



SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

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TORONTO ALUMNI HONOUR SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN

On Tuesday, 16th February 2021, **alumnus Mr. Christopher Fernandes**, who has been the Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Stanislaus College for the past 15 years, was honoured by the members of the school's Toronto Alumni Association for his long-standing service to the school.

Chris is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of John Fernandes Ltd., and regularly scheduled meetings of the College Board are held monthly in the boardroom of his company at the Water Street location in Georgetown.

Prior to the February 2021 monthly meeting of the Board, His Excellency **Dr. Irfaan Ali**, the President of Guyana, who is also a former student of the college, was invited to attend and to make the formal presentation to Chris of a gift, a piece of artwork created by the distinguished Guyanese artist, **alumnus Stanley Greaves** who later also became a Master at the College. The piece, called 'El Dorado's Mirror', was part of a series in an exhibition that was on show at the OAS Gallery in Washington DC as part of a past Guyana's Republic anniversary celebration.



In addition to the members of the College Board, several other former members of the school, including Chris' son David, the artist Greaves (in the U.S.A.) and the members of the Toronto Alumni Association (via Zoom), attended the presentation.

In his presentation, President Ali assured the school of his support and stated that the Fernandes family has made tremendous contributions to Guyana's development. The President said that the recognition on Tuesday was well deserved.

"The difference between Saints and many other schools is that, when you exit Saints, you exit as a well-rounded individual. It tells a story of an institution that was supported, and a pillar of that support is Chris Fernandes."

In his acceptance speech, Chris said the event came as a surprise. "I am happy to receive something of Stanley's work, but to have the President here is the icing on the cake, and I like icing. I really appreciate the President taking the time to be here."

As a former student of the school, Chris has been serving and giving back to ensure the school upholds its distinguished standard of excellence. However, this did not start with him as his father, John Fernandes Sr., actually organised the Old Boys Association in 1942 to raise funds for the school. There are also overseas Alumni Association chapters in Canada, U.S.A., Barbados, and Antigua & Barbuda, which provide support to the school.

Chris was also appointed a member of the school's Farm Committee and later became the Chairman of the Committee some 42 years ago; he continues to hold this post today. According to him, the school's farm is capable of generating some \$5 million (Gy) per year, and this is used to assist in the school's development.

Chris also introduced hockey at the school in the 1970s and moulded a successful team which won all competitions locally.

In 2005, Chris was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors, a position he continued to hold to this date. Over the last year, he led a team which successfully implemented procedures, to avoid the receipt or spread of the COVID-19 virus, by introducing student on-line learning at home, and the safe instruction of students in attendance at classes.

Chris is also a recipient the Guyanese awards of the Golden Arrow of Achievement (A.A.) and the Cacique Crown of Honour.

The College continues to aim at imparting to students intellectual, technical, and social skills, and forming citizens who are imbued with reverence of God and a spirit of love for their country. The philosophy of the school is to ensure that staff and students work singularly and collectively towards the full social and academic upliftment of the College and of the Country as a whole.

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(The following article has been taken (and edited) with permission from the archives of the British Province of the Society of Jesus, London, England.)

Biography of Jesuits at St. Stanislaus College - 23

FR. ALBAN ROBINSON

Fr. Alban Robinson was known to comparatively few in the English Province. He left England in 1901, never to return except for rare flying visits. It is not surprising therefore that his forty years of exceptionally good work left little impression on his English contemporaries, few of whom ever saw him during all that time.

Alban Robinson was born at Erdington, Birmingham, on 26 March, 1876, and was baptized in the Abbey church there. On the death of his mother in 1883, the family seems to have moved to Liverpool, where his father took up the work of a ship's chandler on its more scientific side, specializing in such details as engine-room telegraphs, ship's logs, davits, and the like. Alban made his First Communion at St. Francis Xavier's, Liverpool, on Maundy Thursday, 1886, and in February 1889 began his course at the college.

He was a boy of much charm, handsome, nice-mannered, good-natured, of all-round ability, but with an inclination, probably inherited from his father, to mathematics and science rather than to literary studies. In these subjects, however, he read widely and well, encouraged by his father who, on the death of his wife, seems to have taken Alban for a companion. It was not therefore without a pang that he saw him depart for the noviceship which he entered on 7 September, 1893, after securing First Class Honours in the London matriculation.

From the first, he was popular with the novices, was bright, pleasant to deal with and, in any work entrusted to him, displayed organizing ability and a care for detail. In April 1895, he was sent to Ore Place, Canterbury, where the novitiate of the Paris Province then was, with Fr. G. Labrosse as its Master. He returned to Manresa for his vows in September and, after two years' juniorate, went to Jersey for philosophy. But the climate did not suit him and, in February 1898, he joined his contemporaries at the seminary where he completed his course. In the 1900 status, Mr. Robinson was appointed to Liverpool where, until December of that year, he taught Form IV under the stimulating influence of Fr. McHale. There followed a bout of scarlet fever with two months in hospital. He returned to the college about the end of February, rather battered in health and fit only for light work. At the end of the year, it was decided to send him to Gozo where it was hoped that his health would be completely restored. He arrived in Malta in September 1901, and this was the beginning of that long absence from England already referred to, and the cause of his being almost a complete stranger to most members of the English Province.

