



“BROADCAST”

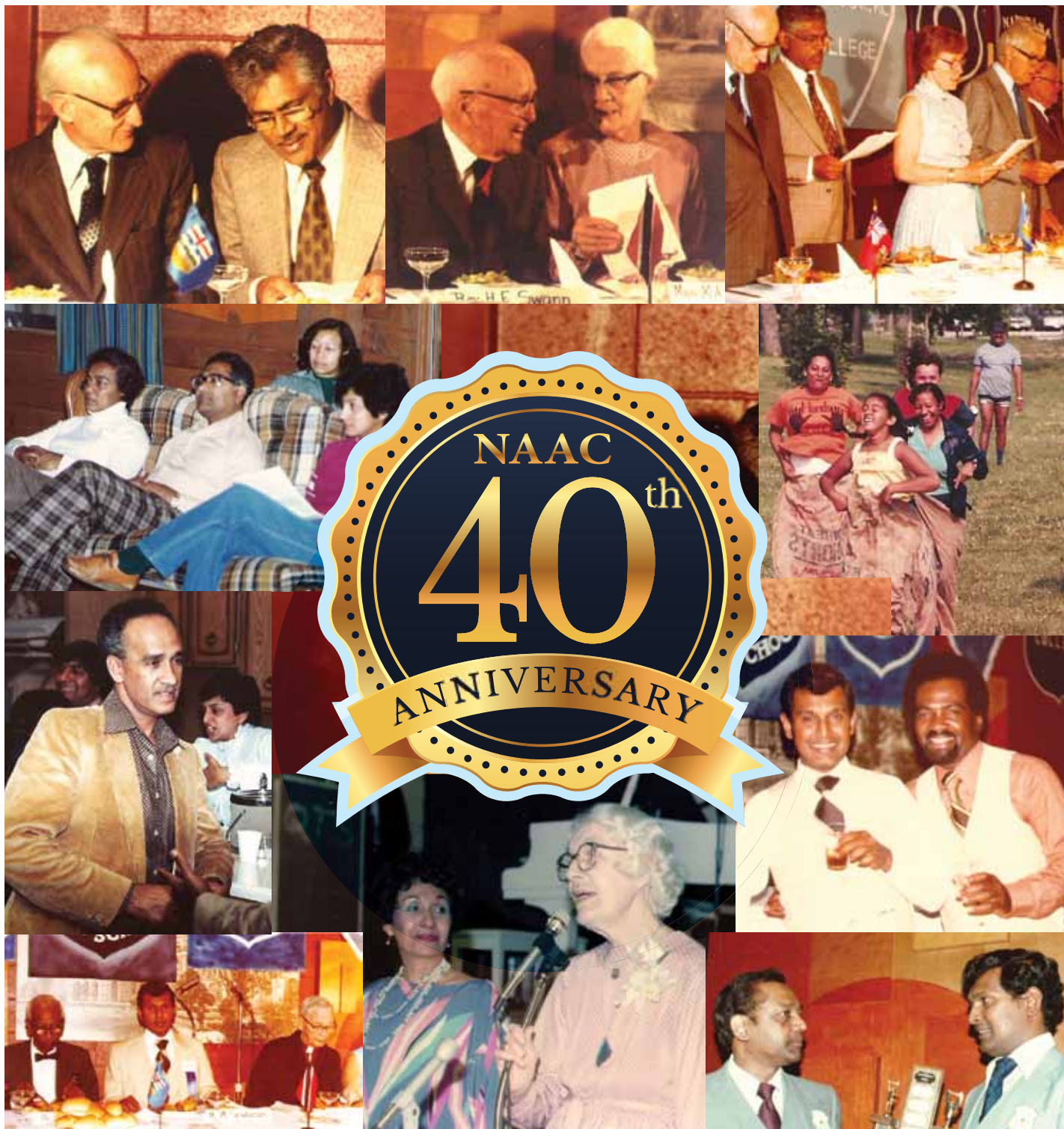
Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

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

Vol. XLI No. 2

Spring 2018



PRESIDENTS OF NAAC



1977-78	Merlin Seukeran /Fred Thornhill	1998-99	Stanley Algoo
1978-79	Fred Thornhill	1999-00	Selwyn Baboolal
1979-80	Harold Naphtali	2000-01	Imogen Foster-Algoo
1980-81	Howard Sammy	2001-02	Cynthia Ramdeen
1981-82	Milton Moonah	2002-03	Ian Ramdial
1982-83	Rawle Narayansingh	2003-04	Norma Ramsahai
1983-84	Harold Naphtali	2004-05	Risel Maharaj/Merle Ramdial
1984-85	Kelvin Shah	2005-06	Vitra Mungal
1985-86	Arthur Siblal	2006-07	Selwyn Baboolal
1986-87	Deleisha Ali	2007-08	Selwyn Baboolal
1987-88	Ralph Shah	2008-09	Merle Ramdial
1988-89	Howard Sammy	2009-10	Merle Ramdial
1989-90	Fulton Seunarine	2010-11	Merle Ramdial
1990-91	Arthur Siblal	2011-12	Merle Ramdial
1991-92	Ian Ramdial	2012-13	Merle Ramdial
1992-93	Mohan Bissoondial	2013-14	Merle Ramdial
1993-94	Rustin Oree	2014-15	Cynthia Ramdeen
1994-95	Rustin Oree	2015-16	Ian Ramdial
1995-96	Stanley Algoo	2016-17	Merle Ramdial
1996-97	Ian Ramdial	2017-18	Merle Ramdial
1997-98	Risel Maharaj		

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.

2017 – 2018 NAAC Executive

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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

Rejoice if you dodged the flu this past winter.

This particular flu could easily take the prize for "Most Misery Inflicted over a Three – Week Period", so be truly thankful if it missed your household.

Today, the sun is shining and although there is a chill in the air, I prefer to ignore the actual temperature, as I look forward to spring and to commemorating NAAC's 40th anniversary. It was in the spring of 1978, that our Association was registered as a Non-Profit in Ontario.

Our executive members have served well, guided by the aims and objects of our Constitution and we will continue to support the programs to which we

have committed.

Over these 40 years we've bid sad farewells to six of our past NAAC presidents.

Harold Naphtali	(1979-80) & (1983-84);
Howard Sammy	(1980-81) & (1988-89);
Rawle Narayansingh	(1982-83);
Arthur Siblal	(1985-86);
Fulton Seunarine	(1989-90);
Rustin Oree	(1993-94) & (1994-95).

I look forward to many more years of serving in whatever capacity I am needed.

Merle Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk...

It was the Fall of 2004 that I first took on the job of editing *Broadcast* and I confess that it is not any easier after all the practice that I've had in the past fourteen years.

Here's one to relieve some stress: *Helvetica* and *Times New Roman* walk into a bar.

"Get out of here!" shouts the bartender.

