



# “BROADCAST”

Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

*Naparima Alumni Association of Canada*

*Naparima Teachers' Training  
St. Andrew's Theological  
St. Augustine Girls'  
Naparima Girls'  
Naparima  
Hillview  
Iere*

Vol XXVIII No. 2

Spring 2005



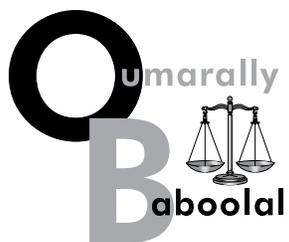
*Dedication of AccessAbility™ Table to Arthur & Bessie Dayfoot at Huron Park, Toronto. (Photo courtesy of Ian Ramdial ) See Article on page 9.*



*A view from the AccessAbility Table™ in Huron Park, looking north to Bloor Street. (Photo courtesy of Ian Ramdial)*



*Rustin Oree presiding over the presentation of awards to supporters of the NAAC 5K Calypso & Steelband Fun Run/Walk (Photo: Milton Moonah)*



## OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL

Barristers and Solicitors



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*The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1976 and includes graduates of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College, Iere High School, Naparima Teachers' College and St. Andrew's Theological College. Among other things, it supports programmes at alma mater schools as well as a steelband programme in schools in the Toronto area. All graduates coming to Ontario are invited to join the Association.*

### NAAC Executive - 2004/2005

Interim President	Merle Ramdial	905-844-1254	mjramdial@hotmail.com
Past President	Norma Ramsahai	416-283-0675	npramsahai@rogers.com
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Non-Executive:	Krishna Nankissoor	905-568-1244	knankiss@rogers.com
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### CREDITS

**“Broadcast”** is the newsletter of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, Toronto Unit and is published twice a year. The views expressed in articles published are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive or of the Association unless specifically stated as such.

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## President's Message

First of all, instead of the President's message, this should read "Interim President's message". In January, Rio Maharaj resigned for personal reasons. We extend our thanks to her for serving on the Executive over the years. I know that Rio will continue to volunteer when needed.

It is already April and our Annual General Meeting will be on May 28th. Please think about how you'd like to serve your Association. Our nominating committee will be calling members to solicit nominees for positions on the 2005/2006 Executive. Those who have served on the Executive for many, many years, need others to participate and experience the good feeling that comes from "giving back to our community". If you feel some apprehension, remember there are guidelines to follow and there are others with experience to assist you.

We've had successful events this past year and we continue to raise funds through our bingos. Our Bingo Coordinator, Norma Ramsahai, along with our team leaders, are looking for volunteers to assist with bingo sessions.

*Note: We do not play or participate in the games. We sell the cards and verify the cash intake on behalf of the Charities Association (of which NAAC is one) and the Ontario Gaming & Lottery Corporation.*

I'd like to thank those who continue to support our events and hope you will participate, along with your friends, in our 5K Run/Walk scheduled for June 11th. Looking even further ahead, the date is set for our Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance 2005, so mark your calendars for November 26th.

See you at the AGM on May 28th.

*Merle Ramdial*

## From the Desk of the Editor

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of both Hillview College and Iere High School. We are indebted to *The Trinidad Presbyterian* and to our Trinidad Liaison Representative, Richard Kokaram, for providing reports on the celebrations at both schools. As we do every three or four years, a listing of NAAC's current membership is included in this issue. Please heed the notice at the end of the listings (page 14)

Lastly, in this issue of *broadcast* we pay tribute to three of our former teachers who passed away recently. Obituaries and the many letters of condolence are evidence of the aging of our alumni. Some brighter news comes following a memorial service for Beulah Meghu which was held on April 16th in London. The group responsible for organizing the service is also planning to form a Naparima Alumni Association of the UK and Europe. We wish them luck and will pass on any news of their progress in the next issue of *broadcast*.

### Notice of Intention to Dissolve the Board of Trustees

Please be informed that a motion will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on May 28th, 2005 calling for the dissolution of the Board of Trustees. **Motion:** *Whereas, the Board of Trustees is not a legal entity and therefore cannot operate within the mandate given it by the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto Branch), such as making legally binding contracts or inheriting legacies; be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees be dissolved and that all its duties be transferred to the Executive of the NAAC.*

## NOTICE OF 2005 NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**WHERE :** Montessori Teacher Education Centre  
1039 McNicoll Avenue, Scarborough

**WHEN:** Saturday May 28th, 2005 • 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call any member of the NAAC Executive for further details (See page 1)

## Finance Report

As of February 28, 2005, the status of the Association's financial affairs was as follows:

**Bingo Account** \$3,982.00

### **General Account**

Bank Account \$33,820.00

Interpipeline Trust 1,000.00

(formerly Koch 100 Units Mkt \$9.21)

(Mkt.plus Dividends of \$367= \$1288.00)

Term Deposit 13,865.00

**Total** **\$48,685.00**

### **Naps 100 Account**

Bank Account \$ 270.00

AIC Advantage II 15,000.00

(Unit cost \$8.64, Mkt. \$8.54 = \$ 14,826 )

Interpipeline Trust 14,000.00

(Formerly Koch ,1500 units Mkt \$9.21)

(Mkt. Plus dividends of \$5497.00 = \$19312.00)

Term Deposits 3,744.00

**Total** **\$33,044.00**

The cost methodology was used in accounting for the investments in stocks since this is most appropriate with respect to long-term investments.

Pre-encashable term deposits in the amount of \$17,639.00 are held at the TD Canada Trust as short-term investments paying 1.10% per annum (maturing April 18, 2005)

**Roy Roland Bhopalsingh, Treasurer**

## Bingo Report

For the current fiscal year April 1st 2004 to March 31st 2005, NAAC was responsible for 36 Bingos and earned revenue of over \$18K to January 2004 and expected revenue of approximately \$3.5K for February and March 2004. This total of \$21.5K represents more than 75% of the association's net income for the fiscal year. We are extremely grateful to all our bingo volunteers for their dedication and hard work in running the bingos. However, we are in dire need of new volunteers. Our strategy for recruiting new volunteers is to have all our current volunteers recruit at least two new volunteers by personally contacting our members and friends.

**IF YOU ARE CONTACTED PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP US HELP OTHERS. WITHOUT THE BINGO REVENUE WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AWARD BURSARIES TO STUDENTS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TO FUND THE STEELBAND PROGRAMS, SUPPORT CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND MAKE DONATIONS TO CHARITIES THAT FUND LIFE- SAVING OPERATIONS FOR CHILDREN. PLEASE HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND "TO GIVE BACK."**

If not contacted, you are most welcome to give us a call and volunteer to assist in a bingo session, usually on a weekend. This entails about four hours of your time, and would be much appreciated. Please contact Norma Ramsahai at 416-283-0675 for more information.

**Norma Ramsahai**  
Bingo Coordinator

## ***Book of Poems***

*Prairie Journey* is a collection of poems written by Madeleine Coopsammy. Madeline is a NAAC member who lives in Winnipeg. This slim volume was published by TSAR of Toronto and reviewed by Ramabai Espinet, who also wrote the blurb used on the back cover of the book. "A brave and beautiful collection - at times reflective, at times haunting, but always challenging us to rethink our ideas and our dilemmas of belonging".

Retails for \$16.95  
Also available from TSAR  
( [www.tsarbooks.com](http://www.tsarbooks.com) )

## Education/Social Committee Report

### 2004 Christmas Dinner and Dance

This event continues to be very popular with the membership. As always there were many members re-establishing contact from previous years.

Elite Banquet Hall was again the venue on November 27th. Participants were treated to a Thai menu whilst music was supplied by the *Steel Bandits* from the Cedarbrae C.I. community Steelband Program and by DJ Phil.

