart must be big for your people and country.

Mike Charles seemed humble and just went about doing what he loved without looking for celebrity status. It found him. Flying, doing rescue missions, helping injured animals and people, documenting the biodiversity and ecological beauty of Guyana, the peace and beauty of the skies. It reflected his love for all life and his quiet charm.

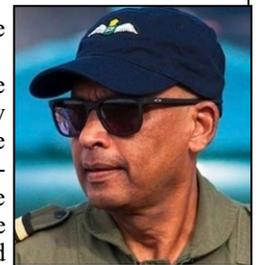
With his final mission and so many public farewells at his passing, he may just have done his last public service and inspired a nation of young boys and girls to pursue their dreams. I read that, as a young boy, he knew the planes landing at Timehri and the kinds of engines just by the sound; he even knew the times they would and fell in love with planes and flight. A young generation can look to his example, to do what they love, to perfect their craft, and reach for the stars. He has reminded even us older ones to pursue integrity and to walk a path that is good. To remember what we leave behind comes from what we

do each day. He has left a legacy only love can.

We were privileged to walk at the same time with him through this earth. We cry though we did not know him because we saw the love he showed to all life. Instinctively, we knew he loved us, his Guyanese people, and the dear land of Guyana. We recognized his light. And so, we must bid him farewell. Rest in Peaceful Sleep: a star belongs to the sky, a true son belongs to the land, a soul has been freed and has earned his wings.

With respect and gratitude we honour your service and those of the other fallen servicemen. We must take care of those who serve their country and value them as they ought to be valued. We are grateful for the survivors and wish for you a speedy recovery and a return to the work you love.

On behalf of us all, we offer our deep respect and gratitude.



MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2023. Membership is based on the calendar year.

CANADA (94)

Paul Abdool¹
Howard Amo¹
Alwyn Appiah²
Paul Archer²
Glen Armogan⁴
Bernard Arokium²
Bernard Austin¹
Malcolm Barrington
Michael Barrington³
Gerard Bayley (*dec*)
John Rene Bayley¹
Teddy Boyce³
Ian Camacho²
Paul Camacho
Alfred Carr⁷
Wilfred Carr
Joseph Castanheiro⁴
Bob Chee-a-tow
Sydney Chin⁵
Gerry Chin-sam²
Ivan Choo¹
Tony Clarke⁷
Paul Crum-ewing³
Richard DaCosta³
Edward DaSilva¹
Derek D'Andrade⁴
Russell D'Abreu
Terry DeAbreu¹
Tyrone DeAbreu
Gregory DeCastro¹
Rupert DeCastro⁴
Andre DePeana²
Raymond Dias³

Jerome D'Oliveira
Paul Duarte
Joe Faria⁴
Raymond Fernandes¹
Keith Fletcher²
Andre Fredricks⁴
Darwin Fung⁵
James Fung²
Mike Gomes
Richard Gomes³
Trevor Gomes
Harold Gonsalves¹
J. Neil Gonsalves
Ken Hahnfeld¹
Albert Hamilton²
Hugh Hazlewood
Paul Hazlewood¹
Monty Henson²
Desmond Hill
Andrew Insanally¹
Richard James³
Desmond Jardine
Clayton Jeffery¹
Anthony Jekir
Gregory Kellawan²
Vibert Lampkin¹
John Lopes²
Michael Mendes de Franca
Colin Nurse²
Anthony O'Dowd¹
Michael Persaud¹
Renuka Persaud
Compton Pestano²

L. A. Phillips⁴
Carl Ramalho
Marcelline Ramcharan⁴
Linden Ramdeholl¹
Alex Rego
Romeo Resaul
Bryan Rodrigues
Joseph Schuler
Savitri Seenauth¹
Maurice Serrao¹
Robin Shaw¹
Michael Singh
Albert Smith³
Vanita Soman
Akisha Somrah
Peter St. Aubyn⁴
Cecil Subryan³
Albert Sweetnam¹
Michael Texeira²
Arthur Veerasammy
Vibert Vieira
Paul Vincent¹
Howard Welshman
Godfrey Whyte
David Wong⁵
Brian Yhap²
John Yip⁶
Angus Zitman²