"We don't serve your *Type*."

The items that I've chosen to publish in this issue are all "good news" stories.

I was born in San Fernando and grew up in the same house in which I was born, only leaving to get married and live in another house in town. I heard second-hand from a few of my cousins about life in rural areas, but I did not experience any of what is described in "At Home in the Fifties" on p.16. I am looking forward to the continuation in the Fall issue of *Broadcast*.

"The NAPS Spirit" article written by James Lee Wah, was forwarded to me by Stan Algo. I am pleased to be able to share it in this 40th Anniversary issue.

Hope you get a chuckle out of "A Visit to the Licensing Office..." as Annetta recaps a few minutes of unsolicited interaction in today's Trinidad.

Thanks to Rajiv Persaud of Bluetree Publishing & Design for trying his best to make us look good in the photos and for the cover graphics.

Merle Ramdial

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you wish to place an ad

in the next issue

of Broadcast,

contact:

Ras Shreeram

at rasras@rogers.com

or Tel: 416-743-1331

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at December 2017. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 26, 2018.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia	\$26,696.00
---------------------	--------------------

NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia – Term Deposit	\$ 1,215.00
------------------------------------	-------------

IPC portfolio:

* Inter Pipeline Fund

*1600 Units – B.V. per unit \$10.00	\$16,000.00
-------------------------------------	-------------

(M.V. \$41,648.00)

*Dividends earned – Aug/17 to Dec/17	\$ 1,088.00
--------------------------------------	-------------

**Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U

(M.V. \$19,975.00)	\$21,785.00
--------------------	-------------

820 units - B.V. per unit \$26.56

Dividends earned - Aug/17 to Dec/17	\$ 585.00
-------------------------------------	-----------

TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>\$40,673.00</u>
--------------------------	---------------------------

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at December 2017 was \$26.00. This reflects an increase of 160% over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$218 per month which translates to a return of 15.3% per annum on that investment.

**Market value of Riocan REIT as at December 2017 was \$24.00 per unit, a decrease of 10.6% over book value. Dividends from Riocan REIT are approx. \$96.00 per month or 5.25% per annum.

The Association met its financial commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$3,760 which was remitted in September, 2017. This is the sum of the following amounts to each of the five schools: NGHS, Iere, & SAGHS in the amount of \$820 each, Naparima College in the amount of \$620 and Hillview College in the amount of \$680.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance which was held on November 25, 2017 realized a profit of **\$4,939.65.**

Submitted by *Merle Ramdial*

for *Norma Ramsahai, Treasurer*



NOTICE OF NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday, May 26, 2018
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Knox Presbyterian Church
4156 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON**

Refreshments will be served at Noon • Meeting commences at 1:00 pm

Social Report

Is it here? Spring, that is. These days, waking up to snow flurries and frost on the car is just a gentle reminder that we live in a far-off place to the north. Personally, I would like to see Santa in shorts; but wishful thinking never got us anywhere in a hurry.

The flowers are not yet out, and the heavy coats are still at hand, but the anticipation of warmth is exhilarating. As I look ahead to activities for the coming year, I can't forget the past. At our last year's Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance held on November 25, 2017, we had a great turnout of members and guests. We were just a few short of our sold-out 2016 event. We tried a new DJ at this event and received very favourable comments from attendees.

We have planned two events so far for 2018. Our Picnic in the Park will be held on July 8th at

Greenwood Park in Ajax, Glenwood Site 2. Our day will start at 10am and end at 6pm. We are looking forward to a great turnout for the food, fun and sun. The current forecast calls for sun, so get your shorts and flip flops out of the closet and come join us.

You've told us that you enjoyed the Day at the Races at Woodbine Race Track, so plans are going ahead for that on September 9th. However, you can definitely mark this date, November 24th 2018, down for our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance.

We are always looking for volunteers, so please, feel free to contact me at richardjnaac@gmail.com if you would like to be part of our team.

Respectfully Submitted by

Richard C. Jaikaran

Chair, Social Committee

Communications Report

This 40th Anniversary edition of Broadcast is just a few pages more than a normal issue with a few more colour pictures from years gone by. Remember, anyone can access e-copies of this issue, as well as back issues from Spring 2005, at www.naactoronto.ca/broadcast.htm

If you wish to purchase print copies of this issue, you may send me a message by email ramdial@gmail.com or phone me at 905 844 1254 and I'll arrange to send a copy via Canada Post.

Our website files are updated on a regular basis. If, however, you notice a broken link or an error in our membership database, please contact me as soon as possible.

We depend on advertisements to offset some of the costs of printing, so a big "Thank You" to the small business owners who have stuck with us through the years.

Submitted by

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications

UPCOMING NAAC EVENTS 2018

May 26th • NAAC Annual General Meeting

July 8th • NAAC Picnic

Sept 9th • Our Day at the Races

Nov 24th • NAAC's Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance

2017 Christmas Dinner & Dance



*NAAC 2017 Bursary Winners: Megan Roberts,
George Brown College and Andrew Ramsaroop,
Ryerson University.*

Photos by Brian Teelucksingh

Steelband Report

Of the forty years of NAAC's existence, our steelband program has been in operation for seventeen of those years, starting in 1992. The program at West Humber Collegiate Institute is working well and practices are held on Wednesday evenings.

The second semester for both Beginner and Advance classes continue to be conducted by Winston Poon and Michele Comeau. As we know from past experience, weather plays a big role in attendance and we certainly have had some bad weather Wednesdays.

Although we no longer have Al Foster as our regular tutor, he has made the commitment to arrange new pieces as we request them and to

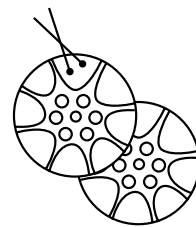
hold special practice sessions as required.

Panache has six gigs in May and June. Only one of the gigs is in a public park, so If you are in the area of High Park on June 10th between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm, follow the beat to the Mt. Sinai Hospital, NICU picnic. Enter the park from Bloor Street on to Colborne Lodge Road.

To NAAC members who reside outside of the GTA, if your city or town holds a music festival and you'd like our own Panache to perform, send us the contact information and we'll surely make you proud.

Submitted by

Merle Ramdial, *Steelband Liaison*



Membership Report

APRIL 10, 2018

Here we are in our 40th year as an Alumni Association!

Our membership holds strong at	271
HONORARY MEMBERS	16
LIFE MEMBERS	194
ANNUAL REG/FAM. MEMBERS	40
ASSOCIATE/STUDENT MEMBERS	21

I will open with some feedback from some members from other Trinidad groups here in Toronto who remark how well NAAC has done to sustain such a good membership. Our Life Membership has not diminished much but we can do better if our Annual members could decide to become Life members. The Association will remain strong if only we could woo some of our members to be more active in organizing events that will help to reinforce the enjoyable camaraderie which we once shared in the years gone by.

