



# 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)

## CONNECTIONS

The unproven theory of **six degrees of separation** was first expounded in a 1929 short story, titled "*Chains*", and later popularized throughout the world in 1990 by a drama play with the name "*Six Degrees of Separation*". It states that anyone or anything on this planet can be connected to any other person or thing on the planet through a chain of no more than five intermediaries.

Expanding on this, a 1978 10-episode BBC documentary television series called *Connections*, hosted by science historian James Burke, demonstrated how various discoveries, scientific achievements, and historical world events were built from one another successively in an interconnected way to arrive at particular aspects of modern technology.

In short, there are no "islands" of isolation in this world, and everything is connected to everything else in some way eventually. This is demonstrated most pointedly by the connections between the economies of the so-called "independent" countries of the world. It is said jokingly than "When the U.S. sneezes, Canada catches a cold!"

In this issue, each article has some form of connection to at least one other article in the issue...and this was totally unplanned as we do have difficulties in obtaining articles to be published, so we tend to publish immediately those few that we do receive from our contributors.

(On a slightly divergent note, we whole-heartedly encourage our alumni/ae to submit articles for publishing in the newsletter. An article should be written by an alumnus/a, or be about an alumnus/a, or be on some topic pertinent to education or the College. However, we do reserve the right to decline publishing if the article is politically biased, or is defamatory and personally abusive, or takes a stand on a very controversial subject which may make us seem to endorse a particular side of the controversy. This approach may seem to be "wishy-washy", but both the not-for profit registered Association and the Canadian registered charitable Society are focussed solely on improving education at the College and must be seen as being neutral by all sides, except in the case of improving the education process at the College for which we definitely will take a strong stand.)

There are two articles in which we introduce two persons, Gary and Shar, who are connected by each being an alumnus/a of the College even though many years apart. Gary recalls his visit to Guyana and his reconnection with Fr. Feeny, his College Science Master, who died later on that same evening of his visit and whose biography we are featuring also, by chance, in this issue. Further, both Gary

and Shar have pursued careers in science, one in Electric Engineering and the other in Chemistry.

Shar is chairing a Toronto project which is considering being a partner with Pueblo Science, a not-for-profit Toronto organization, in improving the teaching of science at the College. There is no such thing as a "free lunch", and this partnership project comes at a cost which must be covered by Toronto. Like a coin, a project has two distinct but connected sides. On one side is the objective of the project, and on the flip side are the costs associated with achieving the objective. How are the costs covered? Toronto must request donations or hold fund-raising events.

Another article addresses one form of fund-raising which is often overlooked. This is because it is a long term approach where the donation is received usually sometime in the future and is associated with a sad event, the passing of the donor. This is accomplished through the use of a life insurance product or by a legacy in the will of the deceased. If chosen correctly, this approach can be of financial benefit either to the donor while still alive or to the estate of the donor after his death. In either case, this approach can raise a large sum of money for the alumni Association from individuals who otherwise could not make such a single large contribution.

Within the Toronto organizations, there is a project currently under way which will try to address this issue among the alumni/ae, and more news of this will be forthcoming as the project progresses.

This long-term approach to fund-raising means that a donor needs to get his financial affairs in order, in fact ALL his affairs in order. Another article points out this need most strongly, and emphasizes that great consideration must be given to those who will be left behind.

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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 - 6

### FR. HERBERT FEENY, PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY MASTER

Herbert Feeny was born in Harrow on 21 February, 1907, into the middle of a solid Catholic Birmingham family (he had six sisters and three brothers) and was related to the Howells, Kings, Davids (of lawn tennis eminence), in fact to the Catholic establishment of the city. He was educated at Hodder and Stonyhurst and, in 1925, he entered the Society of Jesus at Roehampton. After two years juniorate, he studied philosophy at Heythrop and, in 1932, went to Campion Hall where he took a degree in Science, followed by a year at Corby School, Sunderland, where he taught Physics. After theology at Heythrop (1937-41), he returned to Sunderland where he taught physics and chemistry and was minister for a time. He did his tertianship at St. Beuno's and, immediately afterwards, sailed for British Guiana in 1946.

From his arrival until 1970, he was Senior Science Master at St. Stanislaus College, Georgetown. On leaving the College, he became Vice-Chancellor of the diocese and was also, for about two years, the Bishop's Secretary. While still Vice-Chancellor, he joined the parish staff at St. Pius X, La Penitence. In 1984, he ceased to be Vice-Chancellor and returned to the UK in 1987 because of eye trouble. On his return to Guyana, he became assistant priest at Sacred Heart, Georgetown. Early in 1988, he was admitted to hospital and, after a brief illness, died on 5 February, 1988. His funeral was at the cathedral on the following day.

After recalling that Herbert played cricket for the First XI in his last year at school, and was a very good tennis player, Herman de Caires continues: "He went to the College (in Georgetown) and settled down to teach physics until we gave up the College thirty years later. As a disciplinarian, he was excellent and, as a teacher, an unqualified success, having a clear and logical mind which presented facts in a simple and interesting way. He was of an equable disposition, which made him an attraction as a confessor and a magnet for the direction of religious sisters. His last years were spent on parish work at St. Pius X and Main Street (Sacred Heart)."

Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues writes: "As a boy at St. Stanislaus College, I was always struck by the concern Fr. Feeny showed for us; not only was he interested in our academic performance, although he worked as if this was Number One, but he often enquired about our forms of relaxation. He had a way of making you feel a right heel without any fuss. I recall once noticing where he had put some test papers which he had marked and, when we entered the lab and he was not there, I enthusiastically announced the names on the papers and shared them out, waiting for mine

to come up. This never happened as I was soon flooded with all the ones given out returning at great speed, and then I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder and a hand taking hold of the papers, with a familiar voice saying 'Young man, young man, leave the lab immediately'. I was back within the hour seeking forgiveness from Herb who was kind and understanding.

