



“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. XXXIII No. 2

Spring 2010

Panache at Snowflakes on Steel Concert January 2010



*Panache Members with Al Foster (seated at left), Band Leader and Arranger.
(Photo: Anand Ramsahai)*



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OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL



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The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1978 and includes graduates of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College, Iere High School, Naparima Teachers' Training 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.

2009-10 NAAC Executive

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“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

With our Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 15, 2010, we find ourselves in the situation where we need your help more than ever.

On the subject of **Election of the Executive Committee**, our Constitution states:

Section VII, Item 7.1

There shall be annual elections for all elective positions on the Executive Committee, except that of President. The position of President shall be filled each year by the previous year's First Vice-President. The position of First Vice-President shall be filled each year by election. And Item 7.2 follows with:

Notwithstanding Item 7.1, if the previous year's First Vice-President does not wish to succeed the President then the position of President shall be filled by election.

So here is our predicament. NAAC needs volunteers for both, the position of 1st Vice-President and for President. For the President's position, familiarity with our history and knowledge of our programs here and in T & T is desirable. With this in mind, I am urging past and present Regular

executive members to put their names forward to serve for this coming 2010-11 year.

To assist anyone with an interest in putting their name forward for 1st Vice-President and any of the other positions, we have documented procedures and guidelines, checklists and protocols that are easy to follow. In addition, there are several senior members of NAAC who have held positions on the board and/or committees who are still willing to be mentors. During my time, I can name a few from whom I've sought counsel. They are Rustin Oree, Ian Ramdial, Howard Sammy and Milton Moonah.

The fact that you are retired and wish to spend the coldest months in warmer climes should not be a consideration in making this decision. With email and voice mail, we can continue to conduct the Association's business very efficiently.

The members of the Nominating Committee are anxiously awaiting your call. In the meantime one of them, Selwyn Baboolal, Pam Rambharack, Norma Ramsahai or Ras Shreeram will be on the phone to you.

I must thank the members of this Executive for their support during my term as President.

Merle Ramdial

NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SATURDAY, MAY 15th, 2010

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

at

Super Buffet (416 289 7788)

1221 Markham Road, Scarborough, ON (South of the 401)

Contributions will be accepted towards cost of lunch

From the Editor's Desk

I confess that I have been looking at a lot of television these past few months since full retirement from my regular, paid employment. From killer earthquakes, to the more upbeat Winter Olympics, then back to devastating floods in Europe and the Far East, and finally to what I thought was certain to be a joyous occasion, the passing of the Health Care Reform bill in the US.

However, after looking at CNN's coverage leading up to this historic event, I could not believe some of the views that were being aired. Then I remembered this quote... **"Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."** - *Mark Twain*

I also now have time to read the online versions of the Trinidad newspapers. I am even more convinced that Mark Twain's quote has universal application.

We, in Canada, are quite lucky to have escaped major natural disasters and most of us are hopeful, thankful and optimistic about our futures. This is reflected in a willingness to help the less fortunate through donations of time and money. Organizations like ours, with a particular mandate, depend on the generosity of our members to fulfill our obligations to the schools. In turn, it is our duty to report on the successes of the students and their accomplishments. (pgs. 20-21)

The article on p.25 which was submitted by Anne Hill, is one that Trinis would call a "true, true story". Having made friends with members of our NAAC family, Anne and Glen will not be allowed to leave us.

Dr. Brinsley Samaroo's article on pgs. 26-27 was written in celebration of the 141st Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in T & T. In it he mentions names of teachers and ministers of the church who many NAAC members knew from their years at school.

Before I leave this post, I'll make another plea for volunteers. The job of editor is open to anyone of our members who wishes to join the executive team.

Thank you and all the best for 2010-11.

Merle Ramdial

Communications Report

March 2010

Broadcast

You are reading the Spring 2010 issue of Broadcast instead of the e-version that appears on the NAAC website. Last fall the question was asked again re your preference, hard copy or soft, and only three members responded favourably to reading the online version.

The majority of you still prefer to receive the print version. Although our Communications committee tries really hard to procure advertisements which are very reasonably priced, income received from ads and donations do not cover publishing costs. Our rates are:

¼ page	\$25
½ page	50
¾ page	75
Full page	100

Inside front or back cover in colour \$150.
If you are a small business owner or an independent contractor you may wish to call Ras Shreeram at 416-743-1331 to take advantage of these rates.

Website

The site continues to be updated and the most recent postings are of the updated versions of NAAC's Constitution, the 2010 NAAC Membership Form, that reflects the changes to the fee structure which came into effect January 1, 2010, the NAAC Members List and of course important upcoming events .

The current site administrator has sole responsibility for changes and additions and would like to share this duty with any volunteer who has a working knowledge of HTML. You will need to learn the protocols of our particular site before you can gain access to the server. Please call Merle Ramdial at 905-844-1254 if you would like to give a little of your time to helping with your NAAC website www.naactoronto.ca

Thanks to Rajiv Persaud of Bluetree Publishing & Design, Ras Shreeram, Committee member, our advertisers and donors for their support this past fiscal year.

Merle Ramdial, Chair, Communications Committee

Bingo Report

Bingo sessions are run at Ultimate Bingo Charity Association, 2355 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario. Effective December 2009, there were some changes in pricing and organization of the games played. These strategies were adopted by the managers in an effort to increase attendance at the bingo sessions.

For the current fiscal year April 1st 2009 to March 31, 2010, NAAC was responsible for 26 bingo sessions. Revenue earned for that period with an estimated projection for Jan to Mar 2010 amounts to approximately \$12,000.00. This averaged out to about \$460.00 per session, a decrease of about \$60.00 per session over the same period last year.

Hopefully this decrease in revenue is only temporary. The recent pricing strategies adopted by the hall seem to have paid off in the short term based on the revenue we received for December 2009. We need revenue from bingo funds of approximately \$12K annually to financially manage our steelband and bursary programs at West Humber Collegiate Institute and Cedarbrae Collegiate to maintain the status quo.

Special thanks to all our volunteers especially our team leaders for their help and commitment in running the bingo sessions. We are always in need of volunteers and it is a great opportunity to share in some fun and camaraderie with your fellow members. So please give me a call at 416-283-0675 if you would like to help out. It is very easy and the team leaders will guide you along.

For this fiscal year, bingo revenue was used for the most part to fund the following programs:

- Awarding of \$1150 of bursaries and awards to Toronto students.
- Funding the steelband programs at the two high schools which includes the payment of honorariums to steelband instructors and 50% of the cost of steelpan tuning.

Details of the individual items will be contained in the Profit & Loss statement to be presented at our Annual General Meeting on May 15th, 2010. Hope to see you all there.

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Manager

Membership Report

March 28, 2010

This current year's paid up membership is as follows:

Honorary Members	29
Annual	94
Life	194
Total	317



— **REMINDER** —

NAAC MEMBERSHIP

*Please remember to renew your
NAAC Membership.*

—

*The membership year runs from
January to December.*

—

Contact: Somey Basdeo

E-mail: someyb@hotmail.com

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial affairs as at February 28, 2010. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on May 15, 2010.

Bingo Account

BNS \$10,814.24

General Account

BNS \$35,883.00

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS \$46,697.24

NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia - Term Deposit
– Balance @ Dec/09 \$ 1,203.00
Edward Jones – GIC @ 1.4%
– Balance @ Dec/09 \$11,375.00
Scotia McLeod - Inter Pipeline Fund:
1600 Units - B.V. per unit \$10.00 \$16,000.00
**Dividends earned - Apr/09-Mar/10 \$1,424.00

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$30,002.00

**Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at Feb 28, 2010 was \$11.88. This reflects an increase of 18.8 % over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at an increased rate of \$120 per month which translates to a return of 9% per annum on that investment.