AUSTRALIA (1)

Lennox Yhap¹

BRAZIL (1)

Stephen DeCastro

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1)

Deep Ford²

GUYANA (1)

Seivewright Benjamin

TRINIDAD (3)

Richard Harford
Ronald Harford
P. I. Gomes⁴

U.K. (6)

John DaCosta²
Julio Faria²
Leyland Grant²
Neville Jordan⁶
Charles Kennard¹
Raymond Pan-cham² (*dec*)

U.S.A. (37)

Clydewyn Anthony³
Mark Anthony³
Mark E. Anthony³
Wayne Austin³
Lloyd Barker³
Satynanand Bhagrat-tee
Wayne Brereton
Stephen Budhu³
Rev. Andrew Chan-a-

sue²
Ronald Chanderbhan¹
Dalip Etwaroo¹
Bernard Friemann¹
Trevor Gibbs³
Edward Gouveia¹
Philip Greathead¹
Leyland Hazlewood³
Michael Heydon² (*dec*)
Lloyd Houston⁴
Edward Isaacs³
Wilfred Jack²
Sheron Jones
Kenneth Jordan⁴
Jolyon King⁵
Nevrindra Mangru³
Christopher Martin³
Vince McBean⁵
Carlyle Moore²
Godfrey Nurse²
Hugh Christopher Patrick³
Horace Persaud³
Hugh Rodrigues⁴
Peter Rodrigues⁴
Richard F. Rodrigues⁴
Gyanda (Eric) Shivnairain⁵
John Sparrock
Leyland Thomas⁴
Jolyon Williams³

VENEZUELA (1)

Michael Chin-a-loy³

There are 145 paid-up members. (*dec* - deceased)

Notes :

1. These (29) alumni have paid in advance through 2024.
2. These (27) alumni have paid in advance through 2025.
3. These (24) alumni have paid in advance through 2026.

4. These (16) alumni have paid in advance through 2027.
5. These (6) alumni have paid in advance through 2028.
6. These (4) alumni have paid in advance through 2029.
7. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2030.

Arthur Veerasammy (Alumnus)

Locksmith

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E: artveer.keylock@gmail.com



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SPECIAL NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP

Membership is paid by calendar year i.e. January to December. Therefore, membership up to 2023 expires on 31st December, 2023. If there is no number next to your name in the above list, please submit your membership fees as soon as possible. See page 8 for the membership form and address, or pay electronically at www.torontosaints.com.

We remind you that the fee is \$25 (Can) per year but, if you pay \$100 (Can) for 4 years, you will receive an extra year for no further charge. Selecting the multiple year membership will mean that you will not need to worry about having to remember to pay the fees for the next five years.

2023 NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

By Alumnus (67 – 72) Paul Abdool

In what has quickly become an annual event, our ever-popular New Year's Eve Gala is back for a fifth year.

This elegant function will once again take place in the opulent ballroom of the Scarborough Convention Centre, providing the luxury and comfort our guests have come to expect while welcoming in the New Year.

In keeping with what has now become a tradition at this function, guests will be treated again to a lavish evening of elegance, including complimentary Hors d'Oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks during our one-hour cocktail meet-and-greet, an elegant 4-course dinner with choice of entrée, champagne at midnight, two bottles of wine per table dur-

ing dinner, late night snack table at 12:30 a.m., party favours, reserved seating, tax deductible receipts for your tickets, a live band, and a DJ. At \$125.00 a ticket, we are not only the best party in town, but the best value in town.

Our event is always sold out early, and it appears this year will be no different. We have a very limited number of tickets still available as of this writing, but expect them to be sold very soon. Please call either **Paul Abdool at 416-297-7585**, or **Alfred Carr at 416-441-1720** if you are interested in attending the party of the year.

See you on New Year's Eve!

HONOURING THE COLLEGE AND ITS NAMESAKE

On Saturday 11th November (Remembrance Day), the Toronto alumni celebrated the feast day of St. Stanislaus Kostka after whom the College is named, by holding a Mass at 1:30 p.m. at the Jesuit-run church of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Toronto, followed by a get-together at about 2:30 p.m. in the church hall in the basement of the church. The actual feast day is 13th November but, this day being a Monday, the preceding Saturday was chosen instead, as it seemed to be the better day for people to be able to attend.