"Herb also took a great interest in training his altar boys both for the cathedral and for the Ursuline convent. He spent many a Saturday afternoon working at this task, sometimes in the church, sometimes in the laboratory at St. Stanislaus. We all enjoyed serving the College Fathers at the 6.30 a.m. side-altar Masses in the Cathedral in the good old days.

"In 1959, one of the first-year sixth form boys, Patrick Lucas, died by drowning, and Herb was given the task of breaking the news to Patrick's mother. It was a shattering experience for her, since she had wanted her son to leave school a year previously in order to earn some income for the home, but was dissuaded by the Fathers, including Herb. In his latter days, I usually showed him the sort of exam papers I was setting my students at the University, and he would say: 'All this is new; I'm at sea.' When I became Superior and Herb came to make his manifestation of conscience, I learned what our indifference is all about: Herb's total openness to his former pupil turned Superior was a most moving experience for me.

"While in London in May 1987, we went together for a marvellous day out. We had lunch at Farm Street with Frs. Copleston (the Provincial) and Russell at our table; this thrilled Herb. This was followed by a trip round the West End and a viewing of the movie, *The Mission*, which we both enjoyed, then across London to Osterley and tea with Frs. Scannell and Earle. We chatted about old times.

"I shall always remember Herb as the neat, precise person he was, an exemplary religious with a good sense of humour. He will be specially remembered by the '*Herbert Feeny Physics Prize*' which we hope to establish at the University of Guyana for the best final year student".

John Bridges contributes the following: "When Fr. Feeny was about to celebrate 60 years in the Society, the Superior arranged for him to make a short visit to the Rupununi. He had never seen the mountains and savannahs of Guyana. His life since his arrival in 1946 had long centred almost wholly on the Physics lab of the College, which was largely his own creation. At Brickdam, he occupied the same room for 35 years. Fr. Marrion had installed science labs on the top floor of the Old Wing

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**FR. HERBERT FEENY** (continued from page 2)

but, for lack of teachers and funds, they had hardly been used. With Fr. Feeny's arrival, the decision was made to begin a proper science course aimed at two O-level subjects.

"At first, it could only be Physics-with-Chemistry which, at the beginning, two out of three failed to pass. However, a big step forward was taken with the completion of the new labs on the ground floor of the new wing, towards the furnishing and equipping of which the Government in 1954 made a substantial contribution which Fr. Feeny spent most judiciously. In 1955, A-level Physics began and, with Fr. Marrion's return to Guyana the following year (in which, too, Fr. Earle started his Biology course), it became possible by 1961 to take Chemistry as well as Physics at the A-level. Besides his full days of teaching, Monday to Friday, sometimes even after school hours, Fr. Feeny would usually return to the labs on Saturday afternoons to set all in order and prepare well ahead.

"Fr. Feeny left the College in 1970 to become Secretary to Bishop Guilly with whom he had travelled out to Guyana and with whom, with several others in the Mission, he could share memories of Stonyhurst. He continued in Bishop's House with Bishop Singh. In the days of the Transavia (radiophone), his voice daily brought news to the Interior Fathers, and he did his best to meet their orders for this, that, and the other, to be procured and sent up to them. The precise requirements of the scientific mind at times proved exasperating to the DIY bush missionary: to secure urgently some indispensable spare part, so many numbers of engine, mark, type, etc., seemed necessary; and, of course, with the weight of years, Herbert could no longer buzz off round town, trying this and that possible source of supply. And then our brave Amerindians would come along, expecting the same kind of service as well.

"He was devoted right through the years to the Sisters of Mercy. After they left their convent at Kingston, he continued risking the rain to ride his strong, if ancient and heavy, Raleigh bicycle all the way to Meadowbrook from Brickdam or, later, from St. Pius X; and he was distressed when the time came when they could no longer get their daily Mass.

"Apart from posed clergy groups, he is to be found in the photographs of ordinations, etc., in the cathedral sanctuary where he was often M.C. He helped out regularly there on Sundays and had his confessional there. Sung Masses often fell to him. In the sixties, funerals of priests would be conducted with a priests' choir; the *In Paradisum* and *Dies Irae* would have been practised after the Dirge the evening before.

"I have a very dim memory of some encounter during my first year of teaching at the College, when he had to put me right on some policy or method I had adopted. Beginning

with the assurance that 'we both want the same thing', which at once set me at ease, he had no trouble in convincing me that his way of doing things would certainly be better. As he aged, he kept his rapport with the not-so-old, thanks to his quiet friendly interest. A gentle man, Herb was certainly that."

Another old student, Albert Rodrigues, sends these jottings: "Herb making cocoa in the lab with a Bunsen burner, while waxing the table tops.... He used few words to communicate and never shouted, but you always knew when it was time to shut up.... Whatever he was doing always seemed to have his undivided attention at the time, whether it was stirring a copper sulphate solution on the boil or cycling along Brickdam. He was gentle and yet firm, one learned of discipline in every action, he appeared to walk casually, yet every step was measured and with purpose. We learned from him how to take care of the things around us, from lab equipment and books to his bike which never seemed to puncture, nor did its chain ever slip. It was an era then at 'Saints' with Feeny, Lynch, Scannell, Boase, Earle, Byrne, Bridges, Gill, Hopkinson. He was probably the major single influence on the vocations coming out of Saints during his time, and an inspiration for those who went on to major in science, especially physics".

Fr. John Hopkinson writes of Herbert's years at the College: "Fr. Feeny, with other Jesuits, arrived in B.G. in 1946, and immediately joined the staff of St. Stanislaus College. How welcome the new arrivals must have been! Throughout the war years, the College struggled with a chronic shortage of staff and with very inadequate finances.

"I myself arrived in the mission at the end of September 1958. I found Fr. Brian Scannell very tired and ill. He was mainly instrumental in negotiating government-aided status for St. Stanislaus and for many other private schools. This was a considerable help to the school and, with far-sighted wisdom, he had laid the foundations for more science to be taught in 'Saints', and even courses in technical drawing, woodwork, and metalwork. But Brian was so worn-out that he invited me to take over the headship at the beginning of October.

