



# 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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## Editorial

### THE JESUITS AT ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.*

*A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens, English novelist (1812 - 1870)*

This is indeed turbulent times, not unlike that described by Dickens. For the Roman Catholic Church, the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI has created a situation which has not occurred since 1294 when Pope Celestine V resigned. Since then, all Popes have stayed in office until death. As of the time of writing this article, the conclave of Cardinals had not yet started its deliberations to elect the next Pope. Many “cafeteria” Catholics (in name only) are hoping that a more liberal or “reformed” Cardinal will be elected so that they can justify their “worldly” choices in living, choices which currently run against the dictates of the Church which are based on the Word of God. They will be sadly disappointed. In spite of any temporal mistakes which individual priests and Cardinals may have made (they are human, after all), the Church leadership has been steadfast in its rulings on faith and morals, not straying from the narrow path of the Ten Commandments, and this is unlikely to change with whoever is elected to be the new Pope. For those disappointed “Catholics”, they are free to join any of the many other “Christian” denominations which will cater to their lifestyle.

Among those who have stayed firm to the teachings of the Church are the Jesuits. Founded in 1534 by St. Ignatius of Loyola, the members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) take not only the standard priestly vows of chastity and obedience but also that of poverty (diocesan priests do not take this vow) and of special obedience to the Pope himself. They are known colloquially as “God’s Marines”, and the Order reports directly to the Pope and not to the local diocesan Bishop. They are the missionaries who not only spread the Word of God throughout the world, but also brought education and learning to the unenlightened. In

fact, in the mid-twentieth century, there was a saying that the jails in the colonies of the various colonial empires were populated by those nationalists who had been educated by the Jesuits.

Guyana was no exception. The Jesuits arrived in British Guiana in March 1857, led by Fr. James Etheridge from the English Province of Jesuits. Although the Jesuit Order forbids its members from being appointed as bishops, this provision can be set aside in exceptional circumstances for urgent pastoral reasons and at the direct request of the Pope, and the early years of the Guiana mission were deemed to be a clear example of just such circumstances so, in 1858, Fr. Etheridge returned to England to be consecrated Bishop by Cardinal Wiseman in Farm Street Church on 17th October. It was under the aegis of Bishop Etheridge that St. Stanislaus College was started (as the Catholic Grammar School) in 1866 with Fr. George Langton in charge.

The Jesuits built and expanded the school infrastructure over the years, managed it, and taught there until 1980 when the then Guyana Government, in its infinite wisdom, decided to assume total responsibility for the school and expelled (for all practical purposes) the Jesuits from their management and teaching roles, even though the school was not expropriated, and the buildings and property are still legally owned by the Jesuits. The College has not yet recovered from this indiscriminate and senseless action.

The lack/inability of all Guyanese Governments since then of providing full financial commitment to education has left all but the two major government schools in a perilous state of disarray, and even these two schools compare poorly with those of the former British Caribbean island colonies. The various overseas alumni associations of many Guyana schools were formed

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## BENEDICTION AT MILESTONES

### **Introduction:**

The bonding of the SSC 5B Graduating Class of 61/62 runs deep. This group of former SSC students rarely misses an opportunity to welcome one of their own. They have a grapevine which functions like a radar screen, picking up news of any of their colleagues arriving in town. It was no different when Raymond (Milky) Rebeiro returned to Toronto for his nephew's wedding, after many years of living in California.

### **Meeting Date and Place:**

September 22, 2012, was the date set, Milestones in Yorkdale Plaza was where we met, and the rest was history. Out of a class of 33, a total of 10 made the time to meet and reminisce with their colleagues, and welcome their long lost friend, Milky. Ranging in age from 68 to 70, the characters in this reunion were: Raymond (Milky) Rebeiro, the guest of honour, Hilary (Tallest) Rebeiro, brother of our guest of honour, Michael (Donald Trump) Singh, Vibert (Reds) Pereira, Albert (Buck boy) Hamilton, Leslie (Al Capone) Choo-Wing, Michael (Fushung Soup) Mendes De Franca, Richard (The Pastor) James, Orlando (Wonder Boy) Goveia, and Gregory (Pantalon) DeCastro. Thank goodness, all of the above were in reasonably good physical health and fully in control of their mental faculty.