We look forward to members who were always active participants in the past to make a special

effort to attend this year's events. Consider the trips to Toronto as special day trips and occasions to 'mix and mingle' with our present members.

Though we may not be considered as vibrant as we were before we still hold together as NAPARIMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION because we continue our allegiance to our Alma Mater.

Cynthia Ramdeen

Chair, Membership Committee

**REMINDER
TO RENEW YOUR NAAC
MEMBERSHIP**

*Please remember to
renew your
NAAC Membership.
The membership
year runs from*

January to December.

Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute

www.whcimusic.com

Joe Cullen, ACL The Arts, April 2018

The past few months have been quite exciting at West Humber CI! Our **Arts Night** in December was a huge success. Although Panache was not able to come as our guest artists due to schedule conflicts, we were able to get Earl LaPierre, Jr. to come in and do his R&B steel pan medleys to get the crowd on their feet. All of the steel bands from each grade played wonderfully, led by teachers Melissa Chapman,

Todd Prescott, and myself, (finally back now full-time at WHCI!) **Spring Arts Night** will be on Thursday May 10, 2018. We hope that Panache will be able to be our guest artists if their schedules allow. Our students love seeing and hearing Panache every time they come.

As I mentioned in the NAAC Broadcast article last fall, WHCI steel bands were invited to play with the Hannaford Street Youth Band on Saturday February 17, 2018! The guest artist was the amazing *Paganini of Pan*, **Virtuoso Liam Teague**! He was in town for a larger concert on Sunday Feb 18 with the Hannaford Senior Band called "Island Time". He came to West Humber for a three-hour steel pan masterclass, where he listened to our present repertoire and gave us valuable feedback on pan technique and performance suggestions.

Liam also played several incredible solos for us, and chatted with our students about all things related to pan. It was a fantastic experience for everyone. Our combined concert with Liam and the **Hannaford Band** was for a packed audience at



Liam Teague at WHCI with members of the Senior Steel Band

Church of the Redeemer at Bloor and Avenue road. WHCI Senior Steel Band performed many songs on their own, as well as some with Hannaford. The highlight of the show was Liam improvising an astoundingly beautiful and musical solo over John Lennon's "Imagine." Videos of some of the events are on our FB site, whcimusic.com and on YouTube!

In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to make great steel pan music, and are very thankful to the NAAC community for their financial support. NAAC has recently increased the amount for the steel band bursaries to keep up with the rising costs of university and college for our graduates. We are able to regularly have our pans tuned beautifully by the amazing Earle Wong because of the NAAC support. The student awards and scholarships that are donated each year are very much appreciated and it really does motivate our students to strive for continued success! Thank you so much, NAAC!

Happy 80th Birthday Rohan!



Rohan Dass (Centre)

with four of his

Naparima College mates

From left: Harold Hosein;

Kelvin Shah; Rohan;

Ralph Shah &

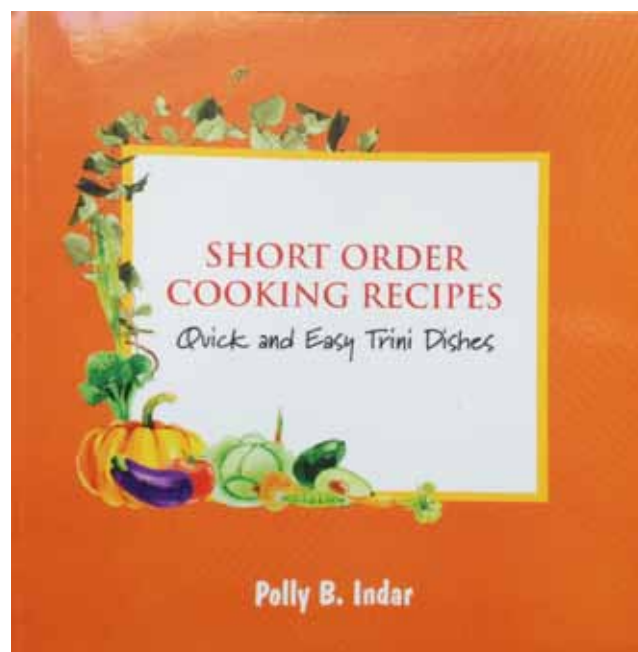
Kenneth Hassanali

For a Good Cause

This small cookbook is written for busy people of all ages. The proceeds from the sale of this book will go towards Hope Centre in San Fernando, a home for abused, neglected and abandoned children between the ages of 3 to 12. This home was founded by a group of women, including the writer, Polly Indar, in 1992 (26 years ago). It is an independent live-in home for children of all religions and is considered by the Children's Authority, a body overseeing all homes, to be the best in T & T.

If you wish to purchase copies at C\$10 each, you may contact Merle Ramdial at 905-844-1254 or merle.ramdial@gmail.com

*Submitted by Polly Indar,
Chairperson, Hope Centre*



Heritage educator to present on MotherCultures at Mother's Day Event

Mothers, MotherLands and MotherCultures will be the theme of a presentation by multimedia specialist Dr Kris Rampersad who will be a guest of the Zoomers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago in Canada (ZATTIC) special Mother's Day presentation.

The event takes place at the Erin View Home in Mississauga from 1.30 pm May 13, 2018.

Dr Rampersad, a widely travelled international heritage educator, researcher, explorer and journalist and former Chair of the UNESCO Education Commission and served as an independent member and Vice President of the UNESCO InterGovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage will draw from her ongoing cross cultural comparative research on convergences between and among global cultures and civilisations.

Dr Rampersad is the author of three landmark and highly acclaimed publications: *Finding a Place* that traces the growth and development of a society from an oral to literary cultural manifestations; *Through the Political Glass Ceiling – Race to Prime Ministership by Trinidad and Tobago's First Female* and *LiTTscapes - Landscapes of Fiction*.

Dr. Rampersad also conceptualises and coordinates heritage events and tours custom made to needs of returning and visiting nationals or other visitors, industry and corporations and other groups and organisations about the economy, politics, cultures, lifestyles and heritage to visitors and organisations wanting more in-depth understanding, workshops or seminars of



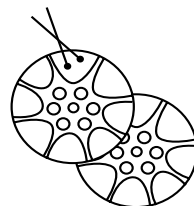
Author and heritage educator
Dr Kris Rampersad
Photo Courtesy:
Kris Rampersad Archives

the country's heritage, history and opportunities.

While in Toronto, Dr Rampersad will be available to autograph her books. Limited copies of LiTTscapes – Landscapes of Fiction are on sale and persons are asked to preorder through email lolleaves@gmail.com or contact Cheryl Sookdeo at Zattic.