The Association has met its financial commitment to the schools in Trinidad and Tobago for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$6,260. NGHS, Iere, & SAGHS received \$1,320 each, Naparima College received \$1,120 and Hillview College received \$1,180.

For the current fiscal year the main events that contributed to the Association's revenue pool were the Golf Tournament which was spearheaded by Aneesa Oumarally with her assistant Ras Shreeram, Casino Trip spearheaded by the Panache Group, Kaleidoscope II Literary Event by Karma Naik and her committee, Christmas Dinner & Dance by NAAC executive, and Bingos. The proceeds from the NAAC Spring Fling which was organized by the Panache members went towards the cost of the Panache Steelband's trip to play at the NAAQ's 30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance in Montreal, P.Q. Details of income and expense by each project will be presented in our Financial Statements for the fiscal year at the Annual General Meeting on May 15/10.

Respectfully submitted

Norma Ramsahai

Treasurer

NOTICE - Steelband Classes

2009/2010 Season

West Humber Collegiate Institute

Start Date:

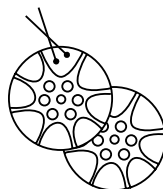
January, 2010

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Instructors:

Winston Poon • Tel: 905-824-3589

Rustin Oree • Tel: 416-745-7793



Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute

Start Date:

January, 2010

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Instructor:

Randolph Karamath

Tel: 416-283-4152

Social Report

March 18th, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 24th, 2010

Spring Fling Dance

300 tickets have been printed for this event and have been distributed to both members of the NAAC Executive and Panache. Committees have been established for ticket sales, license, food, drinks, sales, cleanup etc. Most of the food will be prepared by Panache band members and family. In the next few weeks more details will be finalized and communicated to the Executive.

September 27th, 2009

Kaleidoscope 11

Kaleidoscope 11 was held at the Elite Banquet Hall on September 27th, 2009. This event was presented by the NAAC Literary Awards Committee and was just as enjoyable as Kaleidoscope I. A delicious lunch was provided, followed by entertainment which included readings, music and comedy. The funds raised at this event will provide financial aid to our family of schools to assist and encourage young women who are interested in the Arts.

November 29th

Xmas Dinner and Dance

NAAC's Annual Xmas Dinner and Dance was held at the Elite Banquet Hall. The event was very well attended by our members and friends who provided very positive feedback. The food, music, and venue was appreciated and enjoyed by all. There was also a Salsa dance demonstration provided by Joy Sammy and her dance instructor. Our thanks go out to them. NAAC bursaries were presented to Rae- Marie Rostant and Kristian Brown. We wish

to sincerely thank our MC Selwyn Baboolal, the members of the Executive and all donors who year after year give generously to our cause.

Future Events

Please pass on your suggestions for future events to any member of the Executive.

Pam Rambharack

Chair, Social Committee

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

Spring Fling Dance

Saturday April 24th, 2010

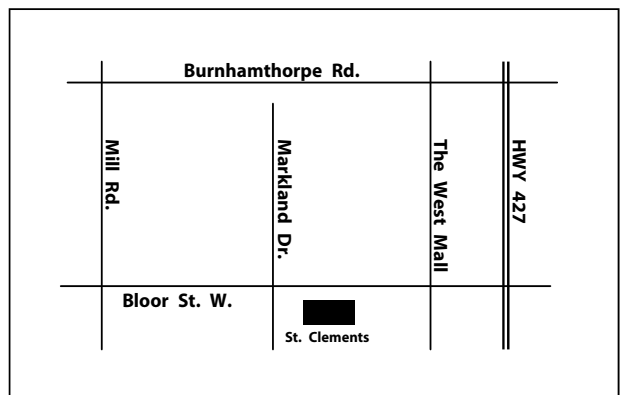
*At St. Clements Roman Catholic Church
409 Markland Drive, Etobicoke
(Hall entrance at rear of building - See map on back)*

*Music by: DJ C-LEX
& Panache Steelband*

*Cash Bar
Food and Refreshments on Sale*

Time: 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$20.00

*St. Clements Roman Catholic Church
409 Markland Drive, Etobicoke
(Hall entrance at rear of building)*



Steelband Report

March 2010

Both NAAC sponsored Steelband programs at West Humber Collegiate and Cedarbrae Collegiate continue to grow as we see renewed interest by a diverse group of future musicians. Rustin Oree and Winston Poon, who are both members of Panache Steelband, currently tutor the beginner classes at West Humber Collegiate and Randolph Karamath continues to lead the Cedarbrae program.

Panache Steelband

Since the NAAC Christmas Dinner and Dance in November 2009, the band was invited to perform at a number of new events. The Etobicoke Santa Claus Parade organizers invited the band to play on the road. This was a first time experience for the majority of the members of the band. Although it was cold and windy, the music added some sunshine and warmth along the parade route. It really made our day to see the smiles and people swaying to the music.

Snowflakes on Steel

Panache Steelband performed at the Snowflakes on Steel concert on January 30, 2010. Our goal this year was to take the band to the next level and the biggest challenge of all was for us as players to believe in ourselves and perform with some of the more established bands in Toronto. I am proud to say "YES, WE DID IT".

Under the direction of Al Foster our leader and arranger, the musical arrangements were set to challenge us and take us out of our comfort zone. I must say some of the players came up with some very creative ways to make this work.

Thanks Al, for giving us the opportunity to highlight Panache on the big stage. The experience was AWESOME.

Some members of Panache who performed that night describe their experiences as follow:

Brian Chin: I found that the experience of Snowflakes on Steel 2010 could be summed up in two words, SIMPLY AMAZING. The teamwork and dedication displayed by the Stage-side and Non-Stage-side members of Panache just shows what can be achieved when we all work together towards a common goal.

I would like to especially thank Glenda and Yvonne. They had both given me words of encouragement when my confidence was beginning to slide as the concert date drew closer. I had almost no previous experience performing in public and the thought of performing before paying concert-goers was nerve-racking.

In the end, as it turned out, there was nothing to fear. As the curtains parted and I looked out into the audience, I saw absolutely nothing at all. The audience had literally disappeared. All the tension built-up waiting for this moment disappeared like the audience.

Thank you NAAC, Panache, and Al for this SIMPLY AMAZING experience of a lifetime.

Glenda Mohammed: I set myself a challenge to learn the Double second part for the concert and with the CDs and a lot of help from Al and Rustin I feel that I achieved my goal. My husband told everyone who would listen that the house felt like a panyard and that at times his head was ringing and he had nowhere to hide from the noise. On the night of the concert, I had my cheat sheets, but the lighting on the stage cast shadows on my pans, but lucky for me, I had learned all 4 songs anyway. I made it on to the stage just as the curtain was opening and really only had time to take a deep breath and start. I was so proud of the group for the effort we put forward and to Al for taking us on the journey and believing in us even when we doubted.

Ian Ramdial: Preparing for this event forced us to focus on getting every bar in every piece of music just right. This process made better players of us. Thanks Al for doing a great job with us and for your

Steelband Report *(continued)*

dedication and perseverance in helping us achieve a higher playing standard. You convinced us that we are better than we think we are.

Rachel Ramnarain: I have been playing pan for less than a year. I started with Panache in April 2009, on the Tenor pan. Over the summer, I was given the opportunity to play with Pan Fantasy, where I was challenged beyond my expectations, and I was ready to give up! With the encouraging hand of Al Foster, I switched pans, and spent the summer on a set of guitars.

Coming back to Panache in the fall meant new challenges, as we were preparing for the Snowflakes performance and the recording of Panache New CD. I was ready!

This was my first Snowflakes on Steel, and I didn't know what to expect. At the end of the night, I felt proud of my accomplishment. I had set a goal, and I had successfully completed it. Not only was I able to learn several pieces, I was able to perform for an audience who appreciated the instrument, and the music played.