"The school had already begun to distinguish itself, especially in the arts faculty: Latin, English, French, and Mathematics. Science was now to be promoted, and Fr. Feeny was to be head of Science. Fr. Thomas Lynch had already excelled in the teaching of Mathematics, and now the aim was to complement this with Science at the Advanced Level. Fr. Feeny in a short space of time set up the new Science laboratories, and the science teaching now had the services of Fr. Earle, Fr. Marrion and, later, other Jesuits and lay-teachers.

"One of the needs was at least one advanced-level science lab. Fr. Feeny spent many hours

## MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members of the Toronto Alumni Association in 2015.

<b>CANADA (78)</b>	Rupert De Castro <sup>2</sup>	Desmond Kawall <sup>2</sup>	John Vincent <sup>3</sup>	
Leonard Arokium <sup>3</sup>	Andre De Peana <sup>1</sup>	Greg Kellawan	Howard Welshman <sup>4</sup>	<b>U.K. (3)</b>
Bernard Austin <sup>2</sup>	Frank Delph <sup>2</sup>	Vibert Lampkin <sup>4</sup>	David Wong <sup>2</sup>	Christopher Cho-Young <sup>1</sup>
Malcolm Barrington	Noel Denny	Geoffrey Luck <sup>1</sup>	Raymond Wong <sup>1</sup>	Tony Gomes <sup>2</sup>
Gerard Bayley <sup>2</sup>	Roger Devers <sup>3</sup>	Dereck Mahanger <sup>1</sup>	Brian Yhap <sup>3</sup>	Neville Jordan <sup>6</sup>
Rene Bayley <sup>3</sup>	Frederick Dias <sup>2</sup>	Gerard Martins	Angus Zitman <sup>2</sup>	
Teddy Boyce	Jerome D'Oliveira	Michael Mendes de Franca <sup>3</sup>		<b>AUSTRALIA (2)</b>
Randy Bradford <sup>5</sup>	Jocelyn D'Oliveira	Vincent Mendes de Franca <sup>2</sup>	Michael Wight	<b>U.S.A. (16)</b>
Ian Camacho <sup>2</sup>	Terry D'Ornellas <sup>2</sup>	Clarence Nichols	Lennox Yhap <sup>5</sup>	Luke Abraham <sup>1</sup>
Paul Camacho <sup>2</sup>	Paul Duarte	Anthony O'Dowd <sup>4</sup>		Anthony Bollers <sup>2</sup>
Alfred Carr <sup>1</sup>	Carlton Faria <sup>2</sup>	Malcolm Pequenezza <sup>2</sup>	<b>BARBADOS (1)</b>	Ronald Chanderbhan <sup>2</sup>
Wilfred Carr	Joe Faria <sup>7</sup>	Leslie Pereira <sup>2</sup>	Geoff De Caires <sup>3</sup>	Ronald De Abreu <sup>3</sup>
Joseph Castanheiro <sup>2</sup>	Nigel Fisher <sup>1</sup>	Bunty Phillips <sup>2</sup>		Joseph Brian De Freitas <sup>3</sup>
Vernon Chaves <sup>3</sup>	Keith Fletcher <sup>3</sup>	Linden Ramdeholl	<b>BERMUDA (0)</b>	Bernard Friemann <sup>2</sup>
Sydney Chin	Richard Gomes <sup>2</sup>	Herman Reid		Philip Greatehead <sup>2</sup>
Tony Clarke <sup>4</sup>	Trevor Gomes	Romeo Resaul <sup>4</sup>	<b>BRAZIL (1)</b>	Edwin Jack <sup>5</sup>
Paul Crum-Ewing <sup>2</sup>	Orlando Goveia	Bryan Rodrigues	Stephen De Castro <sup>2</sup>	Kenneth Jordan <sup>3</sup>
Ken Cumberbatch <sup>1</sup>	Ken Hahnfeld <sup>2</sup>	Peter St. Aubyn <sup>1</sup>		Jolyon King <sup>1</sup>
Edward Da Silva	Albert Hamilton <sup>3</sup>	Michael Singh <sup>3</sup>	<b>DOM. REP. (1)</b>	Carl Marx <sup>1</sup>
Ivor Da Silva <sup>2</sup>	Hugh Hazlewood <sup>3</sup>	Albert Sweetnam <sup>4</sup>	Deep Ford <sup>1</sup>	Evan Phillips <sup>1</sup>
Jerry Da Silva <sup>1</sup>	Monty Henson <sup>3</sup>	Walter Tiam-fook <sup>3</sup>		Brian Ramphal <sup>1</sup>
Terry De Abreu <sup>3</sup>	Desmond Hill <sup>2</sup>	Arthur Veerasammy <sup>4</sup>	<b>TRIN. &amp; TOB. (2)</b>	Keith Seaforth <sup>2</sup>
Tyrone De Abreu <sup>2</sup>	Richard James <sup>2</sup>	Vibert Vieira <sup>3</sup>	Richard Harford <sup>1</sup>	Leyland Thomas <sup>5</sup>
Hilary De Cambra <sup>3</sup>	Des Jardine <sup>3</sup>		Ronald Harford <sup>1</sup>	Horace Walcott
Gregory De Castro <sup>2</sup>	Anthony Jekir <sup>1</sup>			

Of the 104 paid-up members, 101 are renewals from last year.

Notes :

1. These (19) alumni has paid in advance through 2016.
2. These (32) alumni has paid in advance through 2017.
3. These (21) alumni have paid in advance through 2018.
4. These (7) alumni has paid in advance through 2019.
5. These (4) alumni have paid in advance through 2020.
6. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2021.
7. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2022.