Although attendance at the Mass was not obligatory for participating in this event (and spouses and friends were all invited), the attendance was less than what had been anticipated. Nevertheless, those who did attend appreciated the

Mass and thoroughly enjoyed the meet-and-greet afterwards.

This was the first time that we organised this event, but we plan to make this an annual event. Therefore, mark off and reserve on your calendars the Saturday nearest to 13th November, and plan to attend in 2024.



COLLEGE NOTES

SAINTS ARE FINALIST IN MEN'S OPEN HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Saints hockey team reached the finals and played the Pepsi Hikers for the indoor hockey championship in front of a full house at the National Gymnasium.

With the help from a guest player from Trinidad and Tobago, the Hikers started strongly and struck first, scoring a field goal in the 4th minute. However, this seemed to awaken the Saints team which then took control of the game and scored the next three goals. In the fourteenth minute, Jabari Lovell scored a goal from a well-taken ball received from a penalty corner after the Hikers defence had collapsed. Then, just two minutes later, Shomere Fausette scored a goal from a similar situation.

In the second half, Shomere Fausette continued to show his form by scoring a field goal in the 32nd minute. However, the Hikers started to put together their game and scored a goal a minute later. They continued to apply pressure on the Saints team and, in the last minute of play, they scored the equaliser goal, and the game ended in a 3-3 draw.

The teams then went to a best-of-three penalty shoot-out to determine the winner. The Hikers had first shot and scored. Unfortunately, the Saints first shot was saved, and this was followed by the Hikers scoring on their second penalty, and they led 2-0. Saints had to score on both of their remaining shots and depended on the Hikers not scoring on their last shot. Unfortunately, the Saints second



penalty shot was saved, and the championship went to the Hikers.

While being disappointed in the final result, the Saints team had no cause to feel badly about their performance as they had reached the finals and lost to an older and more experienced team after holding them to a draw after 60 minutes. Our congratulations go out to them, and we wish them better luck in their future games.

SAINTS EXHIBITS PROWESS IN INTER-SCHOLASTIC DEBATING COMPETITION

On Monday, 20th November, the St. Stanislaus College debate team went up against the formidable New Amsterdam Secondary School debate team in the finals of the "Agriculture Month 2023 Inter-school Debate Competition" which was held at the National Center of Educational Resources and Development and, unfortunately, came out second best. The team had won their penultimate debates against other talented schools, such as Essequibo Islands Secondary School in the semifinals where they came out on top to attain a spot in the finals.

The Saints team, comprised of Reginald Brown (left), Aziel Arthur (middle), and Earlden Washington (right and standing in for Italy Ton-Chung who could not make it to the final debate), delivered a fantastic show as they debated on the moot "Food safety awareness contributes to accelerating vision 25 by 2025". They presented arguments in favour of the prompt while New Amsterdam argued against it.

The discourse unfolded as a nuanced exchange wherein each faction presented compelling arguments and engaging



counterpoints within the confines of their allotted time. The first speaker, Reginald Brown, used governmental commitment to the cause and regulatory compliance as his main opening arguments, whereas the second speaker, Earlden Washington, enlightened the judges on health impacts and community engagement. Lastly, Aziel Arthur highlighted economic, productive, and global reputation.

The Saints team attributed their hard fought loss to a lack of content in comparison to the opposing team. Aziel Arthur spoke of the excellent civility amongst the teams, saying, "This was a great opportunity; our success would not have been made possible without a strong team."

Ultimately, New Amsterdam Secondary school emerged the victors, with the St. Stanislaus College team taking home the 2nd place trophy. The 3rd speaker, Aziel Arthur, received a medal for her amazing performance in the preliminary round. Additionally, each member was presented with a gift card as a token of appreciation for their performance throughout the competition.

COLLEGE NOTES

TEAM GUYANA ROBOTICS EXCELS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

In October, the FIRST (For Inspiraton and Recogniton of Science and Technology) Global Challenge was held in Singapore. This is an annual Olympic-style robotics competition which was first organized in 2017 by the International FIRST Committee Association to promote STEM education and careers for youth.