One of the highlights of the formal part of the program, was the presentation of the Ontario bursaries to Natasha Nankisoor, Stephanie Nankisoor and Victoria Kuketz. In addition, we recognized the efforts of regular sponsors of the NAAC Steelband and Calypso Run for Youth. Rustin Oree presented each sponsor with a commemorative plaque. On behalf of NAAC, Sandra Viteri presented a \$2000 cheque to the Youth Without Shelter Organization.

Net proceeds from the Xmas event including the raffle and sale of books was \$3,189.23.

Our 2005 Christmas Dinner & Dance is booked for November 26th at Elite Banquet Hall. A West Indian menu will be offered. Music will be supplied by The VIBES and their accompanying DJ - Raul.

### UPCOMING...

#### Guided Tour of the Humber College Arboretum

We have scheduled a guided tour of the Humber College Arboretum for May 21st. Highlight of the tour will be to see the *rhododendrons* in bloom should Mother Nature cooperate with us. Partici-

pants will meet at 10:00AM at the West Humber Collegiate Institute from where we will 'hike' along the Humber Trail to Humber College. Bottled water (compliments of Rain Soft) will be supplied for the hike and tour. We will complete the event with a light BBQ at the residence of Etty & Ras Shreeram.

Cost of the tour/hike is \$20.

The size of the tour is dependent on a ratio of participants to available tour guides. Participants must pre-register.

Please register before May 10th by contacting Ras at 416 743 1331.

#### NAAC Steelband and Calypso Run for Youth, 5K Fun Run/Walk 2005:

We are getting bigger and better. Last year some participants '*walked away*' with some outstanding prizes, such as a TV, a DVD, stereo players, walk-mans, tickets to Stratford and Shaw festivals as well as to the Stage West Dinner Theatre.

This year we will be adding a Tassa group to the entertainment.

The big day is June 11, 2005 on the scenic West Humber Trail. The starter gun goes off at 09:30 AM.

Register at [www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com) or contact:

Rustin 416 745 4814

Milton 416 284 0931

Ras 416 743 1331

**Registration is \$25.**

Family rate for parents and 2 kids is \$75.

Bring a group of 10 and get the 11th registrant free.

Free registration if you raise

\$50 or more in pledges.

Free commemorative T-Shirt to the first 150 registrants.

Submitted by *Ras Shreeram*

*Please mark your calendars*

## Notice of NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance 2005



**Saturday, November 26th, 2005**

At Elite Banquet Hall

Live Music supplied by the VIBES and DJ Raul

West Indian Menu



## Steelband Report

Steelband classes are continuing quite well at West Humber C.I. and Cedarbrae C.I. A number of new members have joined the beginner classes at both venues resulting in class sizes of over 20 persons.

Since October of last year Pat McNeilly has been sharing some of the after-school community teaching responsibilities with Joe Cullen at WHCI. He has also given a helping hand to Randolph Karamath at Cedarbrae C.I. primarily with the performing band.

At Cedarbrae, the regular steelband music course (day school) has become so popular that because of the number of students that have signed up for the course, the Music Dept. needs to offer 6 classes next semester. Whether this happens or not will depend on what the timetabling schedule will permit. However it is a good indication of the success of the steelband program at this school. The school's performing steelband has been invited to this year's Pan Fest. The event, sponsored by the Toronto District School Board, will feature performances from various school steelbands.

Activities involving the school bands at West Humber C.I. are outlined in Joe Cullen's article elsewhere in this issue. Panache, the NAAC-sponsored community band, practising out at WHCI, already has bookings for a number of gigs. Apart from WHCI's invitation to

perform at the school's Music Night on April 28, the band will be performing at Carassauga on May 29, at NAAC's 5K Steelband & Calypso Run/Walk on June 11, at the Halton Police Picnic in Milton on June 12 and at a private party on June 25.

For those of you interested in learning to play pan, come join us at WHCI or at Cedarbrae CI - phone Ian Ramdial at 905-844-1254 or Randolph Karamath at 416-283-4152.

**Ian Ramdial,**  
NAAC Steelband Liaison



*Coreece Dookhie of WHCI accepting the NAAC steelband music award from Ras Shreeram*

## NAAC - Sponsored Steelband Classes

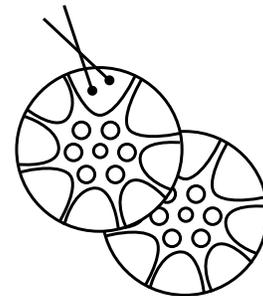
*Interested in learning to play pan  
or in joining a Steelband?*

**Two venues:**

**West End:** West Humber Collegiate Institute

**East End:** Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute

**Contact:** Ian Ramdial: 905-844-1254 • iramdial@hotmail.com  
Randolph Karamath: 416-283-4152 • ramachez@hotmail.com





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# *West Humber Collegiate Steel Band is Achieving Great Things!*

This year has been a busy one for WHCI Steel Bands! Five of the six classes at WHCI competed in the Kiwanis Music Festival, and all five achieved a First Place Standing.

Some of the pieces played this year were: *Kal Ho Naa Ho*, *Rum til I Die*, *Wine Yuh Waist*, *Pachelbel's Canon in D*, Ashanti's *Unfoolish*, and *Trini to the Bone*. This brings the total to a staggering TWELVE First Places at the Kiwanis Music Festival!

The Senior Steel Band was selected to play for the Martin Luther King Celebration Shows at Roy Thompson Hall on Jan 17th. They performed 5 solo pieces and accompanied just about all of the other acts, including JUNO-Award winning R&B group "In Essence" This was in front of about 6,500 people for the two shows. It was a fantastic experience for the students to play pan on such a wonderful stage with beautiful acoustics. They have already been asked to be part of next year's shows, which planners say will be in front of 12,000 people, in an even bigger venue! More details to follow!

Players from all WHCI classes have also enjoyed some excellent coverage this year, appearing in the Toronto Star, and on the front page of the Etobicoke Weekender. The two CDs which NAAC sponsored continue to sell exceptionally well at each performance, whether it be the Black History Celebrations around the GTA, Black History Services, receptions, banquets, and school assemblies.

Coming up: The WHCI Senior Steel Band will be playing for the TDSB Showcase Concert at the George Weston Recital Hall, at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts on April 19th. The school's Motown Ensemble, the only one of its kind in Canada to include lead pan and double second pans among the trumpets, trombones and saxophones, is also part of that special show.

NAAC Panache has been invited to be special guests for the WHCI Spring Music Night Showcase at WHCI on April 28th. They will be playing Pan Man



*WHCI Stage Band at a Church Gig*

Pat's arrangement of *Pan in A Minor* and special guests are in the works. There will also be a presentation to the NAAC at this concert by the school's Principal as a gesture of thanks for the continued support. Everyone is invited to attend this show, please call Joe Cullen for tickets, which are \$5.00.

Joe Cullen would like to personally thank all NAAC members for their support of the WHCI Steel Band program. Without the financial support of our pan tuning, we would not be able to maintain such a great sounding group of players. The bursaries and scholarships also go a long way to motivate and encourage our students to stay with steel pan for their entire four years in high school, which keeps our numbers close to 200 players each year. THANK YOU!

*Joe Cullen*, Music Teacher WHCI



*Joe Cullen proudly displays WHCI's 5 First Places from the Kiwanis Music Festival.*

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## *Bursaries for 'Naps' boys*

Sunday, February 20th 2005

Ten students from Naparima College were yesterday presented bursaries to assist them through school from a trust fund established by the Naparima College Old Boys' Association.

Former president of Trinidad and Tobago Noor Hassanali is patron of the trust fund. Receipts from the sale of his book *Teaching Words* have been collected over the past four years for the fund.

Yesterday, Hassanali hosted the students at his Bayshore Towers apartment for the bursary presentations.

This is the first presentation made from the trust fund.

The ten students will be assisted by the fund until they graduate.