## SHARWATIE RAMSAYWACK - NEWEST ADDITION TO THE TORONTO SAINTS EXECUTIVE

*An Interview by Sarah Flores*

The St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto and the St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society have had the opportunity to add alumna and scientist **Sharwatie Ramsaywack** to their teams.

Ever since she was 11 years old, Shar has been involved with Saints. It first began with her education at St. Stanislaus College in Guyana. Ambitious at a young age, she was placed there due to her impeccable marks after completing the national exam after primary school.

"I was driven by the desire to understand everything around me. There was no one in my family who was in the sciences or anything; I just pushed myself," she said.

St. Stanislaus College provided her with the key sciences. It enabled her to choose a career path into becoming an organic chemist for over 10 years, in both academic and

post-doctoral training settings.

After completing her studies at the University of Guyana, Shar decided that her next big move would be to come to Canada where she attended the University of Alberta to receive her Ph.D. She moved to Toronto just last May 2014.

Shar reunited with Saints just recently when she attended the Last Lap Lime, a function hosted by the Toronto Alumni Associations of five Guyana High Schools and held on the August holiday Monday of the Carnival weekend in Toronto.

"They were looking for volunteers to join their organization. I went to one meeting and thought they were doing such great work for the school I attended. I was excited; it was a great opportunity to give back

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## CAN YOU LEAVE YOUR WIFE ALONE?

Submitted by Art Veerasammy

*The following address by Jeanie Hersenhoren (née Gibbard of Gibbard's Furniture Shops of Napanee, Ontario) was given to the members of the Wishing Well Lions Club in May 1989. She was the widow of Samuel Hersenhoren (violinist in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and later conductor of the New Symphony Orchestra). Jeanie, who passed away in January 2014 at age 94, was a dear friend of mine. The message that follows is as important today as it was then.*

I am very happy to be here this evening and to share with you my topic – CAN YOU LEAVE YOUR WIFE ALONE?

And, sadly, this has nothing to do with your sex life ... and even less to do with the nights that you spend at meetings. I am asking you if you can leave your wife alone. Statistically, men die on an average of 8 to 10 years earlier than their wives. Of course, there are always the happy exceptions to these numbers – but, actually, there are six times as many widows in North America today as there are single men.

So, since you are probably going to leave her alone someday – let's get ourselves a bit ready for that.

To start with, even if there has been a long and lingering illness leading to death eventually –that shock is almost a blessing ... and there still is a dreadful shock – both mentally and physically. If it is a sudden event – such as a heavy heart-attack or a massive stroke (as happened with my own husband) – the shock is even worse, and the mind and body react with strange results. No matter how “cool” the widow may seem ... no matter how controlled she may be ... no matter how she is doing all the right things that are expected of her – believe me, up here it is just MUSH, and she is operating on ‘automatic pilot’.

Therefore, the least you can do for her is to leave her some instructions. You are gone (to the great meeting in the sky!) – obviously by then, you are beyond caring which funeral home you are committed to – obviously, as far as we know, you are not going to be a close observer at your own funeral. But it will be a comfort to her if she knows that she is doing what you would like done ... if she has a list to follow, that you have written down for her (at some kind moment) of WHAT and WHERE and HOW you would like things handled. Such a list might mention such things as whether the funeral is to be a small private one, or an open-casket full event ... whether you want friends to send flowers, or donations and (if donations) to what charity ... and, most important of all, if you have bought a cemetery plot, and where is the deed for it, and whether or not it is a double, to look after her too some day.

Some of you are thinking - and perhaps even muttering – “WHY IS SHE TELLING US ALL THIS UNHAPPY STUFF?” You may feel that you already know it – in which case, great ... and you can turn off for the rest of this little talk. Or you may feel that you don't want to think

about it. Many men don't want to think about their own death – don't want to acknowledge that it will ever even happen – and, for all I know, don't believe that it WILL ever happen. Well, it WILL happen – it comes to all of us, sooner or later ... we hope later, rather than sooner, of course. BUT no one escapes it – so, at least, we can leave things in a tidy and thoughtful way.

Now, let us address first things first.

A WILL – an absolute necessity, no two ways about it. I know that some rather short sighted people (and I have to include women in here too) feel, and even say, “oh, I don't want to make a Will ... that will just bring on my death.” Please let me assure you, one and all – no doctor has ever filled out a death certificate listing “cause of death” as RECENTLY MADE HIS WILL. That is a superstition that is not even worth listening to in these days of proper financial planning, and taxes, and insurance, and complicated legal matters. Even if you do not have much to leave, and even if you not intend it to go to anyone other than your dear wife – you MUST say so, on paper ... legally done, signed and witnessed. It is a short and inexpensive procedure – but it is a necessary one ... and it will make matters unbelievably easier for her.

So far, we have dealt with only the pretty obvious things – and she has come through the death, and the funeral, and the “thank-you” notes for the letters of sympathy, and dealing with your Will ... all of this pretty well. But now, she must get down to the nitty-gritty of the day-to-day living WITHOUT YOU to help her, guide her and look after her. And that is where your love and caring WHILE YOU ARE ALIVE really comes into the picture.

Some men feel that it is a sign of their great affection for their wives to protect them from the hurly-burly of life ... to look after all the horrid financial dealings of life in Canada ... to save them from having to deal with the messy details of living day to day. Some of this sort of life was mine – some of it has happened to friends of mine who became widows – some of it I have read about and heard about. And all of the horror stories are TRUE.

Does your wife know how to pay the household bills? Write cheques? Balance the bank account? Fill the car with gas, and check the oil level? Check the air in the tires? Clean off the car after a winter storm? Deal with the middle of the night obscene phone-calls that most widows receive? Take your place as

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**CAN YOU LEAVE YOUR WIFE ALONE?***(continued from page 5)*

disciplinarian of the family? Does she know your life insurance situation? The name of your insurance agent? And where the forms are kept? Does she have a working knowledge of Toronto's subway system? (For example, I didn't – and had to learn it the hard and painful way).

