



semper unum esse

“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. XLII No. 1

Fall 2018

Still Celebrating...



A Chronology of NAAC Milestones & Support 1978-2018 • Inside on Pages 10-19.

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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.

2018 – 2019 NAAC Executive

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CONTENTS

President's Message	2	'Pioneer of drama' Mavis Lee Wah passes away	7
From the Editor's Desk... ..	2	Former UMSU President goes on to international career	8
Finance Report	3	Yuh know it's time to burn that Trini passport when:	9
Notice of NAAC Annual General Meeting.....	3	Chronology - NAAC Milestones & Support with Photos..	10-19
Social Report.....	4	At Home in the Fifties.....	20-22
Communications Report.....	4	2011:La Pique 100 Photos	23
Steelband Report	5	Mail Bag	24
Membership Report	5	Condolences	24
Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute	6		

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

NAAC's year of inception was 1978 and yes, we are still celebrating our 40th Anniversary!

During this past summer, members and friends enjoyed our planned *Picnic in the Park*. It was extremely hot outdoors, 39 degrees with the humidex, but we stayed under the canopy until later in the afternoon when the outdoor games got started. That was when I ducked out. I never thought I'd ever say this, but I am so glad that this summer is over. High heat and humidity like we and everyone else on the planet have never experienced before. Climate change isn't a distant threat—it is happening now. The past three years were hotter than any other time in recorded history.

With this in mind, I was very pleased to see the following posted on Naparima College's FB

page: "Naparima College has pledged to plant 1000 moringa trees in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and its dire consequences on the planet. Alongside the Carbon Zero Initiative of Trinidad and Tobago (CZITT), endorsed by President Anthony Carmona, we have embarked on a mission to raise awareness about the effects of climate change and taken a real step towards reducing the levels of national greenhouse gas emissions. Support us in this groundbreaking initiative towards carbon neutrality!"

The students are enthusiastically volunteering even though they are all busy with their studies.

"Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." Unknown

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth" – Muhammad Ali

Merle Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk...

In this issue, I've tried to look back at just the last ten years in pictures. Other than our Committee reports, there are other items that are included that I hope will keep your interest.

As promised, the second part of the article on growing up in the "country" in the Fifties written by KRM is on p. 20. He describes his family's rice field and the planting and harvesting of the grains. My only exposure to rice and milling came from visits that my family made to the home of Rajandaye and Sugandaye Ramkissoo's parents in Debe to purchase our supply of rice. I remember that the mill was onsite and that it was very noisy, sending up huge puffs of dust as it worked.

On p. 9 "Yuh know it's time to burn that Trini passport when..." was published in the Fall 2005 issue of Broadcast. I felt it was worth a second read especially since many of us have been abroad for fifty years and more. I heard myself saying "true, true".

There were three major events in the last ten years that really stood out to me;

The La Pique 100 Fundraiser, Kaleidoscope II and the launch of Panache's second CD. I am not in any way downplaying all the other annual events that are important in keeping our members engaged and involved.

Our printer, Bluetree Publishing & Design continues to do a great job. Thank you!

Merle Ramdial

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in the next issue*

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Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at August 2018. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 24, 2019.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia	\$19,785.00
---------------------	--------------------

NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia – Term Deposit	\$ 1,217.00
------------------------------------	-------------

IPC portfolio:

* Inter Pipeline Fund

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

(M.V. \$37,248.00)

*Dividends earned – Apr /18 to Aug/18	\$ 1,040.00
---------------------------------------	-------------

**Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U

(M.V. \$21,041.00)	\$21,785.00
--------------------	-------------

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

Dividends earned - Apr /18 to Aug/18	\$ 494.00
--------------------------------------	-----------

TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>\$40,526.00</u>
--------------------------	---------------------------

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at August 2018 was \$23.28 per unit. This reflects an increase of 133 % over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$208 per month which translates to a return of 15.6% per annum on that investment.

**Market value of Riocan REIT as at August 2018 was \$25.65 per unit, a decrease of 3.5% 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, 2018. 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.

We held two events so far for this fiscal year. A picnic was held at Greenwood Conservation Park in Ajax on July 8, 2018. A fun time was had by all the friends and family that were in attendance. This event was not a fundraiser and was subsidized by NAAC in the amount of \$289.40. The cost to rent the Picnic Area with shelter was \$265.05. Donations received to help offset the cost of food and other items were \$466.20 which almost covered all those expenses with a shortfall of \$24.35. The second event was, A Day at the Races at Woodbine Race Track on Sept 9, 2018. It was an exciting and fun event that was enjoyed by all. This event also was not a fundraiser and we are expected to net just a small profit. The numbers still have to be verified.