They are Craig Matadeen, Jenson Seepersad, Dalip Shiwratn, Adian Knutt, Arian Knutt, Elmus Jaikaran, Obadiah Baptiste, Okera Baptiste, Mohan Ramnarine and Daylan Sinanan.

Another ten students will be awarded bursaries from the trust fund next year.

A donation was also given to Naparima College. The bursaries totalled approximately \$25,000.

***Curtis Rampersad***

Trinidad and Tobago Express

**NOTICE:**

**NAPARIMA ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION QUE INC.**

***SPRING FIESTA DINNER/DANCE***

**May 14th • 7 p.m - 2:00 a.m**

St. Jean Brébreuf Parish Hall  
855 Bishop Power Blvd., LaSalle

**COST:**

\$25.00/ person; \$45.00/couple; Students: \$20.00

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Angie (514) 363-358 • Lystra (514) 696-2516  
Marjorie (450) 691-3319

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## *After the Flood*

Where are the stone-breakers now?  
Those frail women with blackened calloused hands,  
who daily crouch under a relentless sky.  
The thud, thud of their hammer blows  
echo within their aching heads.  
Their day's work to provide the crumbled rock,  
a fitting path for tourists' sandaled feet.

I see them weightless now,  
bob and weave among the ocean's wreck,  
Among the tangled roots of coconut palms.  
Is this their promised rest, their nirvana?

And those patiently enduring haggard men,  
near naked in the pitiless sun,  
the gatherers of salt, the caustic harvest of the sea.  
Each painful step, suffered for the reward it brings:  
food for the children, a shelter over their heads.  
And so they toil between the cruel sky  
and the hell beneath their rotting feet.  
Where are they now?

The angry ocean has reclaimed its own.  
Its surging billows thrash, destroy  
The salt pans have become a watery grave  
Salt the preserver, is their destroyer too.

Where are the carvers now?  
Where lie their monuments of stone,  
Shiva with his consort, fierce tigers with men's heads,  
Buddhas serene, painstakingly etched by skilful hands,  
The deftness of these tireless men,  
inherited, not gained from books.  
Where are the stone carvers now?

Buddha lies buried beneath the chaos,  
with his creators, their ancient skills engulfed.  
The fires are out.  
Stone statuary will surely survive  
emerge some day from the smothering sand,  
but the men who breathed life into harsh rock  
will be but a tragic memory.

*Indrani Gleave wrote this poem shortly after the tsunami hit South India's Tamil Nadu state, which she had recently visited.*

---

# *Dedication of AccessAbility™ table*

In the Fall 2004 issue of broadcast we placed a notice informing our members about the upcoming installation of this specially designed table for people with physical disabilities. The site that the Dayfoots chose is Huron Park, just minutes from Bloor Street and a stone's throw from their apartment and across the street from Dayfoot House, one of the Campus Co-operative Residences.

As you can see from the photos, this special event took place on a rather chilly, blustery morning on October 16th. The Dayfoots to whom this sturdy table is dedicated were pleased and at the same time humbled by the etched inscription on four sides of the stainless steel tabletop/chessboard.

## **It reads:**

In Honour of Rev. Arthur & Mrs. Bessie Dayfoot  
For their dedication to the Canadian Mission  
Presbyterian Ministry in Trinidad & Tobago

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada 2004

The Dayfoot family members and friends were the first to make use of the table for coffee and doughnuts.

NAAC Executive member Ras Shreeram conducted the formal part of the ceremony. Also in attendance were Ety Shreeram and a representative from Campus Co-operative Residences Inc. who visited with the family at the site.



*Art & Bessie Dayfoot at the AccessAbility™ Table  
in Huron Park, October 16th, 2004.*

---

Huron Park is located at 420 Huron Street in Toronto.

In the picture on the front cover of this broadcast (from left) are: Robbie Gordon (grandson of the Dayfoots), Elaine Darling, March of Dimes representative, Roxana Muller (granddaughter), Cathy & Angus Muller (daughter & son-in-law), Rev. Arthur Dayfoot, Rev. Linda Butler (Minister, Bloor Street United Church); Laurie Gordon (son-in law), Merle & Ian Ramdial, and Mrs. Bessie Dayfoot (seated).

## ***Congratulations***

*Congratulations to two of NAAC's newest sets of grandparents*

Claude & Vilma Ramcharan who had their first grandchild,  
a girl, born in February 2005

Rustin & Thelma Oree, who also became first-time grandparents in April 2005.  
A son born to Philip & Olimpia.

*and to*

Sharlene & David Seemungal on the very recent birth of their first child, a girl.

---

## *Quick work by guard saves Iere High*

Quick work by a security guard on duty at the Iere High School in Siparia saved the school from destruction by fire early yesterday. Fire fighters were called in by the guard in time to confine the blaze to the administrative section.

The offices of the vice-principal, clerk, and school secretary were destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$100,000 but school principal Michael Dowlat assured parents of the school's 620 pupils that all would be ready for the reopening of classes in two weeks.

The fire broke out at around 2.45 a.m. on the first day of the Easter vacation. The cause of the blaze is unknown. Iere High School is one of five Presbyterian secondary schools and considered one of the most academically

successful in Siparia.

Dowlat said furniture and air-condition units were destroyed and school officials were checking to determine whether documents relating to pupils had been burnt. He said: "School will resume as usual. We had a meeting with the school supervisor and we will have this repaired as soon as they complete the investigation of the fire."

Firemen from the Siparia and San Fernando Fire Stations responded to the blaze.

*Richard Charan*

South Bureau, Trinidad Express  
Saturday March 26th, 2005

### *Our Sympathy to...*

Sandra Lalla and her family on the death of her brother **Sydney Saney**.

Ralph Shah, Kelvin Shah and Lynette Hormozian and their families on the recent passing of their mother, **Mrs. Nora Shah**

Members Indrani Gleave and Anthony Boodhoo and their families on the recent death of their sister **Carol Robertson (nee Boodhoo)**.

The families of Life members, Bobby Oumarally and Aneesa Oumarally-Baboolal, on the death of **Dr. Unus Omarali**. Dr. Oumarali died on April 6, 2005. He was a NAAC Founding Member and an Honourary Member.

Jacqueline Mahabir, whose sister **Rosslyn Sankeralli (nee Meghu)** died on April 8, 2005. Rosslyn was also the sister of the late Beulah Meghu.

Mrs. Rena Newbery and to Life member Mary Cragg and family on the death of **Rev. Dr. J.W.E. Newbery** in October 2004. Rev. Newbery was a Principal of St. Andrew's Theological College, Trinidad, from 1950-1959.

Nell Ramdial and her family on the death of her husband **George Ramdial**, a Life Member of NAAC.

**NAPARIMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA**

**Membership List As of April 2005**

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Mr Lincoln Alexander	
Mrs Kathleen Anderson	SAGHS
Ms Maureen Atwal	
Mr Sooksagar Babooram	IHS
Mrs Jean Bahadur	NGHS
Rev Cyril F. Beharry	IHS
Mrs Bessie Dayfoot	
Rev Arthur Dayfoot	
Mr Michael Dowlath	IHS
Rev Winston Gopaul	NC/SATC
Mr Noor Hassanali	NC
Mrs Zalayhar Hassanali	NGHS/NC
Mr Irving Hoosainie	IHS/NC
Mr Richard Kokaram	IHS/NC/HC
Mr James Lee Wah	NC
Mrs Mavis Lee Wah	NGHS
Dr Anna Mahase	NC/SAGHS
Dr Allan McKenzie	NC
Rev Joy Abdul-Mohan	NGHS/SATC
Mrs Rena Newbery	
Mrs Patricia Ramgoolam	NGHS
Mr Jeremiah Seepersad	HC
Mr Steven Seepersad	HC
Mrs Cynthia Seunarine	NGHS/NC
Mr Charles Sinanan	IHS
Rev Harold Sitahal	NC/SATC
Mr Edison Sookoo	NC

**Total Honorary Members : 27**

**LIFE MEMBERS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Mr Stanley Algoo	NC
Mrs Imogen Foster-Algoo	NGHS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Mr Winston Ali	NC
Mrs Deleisha Ali	NGHS
Mr Selwyn Baboolal	NC
Mrs Aneesa Oumarally-Baboolal	NGHS
Mrs Beryl Baldeo	NGHS
Rev Albert Baldeo	NC
Dr Ralph Baney	NC
Mrs Vera Baney	
Mr Roy Bhopalsingh	HC
Mrs Hazifa Bhopalsingh	SAGHS
Mr Horace Bhopalsingh	HC
Mrs Judith Bhopalsingh	NGHS
Ms Vidya Bissessar	NGHS
Mr Mohan Bissoondial	NC
Mrs Phyllis Bissoondial	
Mr Edwin Borges	
Mrs Celia Borges	SAGHS
Mr Lawrence Bridglalsingh	NC
Mrs Marlene Cassim	NGHS
Mr Betalal Chan	HC
Mrs Mary Newberry-Cragg	NGHS
Rev Joyce Daniel	
Rev Sydney Daniel	NTC
Ms Anne-Marie Deboran	
Mr Emmanuel Dick	
Mr Prem Dipchan-Maharaj	NC
Mrs Sherry Dipchan-Maharaj	
Mr Franklyn Dookheran	NC
Mrs Joanne Kassie-Foehner	SAGHS
Mrs Pat Francis	NGHS
Ms Merle Gobin	SAGHS
Mrs Myrtle Gopeesingh	NGHS
Mr Guy Guyadeen	NC
Mr Terrence Headley	
Mr Cecil Heal	
Ms Maureen Eccles-Hill	SAGHS
Mr Ali Hormozian	
Mrs Lynette Hormozian	NGHS
Dr Roland Hosein	NC
Mrs Shaffina Hosein	NGHS
Mrs Shanti Ramkerrysingh-Inman	NGHS/NC
Mrs Gloria Jaikaran	
Mr Ronald Jaikaran	IHS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Ms Brenda Jaleel	NGHS	Ms Karma Naike	NGHS/NTC
Mr Errol Jardine		Ms Deidre Nancoo	NGHS
Mrs Phyllis Jardine	NGHS	Mr Krishna Nankissoor	NC
Ms Patsy Jordan	NGHS	Mr Rawle Narayansingh	NC/NTC
Mr Clifford Jutlah	NC	Ms Gloria Dabideen-Nedd	NGHS
Mrs Angela Jutlah	NGHS/NC	Mr Antonio Nucaro	
Rev Kenrick Keshwah		Mrs Sandra Viteri-Nucaro	
Mr Ashraff Khan	HC	Mr Ambrose Ojah	NC
Mrs Jean Kissoon-Singh	NGHS	Mr Rustin Oree	NC
Mr Sandy Kissoon-Singh		Mr Bobby Oumarally	NC
Ms Victoria Kuketz		Mrs Indira Mohan-Poole	NGHS
Mr Ian Lalla		Dr Deo Poonwassie	NC/IHS
Mrs Sandra Lalla	IHS	Mrs Joyce Pooran	NGHS
Mr George Lalsingh	NC	Mr Ramkissoon Pooran	NC
Ms Diane Longley	SAGHS	Ms Margaret Celia Ragoonath	SAGHS
Dr Larry Lutchmansingh	NC	Mrs Kurlie Ramasra	NGHS
Mrs Jacqueline Mahabir	NC/NGHS	Mr Claude Ramcharan	NC
Mr Ronald Mahabir	NC/SAIC/NTC	Mrs Vilma Ramcharan	NGHS
Mrs Gemma Eccles-Mahabir	SAGHS	Mr Winston Ramcharan	NC/NTC
Mr Gaya Mahabirsingh	IHS	Mrs Myrna Ramcharan	NGHS
Mr Robin Maharaj	NC	Mrs Cynthia Ramdeen	SAGHS
Ms Risel Maharaj	NGHS	Mrs Nell Ramdial	NGHS
Mr Rudy Maharaj	NC	Mr Ian Ramdial	NC
Dr Hugh Manswell	NC	Mrs Merle Ramdial	NGHS
Mr Pat McNeilly	HC	Mr Samuel Ramdial	
Mr Manshad Mohamed	NC	Mrs Phyllis Ramjattansingh	NGHS
Mr Rennie Mohamed	NC	Mr Carl Ramkerrysingh	NC
Mrs Fareeaa Mohammed	NGHS	Mr Ronald Ramkerrysingh	NC
Mr Kevin Mohammed		Mr Jerry Ramlochan	NC
Mr Tahir Mohammed		Mr Sastri Rampersad	NC
Mr Ayub Mohammed	NC	Mrs Rosslyn Rampersad	NGHS
Mr Russell Mohammed	NC	Mrs Shoban Rampersad	NGHS
Mrs Angela Mohammed	NGHS	Dr. O'Hara Rampersad	NC
Mrs Alison Moonsie-Mohan	NGHS	Mr Franklyn Rampersad	HC
Mr Peter Mohan	NC	Mr David Rampersad	
Mr Milton Moonah	NC	Mrs Lela Ramprashad	
Mrs Kathy Moonah		Mr Pete Ramprashad	NC
Mrs Kerin Moreton	NGHS	Mr Anand Ramsahai	NC
Mr Angus Muller	NC	Mrs Glenda Ramsahai	SAGHS
Mrs Catherine Muller	NGHS	Rev Joseph Sahadat	NC
Ms Vitra Mungal	NGHS	Mrs Lynda Sahadat	
Mr Noel Mungal		Mr Baldeo Sairsingh	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Ms Ruby Samlalsingh	NGHS	* Mrs Judi Boodhoo	
Mr Julian Sammy	NC	* Mr Anthony Boodhoo	NC
Mr Howard Sammy	NC	Mr Veejai Boodram	
Ms Joy Sammy	NGHS	Mrs Gemma Boodram	
Mrs Kathy Sammy		Mr Christopher Charles	
Ms Cheryl Sampson	SAGHS	Mrs Vashti Charles	
Mr Kelvin Seepersad	NC	Mr Roderick Charles	NC
Mrs Nivene Seepersad		Ms Michele Comeau	
Mrs Pearl Seunarine	NGHS/NC	Mr Lloyd Coopsammy	HC
Mr Everald Seupaul	NC	Mrs Madeline Coopsammy	
Mrs Yavitri Seupaul	IHS	* Mr Joseph Cullen	
Mr Kelvin Shah	NC	* Mrs Lisa Berejikilian-Cullen	
Mr Ras Shreeram		* Mr Rudy Dabideen	NC
Mrs Etty Shreeram	NGHS	Mr Charles Dayfoot	NC
Mr Roger Singh	NC	Rev Timothy Dayfoot	NC
Winston Sookbirsingh	NC	Mrs Flora Deboran	NGHS
Ms Zita Ramkay-Stanley	SAGHS	* Mrs Beatrice Deen	
Mr Matthew Sween	NC	* Mr Nazru Deen	NC
Dr Solomon Tancoo	NC	* Mr Kenrick Dhanessar	NC
Dr G Desmond Teelucksingh	NC	* Mrs Sherry Dhanessar	
Ms Diane Thomas	SAGHS	Ms Laura Dipchan-Maharaj	
Mrs Angela Thomas	NGHS	Mrs Monica Edoo	NGHS
Mr Fred Thornhill	NC	*Mr Brent Espinet	
Mrs Marva Thornhill	NGHS	*Mrs Vidya Espinet	NGHS
Mr David Welch		* Ms Ramabai Espinet	NGHS/NC
Mrs Marilyn White	NGHS/NC	* Mr Ruthven Foster	NC
Mrs Debbie Wingson	NGHS	Mrs Indrani Gleave	NGHS/NC
Mrs Letitia Yerex	NGHS/NC	Mrs Ingrid Glyn-Williams	
Mr Milton Zaiffdeen	NC	Dr Lystra Gosine	NC
		Mr Chandrashakhar Gosine	NC
<b>Total Life Members : 158</b>		* Ms Camille Hasmatali	NGHS
		*Mr Afzal Hydal	NC
<b>ANNUAL MEMBERS</b>		*Mrs Jocelyn Hydal	NGHS
* Indicates membership not renewed for 2005		Mrs Nola Jean Jandjsek	SAGHS
		Ms Marielle Shelley Karamath	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	Mr Randolph Karamath	
* Mr Joe Ayuen	NC	Mrs Marion Karamath	NGHS
Mrs Yvonne Ayuen		Mr Hollis Kelly	NC
* Dr Ishmael Baksh	NC	* Mrs June Khan	NGHS/NC
* Dr Stella Baksh	NGHS/NC	* Mrs Lilet Khan	
Ms Portia Barriffe		* Mr Winston Khan	
Mr Esmond Bassarath	NC	Jonathan Kuketz	