A lot of husbands feel that it is a sign of great love for their wives to save them from knowing HOW to do all these mundane things. And I come before you here tonight to tell you that it is a very short-sighted way of showing your love. When you are gone, and she is ALONE, if you had trained her well in all these things that she will have to do for herself (perhaps, like me, for the first time), she will bless your memory and get through the lonely days with much better grace.

And in the difficult days of the first year that she is alone, that is when the VULTURES close in:-

- \* First, the smooth-talking guy that wants to sell her the showiest monument stone in the cemetery;
- \* Then the so-called "experts" who will want to (at the very least) sell her annuity, and (at the most) take over all the family assets and – FOR A FEE, OF COURSE – become her "financial advisors"
- \* And, if you own a house, almost certainly there will appear the sympathetic real estate agent who will want to list the house and move her to something and somewhere different.

Please – NO! To all of these great helpers, the reply is "no". For one year – MINIMUM – she should sit very still ... let the dust settle ... and let her good sense take over ... and WAIT for the right answer at a later time.

There will be another added blessing that your training now will bring to her then – and that is in the choice of your successor. Yes, face it – that too may happen. But

she is far less likely to jump at the first offer, if she is managing reasonably well on her own. And it is very probable that the FIRST offer will not be the right one. It is even possible that she will never replace you – and what a good feeling it is to know that one is irreplaceable! – if she can get along well by herself. If she is floundering around with all sorts of financial and transportation and legal problems, she is much more apt to say "yes" to the completely wrong person who promises to look after all these troubles for her. And – remember – it is YOUR money and YOUR family and YOUR widow that he will be supposedly looking after. So it is a very good idea to do a lot of that same LOOKING AFTER while you are still here – to make sure that she knows how to do these things for herself and for your family.

And it therefore follows that, if she is not going to miss you so dreadfully that she jumps at the first suitor who happens along, she will need help in filling lonely hours. You must expect that – to a large extent – the usual social life of the circle of "couples" friends will suddenly dry up. So her women friends will be invaluable. She will find that other single women (divorcees, other widows, bachelor girls) are talking her language ... having the same feelings ... understanding her position.

So, while you are here, encourage your wife with her female friendships and activities. They will be a life saver when you have to LEAVE HER ALONE.

This may not have been the happiest address you have ever heard but, someday, you may remember it as one of the most important messages that has ever come to you. It is a SERIOUS matter and I beg that you pay attention to it.

You need to look down, look down, that lonesome road.

Look at the lady beside you in your life, and promise her (and yourself!) to start right now to get her ready for the day that you will have to LEAVE HER ALONE.

**CLASS OF '61 REUNION IN GUYANA - 2012****.....AND AGAIN, IN TORONTO - 2014!**

## CREATING A LEGACY

By David Juvet

*David Juvet, B.A. LL.B. LL.M., is a member (1973-2011) of the Law Society of Upper Canada, and has served as Legal Counsel and in other positions with Aetna Canada (1973-1989) where the Editor became acquainted with him. He has been an Ontario-licensed Life Insurance Agent and Agency Manager since 1989 and has earned the industrial credentials of FLMI, CFP, CLU, and CHS. He currently holds the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Financial Advisors Association of Canada.*

Toronto area graduates of St. Stanislaus College gathered together 22 years ago to discuss, plan, and implement a not-for-profit Alumni Association. More recently, they have formed a Canadian-registered Charity which can issue tax receipts for donations received.

The motivation to volunteer one's time, to donate funds, and to encourage other alumni to become involved stems from a genuine desire to improve the educational experience and the environment at the College. Over the years, the Association and Charity have contributed to the College over \$500,000 in cash, equipment, and books from funds raised and donations received.

Gifts to the College can be materially enhanced by using life insurance products. Because life insurance is based on assumptions about the mortality experience of a large group of people, premiums paid on a life insurance policy create a leveraged result. Due to the size of the group, each insured will be asked to pay a premium based on the mortality experience of the entire group. Insurers have the statistical bases for calculating quite accurate premium rates. That is, while all the members of a given group of life insureds will die, some will die earlier than the others, and the premiums are based on assumptions that allow everyone to be covered at an acceptable cost to each of them.

For example, a policy that costs \$1000/year on a 50 year-old man would pay a death benefit of \$50,000. Regardless of the date of death, the \$50,000 would be paid tax-free and promptly to the Charity for the benefit of the College. If that same gentleman tried to accumulate this donation amount without using life insurance, he would:

- 1) need to invest \$15,000 now at 4.93% for a total of 25 years, OR
- 2) deposit \$85/month into an investment earning 4.93%/annum for a total of 25 years, AND
- 3) have to make sure he lived long enough (at least 25 years after the initial investment).

NOTE: The 4.93% earnings are AFTER TAX and are assumed to be guaranteed for the full 25 years.

There are two obvious problems with the 'do-it-yourself' strategy: finding a 4.93% guaranteed investment for all of the 25 years, AND making sure he lives for 25 years more. If he dies in year 11, for example, there will not be \$50,000 in the investment even if he managed to earn 4.93%/year

every year.

For those who cannot qualify medically now, one can use older (i.e. existing) life insurance policies in which the Charity can be named a partial or total beneficiary. An uninsurable alumnus could also consider purchasing a policy placed on another person in whom there is an insurable interest (e.g. the spouse or an adult child, or opt for a joint last-to-die policy).

The insured can transfer the policy to the Charity which becomes the owner, and get an annual tax deduction for the amounts he has to donate to the Charity which must use the donations to pay the premiums of the policy.

However, in general, it is preferable for the insured to purchase the policy, pay the premiums, and name the Charity as the beneficiary (alone or jointly with someone else). In that way, the insured's estate gets the benefit of deducting the charitable donation of the insurance payout from the estate's income in the year of death (and the preceding year as well, if required), and the Charity does not have to pay the premiums if the insured fails to do so. On the death of the insured, the Charity benefits, the College benefits and, where the insured has personally paid the premiums to the insurance company, the insured's estate pays less tax, thereby benefiting his heirs. Both an RRSP and an RRIF are examples of a common final income liability which becomes income and part of the insured's estate on the death of the owner (or his spouse if she dies later, having inherited the investments upon his death), and are taxable.