If the object of his move to Gozo was health, it was amply realized for he was able, from the first, to do full work in teaching Physics and Mathematics, together with English and Geography. He was there until 1906 when he went to

Posillipo for theology, being ordained at Naples on the feast of St. Anne, 26 July, 1909. The same year, he joined the *Schola Affectus* at Florence under the renowned Fr. Friedl whose cause it is hoped some day to introduce.

One who was with him at Posillipo and later in British Guiana writes :

"I met Fr. Alban Robinson, then a theologian, for the first time in 1908, in the harbour of Naples, where he came to meet the ship that brought me from the East. He was then at the beginning of his second year of theology. What struck me at once was the way he could jabber the Neapolitan lingo, with the *facchini* and all the other 'inis', that you need when you land in Italy. Later on, I was told by others that Neapolitan was more familiar to him than his own English. There you have one trait of Fr. Robinson, not very common in Englishmen abroad; he adapted himself to his surroundings. In Malta, he was a Maltese, in Naples a Napolitano, and a Guianese in British Guiana. Everywhere there was plenty of life and go in him, though one has to admit that the 'go' might at times have been more thoughtful and deliberate. At Naples during his theology, he was the right-hand man of Fr. de Ennis, the priest-in-charge of the Gesù, to look after a large sodality of boys and young men, all students of secular Ginnasi. It was fine work to keep these boys faithful to their religious duties, and instructed at a time when Italy was ruled by freemasons and other anti-Catholic and anti-papal elements. Every Sunday, Fr. Robinson had to be at the Gesù, and often enough also during the week. (What happened to his theological studies I do not undertake to say!) As an Englishman or, rather, non-Italian, he had much more influence (in those days) over Italian youth than one of their own nationals could have had. (After him, a Belgian theologian took charge.) At Posillipo, Fr. Robinson was the handy man for all the electrical installations of the whole establishment; he was in charge of the whole concern.

"After his tertianship, he went off to British Guiana where he was put on the staff of St. Stanislaus College. What he taught I do not know; but he is best remembered at the College as having started a troop of boy scouts, the first Catholic troop of the colony. Unfortunately he, and he alone, was the mainspring of its existence and success so that, when he was appointed to a Mission in the N.W. (Morawhana, now abandoned or, rather, transferred to Hossororo), the troop soon became only a memory".

He was at St. Stanislaus from 1910 to 1913. It was in July 1911 that he started the scout troop with thirty boys in three patrols. In the following November, he received his warrant as scoutmaster of the IV Guiana Troop and, in February 1912, the troop won the Garnet Cup in open competition. Unfortunately for the scouts, he was transferred in September of that year

Continued on page 3

Fr. Alban Robinson*(Continued from page 2)*

to Morawhana to relieve Fr. Cooksey, and the troop languished.

In the July of 1916, he was moved to Takutu as assistant to Fr. Cary-Elwes. The following year, a sharp attack of malaria brought him to death's door, and he moved down to the coast, wintering at Barbados. In November 1918, he felt fit to return to Takutu where he spent the next five years. It was in 1923 that Fr. Cary-Elwes' health broke badly, and Fr. Robinson had to get him down to the coast. Owing to the patient's condition, the journey was a long and trying one with many halts and set-backs. The travellers left Takutu in late October and did not reach Georgetown till towards the end of January. Fr. Robinson was completely exhausted and was ordered a year's rest. Two months later, he sailed for England en route for Malta, where he was to rest. He arrived in March 1924 and spent the remaining years of his life there.

The years 1924 to 1938 were, in the main, occupied with college activities, though a substantial extra to these was continual supply work for an invalid C.F. The "year's rest" seems to have entirely faded from the picture. He had no sooner arrived than he was appointed a Commissioner of Scouts by the then Governor, Lord Plumer. He got down to scout work at once and, the next year, 1925, led a Scout Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year. In 1932, he was publicly presented by the Governor with the Scout's Medal of Merit. Extra-college work soon began to force itself upon him. He became chaplain to the Blue Nuns, heard confessions in the church at Sarria, did much for English Catholic residents in the island, and not a little army chaplain's work. In 1928, he was appointed officiating chaplain to a small area with two schools and, four years later, he took over the position of Acting Senior Chaplain to the Forces in Malta, a post which he retained, save for a few months, until the war broke out in 1939. Early in 1940, he was granted a commission by the War Office in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and officially named Senior Chaplain to the Forces in Malta. For the last ten years, he had done the work but without the official title.

His schoolroom work continued throughout and was never scamped. In October 1936 however, it had to be reduced owing to a heart condition for which his severe attack of malaria ten years previously was held to be a predisposing cause. On the outbreak of war, it fell to him to put all Catholic Chaplaincy services in the island on to a war footing, a work which taxed him severely. His health was now beginning to fail, and, in the year 1941, he felt compelled to resign his commission.

The next three years were a time of increasing disability and of great suffering. For fully twelve months before his

death, he was completely paralysed and unable to do anything for himself. But this was only the end of a slow process which had begun some years before. It was merely the Archbishop's earnest request which induced him to continue as chaplain as long as he did. He gave in only when it became physically impossible for him to continue the work.

During the last stages of his illness, he had bouts of intense pain and suffered acutely, though always patiently and with entire resignation to God's will. He was very cheerful. His room at the hospital was a centre of attraction, and he never lacked visitors when he was well enough to see them. But during the last few months of his life, the paralysis affected his tongue and made conversation difficult. When the end came, it was, as so often in such cases, rather unexpected. He had been improving and the paralysis seemed at last to be yielding to treatment. The evening before his death in April 1944, the Rector was with him. He was bright and cheerful and there was no hint of any approaching crisis. His mind was perfectly clear and his memory alert. The night nurse visited him about 3:00 a.m. and found him as usual. Three hours later, he was found just breathing, his hands crossed on his breast as if he were asleep. When the Rector arrived with the Holy Oils a moment or two later, he had gone. He had received Holy Communion the previous day.