Name	Institution	Name	Institution
Ms Kelly Longley		Mrs Sharlene Seemungal	
Ms Catherine Longley		Mr Sam Sinanan	NC
Dr Clarence Madhosingh	NC	Mrs Nora Sinanan	NGHS
* Mrs Dawne Mahabir	SAGHS	* Mr Gerard Sinanansingh	NC
* Mr Neville Mahabir	NC	* Mrs Marlyne Sinanansingh	
* Mrs Dale Maynes	NGHS	Mr Ian Sitaram	NC
* Mrs Cynthia Meighoo	NGHS	Mrs Margaret Sitaram	NGHS
Mrs Carol Joy Mills		Ms Dianne Leela Sitaram	
Ms Dina Mistry		Mrs Feeroza Sultan-Khan	NGHS
Mrs Glenda Mohammed		Mr Rasheed Sultan-Khan	NC
* Ms Natasha Nankisoor		Mr Terence Takashima	
* Mr Toolsie Nankisoor		Mr Clive Teelucksingh	NC
* Mrs Charmaine Nankisoor		* Mr Jeremy Thomas	
* Ms Stephanie Nankisoor		Ms Shirley Zanchetta	
* Nicholas Nankisoor			
* Nicole Nankisoor			
Branca Nucaro			
Catherine Nucaro			
Frances Nucaro			
* Mr Riaz Oumarally	NC		
Mr Winston Poon			
Mrs Joan Poon			
Ms Kristin Poon			
Jason Poon			
* Ms Annetta Protain	NGHS/NC		
* Mr David Cherril Ramcharitar	NC		
* Mrs Lydia Rameshwar			
* Rev Keith Rameshwar	SATC		
* Mrs Daisy Ramirez	NGHS		
* Mr Ken Ramkeesoon	NTC		
* Mr Deon Ramkissoonsingh	NC		
* Mr Jivan Ramsahai			
Mrs Norma Ramsahai	NGHS		
Mr Prem Ramsahai	NC		
* Mr Tim Rostant			
* Ms Rae-Marie Rostant			
* Mrs Wendy Rostant	NGHS		
Mr Kenrick Samlal	NC		
Mrs Ellen Samlal			
Ms Janet Sanayhie			
* Ms Sheila Satram			
Mr David Seemungal			

**Total Annual Members : 104**

**LEGEND**

HC	Hillview College
IHS	Iere High School
NC	Naparima College
NGHS	Naparima Girls' High School
NTC	Naparima Training College
SAGHS	St. Augustine Girls' High School
SATC	St. Andrew's Theological College

*“This list is for official Association and Alumni/Alumnae use, and also for individual communication of a personal nature between members listed herein. Use of this list for any other purpose, including, but not limited to, reproducing and storing in a retrieval system by any means, electronic or mechanical, photocopying or using the information contained in this list for any private, commercial or political purpose, or telephone solicitation, is strictly prohibited and constitutes a misappropriation of corporate property.”*

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# *Ralph Clarence Laltoo*

## *1915 - 2004*

Mr Laltoo was the English Master, then Dean of Studies and Head of English Department at Naparima College from 1944 to 1953.

Always impeccably dressed in his customary white shark skin suits, short brush-cut hair and wearing dark eye-glasses, Mr. Laltoo could easily have appeared as a character in a mystery story. But behind this enigmatic appearance there stood a man of unusual purpose and dedication. How much of these were inherited from his scholarly family, how much were instilled in his childhood by the demands of his humble home and community environment, how much were motivated by his personal ambition to move on and away from the shadows of indentured labour and how much of these characteristics were cultivated from his innate capacity for purposeful work? Likely he had a generous helping of each of these.

His purposefulness armed him with the tools for his profession as an English literature teacher. A brilliant scholar at Naparima College, he then entered Naparima Training College and took first place in the island examination. After teaching in several Canadian Mission schools in south Trinidad, he left the island by ship in 1938 to study at Dalhousie University in Halifax where he received the B.A. and M.A. degrees in 1941 and 1942 respectively. He obtained the degree of Bachelor of Pedagogy in 1943 from the University of Toronto, where he taught for a while before returning to Trinidad in 1944.

In 1953, he accepted an appointment as English Master at Queen's Royal College (QRC) in Port of Spain. In 1961, benefiting from his expertise and experience, the North Eastern College was established in Sangre Grande and he then became its first principal. He also created the school's Coat of Arms and motto. He returned to QRC in 1964 as

the first local principal in the history of the school. He left Trinidad for Canada for a second time in 1970, this time to teach at the Shelburne Regional High School in Shelburne, Nova Scotia.



After teaching for 43 years, one can only estimate that there were hundreds of students who were taught and influenced by Mr. Laltoo through the years. Among his students are writers, physicians, scientists, artists, sculptors, teachers, lawyers, ministers in the church, politicians, mas men, accountants, poets, police, meteorologists

and engineers. One, Mrs, Zalayhar Hassanali, became the First Lady of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. They will all acknowledge the beneficial influence of Mr. Laltoo in their later lives. At a 20-year Shelburne High School reunion in Canada recently, one of his past students said to him: "Mr. Laltoo, I can't remember what I did last week, but I can remember all the Shakespeare you taught me."

As students at Naparima College, we saw essentially one image of this man in white - a serious, dedicated and effective teacher. Here are some other images that may stir your imagination about this unusual man.

In his later years, his daughter says, "...he graduated to colourful ties, handsome tweed blazers and Sherlock Holmes hats". He was an avid gardener and maintained manicured lawns at his home. He did the edging on his lawns with a Trinidad cutlass and, as the years advanced, he built a pirha (low stool) to be able to sit and tend his lawn and garden.

As a true renaissance man, his interests and pursuits were not entirely scholarly and intellectual. He not only designed the family house in Penal but he physically made wooden forms, mixed the con-

*(continued on next page)*

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## **Ralph Clarence Laltoo**

**1915 - 2004**

*(continued from previous page)*

crete, poured the cement blocks and helped build the house which still stands to this day. He also had a keen interest in woodworking and had diligently built many household items.

He was a member of the Mount Royal United Church and served on the Church Council for ten years. He sang in the church choir for 20 years, even honing up his tenor voice with training lessons and sometimes he preached from the pulpit for the local minister.

He was a dedicated and active member of the Masonic Lodge and participated in their many activities including several charitable functions.

He was apparently, as his daughter puts it, "A car man." Or as a Trini would say, "He had a ting about cars." He bought the latest models and the biggest cars that he could afford. Lately, when he purchased a compact sporty model, a colleague exclaimed: "Well, Ralph, you've finally gotten a car to match your size!"