After all of the long nights, training and rehearsals, I knew that it was worth it, and I now have the motivation to continue playing my pan for years to come.

David Lee Kim: What an experience it was for me to 'play pan' at the recent Snowflakes 2010 Pan Concert. This would not be possible without the guidance and support of NAAC and Panache members (young and old!!). Thanks again, and looking forward to more successes!!

Merle Pegus: I am grateful to Al for taking us out of our "comfort zone." He had faith in us that we would be able to perform satisfactorily and I am happy that I had the experience. I realize that as long as we put the effort into whatever we do we will achieve whatever we set out to achieve. Practice is the key word.

Larry Large: First, everyone that participated in Snowflakes demonstrated their dedication to Panache by their willingness to put in the extra effort required to reach the level of excellence as evidenced by the performance. Al Foster took Panache to a new level. I personally had some concerns about whether I was up to the task of performing in Snowflakes but with Al's leadership and the support of the rest of the band I was able to participate in Snowflakes. I am really more comfortable playing the new songs than many of the songs in the older Panache repertoire. I think this is because of the time and effort that was put forth in the practices to learn the new songs. I need to put more time into the older arrangements.

I look forward to each class and practice and really enjoy my time with Panache. The CD is going to be an exciting project and I expect the same high standards as were set for Snowflakes. Onward and upward!!

Panache Upcoming Event

April 24, 2009 – Spring Fling

Panache will be highlighting our new repertoire for the upcoming CD launch. We look forward to your support.

Sheila Satram
Steelband Liaison



*David Lee Kim,
Brian Chin &
Glenda Mohammed.*



*Portia Barriffe,
Shirley Zanchetta &
Michele Comeau*

Fifteen Years of Pan at Cedarbrae CI

Fifteen Years Of Pan At Cedarbrae CI

Fifteen years ago, Pan Man Pat McNielly and Ian Ramdial, both members of NAAC, visited Cedarbrae CI with the intention of setting up a partnership with the then Scarborough Board of Education and NAAC, whereby a Steel Band program would be introduced at yet another high school in Ontario. Previously, Randolph Karamath, a teacher at CCI, had already initiated an after school program with three sets of his personal instruments. After a successful meeting with Mr. Jeff Farber, Principal at the time, the Steel Band program got off the ground with the financial assistance of NAAC. The seed was planted and after fifteen years, the Steel Band program has blossomed and grown beyond our wildest expectations.

Starting a steel band program at any high school is a very difficult task for many reasons. Firstly, steel pans are very costly and most school won't or



*Cedarbrae Collegiate Pan students
at Naparima College, 2007*

can't afford over \$5,000-\$10,000 to buy the starting instruments. Secondly, some music programs at high schools feel very threatened by the popularity of the new and exciting sounds. Thirdly, very few teachers are actually steel band music teachers. However, with the generous financial assistance of NAAC, Cedarbrae CI was fortunate to receive a class set of pans and the program soon became an established Music course in Grades 10, 11 and 12. NAAC continues to date to offer monies for purchasing new instruments, tuning of instruments, instructional honoraria, steel band awards and bursaries to students at CCI over the past fifteen years. Cedarbrae CI and associates wish to record their profound gratitude to NAAC for their unselfish and unwavering support of the program during the past years. Without NAAC, the program would not have progressed as it has done and much of the credit must deservedly go to them. On behalf of all past and present steel band students, as well as the past Principals, Mr. Farber, Mr. Milne, Mr. Stuart and Mr. Poirier, and yours truly, a "Big Thank You" to NAAC.

SOME PROGRAMS

1994 - Present: The After School Steel Band program at CCI

- Performed at the school's Christmas and spring concerts.

1995-Present: NAAC sponsored classes for the community.

Some Steel Bands emerging from the program over the years:

- SteelBandits Steel Orchestra
- Brampton Steel Orchestra

(Continued on next page)

Fifteen Years of Pan at Cedarbrae CI

(Continued from previous page)

1998-Present: Steel Band as a Music course at CCI

- AMQ Grades 10: 11 and 12
- Toured Trinidad in March, 2007
- Performed at Naparima Girls' High School
- Performed at Hillview College
- Toured Barbados in 2008
- Performed at schools, public, TV and Radio appearances.
- Produced three Steel band Music CDs-“Just For You-A Taste of Steel”; “Pantabulous” and “Christmas At Cedarbrae”.
- Performed at Panfest annually, TDSB schools, community events, Massey Hall, George Weston Recital Hall, Scarborough General Hospital, amongst others.
- Set up a sound recording studio at CCI

- Performances can be viewed on Youtube –“Cedarbrae Steel Band”
- Formed Cedarbrae Teachers' Steel Band

2000-Present TDSB Night School Steel Band

- This program continues to attract a wide section of the community and continues to be a popular choice.

As the program continues to flourish at CCI, it is our goal and vision to introduce Steel Band as a Grade 9 course and to focus more on recording, since the CCI band plays a wide genre of music such as Calypso, Reggae, Pop, Folk, and East Indian Chutney, Soca, Latin and Classical pieces.

Finally, thanks again to Naparima Alumni Association of Canada for their foresight, assistance and contributions in making Steel Band such a success in the East end; something they can be proud of.

Submitted by

Randolph Karamath

Teacher, Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute



Panfest March 2007



*Cedarbrae Collegiate
Teachers Band*

*Fifteen Years
of Pan
at Cedarbrae CI*

*Cedarbrae Pan
students perform at
Naparima Girls'
High School*



Cedarbrae Collegiate Pan students perform at Massey Hall

Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate

Joe Cullen, Head of Arts

It has been an exciting year once again for WHCI Music! In addition to the Commencement and Awards Assemblies, our musicians played at Camp Manitou, the Toronto Marathon, Grade 8 visits, University of Toronto World Music Lecture Series (Scarborough and Downtown campuses), WHCI Basketball tournaments, Stage West Dinner Theatre, WHCI Shop-til-You Drop, and other events!



Gr 11 Steel Band plays Black History Service at Cooksville United Church

We performed Black History Services with our pannists and vocalists at Cooksville United, Martingrove United, Westminster United and Applewood United churches. Each of these included a brief discussion about how pans are made and the development of the steel pan. In addition we played full-school concerts for Corsair PS and St. Bernard of Clairvaux School. Before the concerts we did a hands-on master class for the grade eights and taught them how to play a song, which they performed during the concert! Songs like *YMCA* and *Mama Mia* were newly arranged for these concerts and were a huge hit! We also brought back Pat McNeilly's arrangement of *Pan In A Minor*, which our students love to play!

Steel band members were invited to play at **Roy Thompson Hall** for the Martin Luther King Celebration in January. Our choir and steel band joined with award-winning **Deborah Cox** (*Beautiful You Are, You Gotta Be*), and WHCI's drumline played African drums for a sold-out show!

Our grade 12 steel band performed with our **choir** for the Martin Luther King Celebration concert at Roy Thompson Hall, the fifth year in a row we have been selected for this prestigious event. Pan teacher Ms. Cindy Mashinter did a great arrangement of "You Gotta Be" by Deborah Cox and had the choir and her grade eleven steel band play it for both Black

History assemblies at WHCI. It was fantastic! Our famous **Drumline** was selected once again to play for the Metro Bowl Championship Football Game at the Rogers Centre! The drumline played for the pre-show as well as the half-time show, which was televised on Rogers!

We are booked for many more performances, including our **Music trip to Cleveland Ohio**, from May 12-16th, 2010! This will be amazing as we are going for a visit and tour of **Panyard Incorporated**, and playing a combined concert with Ravenna High School, which also has a high school steel band program. We visited them back in 2002 and it was fantastic. Just ask Howard Sammy, who accompanied us on that trip!