Fr. Robinson had done a great and much appreciated work in Malta. To the college, he was a devoted master and had taken great interest in the scout troupe which his energetic leadership soon raised to be the smartest in the island. He was in constant demand in the convents for confessions, direction, and conferences. To the troops, he was an unflinching friend and a tireless and sympathetic chaplain. The British colony in the island had the highest esteem for him while, with the Archbishop, he was on terms of affectionate intimacy and trusted confidence. He was one of the best known figures in Malta and won the deepest esteem and respect from all the authorities, civil and ecclesiastical. In a letter written shortly after his death, his Rector says: "We all felt his death immensely. After twenty long years that he had been with us here in Malta, we all grew to respect and to love him like a father. The help he has given and the good he has done to the boys at the college and to the people of Malta during these long years are simply incalculable. What with his vast experience of things and men, with his genial and jovial disposition towards the youngsters, with his marvellous adaptability and savoir-faire with all, high and low, with his sterling qualities of heart and mind, we valued him as a real treasure, and his loss has left an emptiness amongst us which it will be hard ever to fill."

Requiescat in pace.

ADVICE FOR THOSE BETWEEN 65 AND DEATH

It's time to use the money you saved up. Use it and enjoy it. Don't just keep it for those who may have no notion of the sacrifices you made to get it. Remember there is nothing more dangerous than a son or daughter-in-law with big ideas for your hard-earned capital. Warning: This is also a bad time for invest-

ments, even if it seems wonderful or fool-proof. They only bring problems and worries. This is a time for you to enjoy some peace and quiet.

Never use the phrase: "In my time." Your time is now. As long as you're alive, you are part of this time. You may have been younger, but you are still you now, having fun and enjoying life.

MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2021. Membership is based on the calendar year.

CANADA (93)	Peter DeFreitas	Desmond Jardine ²	Asoka Robin Singh ²	Richard Harford ²
Paul Abdool ³	Frank Delph	Clayton Jeffery ³	Michael Singh ²	Ronald Harford ²
Lance Alexander ¹	Clive Devers ¹	Anthony Jekir	Vanita Soman	John Jardim
Howard Amo ³	Roger Devers ¹	Aubrey Kellawan	Akisha Somrah ²	
Glenmore Armogan	Terence Devers ¹	Gregory Kellawan	Peter Spooner	U.K. (6)
Bernard Austin ³	Neville Devonish ¹	Amanda King	Brian Stevenson ¹	John DaCosta ⁴
Gregory Badley ¹	Ron Dias ¹	Vibert Lampkin ³	Albert Sweetnam ³	Julio Faria ⁴
Malcolm Barrington ²	Jerome D'Oliveira	John Lopes ⁴	Arthur Veerasammy	Tony Gomes ¹
Gerard Bayley ²	Paul Duarte	Geoffrey Luck ¹	Vibert Vieira ²	Leyland Grant ⁴
John Rene Bayley ³	Joe Faria ¹	Gerard Martins	Paul Vincent ³	Neville Jordan
Teddy Boyce	Raymond Fernandes	Michael Mendes de Franca ²	Howard Welshman ²	Charles Kennard ³
Ian Camacho ⁴	Keith Fletcher ⁴	Colin Nurse ⁴	Godfrey Whyte	
Paul Camacho ²	Andre Fredricks ¹	Anthony O'Dowd ³	David Wong ²	U.S.A. (14)
Alfred Carr ³	Darwin Fung ²	Michael Persaud ³		Satynanand Bhagrat-tee ²
Wilfred Carr ²	James Fung	Renuka Persaud ²	AUSTRALIA (1)	Ronald Chanderbhan ³
Joseph Castanheiro ¹	Mike Gomes	Compton Pestano ⁴	Lennox Yhap ¹	Ronald DeAbreu
Bob Chee-a-tow	Trevor Gomes	L. A. Phillips ¹		Dalip Etwaroo ³
Sydney Chin	J. Neil Gonsalves ²	Marcelline Ramcharan ¹	BRAZIL (1)	Bernard Friemann ³
Ivan Choo ³	Ken Hahnfeld ³	Linden Ramdeholl ³	Stephen DeCastro ²	Edward Gouveia ³
Tony Clarke ³	Albert Hamilton ⁴	Paul Reed		Philip Greathead ³
Paul Crum-ewing ³	Hugh Hazlewood ²	Alexander Rego	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1)	Edwin Jack ¹
Richard DaCosta	Paul Hazlewood ³	Romeo Resaul ²	Deep Ford ⁴	Wilfred Jack ⁴
Edward DaSilva ¹	Monty Henson ⁴	Bryan Rodrigues		Kenneth Jordan ¹
Terry DeAbreu ³	Desmond Hill ²	Peter St. Aubyn ¹	GUYANA (1)	Jolyon King ⁶
Tyrone DeAbreu ³	Yale Holder	Savitri Seenauth ³	Fitzgerald Yaw Jr. ¹	Joey Lopes ¹
Benedict DeCastro	Andrew Insanally ³	Robin Shaw ³	TRINIDAD (3)	Hugh Rodrigues ¹
Gregory DeCastro ³	Richard James ⁵			Peter Rodrigues ¹
Rupert DeCastro ¹				

There are 120 paid-up members.