Life insurers also issue segregated fund policies. They operate like a mutual fund with capital guarantees on death and at maturity (a date selected by the owner) AND with the ability to by-pass the estate. On the death of the owner, the proceeds are paid to a named beneficiary. For example, an Association member could open a TFSA (Tax Free Savings Account) and accumulate any amount he desires therein. Having named the Association as the beneficiary, the donor is free to make all decisions about the investments, to withdraw funds, and even cancel the policy. However, the entire amount remaining upon his death is promptly paid to the Association, bypassing probate while also creating a charitable donation credit just like the life insurance payment described in the above paragraph. A portion of one's RRIF funds could be designated, as well, on the death of the surviving spouse.

The costs and delay of probate are

Continued on page 8

**CREATING A LEGACY***(continued from page 7)*

avoided by using life insurance products. Canadian life insurers pay \$800 million WEEKLY to Canadians in the form of life insurance death benefits, cash values, dividends, and annuities (see *CLHIA.ca* web-site). Insurers generally pay death claims within one or two weeks of receiving the completed claim form signed by the beneficiary, along with the funeral director's certificate. Probate involves fees, often an estate solicitor, and typically can take over 12 months to complete the distribution to heirs and claims against the estate including those by the CRA.

Canadian life insurance companies are financially strong, closely regulated, and are legally bound to collectively contribute to any claims of a life insurer which is unable to pay claims due to bankruptcy (see *Assuris.ca* web site). To date, only three life insurers have become insolvent in Canada. Confederation Life was the most recent in 1994, and

every one of its claims, both group and individual, was paid in full (see *Wikipedia.ca*).

**SUMMARY**

- Life insurance proceeds, including segregated funds, can by-pass one's estate thereby saving time and money.
- The payment from a life insurer is private, unlike a probated will which is a public document.
- You can retain ownership and control until your death.
- Life insurance allows you to greatly multiply the premiums into a face amount that is very difficult to achieve by investing.
- Using a TFSA or a life policy the proceeds attract no tax from the day you start until, and including the day of payment.

**PUEBLO SCIENCE ASSISTANCE IN TEACHING STEM SUBJECTS**

Pueblo Science is a Canadian registered charity, located in Toronto, with the objective of advancing science education in communities around the world where the resources for such education are low or non-existent. This education covers subjects in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Within the STEM education, it stresses an experiential learning approach as it believes that hands-on learning through exploration and discovery not only appeals more to the fundamental curiosity of the student but also makes understanding the principles easier and enables better and longer retention of what is learnt. The main drawback to this approach is that, in many communities around the world, the financial resources to obtain equipment for the hands-on learning are low or non-existent.

As part of its education approach, Pueblo Science develops hands-on learning kits which can be made from inexpensive and locally available materials. To complement this, Pueblo Science also provides appropriate training for local teachers to enable them to make their own kits and to provide the required guidance to the students in their use of the kits. All training is tailored specifically to the local school system.

It is obvious that, as the student advances, there will be a need for some more sophisticated equipment which no longer can be made in-house or cheaply or even locally. This approach by Pueblo Science is aimed at the "beginner" science student, and is meant to encourage the student to be more receptive to taking an interest in science as a future career path.

Pueblo Science has a four year track record of outreach programs in the Philippines, India, and Bolivia. It has formed partnerships with Philippine institutions to deliver

training annually in remote villages between 2011 and 2014, and its next program there will take place in April-May 2015. To date, it has trained more than 1,000 science teachers across the country to assemble and use the hands-on kits in their classrooms. Since student-teacher ratios in rural settings are typically 60 to 1, this training has indirectly benefited an estimated 60,000 students per year.

For Guyana, Pueblo Science is proposing to work with local Guyanese partners to organize and deliver training sessions for 100 science teachers during their school break in 2015.

The training programs will be structured as two-day workshops during which science teachers will learn how to implement eight experiments in their classrooms. All project participants will be brought together in an evaluation meeting within one year of the training to assess the learning process and improve the manner in which the tools are taken up locally. All programs are delivered by professional scientists with advanced graduate degrees in science and engineering.

The objectives for the 2015 Guyana program include:

- Working with partners to develop experiential learning kits for local communities including remote areas,
- Creating a repertoire of hands-on kits to cover specific topics in chemistry, physics, biology, math, and engineering that can supplement the local teaching curriculum,
- Training local teachers how to use the kits in their classrooms and how to construct them from local materials,
- Organizing a post-activity assessment meeting to review the learning process and to improve the delivery, and
- Providing mentorship opportunities for students of trained teachers.



**FR. HERBERT FEENY** *(continued from page 3)*

after classes setting up the practical physics experiments, and his enthusiasm fired that of many of the senior students. A close friendship grew up among these students, and I understand that they had a rota of servers for Fr. Feeny's morning Mass at the Ursuline Convent.

"It must be remembered that science was being encouraged by the Educational Department in all the secondary schools, but even the privileged government secondary schools were hard pressed to provide the expensive apparatus, and especially the apparatus for the individual students to use. Fr. Feeny was most successful in building the more elementary equipment, and the Educational Department invited him to demonstrate his designs at a general meeting for all interested science teachers. I understand that the Prime Minister, on a public occasion, commended this effort of the head of the St. Stanislaus Science Department.

"Herb sometimes regretted that his science stint prevented him taking a religious class, but he took every opportunity to help out in the cathedral, to give retreats, and to act as a chaplain to the Sisters.

"He was a good community man, and personally I enjoyed several holidays with him in Barbados.

"In summary, Fr. Feeny was above all a dedicated Jesuit, a distinguished and popular member of the St. Stanislaus College Staff".