***MUSIC NIGHT is APRIL 22nd**. We have invited **Panache** to play for this exciting evening, but it is not known yet if they can fit this in with all the other events that they are playing for to fundraise for their upcoming second CD recording! Please consider coming to enjoy this great event, you will be supporting our students to get to Ohio!

See our music website for our calendar of events, and tons of photos of our performances! www.whcimusic.com!

(continued on next page)

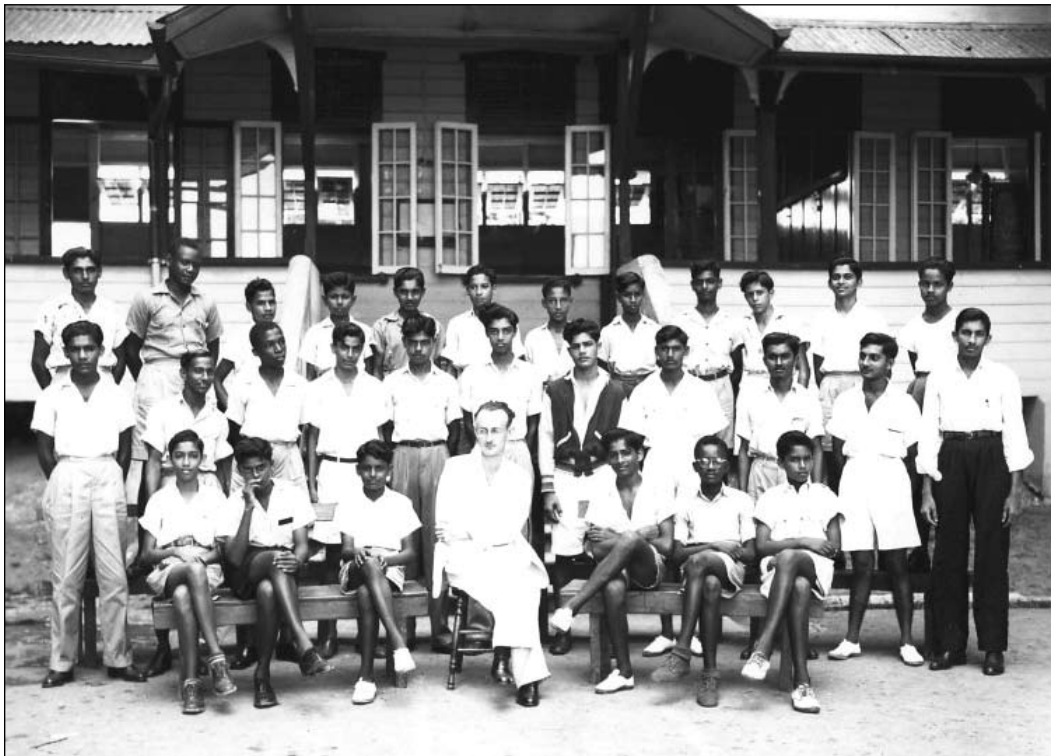
Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate
(Continued)

Thanks very much to the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada for their continued and vital support of our steel pan program at West Humber CI. Our annual tuning costs would be unmanageable without this support and we are very grateful. It helps us sound our best! We enjoy the partnership with **Panache** steel band and would also like to thank them all for their flexibility WRT rehearsal schedules. It's a wonderful thing for our students to be able to play pan after graduating from WHCI. Furthermore, the bursaries and scholarships are very much appreciated by our students and they provide a powerful motivation for our pannists to aim for the highest levels of excellence! Thank you!



*WHCI Steel Band plays
3-hour show at
Toronto's Stage West Dinner Theatre*

FROM THE NAAC ARCHIVES



NC Form 3A Special 1947

Front Row (from left): Clive Teelucksingh, Allan McKenzie, Moreland Mohammed, Rev. Weldon Grant (Form Master), Winston Leonard, Samuel Thornhill, _____? **Second Row:** ____, ____, Clayton Natta, _____?, _____?, _____?, _____?, _____? **Back Row:** Dan Doman, Ben Chrichlow, _____?, _____?, _____ Harnanan, _____?, Wilton Leiba, Rennie Wilkie, Phillip Ramsankar, _____?, Leo Ramchand, John (Holly) Ramdial?



Snowflakes on Steel



CCI Grade 11



Mr. Karamath and CCI students welcome visiting virtuoso pannist Liam Teague (Red/Blue shirt)



WHCI Gr 12 Steel Band performs with Deborah Cox at Roy Thompson Hall



2009 NAAC Steel Band Award Winner and Bursary Recipients at West Humber C.I., L-R: Dipa Patel, Parminder Shergill, Francine Ricknauth and Mr. Joe Cullen

Naparima College Improvements



Exterior of new gynasium/auditorium, Naparima College (Photo: Brendon Foster-Algoo)



New Principal's House 2010, Naparima College. (Photo: Brendon Foster-Algoo)

Trini Kaleidoscope II : A Cultural Feast

The day was perfect for an autumn fiesta of any variety – blazing Fall colours, lots of sunshine and a crispness in the air. A veritable “season of mist and mellow fruitfulness,” as the poet said. And inside the Elite Banquet Hall on Albion Road there was the cheerful rattle of friendship and bonhomie, as well as an atmosphere of expectancy and excitement.

September 27, 2009 was the occasion of the third fund-raiser of the NAAC Literary Awards Committee, a fine smorgasbord of offerings by a selection of artists and cultural workers in the GTA. Readers and performers were drawn from the Naparima community and its extended family of well-wishers, all of whom donated their time, talent and creative offerings to the cause of providing incentives to young women artists and writers in the making, in the Naparima family of schools in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Award was established in 2007 as the Meghu/Scrimgeour Award at Naparima Girls’ High School to reward a student who demonstrated excellence in writing as well as the potential for realizing her creative talent in concrete terms. Since then, the number of Literary Awards has increased to include students of St. Augustine Girls’ High School and Iere High School as well. The value of each award is \$200 CDN.

The response to the idea of the Awards and the support offered by the NAAC community has been nothing short of amazing. For each of the fund-raisers the attendance was outstanding and the audience truly appreciative. The lively interest in the literary aspects of the program – its poetry and storytelling- speaks perhaps to the liberal-humanist direction of the education offered at Naparima schools, in contrast to narrower, more goal-oriented and pragmatic approaches taken by other institutions. For a few hours in that Banquet Hall, it seemed that there was indeed time “to stand and stare,” to listen and to be caught up in the marvellous renderings of



Shelli Karamath with Pan Man Pat McNeilly

who we are as people of Caribbean heritage and how we function in the world, as represented by our own artistic producers.

No Naparima fund-raiser (or special event, for that matter) can be run without the multiple talents of Selwyn Baboolal, lawyer, punster, man for all seasons, and inventor of jokes that take the listener to the very edge of the precipice, as it were. We were fortunate to have this protean personality as our M.C. for the afternoon’s events.

DJ Richie and Jennifer Sohan provided an upbeat beginning to the show and indeed, Jennifer’s rendition of “Sohani Raat” is now becoming something of a signature song for these events. Nostalgia unlimited, for many. Then Rita Cox’s storytelling took us into unexpected places such as that of a baby “born to thief,” while the duo of Dick Lochan and Jason Perez had us in stitches with their comedic interplay, their picong and mamaguy. Panman Pat and Shelli Karamath performed their steelpan wizardry and left the crowd wanting more. Keisha Sooknanan gave us a beautifully choreographed dance performance, notable for its innovative blending of traditional Indian movement and bhangra music.