Notes :

1. These (25) alumni have paid in advance through 2022.
2. These (22) alumni have paid in advance through 2023.
3. These (29) alumni have paid in advance through 2024.
4. These (12) alumni have paid in advance through 2025.
5. This (1) alumnus have paid in advance through 2026.
6. This (1) alumnus have paid in advance through 2028.

SPECIAL NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP

Membership is paid by calendar year i.e. January to December. Therefore, membership for 2020 expired on 31st December, 2020. If your name no longer appears 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.

(Editorial) THE GOOD SAMARITAN

In the Gospel of Luke, ch. 10, ver. 25-37, a lawyer tries to test Jesus by asking Him what he must do to obtain eternal life. When Jesus asked him what was written in the Law, the lawyer replied that it states to love the Lord thy God with everything he has, and to love his neighbour as himself. But the lawyer persisted and asked Jesus: "Who is my neighbour?" This is a question which still continues to have great relevance, especially in today's world. Jesus' answer was to relate the parable of the Good Samaritan. In it, a male Jew, on a journey from Jerusalem to Jeri-

cho, is attacked by robbers who stripped him, wounded him, and left him half-dead. A priest and then a Levite (an assistant to a priest) passed by the man, each careful not to get involved in any "sordid" business. Finally, a Samaritan, a member of a group despised by the Jews, saw the wounded man and had pity on him, treating his wounds and taking him to an inn where he paid the host to take care of the man until he recovered. Thus, the concept of a "good samaritan" was born i.e. someone who is always willing to help others in need, even if they are strangers. This springs to mind as there is

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ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

In the Fall of 2020, alumna **Deneille Griffith** received the first historic *Colin Bobb-Semple Prize*, as the best graduating student, with Distinction, for the Certificate of African-Guyanese History, delivered by Guyana Institute of Historical Research (GIHR).

Alumnus (57-60) Colin Bobb-Semple, LL.B (Hons. London) LL.M (London) M.A. (Brunel), is an Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor and Barrister (non-practising), author, and a Lecturer in Law at the University of West London, England.

Deneille is a twenty-five-year-old who hails from Region 2, Guyana. She currently resides in Georgetown as a result of having been awarded a place at St. Stanislaus College after writing the National Grade Six Assessment in 2007. She completed studies there, as the Top Arts Student, with twelve subjects. She further attained an Associate Degree in Humanities after completing the 6th Form at St. Rose's High School.



She continued to pursue her passion for the noble profession by enrolling in the Law programme at the University of Guyana. During the course of her undergraduate LL.B studies, she worked as a legal clerk for a private firm, and committed to her ardour for volunteering by joining the Guyana Red Cross Society Youth Group. She is currently an active member of the UNFPA Guyana Youth Advisory Group and ASPIRE Youth Network Guyana. Her LL.B Degree enabled her to secure the position of Legal Assis-

tant in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, a position that she currently holds.

Deneille adds that it is her intention to pursue further studies in the near future. Her love for academic studies and research has motivated her to acquire several certificates from various universities and institutions e.g. University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, her aim of grasping a true sense of self prompted her to enrol in the Certificate of African Guyanese History course delivered by the GIHR.

Mr. Bobb-Semple adds: "I am grateful to Mrs Hazel Woolford B.A. M.A., the GIHR Registrar, for her excellent tutorial guidance on the Course and for inviting me to present my historic prize. Miss Deneille Griffith completed the studies with Distinction, and it gives me great pleasure to award her the historic first Colin Bobb-Semple prize for Best Graduating Student in 2020."

In response, Deneille said: "Thank you for choosing me to be the recipient of your prize. I am truly honoured. I am also grateful for the opportunity to be awarded with an electronic copy of your book '*English Common Law, African Enslavement, and Human Rights*'."

In 2014, alumnus (72-77) **Brian Ramphal** decided to "give back" to the school by sponsoring two students in attending the University of Guyana.

One of the students, **Omefa Garraway**, successfully completed her final round of exams last Fall and finally achieved her childhood dream of becoming a dental surgeon (B.DS). Thanks are extended to Brian for his support, and congratulations are offered to Omefa for her achievement.

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN***(Continued from page 4)*

a taxi scam currently operating in Toronto. A man approaches his victim and explains that he has just used a nearby taxi, but he has only cash, and the taxicab driver will accept only debit or credit cards as he fears paper money may be contaminated by the COVID virus. He offers to give the victim his cash in return for the victim using his debit/credit card to pay the fee. The good samaritan then inserts his card into a seemingly valid portable pay machine which records all the necessary vital personal information to validate the transaction. The driver then extracts the card but carefully hides it, and gives back a similar but counterfeit card to the victim who rarely checks it before next using it. By the time the good samaritan has found out that he has been scammed, his bank account has been emptied or his credit card has been used to buy ex-

pensive goods.

It is truly sad that good people are being harmed in attempting good deeds at this time when there are so many examples of good samaritans not only doing deeds selflessly but also some dying from their actions. One needs to look no further than the front-line health workers, in hospitals, hospices, and long term care homes to see these heroes battling the effects of the virus on those for whom they are caring. Their actions have inspired many "ordinary" citizens to go above and beyond the call of duty to help those who cannot help themselves. In similar manner, we would like to call on our alumni to be true samaritans in giving back to their *alma mater* in helping the future generation to have a meaningful future. There is little in the way of physical thanks, but only the nonpareil feeling of having done something meaningful in this world.