For bulk orders of LiTTscapes take advantage of special discounts for schools, libraries, community organisations or corporate awards and gifts, and for more or to make bookings for Dr Kris Rampersad, LiTTscapes, LiTTours and her heritage work follow her LinkedIn Facebook and other social media presence and email lolleaves@gmail.com directly.

NOTICE: Steelband Classes 2017/2018 Season



**At the Music Room at
West Humber Collegiate Institute**

• **Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Contact: Winston Poon

• Tel: 905-824-3589

email: wpoon354@rogers.com

A Visit to the Licensing Office in St James

A few weeks ago, I went to renew my TT driver's license in St James. The office is open at 8.00 a.m. but there already was a line when I arrived at 7.15 a.m. In no time, talk starts up about the inefficiencies of the Licensing Office and government in general. I take out my license to check something.

Man: Eh Eh, like yo just start driving?

Me: No, why you say that?

Man: Yo license looking so new and pretty like yo hardly use it!

Me: No no. I'm over 65 so I have to get a new one every two years .

Man: But what I hearing! That can't be true!

Yo like yo could still make chile! After all, women these days making chile in dey 50's.

The women in the line have a good laugh and talk about how the first thing men think of is whether they could make a woman pregnant.

Pretty soon, the talk switches to a recent news event about a man who killed his wife/girlfriend by shooting and throwing her out of a car, and then killed himself sometime later. Someone says the woman was caught in bed with another man. Immediately the men discuss the man's position.

Man: Dat is one ah the wose things to happen to a man!

Other man: A man have to have real big balls to deal with dat. In fact he balls have to be so big dat it cyan fit in he pants. First man says that it not that straightforward It depend on whether the man was merely in love or whether he was addicted to the salt fish . If he was in love, he might be able to deal with the horning, but if he was hooked on the salt fish, he gone through.

This crucial insight make the women look silently but expressively at each other. It turns out they have their own take on the situation - no sympathy for the murderer.

Their story is that the woman left him and he could not take it. The consensus is he did not have to "behave so crazy and get on so extreme". Horning is a given in Trinidad, therefore one's ability to 'take' it is a common topic of discussion.

The women's sympathy was all for the murdered woman. One woman said that the husband's family were ashamed that he had killed somebody's 'girl child'. Another worried about how the woman's friends and family taking it. " An doh talk about all the people in she office, they cyan even go to work."

Finally the office opens. In the crush to get the appropriate forms filled out, I find myself way to the back of the line to the cashier.

One of the big-mouth men who was in the line outside: But girl, whah yo doing quite in the back dey?

Me: Well that's what happened. I had to fill out my form.

Man: No no. Dat's not how it does wok. Yo keep yo place in the line no matter what.

Me: It's ok. I here already. I could wait.

Man going to the front of the line: Nah Nah. Dat eh right. You come up here. All yo make room for the lady, she was here early.

Now everybody is looking at me so I meekly go to the front of the line, thanking everyone. No one says anything.

After I pay the cashier, I have to get a doctor to sign a form saying I am fit to drive. Guess what, right across the road there is a sign saying "DOCTOR'S OFFICE".

I hustle over. The office is down a nasty looking alley. In the office six people are waiting in a very basic room, tended by a receptionist. On her desk is a tin with a big sign saying TIP FOR STAFF XMAS PARTY. The doctor is not in. The man sitting next to me asks if I was going to give a tip. I whisper back that I think they are

very bold faced, and I have no intention of leaving a tip. The man replies he agree, but he worrying “if he doh give a tip, the doc will mess up his form”. Whoops. This has not occurred to me. I have been in Canada too long!

Anyway, I decide to take my chances. The receptionist calls me to her desk, takes a \$100.00 and my blood pressure. Asks me if I have epileptic seizures and other dire illnesses. Fortunately, my answers are negative and I get to go back to my seat and wait for the doctor. When he arrives, the receptionist takes our forms in to him, he signs them. I am declared fit to drive and it's back to the License office.

Finally I am at the last stage of the process, sitting in the waiting room for the new license. The room is full and people start getting restless at the wait. Muttering about government inefficiencies breaks out again. Suddenly in a loud voice, a man behind me says “I eh know what all yo fussing about, everybody know that nigger people cyan

run notting. When nigger people in power nutting does work.”

The room becomes very quiet. Before we can catch our breath he continues; ‘An nobody could say I racial, I is a nigger because my Mother is a nigger’. This revelation is greeted with cross-eyed looks but no one says anything. I am wondering if I should go outside in case fight break out.

Fortunately, the next thing I hear is my name being called. In five minutes I am outside the office with new license in hand. I am happy, it is only 10.30 a.m. and I finish early. Not only that, you have to give it to the license office in St James, they does make me look good!

And Canadians ask me why I does go to Trinidad?

Love, from Trinidad

Annetta Protain

NGHS 106th Anniversary

by NGHS Administrator

Where would Naparima Girls’ High School be without the Presbyterian Church? Practically non-existent! The Presbyterian Church’s indelible mark on the pages of our Naparima history began with Reverend John Morton’s initiation of the “Canadian Mission” in 1868 in Iere Village which has since evolved into the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT). Over the years the PCTT has further developed into a Church with 5 government-assisted secondary schools, one of which is our illustrious institution. Naparima Girls’ High School was founded in 1912 by Reverend Dr Fulton Coffin, a Canadian Presbyterian missionary. Our fine establishment was primarily concerned with educating the female descendants of East Indian indentured labourers in South Trinidad and complementing

the education afforded to the boys at Naparima College.

Our school has grown exponentially from the initial class of 22 students in one room on Coffee Street to our current location with approximately 800 scholars at 4 La Pique Road, San Fernando. Nevertheless, the Presbyterian Church remains a pervasive influence in the life of every Naps girl. From morning worship to end of term church services, the branches of the Church’s burning bush deeply rooted in the Presbyterian faith consistently infiltrate the hearts and minds of our students. It is therefore only fitting that we engage in this unique joint celebration of the 150th anniversary of the PCTT, the organization responsible for our school’s inception, and the 106th anniversary of the founding of our eminent institution.

Local play for Scots Youth Festival

by Debra Greaves

Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Friday 9 March 2018

Yvonne Webb

Naparima College's award-winning play *The Inspector* is bound for Scotland as part of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival later this year.

In 2016, the locally written play won rave acclaim and earned top spot in the Secondary Schools' Drama Festival and was selected to represent TT in the Caribbean version of the festival in Antigua.

It is now history that *The Inspector* trumped all its competitors and walked away with 19 awards, including best original script, directing and outstanding production, both at home and abroad.

To raise funds for the Scotland trip, Naparima College will stage its award-winning play this weekend, with two shows at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts, (Sapa) tomorrow and at the Central Bank Auditorium in Port of Spain on Saturday.

Written and directed by Simeon Chris Moodoo, *The Inspector* explores the issues of greed, poverty, corruption, political and moral decay in TT.