### **Mistaken Identity:**

The usual anxiety was prevalent since a few had not seen each other in over 50 years. Therefore, to suppress that anxiety, some arrived early at the Milestones' bar to fire off a few quick rounds. Orlando, Albert, and I arrived a little later only to find the reservation had been changed. When I gave my proper name to the Receptionist, the puzzled look on her face indicated something was up. She advised us that someone called and cancelled the reservation. Just before going ballistic over this untimely event, I glanced to my left and noticed the suspects at the bar, with big grins on their faces. Apparently, these characters told the Receptionist to change the identity of the Reservation to Pantalon, my nickname from SSC. After reuniting with these mischievous bar patrons, the case of the mistaken identity was soon resolved.

### **Table Setting for Lunch:**

We were soon escorted to a long rectangular table-for-ten in a cozy section of the restaurant. Poor Jessica, our waitress for the day, she looked very apprehensive but nevertheless pleasant. I would have given more than a penny for her thoughts when she saw ten seniors piling in around the table, and in such a vocally merry mood. It was obvious she was bracing herself for an unusual experience. Since Milky was away from his colleagues the longest, he was ready to start the interrogation to close the gap of missing years. As he was busy catching up, Jessica got us our first drinks and moved on to get our lunch orders ready.

### **Reminiscence:**

As was expected, closing the missing gap took us back not only to our SSC days when life was different but all the way to Sacred Heart (Main Street) and St. Mary's (Brickdam) Primary Catholic Schools. We shared common stories of fun, mischief, and misfortunes, of our early childhood experiences. Over the noise and din, Jessica arrived with our orders for lunch and drinks. Once everyone was taken care of, the noise level dropped considerably. We were too busy enjoying our meal to keep up the discussion. After lunch was completed, the discussion resumed with more focus on life at SSC. We covered the sports in which we participated, both at House League Level (Etheridge, Butler, and Galton) and outside (Wight Cup and Northcote Cricket). Most of us found Marco (Stanley Marques) quite amusing, sometimes disturbing during PT (Physical Training) up at Big Ground along the Sea Wall. A few of us made it to the finals on Sports Day. However, most of us enjoyed hanging around with the girls from St. Rose's who were always invited to attend. It was perhaps the only time we were allowed to lay eyes on a girl in the presence of a Priest. Even if we wanted to perform miracles, we were not permitted to lay hands on them.

We moved on to discuss how our B form boys had done after receiving the kiss of death from Hoppy (Fr. Hopkinson), the Principal. As indicated in a previous article, after a very unpleasant Detention, he concluded that none of us would amount to much. At the conclusion of the detention, we were told: "You will make the finest bunch of criminals". If a Principal were to make such a statement to a class today, I wonder if he would still have his job. Anyway, for a bunch of guys with such a curse placed upon their future, we did not do too badly. If we use the sample size of the ten who were present, the majority was qualified, practicing Professionals in their fields, not too shabby for a bunch of B form boys.

### **The Benediction:**

As we continued to reminisce about our teachers and experiences at SSC, the subject of "First Friday Benediction" came up. It was customary in those days for Saints boys to attend Benediction on every Friday afternoon at the end of the school-day. Prefects were posted at every block to prevent escapees who wanted to avoid this mandatory religious event. Those who escaped without detection were the lucky ones. The rest of us ended up in the Cathedral on Brickdam, first to do the rehearsal of the Benediction Hymns with Fr. Feeney. Some one made the gesture to imitate Fr. Feeney by pointing his index finger into the air to indicate the high and low notes of the Hymns sung at Benediction. Suddenly the singing started:

**BENEDICTION AT MILESTONES***(continued from page 2)**"Tantum ergo, sacramentum,.....Et antiquum documentum.....Genitori, genitoque....."*

Almost in unison, the entire table of ten broke out singing the words in Latin. The other patrons and our waitress Jessica were taken by surprise with this singing in a foreign language that they did not understand. It was neither,

French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Chinese, nor any ethnic language with which they might be familiar. We soon came to our senses and realized we were very far way from appearing at the Massey Hall with Pavarotti.

After settling our bills with the Milestones, we said our goodbyes, but not before making tentative plans to meet again should another colleague come to town.