*Requiescant in pace***OBITUARIES**

Alumnus (62-69) Bruce Anthony Chalmers was born on 3 September, 1951, in Georgetown, Guyana, and passed away peacefully (at age 68) on 21 April, 2020, at Dartmouth General Hospital, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He was the son of Elizabeth and the late (2004) Renwick Chalmers, and one of their three beloved children.

Throughout his life, Bruce was an avid scholar. He attended St. Stanislaus College in Guyana and, in 1969, won the Guyana Scholarship which provided him with a full tuition abroad. He then traveled to Manchester University, England, where he earned a Bachelor of Mathematics and Computer Science degree (1972). After this, he traveled to Dundee, Scotland, to further his education and start his Masters studies. He completed his Masters in Mathematics at the University of Western Ontario (1974). Continuing his studies, he attained his PhD in Mathematics from the University of Toronto (1984) and another Masters in Computing and Information Science from Queens University (1989). During his prestigious career, Bruce received and founded many awards, honours, patents, and inventions. His work has also been published on numerous occasions. Throughout his career, Bruce worked as a Professor in Mathematics at the University of Mount Allison, an Adjunct Professor for Computer Science with Laval University and, most recently, as a Defence Scientist with the Federal Government. He retired in 2013 after a rewarding career.

Bruce had a caring, jovial spirit and was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. His family is his legacy. He is survived by his mother Elizabeth, his best friend/wife Lise, his daughters Sarah (Todd) and Elizabeth, his sons Anthony and Andrew, his brother Michael and his daughter Shara, his sister Loraine (Ferdinando) and their three sons Francis, Jonathan, and Mario, and his two grandchildren Easton and Gavin.

Bruce lived a happy life; he enjoyed spending time with his family, cruising to various countries with his wife Lise, watching movies, taking care of his lawn, listening to music, partaking in the stock market, eating good food, and cuddling with the family pets Molly, Hunter, Teddy, and Rover.

Bruce will be dearly missed but never forgotten by all of his family and those who loved him.

Alumnus (50-56) Francis Richard DeAbreu died peacefully on Sunday, 3 January, 2021, after fighting a brave battle against Alzheimer's. We are comforted knowing that his struggle has come to an end. He leaves behind his wife Hazel, children - Robert, Isobel, Catherine, Anthony, 13 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. He also leaves behind his 4 sisters - Elizabeth, Rita, Theresa, and Philomena.

Frankie was a dedicated father and a devout Roman Catholic. He was always concerned about and helped the poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Association. He was very sociable, and those who knew him will remember his sense of humour which he never lost.

Being a part of the Antigua St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association gave him great pleasure as he met with his fellow countrymen and was affectionately known as "Uncle Frankie".

Frankie worked for Royal Bank of Canada for 37 years and lived in many Caribbean islands over the course of his career. He will be greatly missed.

Alumnus (59-65) Robert (Bobby) John Fernandes, born on 13 May, 1947, died on 19 February, 2021, in Guyana. He was the beloved husband of Luana, and father of Christina, Robert, Dominic, Damian, Shad, Nicolette, and Chantelle. He was father-in-law of Rene, Aisha, Marisha, and Johnathan.

He was grandfather of Asha, Blake, Kenya, Wyatt, Ella, Toby, and Logan.

He was the son of Alda and John, and brother of Alda, Sr. Angela, Marie, John, Norma, Peggy, Bunny, Anne Marie, Sr. Beatrice, Peter, Joseph, Christopher, and Billy.

Bobby was an outstanding footballer at Saints, and was well-known for his fierce left foot shot although he was right handed. His lifetime aim was to play for his country, which he did in 1967 at the age of 20. He played locally for the Georgetown Football Club (GFC) where he later became President. His football career lasted for one decade, while his international career lasted from 1967 to 1973. At one point, he was a reserve player for Guyana when the country played against Hull City, an English 2nd division club. He also was one of nine Guyanese players who were selected to represent the Caribbean in his final international match (at age 29) which took place at the Bourda ground.

Bobby was active in the local Alumni Association, at one time serving as its President. Further, he was the catalyst in the forming of the Toronto Alumni Association. In 1994, when he realized that wood ants were eating away at the structure of the school, he wrote a letter to former classmate, then living in Toronto, informing him of the situation. In Toronto, a group of alumni immediately got together and, among themselves, raised a few thousand Canadian dollars to be sent to the College to try to rectify the problem. From this meeting the St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto was created.

Bobby was also known for his love of his country, especially the beauty of its natural environment. He relocated to live in the Rupununi area until his children were of age to attend school at which time he moved back to Georgetown. He was known to travel by himself into the uninhabited "back areas" of Guyana, taking photographs of the beauty of the natural surroundings, photographs which have been regularly exhibited in Guyana, throughout the Caribbean, and in North America and later published in several books.

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Robert (Bobby) John Fernandes

He also wrote poetry, inspired by his photographs, and short stories and fables that chronicle a way of life that is an unmistakable snapshot of the Guyanese way of life.

Alumnus (46-55) Claude George Henriques passed away peacefully on 19th February, 2021, at the age of 83 years, surrounded by his family. He will be lovingly remembered by his sisters Margery Taylor, Pat McGillivray, Rosalind Fernandes, and his son Andrew Kennedy. He will also be remembered fondly by his 16 nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Norman Henriques, and his parents, Claude and Gertrude (nee Grace) Henriques.