The genesis of the piece was the July 2015 prison break at the Frederick Street, Port of Spain when Allan "Scanny" Martin, Hassan Atwell and Christopher "Monster" Selby made a daring dash for freedom. Martin's and Atwell's escape was short-lived, as they were both killed. Selby later surrendered to the police.

It is at this point that fact ends and the writer's imagination takes centre stage as he delves into a fictitious account of a conspiracy involving "higher authorities," and the dilemma the inspector must face as he takes the moral high ground or sinks into the abyss of corruption and immorality. Award winners and



The Naparima College team pose at the VC Bird Memorial Statue, St John's, Antigua. The group represented TT in the Caribbean version of the youth drama festival in Antigua. Photos courtesy: The Cultural Development Division – Antigua and Barbuda

scholarship recipients Daniel Baptiste and Justin Lee are the main players representing *Inspector* and *Monster*,

San Fernando Wharf is the venue where the scene plays out and where Moodoo expands his creativity to incorporate some reflection of the kidnapping and murder of businesswoman Vindra Naipaul.

In an interview, Moodoo recalled that he was just holding on temporarily – for three months to be exact – for the theatre arts teacher at Naparima College during festival time. He encountered numerous challenges: among them, how to write a play for an all-male cast. Given the time constraint, he said, he could not put the boys in drag, as most of them were from one students and theatre novices who had never even seen a stage, and transforming them into a female replica needed time they did not have.

It was at this point he decided to direct his unfinished play. He recalls that he held no auditions and instead of casting roles, he had an open call and wrote the script around those who responded.

Panache Steelband - A glimpse from the past



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



Panache at Trini Kaleidoscope II

Simply ...



Panache II ~ Fusion

Launch of 'La Pique 100'



Ruby Samlalsingh



Myrtle Gopeesingh



Shanti Ramkerrysingh-Inman & Mark Inman



Selwyn Baboolal



Claude and Vilma Ramcharan



Wendy Rostant & Rae-Marie Rostant

Some photos from the past 10 years



NAAC West-end steelband classes celebrating last day of the second semester (June 2014).



NAAC 2008-2009 Executive Standing (L to R): Pam Rambharack, Sheila Satram, Selwyn Baboolal, Norma Ramsahai & Ras Shreeram. Sitting (l to R): Merle Ramdial & Vilma Ramcharan (Photo by Tony Sladden)



Dr. Ramabai Espinet with featured speaker, Dr. Aleem Mohammed at NAAC's 30th Anniversary, 2008



Mrs Vilma Ramcharan with one of the NAAC Bursary winners, Aleisha Dowlat

At Home in the Fifties

by krm

In the early fifties, when she wrote on thin, blue, air-mail paper to her sister in England, my mother always prefaced her news with: “At Home”. This is what our home was like then, likely different from what youngsters experience today.

We lived in my grandpa’s home in the country. By then, he had long retired from his active work as a schoolmaster at the nearby Canadian Mission School, and as an agricultural entrepreneur. His father who came to the area in the 1870’s had passed on to him rice-lands, as well as some cocoa, oranges and coffee. His father had also made a property available for construction of the elementary school, where Grandpa became the schoolmaster, and his own children attended before going on to La Pique or Naparima.

Though retired, Grandpa continued to act as an official registrar of births and deaths. When villagers came to him, he recorded events on his front verandah, using “dip pens” and government provided forms. A dip pen was a metal nib slipped on to a stylus, and dipped into ink, enough to write a few words at a time. Most villagers did not write much, but school-children learned to write on slates, then with pencils - and then nibs! Ball-points, quite messy, came along later, and only professional folk owned a “fountain pen”. There were many nibs and inkpots in our homes. One of my cousins later calligraphed UWI degree certificates for many years.

Grandpa also still kept bees as a sideline, and enjoyed puttering in his flower garden. The garden was usually alive with birds, bees, little lizards, large tancoloured snails that left a silvery path — as well as army ants, and the occasional small snake! The ants would march away in lines with bits of rose leaf, and the grown-ups kept their numbers in check in various interesting ways. Along our verandah hung verdant baskets of staghorn fern. Below these was a row of leafy lilies in pots. Auntie Laura said that a Green Elf lived among those lilies, and in a place so teeming with little lives, it seemed entirely natural and easy to believe.

Auntie Laura also lived at her father’s home, and other aunts and uncles lived on either side and in the neighbourhood. Mrs. Matil, a traditional domestic who had obviously known the family from her youth, would often be in and bustling. You can imagine that a Saturday morning was a busy and exciting time, with numerous cousins coming and going; a relative grafting a rose with moss and string; my mother gathering eggs from the coops under the house; someone milking cows or goats or taking them to graze; baby goats at play; a line of ducks and ducklings meandering down bushy trails to or from the unseen mysterious River; a fussy turkey or two; perhaps the local barber, who claimed to be a distant relative, coming over to do the children’s hair at six cents each, (twelve for grown-ups); and Grandpa wearing a druid-like mask and puffing smoke from a hand-held smoke-bellows as he performed apiary rites.

We always had lots of company with our cousins. Hammond would take us fishing at that forested brook. Vernon would roast cashew nuts on an open fire, after showing us how to make a roasting-pan from an old sheet of tin, wellperforated with the cutlass. Hamlyn helped me make and fly my first kite. Melly sang songs. Moti cut down coconuts. Myrna told us stories. We all played together in the fields and trees, and the savannah.

Behind our house was an outdoor oven. It was a large domed structure built of clay, with a shoulder-level iron grill, and a small opening. When it was used, a fire would be built below the dome, while the dough rose in the kitchen. The fire was allowed to subside into glowing coals, and the loaves of bread were placed in rows on the grill, using a thin flat wooden spatula on a pole. The opening was then closed with a large flat stone. Imagine the delicious smell and texture of the hot bread that came out a short time later!

On a more casual basis, Mrs Matil would bake thick rotis, or flat-breads on a hot griddle, delicious with

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At Home in the Fifties

(Cont. from previous page)

butter or Grandpa's thick brown honey. Or sometimes she would make a wonderful country soup of green bananas, plantains, eddoes, cassava, dasheen, ochroes and dumplings.

Also in the back yard, beside the outdoor bathroom, was a "copper". This was a large, deep bowl-shaped vessel about five feet across, filled with water, a relic of earlier days when it was used for watering horses. It was actually made of cast iron. Presumably, in still earlier days, the first ones must have been made of bronze, and used for boiling cane syrup. My mother showed me a photograph of a small sugar mill that had stood on one side of the house when she was a girl.

There was no electricity in our village, and no one missed it. Lamplight came from kerosene ("pitch-oil") lamps. It was a daily chore, feverishly undertaken at dusk when the family's schedule had been delayed for some reason, to fill the lamps and clean the sooty glass chimneys with crumpled newspaper. For special meetings or grand occasions, Coleman lanterns burning "naphtha gas" in a mysterious glowing "mantle" were brought into play by masterful grown-ups. A "flashlight", (or torch), was an item of adult privilege.