*Gregory De Castro*



*From left going up and around to the right: Leslie (Al Capone) Choo-Wing, Albert (Buck Boy) Hamilton, Michael (Donald Trump) Singh, Michael (Fusung Soup) Mendes De Franca, Vibert (Reds) Pereira, Greg (Pantalon) DeCastro, Raymond (Milky) Rebeiro, Hilary (Tallest) Rebeiro, Orlando (Wonder Boy) Goveia, and Richard (Pastor) James.*

**THE JESUITS AT ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE***(Continued from page 1)*

with the main objective of providing financial and other needed assistance to the schools rather than just being a means of reuniting classmates.

The Saints Toronto Alumni Association has been working actively to get more alumni involved in helping their *alma mater*. We received some rebuttals of the form that the school is no longer the school they attended and don't see why they should support a now strange institution. Others are simply apathetic with little memory or appreciation about how they managed to reach where they are today. Our reply is that we give to charities about which we generally know very little but hope to help the less fortunate who will benefit from the charities. In the same way, as the late Howard Bryce (past President of the Toronto Alumni Association) would say : "We do it for the chil-

dren" who are the less fortunate of Guyana. Further, we appreciate the education we received at the school which enabled us to be mostly successful in our adult life, and we want to repay this debt by helping the less fortunate attending the school today.

Those of us who were fortunate to attend the College prior to 1980 can truly appreciate the high quality of education which we received from the Jesuits. We are aware of some Jesuits coming to Guyana in expectation of being missionaries outside of Georgetown but being disappointed when they were reassigned to teach at the College. Nevertheless, they accepted their orders without question and did an excellent job in educating those in their charge. To honour the Jesuits, we shall be publishing some of their biographies, starting in this issue. We hope that these articles will enable the readers to gain a greater appreciation of the work done by the Jesuits at the College.

*L.A.P.*



## MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2013. Membership is based on the calendar year and is due now.

<b>CANADA (76)</b>	Paul Duarte	Richard Miller <sup>1</sup>	David Wong <sup>4</sup>	Desmond FitzGerald <sup>1</sup>
Lance Alexander	Carlton Faria <sup>4</sup>	Perry Mittelholzer <sup>1</sup>	Raymond Wong <sup>1</sup>	Tony Gomes <sup>4</sup>
Glenmore Armogan	Joe Faria <sup>8</sup>	Clarence Nichols <sup>2</sup>	Gerry Yaw	Neville Jordan <sup>1</sup>
Malcolm Barrington <sup>2</sup>	Raymond Fernandes <sup>1</sup>	Anthony O'Dowd <sup>1</sup>	Brian Yhap	
Rene Bayley	Nigel Fisher <sup>3</sup>	Leslie Pereira <sup>4</sup>		<b>U.S.A. (19)</b>
Teddy Boyce	Leslie Fung <sup>1</sup>	Desmond Perreira	<b>AUSTRALIA (2)</b>	Luke Abraham <sup>3</sup>
Randy Bradford <sup>2</sup>	Neil Gonsalves <sup>1</sup>	Michael Persaud <sup>1</sup>	Michael Wight	Ronald Chanderbhan <sup>4</sup>
Ian Camacho <sup>4</sup>	Orlando Goveia <sup>2</sup>	Bunty Phillips <sup>4</sup>	Lennox Yhap <sup>1</sup>	Brian Chin <sup>1</sup>
Errol Chapman	Ken Hahnfeld <sup>4</sup>	Linden Ramdeholl <sup>2</sup>		Lawrence Correia
Vernon Chaves	Albert Hamilton	Cecil Ramraj	<b>BARBADOS (1)</b>	Peter Fernandes
Sydney Chin	Hugh Hazlewood	Ramon Rego	Geoff De Caires	Guy Goveia <sup>1</sup>
Ivan Choo	Desmond Hill <sup>4</sup>	Herman Reid <sup>2</sup>		Edward Gouveia
Tony Clarke <sup>1</sup>	Andrew Insanally <sup>1</sup>	Joe Reis	<b>BERMUDA (1)</b>	John Grenardo <sup>1</sup>
Ken Cumberbatch <sup>3</sup>	Richard James <sup>4</sup>	Romeo Resaul <sup>1</sup>	Francis Grenardo <sup>1</sup>	Michael Heydon <sup>1</sup>
Jerry Da Silva <sup>3</sup>	Clayton Jeffrey <sup>1</sup>	Bryan Rodrigues		Edwin Jack <sup>7</sup>
Terry De Abreu	Desmond Kwall <sup>4</sup>	Philip Rodrigues <sup>1</sup>	<b>DOM. REP. (1)</b>	Kenneth Jordan <sup>5</sup>
Hilary De Cambra	John King	Peter St. Aubyn <sup>3</sup>	Deep Ford <sup>3</sup>	Jolyon King <sup>3</sup>
Benedict De Castro	Vibert Lampkin <sup>6</sup>	Albert Smith		Carl Marx <sup>3</sup>
Gabriel De Castro	John Lopes	Winston Sparrock <sup>1</sup>	<b>TRIN. &amp; TOB. (2)</b>	Evan Phillips <sup>3</sup>
Andre De Peana <sup>3</sup>	Geoffrey Luck <sup>3</sup>	Albert Sweetnam <sup>1</sup>	Richard Harford <sup>3</sup>	Brian Ramphal <sup>3</sup>
Roger Devers	Dereck Mahanger <sup>3</sup>	Walter Tiam-fook	Ronald Harford <sup>3</sup>	Peter Rodrigues
Terry Devers	Michael Mendes de	Arthur Veerasammy <sup>1</sup>		John Sparrock
Neville Devonish <sup>1</sup>	Franca	Vibert Vieira	<b>U.K. (4)</b>	Leyland Thomas <sup>7</sup>
Frederick Dias <sup>4</sup>	Vincent Mendes de	John Vincent	Christopher Cho-	Horace Walcott <sup>2</sup>
Jerome D'Oliveira	Franca <sup>4</sup>	Howard Welshman <sup>1</sup>	Young <sup>3</sup>	