Claude was born on 29th October, 1937, in British Guyana, and attended Saints where, in his last two years there (54 and 55), he established himself as the College champion in Athletics at both the half-mile and mile distances. As well, in 1955 in an Open competition in the country, he beat the country's leading athlete in the mile race. He also was involved in and won many tennis tournaments in his age group.



After leaving Saints, Claude worked for Barclays Bank in Guyana and in other islands in the West Indies before immigrating in the 70s to Toronto, Canada, where he worked as Controller for several firms. He finished his decades-long career in finance as the Secretary/Treasurer of Aubrey Wilson Minshall Holdings, right up to the time of his passing.

Claude enjoyed racing of the equine type, even having a racehorse named after him, "Go See Claude", a further tribute to his dedication to his responsibilities for running the financial component of Minshall Stables. He was also devoted to his two cats, JT and TJ. At home, he was an enthusiastic gardener, especially growing wiri wiri peppers which he made into a fantastic pepper sauce.

The family thanks all the health professionals at Credit Valley Hospital, Care Partners, and The Nurse Next Door. Claude's cremated remains will be laid to rest alongside his mother and father at Glen Oak Memorial Gardens in Oakville, with a private memorial to follow.

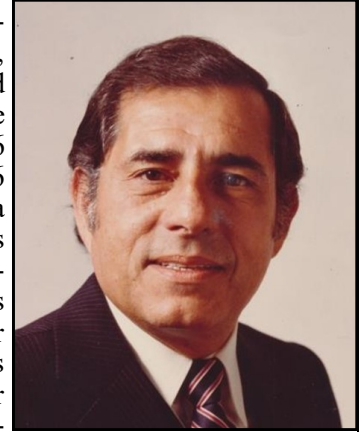
Donations may be made in Claude's memory to your local Humane Society.

Alumnus (67-69) Randolph Colin Henry, aged 69, of Windy Ridge, Southern Heights, Christ Church, died in Barbados on Friday, 22 January, 2021. He was the Deacon of the Maxwell Wesleyan Holiness Church, Chairman of Coalition of Community Churches,



and retired employee of the Caribbean Development Bank. He attended Saints to study science in the 6th Form.

Alumnus (49-54) Vincent Mendes de Franca died peacefully on Tuesday, 5 January, 2021, at the age of 83, in Unionville, Ontario, after a life very well-lived. He was the beloved husband of Rita (nee Duarte) for 61 years, the loving father of Susan (John Caruthers), Debra (Marc Poirier), Mary (Steve Maxwell), Diane (John Baldassarra), and Vincent (Susan Arthur). He was the caring Grandpa to 16 adoring grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, and a beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Willy, his mother Juliet, and his brother Dennis. He is survived by his sister Maureen and his brother Michael. His warmth, kindness, and smile made him a friend to all.



Born in Georgetown, Br. Guiana (BG), in 1937, Vincent completed his high school education at St. Stanislaus College in 1954 and was a proud St. Stan's Old Boy. After graduation, he began his career in BG with the Royal Bank of Canada. After 6 years with the Bank, he accepted an offer of employment with Colgate-Palmolive in BG. Over the next 20 years, he assumed increasing positions of leadership and responsibility with Colgate-Palmolive in Trinidad, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Brazil.

With Rita by his side and caring for a growing family, their adventure together was one of love and happiness, many moves, many homes, and becoming linguistically and culturally fluent in both Spanish and Portuguese. Their lives were enriched by the many close friendships that were nurtured in Latin America which endure to this day.

In 1981, Vincent was given the opportunity to relocate from Brazil to Canada and assume the role of President of Colgate-Palmolive Canada. The move reunited Vincent and Rita with their brothers who had immigrated earlier to Canada. In 1984, Vincent, Rita, and their children became citizens of Canada. He served in his role as President until his retirement in 1993.

While he worked hard, Vincent always enjoyed spending time with his family, reading the newspaper, drinking red wine, listening to Julio Iglesias, golfing with friends, and cheering for Brazil in the World Cup. Blessed with good health, a boyish enthusiasm for anything that was fun, a love of children, and a willingness to offer his help before it was even asked for, he and Rita embarked upon what would become his second and even more successful career, that of Grandpa. He was a babysitter, a chauffeur, a coach, a cook, a golf partner, a listening ear, a highway traveller, a teacher of Guyanese songs, a weekly restaurant host, a supplier of treats, a graduation attendee, a generous benefactor, and a passionate fan of everything that

continued on page 8

Vincent Mendes de Franca*(continued from page 7)*

his grandchildren were participating in. Even to the friends of his grandchildren, he was simply known as Grandpa. They will never forget the warm abrazos with which he always greeted them.

A devout Roman Catholic, Vincent was able to attend and enjoy Mass for all but the last year. The faith that he and Rita shared helped them immensely on their journey through life together. While he faced bravely the debilitating challenges of Alzheimer's disease over the past 5 years, he never complained. His warm disposition, his joyful laugh, and his love for his wife and family never faded. He leaves a remarkable and enduring legacy in the children that he raised, the leaders that he mentored, the friends that he made, and the memories that he and Rita created.

At this time, the family would like to give special thanks to Vincent's caregiver, Precy, to Father Rick, and to the team at Amica Unionville for their care during the latter period of Vincent's life. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, private interment has taken place at Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, on Friday, 8 January, 2021.