To herald their approach or to greet others in the village darkness, young people often would have their own personal whistle. Uncle Winston and Vernon each would do a highly technical musical warble. John and Neal had their own lilting exchange, and so did Errol and I. A cousin, strolling over for a visit in the balmy night, would give his copyright whistle; others would hear this, interpret it correctly, and join in the visit.

No one had a gas or electric stove. We cooked on a "chul-ha", (a hand-made enclosure of clay), and later, on a coal-pot. Chopping kindling, procuring a scoop of coal, and getting this alight with considerable fanning with a piece of cardboard, or blowing through a length of pipe, were daily chores. People made coal by covering logs with clay and allowing them to smoulder.

Most village homes had no plumbing. Water would

be fetched from rain-barrels at a quiet corner of the house; or from the government-provided stand-pipe by the roadside. Drinking water was kept in the house in a large earthen goblet. Each worker in the fields took drinking water in a calabash canteen, a calabash being a large gourd. For a bathroom, an enclosure of galvanized sheeting stood outdoors, usually without a roof; but some folks simply performed their ablutions with lavatory gusto in the open air, often by the roadside, modesty met by a loincloth.

Some village people made their own toothbrushes. They would select a young hibiscus twig of the right thickness, fray one end by pounding it with a clean stone, and then use that as a one-time biodegradable tooth-brush. Bakingpowder made an acceptable dentrifice. The toothbrush was then split, and, with a certain panache, the bits were curved and used for flossing.

There was no traffic to speak of. Cars and trucks were a novelty when they went down our road. People travelled on foot or by bicycle, and occasionally by animal-drawn carts. These were often carrying sugar-cane, so we boys would run softly after the cart and hitch a brief ride, or filch a cane, hidden from the driver by the load. However, the commercial "iron cane" was not as attractive as the stout, soft "bourbon" that grew in our own back-yards.

Carts that travelled after dark used a "flambeau". This was a rag-stoppered bottle filled with kerosene. The rag made a wick which burned with a naked ruddy smoky flame. It was spooky to see a distant flambeau wavering silently in the distance, travelling slowly, winking out and again as it traversed by trees and copses. The tropic night was always warm, filled with insect, frog and forest cries. When the big full moon rose over the rice fields, there would often be a knot of us little children looking up at it, being told solemn stories by older ones.

[to be continued]

krm, the writer, graduated from Naparima College in 1962 and has been in touch with NAAC from the early years.

Presbyterian Church launches CD of bhajans

Yvonne Webb

In an attempt to celebrate and preserve the East Indian influence of its rich history, the Presbyterian Church of TT has launched a CD of bhajans. The CD is a compilation of hymns which were translated into Hindi and used by Canadian missionaries when they first came to this country in 1868, to evangelise the East Indian indentured labourers.

The pioneer missionary was the Rev John Morton of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada, who first set foot on TT soil with his family on January 6, 1868. His primary aim was converting the indentured labourers who had replaced African immigrants on the sugar plantations.

With language being a barrier to conversion, the missionaries had to learn and translate the hymns into Hindi, the language of the indentured. Some churches established over the years have maintained their East Indian names such as Susamachar (good news), Akashbani (voice of heaven) and Aramalaya (place of rest).

The CD, titled Bhajans of the Presbyterian Church Volume 1, was launched by the church's Moderator, Rev Annabell Lalla-Ramkhelawan, at a service of thanksgiving last Sunday at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church to commemorate the church's 150th anniversary.

The combined Presbyterian choir performed a medley of some of the bhajans on the CD to the congregation, which included President Anthony Carmona and his wife Reema, Planning and Development Minister Camille Robinson-Regis, who represented Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley, and San Fernando Mayor Junia Regrello. Also in the congregation were descendants of the Canadian Missionary representing the United Church of Canada, and representatives from the Church of Scotland and the World Council of Churches. The Canadian representatives were seen singing along with the choir.

The CD was compiled and sung by retired schoolteacher Annmarie Chadee and recorded in India with some top Indian instrumentalists providing the musical accompaniment. Violin, mandolin, guitars and some Punjabi drums added a unique flavour.

Chadee, a trained Indian classical singer and a member of the Caroni Presbyterian Church, gave the CD to the church as a memento of its rich history. In an interview, Chadee who is married to businessman Clyde Chadee, said it is something she has been wanting to do for a very long time, because she felt the tradition was being lost and the younger generation were unfamiliar with the history of this institution.

Coming from a musical family who are also heavily involved in research and grounded in Christianity, Chadee's passion flared when she learnt about the grand plans for the church's 150th anniversary. With time on her hands, having retired as a science teacher from Baratara Secondary School and with her two children, Dr Xfitaaz Chadee, UWI physics lecturer and Aaron, a civil engineering consultant, grown-up, her decision to pursue this dream suddenly became possible.

"My passion was to save them (bhajans). I said, the church needs this. This is our heritage, this is our beginning. If we are to move forward as a church, the music must also move forward with us. I thought, only a few young people know their roots and if I don't do it, who else will? I know



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CD of bhajans

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the Hindi. I am a classical singer. I am trained in classical Indian music, I have the wherewithal to do and so I took it upon myself to research and compile the songs – which was a lot – and brought it up to standard.”

Her research was a challenge because a lot of the language and melody, once preserved through the oral tradition, were lost. She said only few who would have sung the bhajans in church were still alive and fewer still remembered about four or five of the songs.

“I had to work with two 80-something-year-old men whose voices were already going. But they helped me so much. So selflessly they sat and

they gave it to me. Right now I am working with an 87-year-old gentleman, Sookoo Manbodh, for Volume 2 to be released in 2019.”

Chadee, who has also recorded four other CDs, *Devi Devta*, *Chutneywaali* Volume 1 and 2, and *Deswaa*, is also working on a compilation of romantic songs. *Lalla-Ramkhelawan*, who was presented with the first copy at the anniversary celebration, commended Chadee for the once-in-a-lifetime gift.

The CD, which contains 12 songs, and also contains Hindi and English scripts, is dedicated to Chadee’s mother, the late Sybil Soobratee, a former member of the *Susamachar* choir and her mother-in-law, *Cecilia Seeratan-Chadee*.

They are available for sale at the Synod’s office.



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The Naps Spirit

by James Lee Wah, Former Vice-Principal.

Allen Sammy recently threw a challenge to me. Try to define the 'Naps Spirit', he said. What makes the "Naps Boy" so different from other secondary school graduates?

I thought about this question but could arrive at no easy answer. So I sought help by discussing it with Naps graduates I happened to meet. I was amazed at the variety of suggestions they made.