Roger McTair’s poems of memory, loss and reconciliation led us into the moment of New World “discovery” and its aftermath, the violent legacy of

(continued on next page)

Trini Kaleidoscope II (continued)

Columbus and his sighting of land in Moruga, and an uncle in present-day La Lune, Moruga, imparting his insights on these and other, more pressing matters to a young boy. Sandy McIntyre, performance poet, accompanied by a dazzling array of musicians, brought to life that spectre of our earliest experience (“our” meaning some of us of undeclared age) of Trini extremism, or David Rudder’s version of “Madness” – none other than Mahal:

**MAHAL barefeet
and with no shirt to his name
would cover the island
touring in his invisible mobile
being careful to follow
all the laws relative
to the Highway Ordinances Act**

This piece, performed to a “barefoot beat,” brought the house down and afterwards I heard many, many

personal stories of the legendary Mahal. Hurricane Harold was his usual, inimitable self, alternating between serious kaiso analysis and high comedy, his unique output a collector’s item for diehard calypso fans. Yours truly shared poems from a current work-in-progress, *Travel Documents*. The poem “In Punta Cana,” a meditation on travel, tourism, friendship and the implications of a colonial education, was one of the pieces read.

I’m in the Naparima zone now and almost ended this with the old Inter-Col refrain, “We go win next year!” I’ll rephrase that, since we now win so frequently at Inter-Col, and other, more serious games. “We go come back next year!”

And so, on to **Trini Kaleidoscope III.**

Ramabai Espinet

Member, Literary Awards Committee.

(*NAAC Literary Awards Committee Members are:*

Karma Naike, Chair; Myrtle Gopeesingh;

Brenda Holman and Ramabai Espinet)



Panache at Trini Kaleidoscope II

PANACHE and Snowflakes on Steel

Panache is a word of French origin that carries the connotation of a flamboyant manner and reckless courage. The literal meaning of the word is a plume such as is worn on a hat or a helmet, but the reference is to King Henry the IV of France. Pleasure-loving and cynical, but a brave military leader and the best-loved of the kings of France, he was famed for wearing a striking white plume in his helmet and for his war cry: "Follow my white plume!" (Fr. "Ralliez-vous à mon panache blanc"). **Wikipedia.**

Dreams do come true. When the stars are aligned and the planets take their proper place in the cosmic universe anything can happen, including having a tone deaf, out of time Indian from the deep countryside in Trinidad, play his pan at the most prestigious steel band concert in Canada as part of a steel band he helped nurture.

PANACHE has come of age and, according to some of the critics, we sounded like we belonged on that stage alongside some of the best steel bands at the 2010 version of *Snowflakes on Steel*. WOW. We have also come "full circle" so to speak, because Al Foster, our current arranger/leader/teacher was our fill-in drummer for the initial steel band classes back in 1992, on the days that Pan Man Pat couldn't make it. In those good ole days, the steel pans roomed with the auto shop/garage equipment at the furthest point from the entrance door of West Humber Collegiate Institute.

So here's how the cosmos took its own sweet time aligning everything to get us to this proud moment in the life of PANACHE/NAAC/Steel band Program

Sometime in 1991, I, the tone deaf, out of time, Indian etc., as part of the NAAC Executive, had a brain tsunami: As a true Trini, I wanted to learn to play the pan (or beat pan, as Kitchener would say). How to do it?

The NAAC Constitution said that one part of its *raison d'être* was "to provide an avenue for educational and cultural interaction with the society

at large". Hey, this is an ideal fit. The country boy called Howard Sammy, a mentor on the executive, sort of, and ran the idea past him.

I trust you can see how the stars are beginning to align themselves. Howard was part of a group that introduced pans to the Etobicoke School Board. He knew both the system and he knew someone who would be the "pan teacher"...namely Pan Man Pat. The NAAC Executive comprised the right mix of people who would embrace the idea and after much discussion, internally and with the school board it was implemented as a "Partnership" with WHCI. Volumes have been written about the details of the partnership which the interested reader can find in many other issues of *Broadcast*. Few, if any, will tell that the program started because the tone deaf, country boy, etc., was selfish in wanting to play the pan and to see the NAAC with its own performing steel band.

A few stars get side-tracked: DO NOT set extracurricular class times for Saturday afternoons. In Canada, people are accustomed to learning situations happening on weekday evenings. The country boy is promoting as hard as he can. Attendance at the Saturday classes is declining. The stars are drifting apart.

SAVED: To the rescue comes a NAAC Curry-Q at Elmbank Community Centre, and 9-year old Shelli Karamath, who is a student of the Saturday classes. She climbs on a box to reach the pan and plays *Amazing Grace*. We have to put people on a waiting list that day, some of whom we later lost to other activities. Many were breaking down the doors to get in. ***Thanks Shelli.***

The band's first 'gig' was to play at the Rexdale Alliance Church's Christmas concert in December of 1992. Prior to getting this gig we were just learning songs with no purpose or goal. The gig gave us a

(continued on next page)

PANACHE and Snowflakes on Steel

focus point. Now we had a target. Bolstered by a few student pannists we got a standing ovation. The cosmos was making sure the stars were lining up in an orderly fashion.

PANACHE was not formed until 1998. Those who wanted to perform, did so as part of PANTASTIX, the Etobicoke Schools Steel Orchestra i.e. the students' band. Meanwhile, the teachers in Etobicoke had their own steel band, conducted by the late Blake Stansfield (who would later conduct PANACHE for a year. **Thanks Blake**). The arrangements for all these bands were done by Pan Man Pat, the same arrangements for PANTASTIX and later PANACHE. **You can see how the stars are gradually lining up to take us to Snowflakes on Steel, I hope.**

Oops!! Sidetracked again. Pat leaves to return to Trinidad and leaves the band in the hands of Joe Cullen, music teacher, great percussionist, and an unabashed supporter of the steel band. **Thanks to Joe, Anand Ramsahai and Ian Ramdial who kept the band going.**

The cosmos is working hard. Remember those teachers and their band (from two paragraphs above). Well, Blake retired (or so he thought) and the teachers band disbanded. Ha! PANACHE welcomed some of those teachers. Pat returns from Trinidad and invites Blake to conduct the band at the gigs and to take over the practices while Pat will continue to arrange the music. With Blake supervising, a CD called Simply...Panache is released. Blake dies. We need a new leader.

The law of the universe: Everything happens in its own time. (I just made that one up).

Remember Al Foster, the student who helped us in the initial year (see paragraph 3). Al is now a winning steel band arranger and we'd like to get him to help us out. I don't know who convinced him to take on the challenge. I just know I tried many times and he blanked me.

But I'm ecstatic that he's taken us on and challenged the band members to perform at a higher level. The band took on the challenge and it showed in our performance at *Snowflakes on Steel*. Even though the band has performed at numerous functions over the years, this tone deaf country boy can finally say that NAAC has its own performing steel band can hold its own among the best in Toronto, and be proud of the fact that its members are the most diversified group in the world.

The band's, and Al's, next challenge is another CD. Watch for it in the fall.

Thanks to my friend Dave Rahaman for the name Panache

Rustin Oree
March, 2010

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Graduation at SAGHS

On the morning of Thursday 15th October 2009, the St. Augustine Girls' High School community marked the achievements of the past academic year at its annual graduation ceremony.

The school's auditorium was elegantly decorated in royal blue and accented with pale gold. Graduates of the Advanced Proficiency classes were attired in

white dresses while the younger graduates wore shades of pink and lilac. The mood was solemn yet celebratory.

Chairman of the proceedings, and current Chairman of the school's Administrative Committee, Mr. Reynold Baldeosingh, as well as current Chaplain Reverend Anna Sharma, our past Chaplain and friend of the school Reverend Cyril Paul, and School Supervisor 1, Mr. Aaron Ramrattan, all offered meaningful contributions to the programme.