Alumnus (57-63) George Anderson Morrison passed away on 24 November, 2020, at the age of 75. He is survived by his children, Orson (Keri) and Eloise (Darien List), and by his former wife Carole Adriaans. He also leaves behind his partner, Dave Belton, his grandsons, Lucas, Owen, Jayden, Jordan, Julien, and Jacksen, his siblings, Judy, Anne, and Aubrey. He was predeceased by his parents, Stella and George Snr, and his brother Godfrey. He was born on 1 Jun., 1945, in Georgetown, Br. Guiana (BG), and immigrated to Toronto, Canada, where he lived until his passing.

George was always a creative force. As a boy growing up in Guyana, he designed and made clothes for his family. During his teenage years, he staged fashion shows in parks, enlisting his friends as models to strut among the greenery. By age 18, he was crafting evening gowns for personalities such as Shakira Baksh (later Lady Shakira Caine, wife of actor Sir Michael Caine) who went on to become Miss Guyana and to compete as Miss World.

George's father disapproved of his son's career choice, which caused George deep pain. (They eventually reconciled.) His mother, however, with whom he shared a special bond, couldn't have been more supportive. "Their relationship was pure and unconditional," says Eloise, George's daughter. "She lived until she was 102, and my dad did her hair and nails until the end of her life."

In 1967, George moved to Toronto. He did a few fashion shows, but, finding the industry tough to break into, he decided to pursue hair styling instead. ("My dad always had a vision for the full look, head to toe," says Eloise.) At hair school, his instructor told him that he was already a pro; he got his certificate within a few days. George opened his first salon in 1971 in Yorkville. It took off and soon he was overseeing a team of stylists.

By this time, George had married one of his clients, Carole, and had two children, Orson and Eloise. When George came out as gay, the marriage ended, but he maintained a

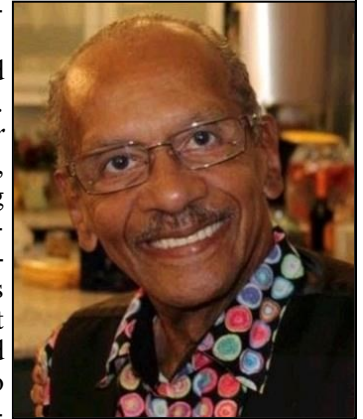
deep and loving relationship with his kids. "My father was the most non-judgmental person," says Orson. "He loved everybody for who they were and taught us to treat everyone with love and respect."

George himself was beloved by everyone who knew him. He opened a new salon, *Hair and Now*, with a partner, Cheryl Kennard. Consulting gigs led to working with celebrities. He did Patti LaBelle's hair; he did k.d. lang's hair. "He always brought back autographs for us and Orson, and I often got to come along on his adventures," says Eloise. After school, the kids visited the "Street Legal" set where George was the hair designer. They met Anne Murray on a Christmas special and Alan Thicke backstage at the Ice Capades.

After years at *Hair and Now*, George joined a family-run salon named *Raffaello's* where he maintained a large, loyal clientele until retirement. George still enjoyed fashion, but he directed his design talents towards his inner circle: he made wedding gowns for family members; he designed the dresses for Eloise's prom and graduation.

In George's off-hours, his creativity found new outlets. At the High Park home he shared with his partner, Dave, he was an avid gardener; he paid special attention to the Wiri Wiri pepper which originates in Guyana. Later in life, he spent hours in the backyard with his six young grandsons, teaching them how to plant; they encouraged new life together in the soft, dark earth. Many hours were spent in the kitchen, too, where George and his grandchildren made traditional Guyanese dishes like pepper pot. Food was another way for George to connect with people: he hosted lively dinner parties and baked traditional Guyanese black cake which he brought to his clients.

"He cultivated very intimate, supportive relationships with his clients," says Orson. "It wasn't just about cutting hair — he was like a therapist for them. He gave advice and he really listened." Orson credits his dad for inspiring him to become a clinical psychologist. "That's one of the biggest things I learned from him: how to show up for people." When George was fighting his final battle with cancer, so many people showed up for him. He entertained his grandsons who coloured at his bedside. With Orson and Eloise, he reminisced about a trip they had taken to Guyana together when the kids were teenagers. On that two-week vacation, they spent time with George's old friends, hanging out in the sun, drinking mango juice. "It taught me the value of friendship and fostering relationships," says Eloise. "My dad was so loved by so many." Eloise had kept a trip diary which she gave to her father for Christmas. The day before George died, she found the diary in his drawer and read to him from it. The last words that George spoke to Orson and Eloise were telling them that they



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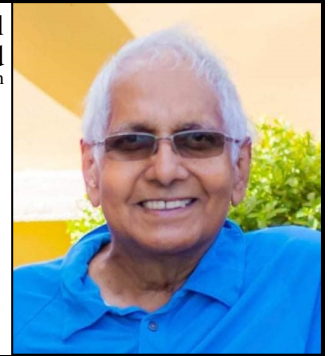
George Anderson Morrison (continued from page 8) were his greatest love. Due to public health restrictions, an in-person memorial will be planned in his honour at a later date.