1. High on the list was **"Dormitory Life"** and the fact that students from various parts of the country had to learn to live together. A kind of bonding took place and blossomed into life-long friendships. Tales of the exploits and experiences of dormitory boys became legend. Brotherhood of the Dorm, indeed.

2. Canadian Mission:

It is no secret that the Canadian Presbyterian Mission came to Trinidad to minister to a particular section of the community, a disadvantaged section where poverty and deprivation were widespread. Education was the key to upward social mobility. The opportunity for progress, the chance to make something of themselves, was grasped with both hands by the Indian Community (as well as by other poor boys like myself). The motivation was strong and therefore application, hardwork and dedication were the result.

3. Religion:

Nowadays with increasing violence and deviant behaviour plaguing even the schools, there is much talk of introducing religion into schools. Naps was always a deeply religious school. Religion was part of the atmosphere, part of the culture. Religious knowledge was on the curriculum and the daily ritual of morning worship was a vital part of school life.

It is significant that the first Principals of the College were priests. Note too that when the time came to appoint a local Principal, Rev James Seunarine was chosen to continue the tradition.

These priests were men with a mission. Probably conversion was at the back of their minds and so they preached the liberal values of the Christian ethic, and in particular, the core Christian doctrine of love as well as honest work.

For these Principals the College was a home away from home and they came to regard the students as family. In those early days the Rev. V.B. Walls and his wife, Marion, were 'in loco parents' to the students. They created at the school an atmosphere of caring. Rev. Walls seemed to have developed over his twenty-five year stewardship a personal relationship with each student. He had a phenomenal memory for the name of each of his students and nothing can replace that kind of intimate contact between teacher and student. I remember in particular, Rev. Walls' keen sense of humour. He was always telling jokes. He was one of the most popular and beloved of principals at Naps.

4. The Staff:

The influence of the Principal, the leader who has the vision, the leader who knows the student, did not detract from the influence of the staff in general. As Lara has found out, teamwork is the answer.

During Rev. Walls' stewardship Naps was fortunate to have the support of two outstanding stalwarts: the legendary Ivan "Doc" Bissessar and James Sammy. Their talents complemented one another. I call them the great trinitate. They "ruled" Naps for over twenty-five years and so provided in those early days the kind of stability necessary to establish long-lasting traditions and values and build the Naps Spirit.

Many Naps students will remember these three gentlemen for their loving kindness, their caring, their discipline and the leadership characteristics they presented as respected role models. Men of

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The Naps Spirit

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strength, they towered over us like giants. Mr. Sammy fathered eight (8) boys and Mr. Bissessar had no children but they both performed their duties with affability or sternness as required. To hear Naps graduates talk, it would seem that their fondest memories are the “strokes” they got from Doc.

The staff were a mixed bag of characters that students will remember for this or that oddity; men like Hassanali, Best, Hall, Paray Ramnarine, Ramdath Ramkissoon, Sam Naranjit etc.

These were devoted teachers who all had an impact on the students. An important element on the staff was the immigrant teacher whether from Canada, Jamaica, Barbados or Guyana. These men brought colourful variety to the teaching staff. There also developed a strong tradition of recruiting to the staff outstanding Naps students. This system provided continuity of teaching methods and approaches to subjects.

Another element was the presence of a few female teachers like Wilma Samlalsingh, Joyce Meghu and Mrs. Lute. These ladies brought to the staff a touch of female graciousness that has always been welcome at Naps.

5. H.C. Girls:

The young ladies who came from Naparima Girls' High School to take their 'A' Level Exams at Naps managed to exercise a strong influence on the Naps spirit far in excess of the smallness of their numbers. Naps boys are not at all deficient in their appreciation of beauty.

One of the things that most graduates remember is undoubtedly the “doubles” tradition. Some graduates have even made a remarkable claim that “doubles” was a Naparima College invention.

6. Football:

Another striking memory was the football chants- the razz a taz zim boom bah- and especially the one, “we go win next year.”

Recently I attended a farewell service for Roy Jagroopsingh, retired Physical Education Teacher at Naps. His contribution to the Naps spirit was duly extolled. He succeeded in changing the chant “we go win next year” from one of defeat into one of triumph.

7. Site:

Some graduates even claimed that where Naps College is situated had something to do with the creation of the Naps Spirit. In the early days Naps was at the South West boundary of the town, a rustic setting. We remember the woods we explored and how we came upon the mysterious “Sa Grado Tomb” as well as the “dungs” and guava trees. We remember Flat Rock where many Naps boys learnt to swim. So Naps was always close to nature. On a clear day we could see Venezuela across the Gulf. The sunsets here were awesome also! Encroaching urbanisation has changed all that. The views from Naps Hill were inspiring. On one side lay the San Fernando Hill and the town nestled around it. On the other side the vista opened up to the distant world. Inward to the community; outward to the world.

8. Our Motto:

Life at Naps has always been a rich “callaloo” of experiences which have made their contribution to the shaping of the Naps spirit, and which have therefore made the task of pinpointing what exactly the Naps Spirit is very difficult indeed. For my part, I would like to develop the idea of the significance of our school motto: ***A Posse Ad Esse***: whoever chose that motto encompassed in four words the whole challenge and opportunity that lie at the heart of the meaning of education.

Education is a creative process. We are challenged to develop our minds, our feelings, our imagination, our talents, and our character in order to make ourselves the best human being we are capable of becoming. It is a creative enterprise, an adventure, a lifelong search for the abundance that life offers us. At Naps we faced that challenge. Naps boys are

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The Naps Spirit

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challenged to imagine the rich possibilities and to grasp the opportunities that make their lives.

We who passed through Naps were lucky to have met teachers who realized the importance of the development of the whole personality. Not only the cognitive skills but also the social and artistic.

The extra-curricular programs have always been strong and active. I remember the old Senior Literary and Debating Society which gave students the opportunity for self-expression as well as

experience in group dynamics, leadership and in the organising of events.

Naps has always stressed the cultivation of voice and speech. Every year students participate keenly in the Oration and Elocution contests. I remember the Blue Circle Network and supplement, the in-house radio and newspaper institutions. The training and experience some students received here stood them in good stead in later careers in the media. [Congrats to Sir Trevor Mc Donald].

Then there was the Shakespeare Festival which helped produce budding dramatists like Errol Sitahal, Ralph Maraj, Tony Hall, Devindra Dookie,

Errol Fabien, Melville Foster, David Sammy and Shane Bickram.

Long before other schools jumped on the Carnival bandwagon, we at Naps had our annual Carnival and Calypso competitions. Art and Music have always been on our curriculum. And the Indian Arts have not been neglected. (Hail Rikki Jai).