Fr. Patrick Connors writes: "In his later days, Herbert used to come on a weekly visit to our Presbytery at Brickdám. He would sit in the Library and read the more learned type of literature at hand. One felt like calling him 'Eminence', for he radiated all the majestic dignity of one of Victor Hugo's better-class cardinals. I would look at his lean and learned hands and wonder at the immense number of lives that he had touched.

"The physics lab was the Galilean boat from which he carried out much of his apostolate. But he was also in demand as a Confessor, a Director of Souls, and for holiday-time parish supplies. I felt like the Italian Jesuit, Padre Francisconi, when I heard that Herbert would take groups of boys on to the College Roof to teach them the names and the ways of the stars. [Francisconi told me that he had once gone out into an Italian night. He looked up and saw the stars...'I could not help it', he said, 'I found myself on my knees bellowing the praises of God.']

"During my years in the Pakaraimas, the touch of Herbert was very much and widely to be felt. He had retired from the College by then, and was the Bishop's man for the Interior.

"For many a grace-and-favour for any liaison with the Bishop's Office, we depended on the pilots of the planes

that flew into the Interior. Almost all of these intrepid and skilled flyers had been in Herbert's Physics class. They would do anything for him. 'Would you take this letter to town for me?' you would say to a pilot at an air strip. He would look a little bleak. 'It's for Father Feeny', you would add. The pilot would smile. 'Give it to me', he inevitably said.

"It was very difficult to make contact with the Education Office from those remote areas of mountain and savannah. Herbert undertook the task for us. Teachers in the remotest villages then had a dogged and remorseless friend. He secured their pay for them. The sleepy clerks in the Pay Office learnt that it was no use at all to tell Herbert, 'Come next week. We'll look into it.' The teachers (some had never even been to Georgetown) learned to bless Fr. Feeny."

Fr. Otto Earle provides the following anecdote: "My last meeting with Fr. Feeny was at the cemetery. I had to do a funeral and, when we arrived at the grave, we found it had already been filled in. The gravediggers, who have a language of their own, said: 'A dead was put into that hole this morning.' So we asked them if there was another 'hole' we could use. They said there was, but it was not our hole, it was Mr. Merriman's hole (a rival undertaker). So Mr. Merriman was phoned and replied cheerfully that we could have his hole. We did the burial. I had just finished the prayers when I saw Fr. Feeny coming in our direction with another funeral, and realised I had buried my 'dead' in his 'hole'. Not wishing to discuss the matter, I beat a hasty retreat."

Finally, a very personal tribute from Fr. Henry Hale: "I have reason to be very grateful to Herbert, though he was 'Fr. Feeny' to me for many years. He was my spiritual Father for something like twenty years, and never failed to keep me on the straight and narrow, together with SPN and his strenuous exercises. Herbert was tough, gently and cheerfully so, and I was not. When I came out here, it was a wonderful adventure, but I was a bit lost generally in this new world. I knew I must have a spiritual father, to be able to pour out, as best I could, my woes and brave intentions, especially at the time of my yearly retreat when they pressed, for expression and putting in order. As I say, he never failed me - to encourage but to rebuke too. Both were very stimulating. He was always available at Brickdam except when away giving retreats elsewhere, and I usually made my retreat there. Herbert did a very good job for me, and I am sure he will continue to do so."

May he rest in peace.

## OBITUARIES



**\* Alumnus (61) Fr. Oliver Farnum** died on 24 November, 2014, at age 71 after a period of illness. He was interred at Our Lady of the Mount Cemetery, Meadow Bank, East Bank Demerara, following a well attended Mass in celebration of his life at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam. The Mass celebrant was His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB. Fr.

Oliver spent 24 fruitful years in the priesthood and had a passion for hospital ministry, visiting the wards of the Georgetown Public Hospital where he ministered to sick persons, prayed with them and, in many ways, won souls for the Lord.

**\* Sylvia A. Rodrigues** passed away peacefully on 7 December, 2014, in her 95<sup>th</sup> year. She was the wife of the late Thomas Rodrigues, and mother of Jennifer (Chris), Bryan (Linda), Carolyn (Michael), and **Alumnus Phillip** (Cecelia) who is a member of Saints Golf Tournament sub-committee. She was the grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 5.

## SHARWATIE RAMSAYWACK

(continued from page 4)

to the school that helped me realize my potential."

Shortly after joining the Toronto Association, former President Rupert De Castro asked Shar if she wanted to be part of one of their sub-committees. She saw this as another opportunity to make an even greater impact. After all, she informed me that everyone in the Executive was always focused not only on helping to maintain the physical structure of the school, but also on improving the education process. "Teacher training is lacking severely in a lot of developing countries, not only in Guyana," she said.

Shar managed to connect Saints, and those in Guyana, to a Toronto non-profit organization called Pueblo Science. They run teacher workshops in lower source communities around the world.

Shar championed the initiative to train **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in Guyana. She believed that one of the problems there is the lack of proper teacher training. Not only is it expensive to send teachers away to be trained, but Guyana doesn't have the capacity to train teachers locally because there's really no one who could do it. Once Shar discovered that Pueblo Science does teacher training for free, she suggested it to Toronto Saints which saw it as a great opportunity to incorporate the Pueblo Science process into their school.

"Each of us has our own way of contributing to the school.

All different, but we would like to help the school because we see it as a way of giving the students an opportunity to have an education, like we all had, that allowed us to be where we are today." Shar said. She continues to support strongly and champion the initiative of Pueblo Science because better teachers in the school are essential.

Shar looked back in the past and reflected how, when she moved to Canada, she was taught that hands-on science is the proper and most effective way of science education. "That was something that was noticeably absent in my training or from my school days back at Saints in Guyana." So far, being the "new girl" benefited not only Saints but herself as well. She feels that she is a connecting dot to the chemistry world and Saints.