Alumnus (42-48) Leon (Gun) Rockcliffe died at age 91 in Georgetown, Guyana, on Friday, 12 February, 2021. After passing his final exams (Senior Cambridge) in 5th Form, Gun left school to enter the Civil Service, working in the Deeds Registry where he became well known to alumnus and former College Master Vibert Lampkin (later appointed to the Ontario bench as a Justice, a past President of SSCAAT, and a past Chairman of the Board and President of SSCGAS) when Vibert entered into Articles of Clerkship in September 1954. Gun worked there for many years, along with Fred Hazlewood, father of Alumni Joe and Hugh Hazlewood, and with the late Alumnus Anthony Chapman, brother of Alumnus Errol (a past President of SSCAAT). Eventually, he went to England where he qualified as a Barrister-at-Law, and returned to Guyana to join the law firm of Alumnus David De Caires, a Solicitor, and QC Alumnus Miles Fitzpatrick, a Barrister-at-Law, both of whom are also deceased.

Alumnus (54-61) Walter Stanislaus Tiam Fook passed away in Toronto on 14 December, 2020, at age 79. He attended Sacred Heart Primary School (“Main Street School”) before entering Saints. He is missed by his loving sisters, Jennifer and Elizabeth, brother Gerry, and devoted friend Fay. Stan is now at peace in heaven with his loving parents, sisters, and brothers.

Alumnus (82-87) Maurice Watson died on Wednesday, 10 February, 2021, at age 50 years in Guyana.

Alumnus (56-64) Raymond Bernard Latchmansingh died in Guyana on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021. He worked as an engineer.



Alumnus (63-70) Kenneth Oswald Lewis died in Toronto, Canada, on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021, just months before his 70th birthday, after suffering a stroke. He leaves Nolan Charles to whom he was like a father.



Ken was a brilliant but modest Toronto wine consultant who organized the fine wine auctions for the Canadian Opera Company, the Olympic Committee Foundation, and Peacebuilders Canada. For over a dozen years, Ken helped Peacebuilders build its Fine Wine Auction into one of the City's best.

FUND-RAISING EVENTS IN TORONTO IN 2021

The COVID-19 virus continues to wreak havoc with all our fund-raising events. Every event was cancelled in 2020, and there seems to be not much improvement in 2021. Even though the Province of Ontario may declare that the province is now “open” for business, there are still severe limitations to the amount of “open”. The wearing of protective masks remained mandatory for all indoor public places, the size of non-essential gatherings is limited to fifty people, and a social distance of 2 metres or six feet apart must be maintained.

Further, all of our fund-raising events take place at sites which are either at Community Centres owned by City or at privately-owned premises. At this time, the City is not renting out its facilities for our type of activity, and the privately-owned places cannot recover their costs for small gatherings (of the size mandated by the Government) in a large area. As well, it is not clear whether any potential attendees at our functions will feel safe to join a large gathering at any time soon, even if all restrictions were to be lifted, until no new cases of infection are recorded and/or the whole populace has been vaccinated.

As a result, the two indoor events (the Spring Dance and Caribjam) scheduled in the first half of the year are cancelled again for this year. It is anticipated that the two indoor events (the Fall Dance and the New Year’s Eve Gala)

scheduled in the second half of the year also will be cancelled, but we are delaying the official confirmation of this to the middle of the year.

The one exception, an outdoor event, is the Golf Tournament which was cancelled last year when the owners decided to close down for the year, since they were unable to provide the exceptional indoor service which they offer to players. This year, in spite of still being unable to offer indoor service, the golf club will be open for play but only under specific conditions which we are still trying to clarify and negotiate with the owners. The only certainty (and good news) is that we have been given two (2) dates on which we may play, one in July and the other in August. As soon as all the details have been finalized, we shall send out the relevant information.

As you know, all the funds raised go to helping the College. The last 12 months have been very stressful and expensive for the College as it tries to cope with the pandemic. We have been fortunate to be able to help finance the needs of the College during this period. However, the end is not yet in sight. Anyone willing to contribute financially may do so by sending donations to our registered charity, St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, and tax receipts will be issued for amounts equal to or greater than \$20 (Can).

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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.

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.

Saints News & Views welcomes contributing articles from its membership. The publisher reserves the right to edit or publish all submissions solely at its discretion.

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Contact Us

The Association welcomes your feedback. Please direct your comments, enquiries, or articles you would like published to :

The Editor, St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2.

You also may contact the Editor, Bunty Phillips, by e-mail at lphillips@st-stanislaus-gy.com

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 17 Apr., 2021	Spring Dance (Dinner: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)	West Rouge Community Centre 270 Rouge Hill Drive, Toronto (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/Port Union Road)	CANCELLED
Sat. 10 Jul., 2021	Golf Tournament	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	\$150 (3 drinks, and snacks on-course)
Fri. 30 Jul., 2021	Caribjam	Thornhill Community Centre 7755 Bayview Ave, Thornhill, ON L3T 4P1 (At Bayview Avenue at John Street)	CANCELLED
Wed. 11 Aug., 2021	Golf Tournament	Lebovic Golf Club, 14020 Leslie St, Aurora, ON L4G 7C2 (W. of Hwy 404, N. of Bloomington Road)	\$150 (3 drinks, and snacks on-course)
Sat. 16 Oct., 2021	Fall Dance (Dinner: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)	West Rouge Community Centre 270 Rouge Hill Drive, Toronto (Hwy 401/Hwy 2/Port Union Road)	\$50 (includes dinner and all drinks)

Alumni Association Membership Form

Please complete this portion and return it with a cheque for \$25.00 (Cdn) for 1 year, or \$100.00 (Cdn) for 5 years payable to:

St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1S 1V2

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