The principal, Mrs. Kathleen Anderson warmly welcomed parents of the graduates and prizewinners as well as other specially invited guests, including past Principal, Dr. Anna Mahase, and former First Lady Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali. Her comprehensive principal's report for 2007-2008 included a tribute to founding member, Mrs. Beatrice Nobbie, who is no longer with us.

This year's graduation ceremony was unique: the coveted President's Gold Medal had come our way. In place of the usual address by a feature speaker, Miss Nadimah Mohammed, winner of the prestigious award, offered her thoughts on school life at SAGHS. In her words:

"The foundation for our successes today was cast more than fifty years ago. It has been reinforced and



SAGHS Class of 2009

perfected over decades to produce an institution which surpasses the limits of the definition of a "school". St. Augustine Girls' High School stands as the realization of a dream for girls and women in Trinidad and Tobago. It is the epitome of excellence, hard work and a commitment to the power of education in shaping our destinies. This ladies and gentlemen is the real achievement. This is the achievement that we must celebrate above all. Our individual achievements and our individual selves are enhancing threads in the fabric of this institution and it is in our collective beauty that we shine most brightly. To borrow from Aristotle, the whole is certainly more than just the sum of its parts."

Miss Mohammed also spoke with passion on the place of the SAGHS graduate in the community and in society at large. Her remarks deserve attention:

"It is the characteristic of only the weak to turn away from the battlefield when the horn is sounded for action. We have been made strong and capable. Though the armies of obstacles and challenges brandish their swords in our faces, we must hoist the flag of that common dream for our nation. We must charge forward with the hunger for a better tomorrow

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Graduation at SAGHS

(Continued from previous page)

for our generation and generations to come.

“Though in the future we may sit at desks in far-off lands, let the image of the child living with AIDS in Trinidad ignite a fire within our pens to re-write his destiny. Whether we speak at board meetings or in grand assemblies, let our voices be rallying calls to herald change in Trinidad and Tobago. Wherever we may be in the world, let our hearts lead us back to this land that has birthed us.

“Undoubtedly, we will have the power to define the future as we move into every aspect of the professional world. Let us have the courage and the strength to be of those soldiers who will strive for the betterment of our society. As Mohandas Gandhi said, ‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world.’

“My friends, life is far greater than you and me. It is far greater than the pursuit of individual desires. The absolute truth is that we are all destined to a common fate in departing this world. What separates us from those who fret their hour on stage, what makes our legacies live on is what we have done for the sake of

our fellowmen. As women marching into tomorrow, let this knowledge be a source of inspiration to dream the dream that all others declare unreachable, to fight the fight that we know we can win. At the end, victory will be ours.

“Today, on this day of graduation, let this moment be a defining one, where we reflect upon the road that has brought us here and upon the people that we have become. Let us stand at this juncture, cast our eyes upon the winding road ahead and resolve to strive for every dream, to strive for the betterment of our school, our community, our nation. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, ‘The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.’ Let us walk out into the world with heads held high, with this firm belief in our dreams. Tomorrow will be a brighter day for Trinidad and Tobago. No goal is unreachable, Per ardua ad astra.”

Miss Mohammed’s thought-provoking, inspiring and memorable address received a standing ovation.

This year’s graduation ceremony indeed represented the SAGHS commitment to the highest standards in education.

- Submitted by Carolyn Harnanan

Congratulations Rasheed!

Rasheed Sultan-Khan was among the individuals recognized by T & T’s Consul General Michael Lashley at a presentation made in September 2009. “These awards recognize individuals and groups who have been of great service to others and who have demonstrated excellence in the level of social responsibility they have assumed,” said Lashley.

Rasheed attended Naparima College in San Fernando, performed as a tenor in local music shows and fundraised for needy children before coming to Canada in 1972 with his wife, Feroza and their five children. He served as chair of the Ontario Muslim Association, founded the T & T 50 Plus Seniors Association of Canada and worked with Thomas Allen Publishers and Chase Manhattan Bank before retiring in 1992.

Rasheed and Feroza are long-time members and supporters of NAAC.

Commemoration of The Work of Rev. Edward T. Lute, M.A., B.D. (09/01/1914 – 04/07/1963)

In October 2009 I was contacted by Prof. Brinsley Samaroo to assist in a project to commemorate the contribution to education in Trinidad by Rev. Edward T. Lute, the last Canadian principal at Naparima College (1953-1961). The project was initiated by Chanka Narayansingh, Milton Moonah, and joined along the way by David Sammy, Chandra Bose Chattergoon, Prof. Deo Poonwassie and Prof. Brinsley Samaroo, all except Chandra, Lute era graduates. Naparima College Principal Dr. Michael Dowlath lent considerable support to the project and ensured its success by combining it with the January 29, 2010 Founders Day celebration of the school's 116th anniversary. Of the recommendations made by the project group, the final decision was to have the San Fernando City Council rename the Sutton Street extension, Lute Drive; this was vigorously pursued and successfully achieved. My role was to raise funds, contact and invite all three members of the Lute family, James, Edward and John, to attend the planned commemorative events.

Rev. Edward T. Lute rebuilt Naparima College, started Hillview and Iere Colleges and departed precipitately from Trinidad for health reasons, and without formal recognition of his considerable contributions to education in Trinidad. Correcting this omission was the motivation of the project group. Among Rev. Lute's major achievements were the modernization of Naparima College with improved science laboratories and a gym. He introduced many administrative procedures, installed the first school public address system in Trinidad which became the nursery for broadcast luminaries like Sir Trevor McDonald, Harold Hosein, Bobby Thomas and others. His work laid the foundation upon which subsequent generations of Naparima, Hillview and Iere staff enabled these schools to be among the best scholarship performers in the country. Naparima College is



*Principal Dr. Michael Dowlath presents plaque to
Mr. Edward (Ted) Lute. (Photo: Ronald Chung)*

generally acknowledged as the premier all-round-boys school in the island.

Rev. Lute's initiatives made secondary education accessible particularly to rural students of Siparia, and those of Tunapuna and environs. Without this access many may never have progressed beyond elementary education nor would their families enjoyed the enormous economic benefits that have accrued from this educational platform laid by Rev. Lute.

At Naparima College besides the new school buildings, Science Labs, gym, student center and student lockers, he added to the curriculum Spanish, Additional Maths, Art, and a Science program up to Higher School Certificate level. He introduced uniforms and the House System. The latter encouraged intramural competition in the academic and sports programmes. The Student Council and its prefect system promoted leadership training and the school's Blue Circle Network and Supplement, gave students practice in disseminating community information. In a cost

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Rev. Edward T. Lute, M.A., B.D. (continued)

saving move he bought a D7 Caterpillar Tractor to create a new playfield on the premises, and for preparation of the then Siparia and Tunapuna branches of Naparima College and to improve the Lewis street playground. In all of these efforts students were never required to help defray costs. His fund raising in Canada and Trinidad was a monumental accomplishment.

As a Minister of the church he acted as Chaplain, pastor and counsellor to students of the institutions on Paradise Hill. He established both the 1st Naparima College Scout Troop in November 1955 and the Steel Orchestra. Additionally at times he served as Vice- President and President of the Trinidad Principals' Association and was the Minister of Pointe-a-Pierre Pastoral Charge.