His all-pervasive characteristic of dedication and commitment was perhaps best expressed among his immediate and close-knit family and particularly with his grandchildren with whom "he reveled, in their growth and education".

In 2002, he sent me a copy of Lindsay's (his granddaughter) invitation from the Prime Minister to lunch with HRH the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. With his usual modesty and with some residual memories of indentured ancestors and colonial days, he wrote to me, "*Who would ever have thought that the grand-daughter of a Penal boy would have been invited to have lunch with Her Majesty the Queen?*"

In his passing, he has left behind his wife, Marjorie (nee Mulchansingh), daughter Heather and sons Hayden and Hans, son-in-law Ronald Ferguson and daughters-in-law Sharon (nee Stevens) and Mary

(nee MacBeath). His grandchildren are Gregory, Alexandra, Devin, Reanna, Andrea and Lindsay and his sisters, Nora Lochan and Margaret Jagersar.

I suspect that in his diverse teaching career, it was at Naparima College that he made the greatest impact. He has said repeatedly and proudly that his golden years were at Naparima. What then is Mr. Laltoo's legacy to our Alma Mater, to the alumni and to students and teachers?

The College Crest, which he designed and the Olympian, the annual College magazine that he initiated in 1945, are two tangible legacies, which Mr. Laltoo has left for posterity. Those who have even a passing acquaintance with the Naparima experience will readily realize the perpetual significance of these simple yet profound symbols of the Alma Mater.

Each Olympian, as it chronicles the current year's activities, school highlights and student expressions, maintains a vibrant and continuing link with the past. This is poignantly evident in the 2004 issue, commemorating 110 years of the College, 1894-2004. Sixty years after Mr. Laltoo initiated the first issue of the Olympian, the magazine has reproduced his last and moving *in absentia* address to his 1948-1949 graduating classes at their reunion in Trinidad in March 2004. In the same issue, Dr. Rajandaye Ramkissoon-Chen, his former student, extolled his virtues as a teacher and a man. It is indeed heartening to see the traditional school spirit maintained in its many discerning articles and the steadfast support that the Olympian obtains from the students and staff at the College.

The College crest initials all the College documents, it adorns the students' uniforms and it has become the symbolic mainstay of all academic and social events connected with the College. As the Alumni has spread and established themselves worldwide so has the College crest that has found new homes in diverse lands. In its graphic simplicity, it remains as an eloquent and nostalgic reminder of days gone by and as the symbol of the personal intangible legacies it has bestowed on so many for

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## **Ralph Clarence Laltoo**

**1915 - 2004**

*(continued from previous page)*

so many years. In some ways, I think that it carries a unique sense of unity and belonging and continues to inspire the traditional values of the spirit of Naparima, particularly for the diaspora of the far-flung alumni.

I will venture to suggest here that the College crest, with the college motto, be the basis of a College flag which should be placed on a flagpole in a prominent location on the campus with a plaque at the base, indicating Mr. Laltoo (1915 - 2004), as teacher and the creator of the College crest in 1945.

Just as importantly, are the many intangible legacies which Mr. Laltoo has bequeathed to the school, to teachers and students. He represented and espoused the traditions and values of the school, not by active discourse or moralizing, but rather by the manner in which, every day, he performed his responsibilities as a teacher. He required the same efforts from his students as he gave to them in his teaching and when that effort was not forthcoming, his role as a strict disciplinarian emerged and many had experienced the detention class at his hand. He was proud of his achievements, his accomplishments and his dedication as a teacher and he instilled, subtly but surely, a similar pride in his students. He valued education and encouraged our capacities to learn, to appreciate, to express ourselves and to communicate effectively in the English language, an invaluable and substantial personal bequest to all his students. He exacted due respect for his role as a teacher and he was reasonable, just and fair in his dealings with his students. We learnt respect and earned respectability at the same time from the venerable Master.

And although as students, the acquiring of the subtleties of character and manners was not apparent to us, in time we have come to realize the wisdom of his ways.

It was Mr. Laltoo's dedication and sense of

pedagogical responsibilities that determined his successful career but it was the quality of the man, his manner and methodology that affected his students most profoundly. These qualities, combined qualifications and innate capacity to teach, made him a teaching legend in his own time.

Only months before his passing in August 2004, his 1948 and 1949 Naparima School Certificate and Higher School Certificate classes honored Mr Laltoo with a Recognition and Appreciation plaque citing:

*“His excellence in teaching, his enduring literary inspiration in our lives and his many momentous contributions which helped to create for us that unique and inebriating spirit of Naparima”*

A great person is one who influences many lives. A legend is one who has influenced many lives successfully. Et tu aussi, Monsieur Laltoo!!

*By Dr. Clarence Madhosingh*

The logo for Rain Soft features the words "Rain Soft" in a cursive, elegant font. A single water droplet is positioned between the two words, with its stem extending downwards.

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- Rotten Smell • Cloudiness • Scale Deposits
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*In memoriam...*  
*Rev. Professor (Emeritus)*  
*Dr. J.W.E. (Edward Newbery)*

Rev. Professor (Emeritus) Dr. J.W.E. (Edward Newbery), C.M., B.A., M.Div., D.D., LL.D, D.Litt. passed away on October 12, 2004, in his 96th year at Simcoe, Ontario. He was the husband of Rena for 68 years and father to Peter, Mary Cragg and Andy.

As a minister within the United Church of Canada (Emmanuel, 1934), he served pastorates in Magnetawan, Sudbury, Gore Bay, Toronto and Jarvis, Ontario and Hazelton, B.C.

He was Principal of St. Andrew's Theological College, Trinidad, 1950-59, and was seconded to St. Colm's College, Jamaica during the years, 1957 and 1958. Later in Canada, he became President/Principal of Huntington College, Laurentian University from 1960-1967. He was the Founder and Professor of Native Studies and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Sudbury from 1969 to 1986. Continuing his work in Canada, he was a co-developer with Art Solomon, of the Native Studies program within Canada's Penal Institutions and a long-term member of Amnesty International.

Rev. Newbery was an honorary Native Elder, and a recipient of honorary Doctoral Degrees from Victoria, Laurentian and Huntington Universities. He was also awarded the Sudbury Human Rights Commission Citizen of the Year in 1973.

With life-long commitment to peace and reconciliation between faith communities and as a proponent of Native Spirituality, he and Rena were awarded the Order of Canada in 1989 for their work in social justice.

Known and admired for his moral courage, his legacy is one of building bridges between faith communities. His faith continues to shine through countless students and fellow pilgrims.

He will be deeply missed for his devotion to teaching, his generous friendship, his wise counsel, and sense

of humour. He lived with honour in this vast and mysterious world of creation.

Memorial services were held to celebrate his life at St. James United Church in Simcoe, Ontario and at the University of Sudbury. If you wish, you may make donations to the David Suzuki Foundation or to

J.W.E. Newbery Bursaries  
University of Sudbury  
Ramsay Lake Road  
Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

*“ O God around me,  
Your spirit is the great wind  
and the quiet breath of every creature.  
Everything is alive in You  
And toward You all things are moving”  
- E. Newbery*

### **The GHI's of Trini Lingo**

(The JKL's to follow in the next issue of *Broadcast!*)

#### **“G”**

**Goin'orf** - Someone who appears to be going out of their mind, acting strangely

**Gun talk** -Fighting words, to threaten verbally

**Gyul** - Girl

#### **“H”**

**Harden** -Disobedient

**Hototo(hotoetoe)** -A very large amount of anything

#### **“I”**

**I eh payin' tax fuh mih mout'** - I could say anything I want

**In ting** - To be involved in current activity

**Is so?** -Is that so?

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# Tribute to Beulah Meghu

We thank God for the life of the late Miss Beulah Meghu and we celebrate her selfless love, care and concern. Her dedication to duty, dignity and decorum, and her honesty, sincerity and integrity made her an exemplar to many who interacted with her. Miss Meghu's transparency and accountability along with deep sincerity, determination and bravery made her an icon.