Of the 106 paid-up members, 104 are renewals from last year.

Notes to Membership List :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. These (26) alumni have paid in advance through 2014. | 5. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2018. |
| 2. These (7) alumni have paid in advance through 2015.  | 6. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2019. |
| 3. These (16) alumni has paid in advance through 2016.  | 7. These (2) alumni has paid in advance through 2020. |
| 4. These (13) alumni has paid in advance through 2017.  | 8. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2022. |

**FR. BRIAN SCANNELL** (continued from page 5)

Yes, well, I am not normal. My dear mother had fourteen children all told, but only nine survived to the age of fifty and, out of that nine, there were five priests and one nun, which isn't normal.

My father was a doctor; he trained at Queen's College, Cork, and qualified in the early 1890's. He came to England to practise, and his first job was in a poor district of London. In those days, doctors wore frock coats and top hats, and travelled in a carriage when they were doing their rounds.

After some time in London, my father was told of a practice in Selby, Yorkshire, where a quarter of the people were Irish labourers. He was advised that he should be able to build up a practice there, so he went back to Cork, married my mother, and moved to Selby where I was born and

brought up.

*Why do you think so many members of your family entered religious life?*

I put it down to the completely Catholic background. Of my four priest brothers, Gerald became a Cistercian, and is now working in the Cameroons; the other three brothers became diocesan priests. The only one of these three still living is Dermot, now retired and living in a home for retired people, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor in Leeds. My sister, Bawnie, was a Mill Hill nun and one of the first nuns to train in midwifery. When her training was completed, she went to work in Borneo. Bawnie was a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese during World War II, and nursed allied prisoners in a Japanese hospital.

*Where did you spend your first years in the Society?*

Continued on page 6

*Biography of Jesuits at St. Stanislaus College - 1***FR. BRIAN SCANNELL, HEADMASTER**

Brian Scannell was born in Selby, Yorkshire, in 1906 and was educated at St. Michael's College, Leeds. He joined the Society at Roehampton in 1923 and remained there for his juniorate before going to Heythrop, Oxon., for philosophy in 1927, and then to Campion Hall, Oxford, for a degree in English. In 1933, he sailed for India where he unexpectedly stood in for Fr. Roper, who had become ill, as editor of *The Examiner*. Brian himself was hospitalised with paratyphoid, but recovered to take up his post as English teacher at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, until 1936. On returning to England, he taught for a short time at Beaumont College before starting theology at Heythrop, Oxon. He was ordained in 1939 and made tertianship at St. Beuno's (1940-41). He returned to Heythrop as Professor Extraordinary while studying apologetics. In 1943, he joined the church staff at the Sacred Heart Church, Leeds, and then taught for two years (1946 - 48) at St. Ignatius' College, Stamford Hill.