The program to commemorate Rev. Lute's contribution was witnessed by his son Edward (Teddy) Lute, who was the only family member whose schedule permitted attendance. The fund drive was generously supported and raised (CAD\$1,878.50) and would have

accommodated all three travelling to Trinidad. However the surplus funds (CAD\$1,278.50) were presented to Principal Dowlath to purchase prizes to be awarded annually to outstanding students, in Rev. Lute's name. The event was held in the newly opened gymnasium/auditorium for which funds in excess of CAD\$30,000.00 were raised by alumni abroad towards its construction. In a surprising coincidence the plaque which listed names of donors to the gym was unveiled and as

Chairman of the "Naps 100" fund raising committee, in Canada, I was asked to assist. I was assured that the plaque would be installed in the foyer of the building. There was also the ceremonial unveiling of the Lute Drive sign which will be installed at the bottom of the hill to honour the work of Rev. E.T. Lute. The entire program was broadcast live on Heritage radio 101.7 FM and could be heard on the Internet at *heritageradiott.com*. In addition to the student body, guests listed in the program included the Mayor of San Fernando, Alderman Kenneth Ferguson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Elvis Elahie, Professor Poonwassie and Milton Moonah (project members). Throughout the function a PowerPoint presentation of Rev. Lute's life, based on photos provided by Ted, played in the background.

After the ceremonial placing of evergreens to honour the founders of Naparima College a luncheon reception was held for guests. At an

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Unveiling Lute Drive signpost.

*L to R front: Riaz Mohammed, Sachin Jamraj, Stefan Mohammed
L to R back: Prof. Brinsley Samaroo, Mr. Bhadase Seetahal-Maraj, Mr. Taran Maharaj,
Mayor Kenneth Ferguson, Mr. Edward (Ted) Lute, Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan, Dr. M.Dowlath.
(Photo: Ronald Chung).*

Rev. Edward T. Lute, M.A., B.D. (continued)

evening reception the same day a number of graduates met and exchanged memories of their days at Naps and were encouraged to contribute them to the planned history of the college which project will be headed by Prof. Samaroo. Ted Lute was the guest of Principal Dowlath in the new principal's house on the hill and had a chance to rediscover his childhood memories of Paradise Hill. He was also able to fulfill his wishes to visit classes at Naps and Iere High School, as well as to visit Susamachar Church, San Fernando Hill, Usine staff club, Mayaro, Port of Spain and San Fernando chaperoned by various Naparima staff. He expressed his considerable gratitude for the tribute paid to his father, the plaque honouring his work, the re-named Lute Drive, and the re-discovered warm hospitality of Trinidadians and his hosts. Perhaps the final words belong to Ted

who felt that the best tribute which would have made his father immensely proud, was that the schools realized the potential of their legacy and rose to the ranks of the premier schools in the country, and that there were committed alumni and groups who support them. He suggested his next visit could be with the company of his brothers Jim and John.

Stanley Algoo, Naps 1961.

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Was It A Dream? by Anne (Flemington) Hill

“I have a dream...” said Martin Luther King in 1963. I too had a dream – I had it during all the lifetime I am able to remember. I must have heard of Naparima College from the time I was born, as my dad’s twin brother, Allen Flemington, had just been granted leave from the teaching staff of Naparima at about that time in 1940 - in the first summer of World War II - to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Naparima College had become very much a part of who he was – in my mind at least. As my father’s twin he was a special part of our family - clippings and pictures were always around, particularly the ones that showed his students and friends in San Fernando. I remember studying them and the faces of the people I could only wonder about. One of those faces was Noor Hassanali’s. All the pictures - and more - are going to be passed along to the committee which is setting up an Archival Collection for the school. A number of them are online in the Naparima College website along with a bit of his story. He did indeed join the RCAF, trained in Canada, and went overseas in December of 1941. He and the other members of his crew were killed in action on 29 April 1943. He was 32. I was almost 3.

So – my dream, in Martin Luther King’s sense of a vision, a wish – was that some day I would get closer to this hero uncle of mine, of whom I had only the most vague and elusive memories. He lived on in the inevitable collection of stories that accumulate in a large, close-knit family and get repeated at family gatherings. But I wanted more. I wanted some day to actually get to Naparima College and see what it was like. My husband and I almost got there on a cruise a year ago, but the ship was diverted.

Thanks to the encouragement of the amazing Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali and the wonderful Sammys - Kathy and Howard – we were there on January 29th, Founder’s Day 2010. At Naparima College. In the



Allen, Anne & her parents



Allen & Noor, June 1939

new Gym. It hit me when I turned around and saw the mass of white-shirted boys. It was my dream – but it was happening – and taking my breath away.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the College and all who hosted us so warmly, who were so interested, who gifted us with their time and with treasured mementos, who let me know they had belonged to Flemington House. Who welcomed us. The reality was more beautiful than the dream could have imagined. Because of you we love Trinidad.

With great thanks to those at NAAC who answered my query and set up the initial contacts.



Anne, Founders’ Day 2010

Contextualizing Presbyterian Successes

141st Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago

By Professor Brinsley Samaroo

This year's Secondary Schools' results have clearly duplicated previous years' records in demonstrating the high quality of Education that is being offered by Presbyterian Secondary Schools. Such Presbyterian success will continue for many years to come because the Presbyterian Institutions have become prestige centres of learning, attracting some of the best candidates from the Primary School system. But more fundamental to the continuing good work of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College and Iere High School is the century-old infrastructure laid down by the Canadian and local initiators of a Presbyterian model of Education. The fact that the Presbyterian Secondary Education was started as far back as 1890 (with the founding of Naparima College) means that we now have the opportunity to reflect and to tease out the major considerations which have been responsible for this success. Such an exercise can have the effect of keeping these Institutions on course by reminding them of the roots of their success. At the same time, other Institutions, particularly those run by the State, might wish to take a leaf out of the Presbyterian formula.

Topping the list for Presbyterian success has been a holistic approach to learning and teaching. This holistic approach has been multi-dimensional. In the first place, there is no separation between the Religious and the Secular. The Spiritual and the National spheres are inextricably intertwined. The School day begins with an Invocation and throughout the year the numerous School occasions always include a Religious dimension e.g. Graduation/Speech Day, Founders Day, Sports Day etc. Deeply embedded in the human mind is a fear of misfortune, unpredictable acts of nature and personal loss. For this reason, reference to the Divine is always reassuring and a builder of confidence.

The *Scottish Canadians*, led from 1868 by Dr. John Morton and Rev. Kenneth Grant insisted on a holistic approach to Education, that is, the binding of Religion to the process of Learning. In this way

learning was vested with a divine quality and in itself constituted an act of worship: *Educare est Orare*, (to Educate is to Worship.) This Scottish Presbyterian love for learning fitted very comfortably into the epistemology of the major objects of Canadian Mission activity, namely the 147,000 Indians who came here as indentured labourers from 1845 to 1917 and their descendants. Very few Christians came as bonded workers from India. Hindu tradition as well as Islam place high emphases on learning as a lever to upward social mobility. Therefore the Canadians received extensive support from the estate workers for the building of their Schools and Churches. The Indian community saw such cooperation as their only means of escape from servitude since the Colonial State was adamant in its refusal to allow Hindus and Muslims to open their own Schools. It was not until 1948 that the first non-Christian School, the El Soccoro Islamia, was allowed to open, a full century after the arrivals. 4 years later in 1952 the Hindus were allowed to build their many Schools.

As was the case with all other Christian Churches the Canadians discriminated against non-Presbyterian Indians at the Management level of their Institutions. On the other hand, they never prevented Hindus or Muslims or African Trinidadians from attending their Schools. In fact they sought to incorporate Oriental forms into their Christian practice. Churches, for example, were given Hindu appellations such as *Su Samachar* (church of good tidings) or *Arunodai* (early dawn) or *Aram Alaya* (a haven up ahead). In this way the Presbyterian Institutions developed as havens of harmonious Hindus, Muslims and Christians, Asiatics and Africans as a model of peaceful co-existence in Presbyterian spaces.