She lived the tenets of the motto on our Naparima Girls High School badge - "Non nobis solum sed omnibus" - Not for ourselves alone but for all." Consequently, she has positively influenced several generations and the ripple effect will undoubtedly result in even further benefits nationally and internationally.

Miss Meghu will forever remain in the annals of the history of Naps Girls as an excellent administrator who had her own vision of what the school should be. She had an unwavering belief in a holistic education, recognizing the importance of extra-curricular activities. To this end, she introduced drama, music and physical education into the curriculum. She was also the visionary who saw the vital role of a student council and the House System in managing the day-to-day affairs in the lives of her charges. Today, we are all benefiting from these organizations that have been instrumental in shaping the lives and careers of many students.

She believed that each student should develop her God-given talents and that competition with others was not as important as competition with one's self.

Miss Meghu encouraged excellence in her students on every level. One of the many important lessons she taught was the need to be selective in choosing the causes with which one might identify. Indeed, while she may have been perceived as somewhat conservative, it was more a matter of her being particular about the causes with which one might identify. With her, it was more a matter of seeing the big picture, considering the possible implications and ramifications of one's actions.



Students who were at school during Miss Meghu's tenure can testify to the genuine interest she took in each and every student. When she was Principal, she taught each Form 1 class and so got to know each student by name. That was simply phenomenal! Not only this, but she interviewed all the Form 6 students and found out

what they wanted to do in life. In her attempt to ensure that students improve their listening skills, Miss Meghu introduced dictation sessions at every level.

Miss Meghu felt it necessary that the students come to appreciate that they have inherited a proud tradition at Naparima, under which many important school events and students' activities occurred. She was also a very fair individual and believed in the importance of doing your duty quietly and effectively, without

any desire for public acclamation. Although students perceived her as a strict authoritarian figure, which in many aspects, indeed she was, Miss Meghu had a sense of humour. She participated regularly in the staff item that was the finale to the academic year. Once she even appeared in the school uniform and that brought the house down. She enjoyed the musical chairs event segment of a recent Alumnae Meeting and was even regarded as "Queen of the musical chairs."

The memory of Miss Beulah Meghu, all she was, and all she contributed to life on the hill, will live on forever at Naparima Girls' High School. Paul in his letter to Timothy describes the life of the late Miss Beulah Meghu:

"I have run the race, I have kept the course, I have finished the fight, I have kept the faith." Our heavenly Father will undoubtedly reply, 'Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into my Kingdom.' May she rest in the arms of her heavenly Father.

*(Editor's note: This tribute, which was submitted anonymously, was read at the funeral service held at Susamachar Church).*

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**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY GRADUANT DR. RALPH BANEY,**  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT  
THE ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
ON SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER, 2004. DR. BANEY WAS HONORED WITH AN HON-  
ORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS (D. LITT) AT THE CEREMONY.

Chancellor  
The Vice Chancellor  
Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Tiwarie, Principal of the St.  
Augustine Campus  
Other Principals and Pro Vice Chancellors  
Honorable Ministers of Government  
Academic Colleagues of the University  
Graduates  
Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Greetings,

First of all I want to say that I feel very honored to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition for my lifetime achievement as a sculptor. I want to thank the University for this Honor.

But this is an occasion when we celebrate the achievements of the graduates from this beautiful campus. I want to offer my personal congratulations to each of you and to wish you success in your future endeavors.

You have put in a great deal of time and effort to reach this stage. You have been put through a rigid discipline and I am sure that there were times when you wondered, what the purpose was of all the hoops that you had to jump through. Fortunately for you, you did jump through all the hoops and now you have reached your goal of graduating from the University of the West Indies. Let the whole world take note of that.

This is a time in your life when many of you will be looking for careers. In the process you may have to take a temporary job or two just to survive, but however long it may take, you want to settle for something that you will enjoy and find both challenging and interesting for the rest of your life.

One of the things I have learned from this life is that nobody puts anything on a platter for you, except perhaps, your parents and that is if they have the means. I have found that if you work towards what you want to achieve then you are more likely to get a helping hand.

My message today deals with two significant challenges and how solving them shaped the direction of my life. I will also touch briefly on the arts on this campus.

I left elementary school and took the Naparima College Entrance Exam. When I told my father that I passed, he said he couldn't afford to send me to college. I was fourth of ten children, so I understood that even before I took the exam. He told me to talk to my eldest brother, Ramdeo, who had been recently married. I am happy to say that he is here today in the audience. My brother said he could only manage to pay the sixteen dollars tuition per term, and that I would have to find money for books, clothes, shoes and pocket change. I could walk to school because it was only three miles each way. I was elated at the offer. I planted lettuce and patchoi, and sold them wholesale at the San Fernando Market. An uncle and aunt taught me barbering and tailoring skills, so I got additional money by being the village barber for kids and by making shirts for people. You must remember it was just after World War 11. From all these sources I earned enough to pay my expenses for four years of high school.

That high school education from Naparima College and the experience I got by using my hands and working with different tools, were partly responsible for me becoming a sculptor. It opened up the door for getting an Art Scholarship. Incidentally, when I visited my father many years later, one of things he said was, "I

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**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY GRADUANT  
DR. RALPH BANEY**

*(continued from previous page)*

am eighty years old and I don't have a single enemy". I reminded him of this one and that one and the other one. With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face he said, "I have outlived them all".

The second challenge I would like to tell you about is when I wanted to get a potter's kiln to fire pottery. I was in my early thirties and working as an art officer in the Ministry of Education and Culture, stationed in San Fernando. When my efforts to get pottery equipment for the south failed, I decided to get my own equipment. The cost of importing a kiln was prohibitive, so I decided to build one. No one in Trinidad had built a potter's kiln before, so I had to do research into fuels, burners, refractories and kiln design. It took me three years to get it done and three years later I built a more sophisticated and more efficient kiln.

This piece of equipment permitted Vera, the wonderful lady whom I married and me, to do pioneering work in studio ceramics. Vera went on to have exhibitions in San Fernando and Port of Spain and we even had a joint show on this campus in the then recently built J.F.K. complex. We also attended a summer school at Alfred University, which specializes in ceramics. There we learned how to solve problems which we were having with indigenous raw materials.

The significant thing about this challenge is that we had a dream about an extraordinary project, which we were able to make a reality. We persisted against all odds and invested personal finances, and many years of our lives in what we really loved.

That gave us great satisfaction. Life is a series of challenges. If you don't have them then you create them. Then life is really worth living. I like to think that I can find a solution to any problem however big it may be.

On a different note, I would like to talk very briefly about the creative arts, which as you know are close to my heart. I believe that all the arts are of equal

importance. No one is better than the other, although the way we practice and appreciate them may be different.

To illustrate my point, I will tell you an anecdote about Sir Winston Churchill, who took up painting in his later years and became quite good at it. At one of his exhibitions, his good friend Sir Adrian Bolt the music conductor, said to him "Sir Winston, you are so lucky to be a painter. Your work lasts forever and you can always go back and look at it. With music, you play the piece and when you are finished the music vanishes. It does not exist any more". Sir Winston replied, "yes, but how I wish that people would stand in front of my paintings and clap".

And now to the arts on this campus. It is with great pleasure that I note the manner in which the Creative Arts are strongly supported by this University. Founded in 1987, your Center for Creative and Festival Arts has been making a significant contribution in many areas, such as its degree programme in Musical Arts and Visual Arts as well as in Theatre Arts and Carnival Studies. At the post-graduate level, your center now offers a diploma in Arts and Cultural Enterprise Management, and M.A. in Cultural Studies as well as a Master of Philosophy by research. At the Certificate Level, you now offer certificates in Musical Arts, Visual Arts, Dance Education and Technical Theatre Production, among others. During the last five years, the Center has considerably expanded its outreach through international programmes on the Festival Arts of Trinidad and Tobago as well as its Regional School for the Arts.