In the next couple of years, Shar hopes to see Pueblo Science train STEM teachers not only in Guyana, but also become even more active in South America. Also, going to Guyana and being the one training the teachers would yet be another great opportunity for her.

Towards the end of our interview, I felt as if Shar is making her mark, not only with Toronto Saints and Guyana, but in the world. Her closing response was simply a quote by Deepak Chopra. "*A job is how you make money. A career is how you make your mark. A calling is how you acknowledge a higher vision.*"

Toronto Saints extends a warm and hearty "Welcome" to Shar!

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## CONNECTIONS (continued from page 1)

Since no one knows when the time of departure will arrive, everyone (especially those with major family responsibilities), whether young or old, should take steps to insure that his/her passing will not be a cause for great distress to those left behind.

Finally, there is a brief description of the project which will see us enter a partnership with Pueblo Science to improve the teaching of science at the College. Again, more information will be forthcoming as the project firms up.

**DR. GARY BLANK***Notable achievement by an alumnus - By Joe Castanheiro*

The largest professional association in the world is the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). It has over 430,000 members in 190 countries and over 200,000 members in the U.S.A. **Alumnus Gary Blank** was elected IEEE-USA President in 2014. The President is a volunteer position, and Gary follows in the footsteps of earlier Presidents and leaders like Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Albert Einstein, Marconi, Westinghouse, De Forest, and many others. This is, of course, quite an accomplishment.

Gary attended St. Mary's R.C. School. He was skipped from Third Standard to Fourth Standard (taught by Mr. Barry). His father worked for the firm, J. P. Santos, and was transferred to manage their store in Suddie, Essequibo. The family moved to Suddie when Gary was in Fifth Standard.

In 1949, a year later, at the age of 10, Gary won a Government County Scholarship. It paid tuition and books for 5 years at St. Stanislaus College. Because of serious illness and repeated abdominal surgeries for peritonitis, he missed almost the entire year in 2A, being present for less than one month. He studied at home and, although he passed the exams at the end of the school year, Fr. Scannell advised him to stay in 2A instead of advancing to 3A. During the next 4 years, 1950 to 1954 (the Form Masters being Mr. Marques in 2A, Mr. Laydoo in 3A, Fr. Marques in L4A, and Fr. Gill in U4A), Gary placed first in class 10 times in 12 terms.

His family immigrated into the USA in 1954. Because of strict visa quotas, only five members of the family of six were allowed to enter the USA. Being the oldest child (15 years old), Gary was left behind for several months with a relative in Georgetown, awaiting a US visa. He finally joined his family in October.

He had been accepted for admission by 3 universities, but he arrived too late for the start of the 1954-55 academic year at an American university. He had no choice but to spend the rest of the school year in a US high school. Because of his St. Stanislaus advanced background, there were very few courses available. He finished the school year in the high school and, as the result of a competitive examination, won an Ingersoll Foundation scholarship which paid his tuition, books, and living expenses for the next four years at Illinois Institute of Technology, one of



the top engineering universities in the USA.

He started there in 1955. He graduated with a B.Sc. in electrical engineering in 1959 at the age of 20, and won a Kaiser Foundation Fellowship which paid his tuition, books, and living expenses for one year to pursue his M.Sc. in electrical engineering at the University of Idaho. He completed the degree requirements including publishing his research thesis at 21. He then won a Ford Foundation Fellowship which paid his expenses for the next 3 years to pursue his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. He completed the requirements for his Ph.D., including the publication of his

research thesis, in 1963. He was recognized then as the youngest individual ever to receive a doctorate degree in engineering at the university.

Over the next few years, Gary varied his professional activities between being a university professor of electrical and electronics engineering and working in industry. He has been very active in aerospace and biomedical engineering. He has presented many seminars in Canada, Jamaica, Austria, Brazil, the Netherlands, and the USA. Using what he learned from Fr. Earle, Gary coached his daughters' and sons' soccer teams. One of the teams he coached won the California State Championship and California State Cup in 1973, and another one of his teams accomplished the same in 1976.

He had the pleasure of meeting and visiting Fr. Feeny when he, his wife, and one of their daughters visited Guyana in 1988. In an unplanned surprise visit to the Sacred Heart Church rectory, Gary found and not only thanked Fr. Feeny for his inspiration and outstanding teaching he had done for Gary, but also let him know that he had adopted Father's successful methods in teaching complex scientific material. Fr. Feeny thanked them for the visit, expressing that it was especially satisfying to have an old boy come back to thank him. Fr. Feeny appeared to be in good health, very alert, smiling the way he always did, and very clever in his conversation and humour. They said goodbye, and Fr. Feeny walked them to the corner to get a taxi. Fr. Feeny died that night in his sleep. It seemed as if he had been waiting for such a visit before he died.

Gary and his wife, Bonnie, have been married for 56 years. They live in Plato Center, Illinois, and have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

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**Editorial Committee:**

Paul Camacho, Frank Delph, Vibert Lampkin, L. A. (Bunty) Phillips,  
Godfrey Whyte, John Yip

**Contributing Writers:**

Joe Castanheiro, *Jesuit Missions*, Bunty Phillips, Sarah Florez,  
David Juvet, Art Veerasammy

**Photographs:**

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.

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**Contact Us**

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

The Secretary, St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2. You may contact the Secretary, Albert Smith, by phone (cell) at **647-219-7644** or by email at [al.smith@st-stanislaus-gy.com](mailto:al.smith@st-stanislaus-gy.com).

**COMING EVENTS**

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 11 Apr., 2015	Spring Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	\$45, all inclusive
Sat. 11 Jul., 2015	Golf Tournament	Bethesda Grange Golf Course, 12808 Warden Ave., Stouffville	tba
Fri. 31 July, 2015	Caribjam	West Rouge Community Centre	tba
Mon. 3 Aug., 2015	Last Lap Lime	Woodbridge Fairgrounds	\$15 pre-event \$25 on the day
(tba) Oct., 2015	Fall Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	tba

**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:*

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