In 1948, Brian was sent to Guyana to teach at St. Stanislaus College, Georgetown, becoming Headmaster the following year. He was Head for ten years but his health was never robust, and he was obliged to return to the UK on sick leave in 1959, and he never returned to Guyana. He taught for a short time at Wimbledon College before moving to Osterley (1964-65) to teach. For the next 10 years, he was Prefect of Studies at the Brothers' Juniorate, first at Harlaxton (1964-65), then at Acre House, Glasgow. When this closed in 1977, he returned to Osterley where he continued to teach until 1986. Failing health necessitated his moving to the Little Sisters' Nursing Home in Leeds where his brother, Dermot, a priest of the Leeds diocese, was already resident. He died there peacefully on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1993, having just completed 70 years in the Society. After the requiem in Leeds, he was taken to Spinkhill for burial.

Fr. Oswald Earle who also taught at the College remarked on his experiences with Fr. Scannell :

"In 1949, I was sent out to British Guiana. When I arrived in Georgetown, I rang the bell and Brian Scannell opened the door. "At last!" he said. He was waiting for me to join the college staff which was short-handed. Fr. Scannell had just taken over St. Stanislaus College as Headmaster and had inherited a mass of problems. We had no money. We had a small wooden building with very few classrooms. We had, I think, only four teachers and four Jesuits besides the Headmaster. We could not afford to get more, and the Jesuits had to bear the main burden of the teaching and everything else. We could not repair broken doors unless we had a Bingo or some other fund-raiser.

"Fr. Scannell was a very good Headmaster in spite of difficulties. The British Governor did nothing to help. The

policy of the Government was to provide help to one boys' school, Queen's College, and one girls' school, Bishops High School. Other schools did not count. The Ursulines and the Mercy Sisters ran schools which were very good, but they had no money. After some years, a new Governor decided to have a formula for all schools, and gradually

they all improved. But, when Fr. Scannell was Head, he had to do everything: he was Headmaster and Bursar, taught in the classes, and dealt with parents. The two convent schools had the same problems. At St. Joseph's High School, they could not afford another teacher for 6<sup>th</sup> Form English, so Fr. Scannell offered to give classes there after school, although he had more than enough work already. He arranged for himself to teach Chaucer and Milton, Mr. Singh (brother of Bishop Singh) to teach the Romantics, and I taught Shakespeare.

"With Fr. Lester Guilly, who was then the Superior, he planned and built another wing of six classrooms and two labs - a very bold but needed venture.

"So Fr. Scannell was overworked. I remember that, one year during the holidays, he went to Mahaica for a rest. He got into a car and fell asleep. When he came back, he sat down, and fell asleep. Next day, he went by car to a church, and fell asleep. He was worn out.

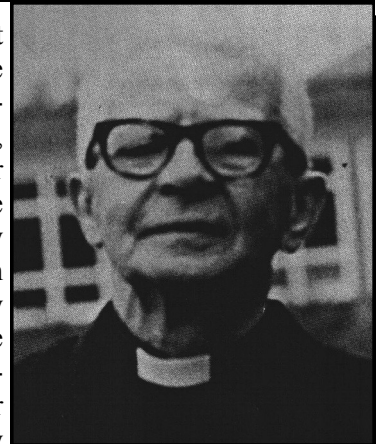
"After a time, Fr. provincial promised very welcome help in Fr. John Hopkinson. He was supposed to take over the College the following year but, as Fr. Scannell was worn out, Hoppy had to take over sooner.

"Fr. Scannell was an excellent Headmaster. He was loved by all - the boys, the parents, and his own staff. He was sent home to recover his health, but I believe the doctors would not allow him back to Guyana. In England, he was still teaching: he was a very good teacher, very simple, clear, very helpful and understanding.

"When I came back to England, I met him at Osterley and was shocked to see him so old and getting very old and very blind, but many students who had been at Osterley will remember him with affection, as he helped them on their way to the priesthood."

Osterley students, Stuart Gray and Mark Donnelly, interviewed Fr. Scannell.

*Fr Scannell, you come from a large religious family. Could you tell us a little about it?*



## OBITUARIES

\* **Alumnus (mid-1940s) Jeremiah (Jerry) Da Silva**, former employee of Hallmark Canada, died peacefully at Toronto East General Hospital in his 81st year on Monday, 28 January, 2013. He was the brother of June (Tony Ramalho) and Claire (Cyril Ferreira), and will be lovingly remembered by his nephews, great-nephew, great-nieces, and his large circle of friends.