So there are numerous influences, many ingredients in this thing called the Naps Spirit. We experience it. We feel it. We see it at work in Naps and the wider community. Could it be just a myth? If it is, it is a myth that is well worth believing and sustaining. Thank God there are institutions like Founders Day Celebrations and the Old Boys Association, which help to continue, maintain and perpetuate the myth. Wherever we may roam, Naps will always be our home.

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Music Festival 2018

by NGHS Administrator

The Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival Association H.B.M. (TTMFA) was incorporated by an Act of Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (No. 15 of 1972) and is empowered “to promote and hold music festivals and to do all other such things as are incidental to the holding of such festivals; and to do all other things necessary for the encouragement of the appreciation of music.” This year marks the 32nd Music Festival during the period 18th February to 17th March 2018.

Naparima Girls’ High School (NGHS) has been involved with music festival since the 1970s. Over the years, NGHS has competed in at least 15 categories each festival with much success. This year, 2018 we competed in 13 categories and displayed unrivalled talent copping the championship in the following categories:

- **Junior Folk Song Solo** – 1st place Sydney Mohan (L6) performing *Stuttering Pastor* arranged by Mrs. Bernadette Roberts.
- **Secondary School Choirs** – Mixed Voices (19 years & under) – Naparima Mixed Choir 1st place; competed with Signal Hill, Tobago.
- **Junior Calypso Chorale:** NGHS, dubbed Naparima Chorale performing *Dingolay* arranged and directed by Mrs. Roberts – 1st place – We competed against Bishops Anstey High School POS and Signal Hill Tobago.
- **Piano Solo** (16 to 19 years) performing Golliwog’s Cakewalk by *Debussy*: 1st place Alayna Ragbar, Form 5.

Sydney Mohan has become a staple participant at the biennial music festivals. With such talent as a soprano (high voice), she has not only won several classes but was awarded the Music Festival Myers Shield winner 2018, for ages 19 and under. Congratulations to Sydney!



For the first time, Naparima Girls’ High School in the Secondary School Choir – Mixed Choir Category, performing, *Gonna Rise Up Singing* by Don Besig which involved collaborative efforts with Naparima College. Mrs. Natalie Persad-Umraw (music teacher of Naparima College) conducted the 40 member choir (16 boys and 24 girls) accompanied by Mr. Sean Sadaphal. Special thanks to Mrs. Reanna Edwards-Paul for her critical assistance. We managed to place 1st in this category – what a successful team effort! Congratulations to the Naparima Mixed Choir!

Quite impressive was the performance of *Dingolay* in the Junior Calypso Chorale category. Arranged and directed by the dedicated, talented and passionate Mrs. Bernadette Roberts (now retired) our 40 member girls’ choir managed to gain 1st place against consistent championship winners Bishops Anstey High School (POS) & Signal Hill Tobago. The judges made special mention that our spirited performance provided the edge to our competitors. The performance video was well circulated in the community and we were given coverage in the Newsday and the Trinidad Guardian newspaper. Congratulations to the Naparima Chorale!

Naps old boy takes Rhodes scholarship

by **Carol Matroo**, *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*, Wednesday 22 November, 2017

Naparima Boys' College alumnus Mandela Patrick is the 2018 Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship winner.

The 22-year-old emerged the winner out of nine candidates who applied for the scholarship to study at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. Trinidadian Kirin Rambaran was also shortlisted.

Acting governor general of Barbados Sir Philip Greaves made the announcement on Monday.

Patrick will spend two years completing a masters in computer science and a masters in statistics, starting in October 2018.

At 19, Patrick topped the Caribbean in mathematics and information and communications technology (ICT).

He is now an ICT student at Harvard University.

When contacted in Barbados yesterday, Patrick, from Palmiste, San Fernando, attributed his success to hard work, time management and commitment, and his parents Raymond and Hyacinth's absolute support and love.

"This is an absolute dream come true, because the Rhodes Scholarship is considered the most prestigious scholarship in the world.



This is an overall life journey where one must have excellent academic achievement, and I was the top student from Form One to Six," he said.

Patrick is also an avid athlete and had represented TT in squash and continued at

the university level at Harvard. "I was able to balance my academics with the highly hectic schedule of squash. My brother Nku also plays squash at Trinity College in Connecticut," he noted with pride.

Patrick said the main focus of his studies was machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Patrick may have left his alma mater three years ago, but he has certainly not been forgotten.

His former vice principal at Naparima, Dev Gosine, said Patrick was an outstanding student when he taught him in Form Six.

"We were very close and he was very committed to his studies. When he won an open scholarship in 2014, he had been admitted to university before he wrote CAPE (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination). His very first job was with Facebook," he said.

Gosine said he was proud that one of their own had made his school and his country proud.

Condolences to

...Ramabai Espinet on the passing of her mother, **Grace Dookie**, on January 23, 2018, and to Cynthia Seunarine and Neville Mahabir, who were Grace's siblings.

...Selwyn Baboolal on the death of his mother **Alicia Baboolal**, on February 18, 2018. We extend our sympathy to Selwyn's wife Aneesa and to their children, Omar and Maya.

...Vilma Ramcharan and Phyllis Erdos, whose brother, **Winston Rampersad**, died on February 18, 2018. Winston's funeral was held in Kitchener, ON.

...Jacqueline Mahabir on her sister, **Vilma Dube's** passing, on April 9, 2018 in Nainaimo, B.C.

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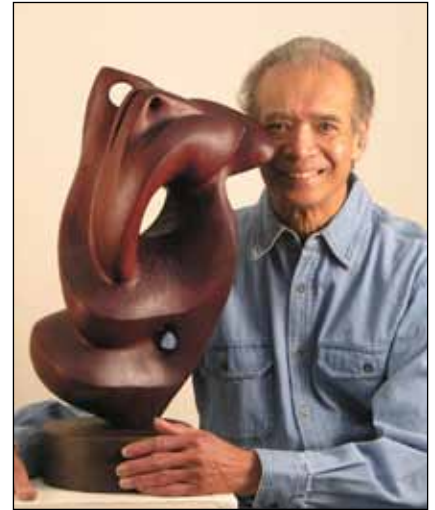


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Imogen Foster-Algoo receives Medal of Merit from The Hon. Basdeo Panday. September 9, 2000 in Toronto.



Medal of Merit



Dedication of Accessibility Table to Rev. Arthur & Mrs. Bessie Dayfoot, Huron Park, Toronto



Eight of NAAC's Past Presidents:

*Back Row, L to R: Milton Moonah, Mohan Bissoondial, Selwyn Baboolal, Kelvin Shah, Fred Thornhill, & Howard Sammy
Seated L to R: Cynthia Ramdeen & Deleisha Ali*



NAAC Executive Members 2007-2008

*Back Row, L to R: Sharlene Seemungal, Vernon Dowlath, Ian Ramdial, Vitra Mungal & Darise Crevelle
Front Row, L to R: Merle Ramdial, Selwyn Baboolal & Norma Ramsahai*