During my own preparatory years in Trinidad, people with aspirations in these areas of the Creative Arts could only dream of a day when such training could be a reality. Today we recognize the fulfillment of those dreams. My greatest hope for the future is that the University and the larger community would increase their support for the Center for Creative and Festival Arts so that it can become a Caribbean center for all manifestations of the Creative Arts.

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# *Iere High School & Hillview College celebrate their 50th Anniversary*

**Iere High School's** 50th Anniversary celebration included a week of activities, which commenced with a thanksgiving service on Sunday 16th January 2005. The Moderator of Synod, the Rt. Reverend Rawle Sukhu, delivered the message.

In his sermon, Rev. Sukhu encouraged the Iere family to reflect on the past, present and future and to note the changes that have taken place since the school opened fifty years ago. He spoke of the dream that was secondary education in Siparia in 1955 and reminded the congregation of the debt owed to the past for building a strong foundation.

He reminded all of the hardships that were endured in the early days and commended the school for rising to become a noble institution noted not only for strong academics but for good values as well. He identified Iere as a socially responsible institution building a society of equality and praised the standards of excellence that continue to be maintained.

Presentations were made to Founding Committee members at the end of the service, following which a plaque was unveiled on a historic piece of machinery used in the construction of Iere High School and Hillview College. Mr. Irving Hoosainie and Mr. Richard Kokaram, two first-day students of Iere who went on to become principals of the respective schools, unveiled the plaque of the concrete mixer.

On Monday, January 17th, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Professor George Maxwell Richards, attended a service for the students, at which he was the featured speaker. He urged the students to celebrate and look back on the school's achievements. He also acknowledged the validity of the attention paid to the holistic development of the individual and the efforts thereof and encouraged students to search for their artistic and musical talents.

Celebrations continued during the week of January 16th.

*Excerpted from:  
The Trinidad Presbyterian, February 2005 issue*

**Hillview College's** students, alumni, staff and friends of the College gathered on the morning of January 17th on the grounds of Morton House, where the school first began.

The guest speaker, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Sat Sharma, charmed the audience with his memories of the early days of Hillview College. He reminded them that "Hillview College was for many years viewed and in some cases, even shunned, as a distant and not all that worthy "cousin" to those more established institutions." However, he stated, "Hillview has now produced leaders in every scientific and professional field."

In advising the students he declared, "Your objective, consistent with the vision of your founding fathers, is not only to develop your full potential, but, having developed it, to apply it toward the benefit of mankind, starting first and foremost with your small beleaguered nation which will be far more in need of your expertise than more developed countries." The Chief Justice, who represented the first class of 1955, together with a present student, Shivanand Ramoutar (President of the Student Council) then planted a tree, which the Chief Justice saw as symbolic of Hillview College continuing to grow "from strength to strength." Marching to the rhythm of the Naparima College Sea Scouts Band, the Rt. Reverend Rawle Sukhu and Mr. Jeremiah Seepersad led the procession followed by other officials.

Rev. Sukhu gave the Homily. He praised the College for its many accomplishments due to its solid foundation and thanked the Principal, Mr. Jeremiah Seepersad, staff, students, guardians, members of the clerical, technical and ancillary staffs, both past and present, for a job well done. In concluding he told the gathering that, "... as an institution, you stand out as a beacon to all those around in the academic, sporting, political and spiritual arenas because of your close ties between church and school. Thus far, God has blessed you on your way; His Grace has been sufficient for all your needs and we acknowledge this today with gratitude and thanksgiving."

*Excerpted from:  
The Trinidad Presbyterian, February 2005 issue*

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## MAILBAG

Mailing Address:  
Naparima Alumni  
Association of Canada  
P.O. Box 92175  
2900 Warden Avenue  
Scarborough, Ontario M1W 3Y9



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December 3, 2004

Mr. Ian Ramdial  
Secretary, NAAC

Dear Sir,  
The Naparima College Old Boys' Association (N.C.O.B.A.) Trust Fund Committee graciously accepts your donation of Four Thousand (\$4,000.00) Canadian.

It is heartening to know that your Steelband and Calypso 5K Fun Run/Walk is still generating interest and support. Keep up the good work.

The Trust Fund Committee will be embarking on certain projects in 2005 to help build our capital; we will keep you informed.

Thank you again for your generous assistance.

Respectfully,

**David Sammy,**  
N.C.O.B.A. Trust Fund Committee

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October 21, 2004

Dear Naparima Alumni members,

We would like to say a sincere "thank you" for the honour of having such a beautiful tribute in the form of such a useful picnic table placed in the park near us here on Huron Street.

We feel really humbled by all the attention.

When the weather is a little warmer we ourselves will make good use of it.

Sincerely,

**Bessie and Art Dayfoot**

January 19, 2005

Dear Ian,

On behalf of *Youth Without Shelter* I would like to thank the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada for its ongoing support. All of us at YWS are touched by your concern for, and commitment to, the distressed youth in your community.

Young people come to YWS for many reasons, but their needs are the same: a warm bed, food, clothing, counseling, and support to finish school, to obtain a job, and to find a stable place to live. Your support is making a difference in the lives of these young people. It is building brighter, safer, more joyful futures.

Once again, thank you for continuing to play a meaningful part in our vision "to end homelessness for youth, one person at a time, one step at a time".

Sincerely,

**Wendy Horton, CAE**  
Executive Director

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October 29, 2004

The Editor  
The Executive of NAAC

Thank you very much for sending us copies of *broadcast*.

We were happy to read about Dr. Russell McNeilly, Dr. Ralph Baney, Angus Bramadat, and others.

You would have heard of Beulah Meghu's sudden passing.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and look forward to Spring 2005 - your next newsletter.

Our regards and best wishes to you all.

**Zalayhar Hassanali**



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**Education Facilities Management Division**  
**18 Alexandra Street, St. Clair,**  
**Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.**  
**Phone: 622-6335**

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November 18, 2004

Chairman  
Mr. Harry Partap  
Presbyterian Board of Education  
Paradise Pasture  
San Fernando

Dear Mr. Partap

**Re: Naparima College – Gymnasium Facilities**

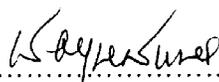
We wish to authorise the construction of the Gymnasium Facilities at Naparima College, this approval is granted on the following conditions:-

1. The cost of the work will be done on the basis of 2/3 of the cost being borne by the Ministry of Education.
2. Final working drawings and tender documents will be submitted for approval by the Ministry of Education prior to tendering for construction services.
3. The detailed cost of construction must be submitted along with final working drawings.
4. Consultancy fees for designs, paid by the Ministry of Education, shall be no more than 5% of the construction tender sum.

All approvals listed above must be obtained before procuring the services of a Contractor.

Please be guided accordingly, should you have any queries please contact the undersigned for clarifications.

Yours sincerely

  
.....  
Wayne Nunes  
Project Manager

c.c. Ms. Maureen Atwal, Principal, Naparima College

Proud Supporter of  
Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

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*NAAC Panache Steelband members at WHCI (Photo Courtesy of Joe Cullen)*



*2004 NAAC Bursary Winners (from left to right):  
Natasha Nankissoor, Stephanie Nankissoor and Victoria Kuketz with  
T&T Consul General Michael Lashley who presented the Bursaries.*

## **NAAC Christmas Dance 2004**



*(Clockwise) Kathy & Milton Moonah, Indira & Frank Sinanan, Norma & Prem Ramsahai,  
Charmaine & Toolsie Nankissoor, Selwyn Baboolal & Aneesa Oumarally, Etty & Ras Shreeram*