\* **Alumnus (1968 – 1975) Dr. Wilmot Hedrington** died of a heart attack on 13 January, 2013, at his home in Kingston, Jamaica. He was a noted Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, serving the country of Jamaica.

\* *Mrs. Beryl Henson* died peacefully at Scarborough General Hospital in her 94th year on 21 January 21, 2013. A well-known dressmaker in Guyana, Beryl was predeceased by her sister, Blanche Luther, by just one day. She was the

beloved wife of the late Gus, and mother of **alumnus Monty** (Angela), Cheryl (Darrell), **alumnus John**, Michael (Migan), and Godfrey (Julie). She was grandmother of Tony, Gail, Stuart, Shannon, Serena, Johanna, Dayan, Davin, Drew, Loren, and Phaedra. And great grandmother of Rainah, Olivia, Dawson, Gavin, Quinn, Grayson, Sophia, Delfina, Sol, Valentina and Felix. She will be missed by her beloved niece Pamela, and her siblings Colin, Barbara, the late Blanche, and Sonny.

\* The *father* of **alumnus Tony Sookrah**, past member of the Executive of the Toronto Alumni Association.

We ask you to remember these deceased and all whom they have left behind in your prayers.

*Requiescant in pace.*

### FR. BRIAN SCANNELL *(continued from page 4)*

I entered the Society on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1923, and was at the novitiate and juniorate at Roehampton until 1927. I did philosophy at Heythrop and, in 1930, I went up to Campion Hall, Oxford, where I gained a first class honours degree in English, despite being dyslexic.

After Oxford, I went to teach English at St. Xavier's College, Bombay. I was told that I ought to grow a beard before I left for India because I was 27 and looked a lot younger than I was.

I returned to England in 1936 because of ill health and was ordained on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1939, just after the Second World War broke out when there was a shortage of priests due to many becoming chaplains in the Forces.

*You spent a number of years in Guyana, Father. Can you tell us something of your experiences there?*

In September 1949, I was sent to Guyana to teach at St. Stanislaus College, Georgetown, and became Headmaster the following year. I taught everything that was on the syllabus, except Science and French, and stood in for anyone who was ill. St. Stanislaus was a private school whose fees were very small. We had 200 boys when I took over. But

the numbers were doubled in a few years, and we had to build a new wing. We had a good staff - six or seven Jesuits, and a lot more lay teachers.

The standard of the College was very high indeed. In those days, the English Province had an intercollegiate exam open to all their Jesuit schools. Neither of the schools in Rhodesia or Guyana had ever entered before, so I wrote to Jesuit Headquarters in London to get details of the exam, and received a very snooty letter back, saying that the standard was very high, and they did not want rubbish entering. I wrote back: "Our boys are not rubbish; I want details of the exam", and grudgingly got them. We entered candidates in our very first year, and won the senior mathematics prize and were runners-up for the junior one.

I returned to England on short leave in June 1959, and became ill. When I recovered, I asked for a job and was sent to Wimbledon to teach general subjects for a few months. Then I came to Campion House in September 1960, and stayed here until September 1964.

*(Editor's note : Fr. Scannell introduced the school tie into the College as was reported in an article in a past issue of the newsletter, Vol. 9 No. 3, dated 30 Sept., 2003.)*



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## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

## COL. BRIAN CHIN AWARDED BRONZE STAR



**Alumnus (1975 - 1980) Brian Chin**, currently a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, was awarded the Bronze Star by the U.S. Government on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. In his citation, he was commended for “exceptionally meritorious service to the United States of America as Director, Police Training Support, Assistant Commanding General - Police Training Group, NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan, and Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom.” He was cited for his initiative and leadership in empowering the international security mission and the overall Afghan stability, and his actions were considered to be in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Afghanistan mission, and the USMC.



Brian is the son of the late Godfrey Chin, well-known chronicler of Guyanese social history. We wish him well in his successful continued rise in the USMC.