This year’s challenge was themed “Hydrogen Horizons” which focused on teaching students about renewable energy and nurturing their problem-solving skills. The participating teams were challenged to develop a robot which exhibited innovative ways of tackling world challenges, including green energy storage and extracting hydrogen from water. The robot must be able to separate the atoms of water to get hydrogen and oxygen, so green and blue balls (representing hydrogen and oxygen respectively) are put together on the field and the robot must be able to separate the balls and place them in separate containers. The second step is transporting the hydrogen and oxygen, then extracting it in such a way whereas energy can be generated into a renewable form. The competition aims at developing creativity, cohesiveness, and innovation in the young competitors who are primarily students.

Guyana was represented at this event by Team Guyana Robotics which was an all-female team, and it was the first time an all-female team has ever represented the country at this event. The members of the team were Ariel Taylor (Co-Captain), T'Sehai Holder (Co-Captain), Xaria Holder (Strategist), Lateisha MacArthur (Driver), and **Italy Ton-Chung** (Driver). The last lady, Italy, is a Saints student who was also on the school’s debating team but had to miss the final round of the debating competition in order to participate in the robotics competition. The team was accompanied by Arrianna Mahase (Coach), Joshua Reece (Mentor), Tarico Henry (Mentor), and Shamar Stewart (Mentor).

The team did extraordinarily well, considering it took them four gruelling days to get there because of delays, cancellations, rerouting across many time zones and, on arrival,



Saint’s student, Italy Ton-Chung, is third from the left.

very limited practice time.

The team created a unique robot, designed to respond to renewable energy-related issues, which was dubbed outstanding as compared to the other teams. As well, they discovered that electrolysis (the process of using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen) served as one of the ideal solutions to the experiment.

There were 191 countries represented, and the team encountered stiff competition on Day One, securing 50th position, but they bounced back on Day Two, securing 18th position, and winning five out of six games.

Part of the competition involved alliances with other students from different countries to encourage global cooperation and collaborative innovation, and their alliance secured 5th position out of the 8 alliances who qualified for the semi-finals.

Team Guyana Robotics completed the competition in 23rd position, and was the highest ranked team out of the Caribbean this year.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT OF SAINTS TORONTO SOCIETY VISITS GUYANA



Malcolm Barrington, Chairman/President of the Toronto Saints Society, is seated 2nd from right, next to Chris Fer-

nandes, Chairman of the College Board of Governors, at a dinner held in honour of the visitor from Toronto.

<p align="center">Publisher: St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto M1S 1V2</p> <p align="center">Editorial Committee: L. A. (Bunty) Phillips, Paul Camacho, John Yip</p> <p align="center">Contributing Writers: Paul Abdool, Amanda King, Dave Martins, L. A. (Bunty) Phillips</p> <p align="center">Photographs: Malcolm Barrington, St. Stanislaus College, Art Veerasammy</p>	<p>St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, founded in 1993, is devoted to making St. Stanislaus College the best educational institution in Guyana. It provides financial aid and other aid to the college, which was founded by Fr. Langton S. J. in 1866. Formerly run by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests, the school was taken over by the Government in 1976, with Government-appointed teachers replacing the clergy in 1980.</p> <p>Saints News & Views publishes four issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.</p> <p>Saints News & Views welcomes contributing articles from its membership. The publisher reserves the right to edit or publish all submissions solely at its discretion.</p>
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COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sun. 31 Dec., 2023	New Year's Eve Gala	Scarborough Convention Centre 20 Torham Place, Scarborough	\$125 per person
Sat. 6 April, 2024 (tentative)	Spring Dance	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Fri. 5 Jul., 2024 (tentative)	Golf Event	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	\$250 per person (includes 2 course plays, 2 meals, 3 snacks on-course, and 3 drinks)
Fri. 2 Aug., 2024 (tentative)	Caribjam	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 12 Oct., 2024 (tentative)	Fall Dance	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 9 Nov., 2024 Mass - 1:30 p.m. Social - 2:30 p.m.	Mass to honour St. Stanislaus Kostka and College, followed by meet-and-greet with refreshments	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church 432 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON (west of Bayview Ave.)	<i>Not applicable</i>

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