A significant part of the holistic Presbyterian approach to Education was an all-round training based on the principle of *Mens sana in corpore sano*, (a healthy mind in a healthy body). Inspired by this dictum, Presbyterian Institutions gave deliberate encouragement to a host of extra-curricular activities

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Contextualizing Presbyterian Successes

(continued from previous page)

such as football, volleyball, cricket, athletics, scouting, literary and debating societies, magazine production, music, drama and other cultural activities. These allowed for the development of out-of-classroom camaraderie and interaction among young people of very different backgrounds, the honing of social skills and the sharpening of talents which were useful in later life. Sir Trevor McDonald never forgets the introduction to Broadcasting which he obtained at Naparima College!

The Presbyterian Institutions were led by women and men who were good role models, whose dedication to Teaching was a source of deep inspiration to their wards. In a Colonial society where it was difficult to find role models, the girls and boys had ample opportunity to pattern their lives after people like Margaret Scrimgeour, Grace Beattie, Mary Naimool, Phoebe Lahouri, Agnes Rampersad, Carmen Carter, Elodie Bissessar, Stephanie Shurland, Joyce and Beulah Meghu, Jean Bahadur, Sam Meighlal, Noor Hassanali, Michael Hall, Rev. V.B. Walls, Wennel Best, Ralph Laltoo, James Sammy, Sam Naranjit, Ken Prayag, Constance Wagar, Undine Giuseppi, Anna Mahase, Margaret Cipriani, Joy Moore, Lenore-Mahase Samaroo, Doris Fong, Sylvia Reid, Dorothy Ramesar, Pearl Mohammed, Cecile Carrington, Jennifer Beckles, Rev. Swann, Rev. Kirkpatrick, Stephen Alisharan, Stephen Moosai-Maharaj, Stephen Seepersad, Effle Mohammed, Rev. Cyril Beharry, Clifford Ramcharan, to mention a few, and a substantial list of other exemplars too many to mention, all of whom touched the lives of thousands of students who were fortunate enough to have been influenced by great teachers of our Schools. Too often we fail to recognize the importance of role models, but young people at Secondary Schools seem to need exemplars whose lifestyles serve as beacons to impressionable minds. For such people, punctuality was as important as piety and hard work was the way to salvation. Presbyterian Institutions were also Pioneers in co-education in this Nation. From the forties of the last century they carefully allowed Girls from the High School (NGHS) to do their Higher School Certificate at

Naparima College. This experiment was eminently successful for decades until NGHS started their own Advanced Level classes. That successful experiment led to the establishment in 1955 of Iere High School a Co-educational High School then known as a branch of Naparima College under the Principalship of Rev. Weldon Grant a former Staff Member of Naparima. In 1950 the St. Augustine Girls' High School (originally a branch of NGHS) was established coming into its own within a very short period of time. Together with Iere High, Hillview College was established 1955 and was then called Naparima College (northern branch). Again this name lasted for just a few years. The successful implementation of Co-education at the Secondary level (Iere) provided a model for the subsequent State inauguration of co-ed Secondary Schools.

That same pioneering effort was evident in the creation of the Naparima Training College in 1894. At first trained Educators from Canada set a standard of competence and by the time of the 1st. World War local Pedagogues were taking over the teaching as Trained Certificated Teachers. Hundreds of Graduates from this Institution (NTC) fanned out into the rural areas taking with them the discipline and professionalism imparted on Paradise Hill. Many of these graduates who had chosen not to convert to Christianity formed the bulk of the Teaching Staff of Hindu and Muslim Schools from the 1950s.

The cumulative result of this long period of successful educational enterprise has been the creation of a tradition of efficiency in School Administration, Extra-Curricular activity and Academic achievement. This tradition, in its turn, has developed its own momentum, propelling constant forward movement in a highly competitive environment. For this reason, a decline in standards is not on the horizon.

At a time when the State seems bent on de-linking Church from School, on de-emphasizing the role of religion in Education, we need to revisit that theory, using the Presbyterian example as part of a larger model.

A Caregiver's Perspective on Alzheimer's Disease

In an article titled "Taking role reversal in stride" Milton Moonah spoke to a Toronto Star reporter about his wife's illness. This article was reprinted in the Spring 2007 issue of Broadcast. It is now three years later and we have an update on Kathy's health. The article below is reprinted from the Dispatch, a newsletter for IESO pensioners.

Retiring from Ontario Hydro and the IESO after 30 years of service in 1999, Milton Moonah, 68, has since spent his days caring for Kathy, his best friend and wife of 43 years.

Milton is a warm and charismatic individual, offering tea or coffee for additional warmth on a chilly damp October morning. He gives a tour of his family's memory-filled home – family photos on the wall, Kathy's handmade decorative petit point and his backyard of tomatoes, cucumbers, Swiss chard and pears. He explains his love and friendship with Kathy, combined with his upbringing in Trinidad to have shaped a character strong enough to maintain a positive attitude throughout the unexpected turn of events in their lives.

Kathy was diagnosed with the early-onset of Alzheimer's disease 10 years ago at the age of 57. Milton's intelligent, energetic partner has now regressed to need assistance in all aspects of her daily life.

Milton is a strong, independent person and has a solid support group made up of family, friends and neighbours. Their two children, Jay and Rebecca, along with Jay's wife, Karen and their daughter, Macy, make up a small but close-knit family. As her caregiver and husband, Milton understands Kathy's needs the best. They take long walks together, dance together and holiday together around Canada, United States, Costa Rica and the West Indies, as they had often done before she was diagnosed.

He balances his lifestyle by singing in a barbershop chorus called The Scarborough Dukes of Harmony, and by playing soccer, a sport he has enjoyed since childhood in Trinidad. Milton is a founding member of the West Rouge Blues "Old-timers" Soccer Club, which has played in tournaments around the world, including Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Hawaii. They're headed to Greece next year.

Milton is very open to sharing his experience with Alzheimer's disease. He explains his situation with Kathy as an "ambiguous loss", a loss where a loved one is psychologically absent but physically present. Kathy now communicates through physical contact, body language and minimal listening skills. The rate and severity of mental decline varies with each individual with Alzheimer's.

Milton is a vocal caregiver who supports looking after loved ones at home for as long as possible, and has become a spokesperson for caregivers at the Alzheimer's Society of Toronto. As the number of people living with dementia is projected to double in the next twenty years, Milton believes that more awareness should be raised about the level of care and the right to dignity that sufferers deserve. *The Toronto Star*, *Global News* and CBC's *The National* have each featured Milton and Kathy's story.

After 10 years of looking after Kathy at home, she has now moved into a private seniors home close by in the Rouge Hill neighbourhood. When friends comment that taking care of another person is hard work, Milton explains, "Caring for Kathy isn't work. She is my number one priority, and I do this to better her quality of life." He adds, "I don't focus on the problems and downsides of being a caregiver, I focus on the hour or half hour in the day that Kathy is doing well and that's all that matters to me."

Editor's note: On March 6, 2010, I received a message from Milton with the following update:

"In January 2010 as it got colder in Ontario Kathy disliked getting out for walks and seemed to be cold all the time. I made the bold decision to take her to T&T for the winter. We came to Trinidad on Jan 17 to stay with my 90 yr old mom Lilliana and her caregiver Doll. This decision has paid dividends. Kathy loves the heat (35 C daytime to 25 C night time) and has become more alert and even gained a few pounds. She has improved both physically and mentally and my Mom and Doll have given her the love and care that have assisted in this transformation. It was a bold move for me and I am glad I made it."

(Kathy and Milton are NAAC Life members.)

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2009 Bursary Winners:

NAAC Student members Kristian Brown (left) and Rae-Marie Rostant (right) with

Norma Ramsahai, Treasurer and Merle Ramdial, President at NAAC's Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance.

(Photo: G.D. Teelucksingh)



Norma Ramsahai presents bursary cheque to Kristian Brown

(Photo: G.D. Teelucksingh)



Panache at The Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade

(Photo: Anand Ramsahai)