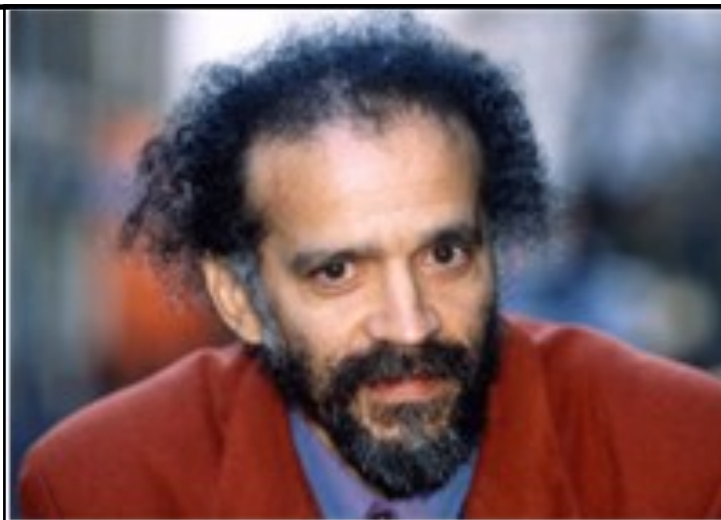
## JOHN AGARD AWARDED QUEEN'S GOLD MEDAL FOR POETRY

**Alumnus (1960 – 1967) and poet John Agard** was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2012. The decision was made by the Poetry Medal Committee headed by the English Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. The award was based on Agard's most recently published works, *Alternative Anthem: Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe Books, 2009) and his collection of poems for children, *Goldilocks on CCTV* (Frances Lincoln, 2011). Previously, he won the Paul Hamlyn Award for Poetry in 1997, and the Cholmondeley Award in 2004. He was also named as Poet-in-Residence at the National Maritime Museum in 2008.

Agard is only the second black writer, after the Trinidadian Derek Walcott in 1988, to receive this award which was founded by King George V in 1933 at the suggestion of the then Poet Laureate John Masefield. The scope of the award was extended in 1985 to include writers from the Commonwealth. He joins other distinguished recipients of the award including W.H. Auden, John Betjeman, Robert Graves, Ted Hughes, Philip Larkin, Les Murray, Siegfried Sassoon, Stephen Spender, and R.S. Thomas. Carol Ann Duffy said of the decision: “John Agard has always made people sit up and listen. He has done this with intelligence, humour and generosity. He has the ability to temper anger with wit, and difficult truths with kindness. He levels the ground beneath all our feet, whether he is presenting Dante to children or introducing his own (Guyanese) culture to someone who hasn't encountered it before.”

Growing up in Georgetown, Agard loved to listen to cricket commentary on the radio and began making up his own, which led to a love of language. At Saints, he went on to study English, French, and Latin at 'A' level, writing his first poetry when he was in the Sixth Form. Leaving school in 1967, he taught the languages he had studied and worked in the local library. He was also a sub-editor and feature writer for the *Guyana Sunday Chronicle*, publishing two books whilst still in Guyana. His father settled in London, and he moved to the UK in 1977, settling in Ironbridge, Shropshire, but now lives in Rye, East Sussex.

The medal will be presented to Agard by the Queen in 2013.



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4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto M1S 1V2

**Editorial Committee:**

Paul Camacho, L. A. (Bunty) Phillips, John Yip,  
Godfrey Whyte

**Contributing Writers:**

Gregory De Castro, *Jesuit Missions*, Bunty Phillips, *The Telegraph*

**Photographs:**

Gregory De Castro, *Jesuit Missions*, *The Telegraph*

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The Secretary, St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2. You may contact the Secretary, Godfrey Whyte, by phone at home at 416-265-4362 or by email at [gwhyte@st-stanislaus-gy.com](mailto:gwhyte@st-stanislaus-gy.com).

**COMING EVENTS**

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 6 Apr., 2013	Spring Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	\$45 (all inclusive)
Fri. 10 May, 2013	Gala Banquet and Dance	Spirale Banquet Hall, 888 Don Mills Rd.	\$80 (all inclusive)
Sat. 20 Jul., 2013 8:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament (Registration starts at 6:30 a.m.)	Bethesda Grange Golf Course (formerly Rolling Hills Golf Club) 12808 Warden Ave., Stouffville	\$120 (all inclusive, including lunch)
Fri. 2 Aug., 2013	Caribjam	West Rouge Community Centre	tba
Mon. 5 Aug., 2013	Last Lap Lime	Woodbridge Fairgrounds	\$15 pre-event \$25 on the day
Sat. 5 Oct., 2013	Fall Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	\$45 (all inclusive)

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