We look forward to our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance which is a fundraiser and helps us to meet our commitments to the schools in Trinidad and to fund our programs here. Submitted by

Norma Ramsahai, Treasurer



NOTICE OF NAAC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 10, 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 will commence at 1:00 pm

Social Report

NAAC's Picnic was held at Greenwood Conservation Park, Ajax, on July 8, 2018.

This year all members of our executive volunteered to provide some dish to assist in getting our picnic "eats" in on time. Our food offering consisted of curry-stew chicken, a small amount of massala chicken (hot), curried channa and potato, paratha, roast chicken, potato salad, mixed green salad, oil down, mango chow, mother-in-law, boiled corn and water melon. We also had a variety of flavored soft drinks and bottled water on hand.

Ia Sirju, a member of our Social Committee, ran the games, which were really a treat for some; win lose or draw. It's been years since some of the folks participated, but it was great fun.

At our highest count we were at fifty-one (51) strong, just four people short of 2016.

I sometimes wonder what the picnics were like 40 years ago, with everyone in their prime, able to

help with anything that needed to be done.

We wish to thank our members and their guests for the generous donations made towards the picnic event.

Our Fall event was on September 9, 2018 at Woodbine Racetrack. After skipping a year, we thought it was time to re-visit Woodbine's exquisite buffet. Although the dining room was opened at Noon, because of some road closures in and around the venue, most people were there by 1:30 p.m.

There were many compliments about the buffet offerings, especially the prime rib roast, ham and grilled salmon. The meal was enjoyed by all 70 attendees.

Of course, the ten-dollar complimentary coupons for the slots went over well with some, not so much for others. Winners or losers, we all had fun.

Richard Jaikaran

Chair, Social Committee

Communications Report

Our Committee appreciates the donations that we've received from some of our members towards the publication of *Broadcast*. We also wish to thank our advertisers. We know that small businesses have even smaller advertising budgets.

You should have received a Notice by email with details of our upcoming Christmas Dinner & Dance. Tickets have already been printed and available from any member of the Executive.

FYI...During the first two weeks of August, some members received e-mails that seem to come from me, asking for four \$100 I-Tune gift cards. These messages are from scammers who search websites and harvest emails and phone numbers.

Please delete them at once. This last scam was the third such in the past 18 months. The other two had SOS messages saying that I needed money wired to me because I was stranded in London, England, after I lost my wallet in a taxi.

I am curious since the messages actually coincided with my vacation trips.

Many of you have asked to include contact information, in addition to the schools attended, to our NAAC online Membership Lists that are posted on the website. Privacy, what little we can hold on to, is the answer.

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications

UPCOMING NAAC EVENTS 2018

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

Steelband Report

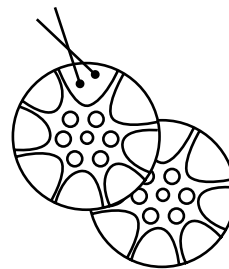
The first semester classes started on September 12th with eleven students in the Beginner Class. Winston Poon volunteered to tutor this class again. A few of last year's beginners were invited to move up to the Advanced Class and I am pleased to report that five of them took the leap.

Last semester, Panache performed at five venues and the band is booked to play at Bloordale United Church on Sunday, October 21st and on Sunday, October 28th at Westminster United Church.

Of course, the NAAC Dinner & Dance gig is already scheduled for November 24th and soon the band will be practising their Christmas repertoire

on Wednesday evenings at West Humber Collegiate Institute.

Al Foster is leading Panache practices during this 1st semester. NAAC offers congratulations to Al Foster, Arranger for Pan Fantasy Steelband on winning the Pan Alive competition for the 7th time!



Submitted by

Merle Ramdial, *Steelband Liaison*

Membership Report

Total Membership	273
Honorary	15
Life	194
Ann. Reg./Fam	44
Ann. Associate/Student	20

Another year for a great celebration as NAAC turns 40 years old!

How have we reached to this milestone? You, the members, who continue to support the Association and a very dedicated group of members on the Executive Committee are the reason for the longevity of NAAC. Some members have remained loyal from the very beginning of the NAAC. Though many of our first members are no longer active participants at any of our events, yet we do remember and appreciate all their hard work and dedication and we are sincerely grateful for their past efforts that have helped prolong the life of the NAAC.

Members, who have been with us in the recent years, can we allow the efforts made by former members fall by the wayside? One of the objectives is the continuation of the Bursary program to our five schools in T&T. Our main source of income is our Annual Dinner and Dance. We all look forward to this D&D when we

meet our friends of long ago and who are far apart to enjoy another memorable evening with them. Help us to keep the NAAC going by attending our General and our Annual General Meetings where your opinions are respected, your suggestions welcomed and your help in making our events very enjoyable.

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, September 2018

Things are off to a solid start at West Humber CI! Dates for our **Arts Night** will be Thursday December 13, 2018 for **Holiday Arts Night** and **Spring Arts Night** will be on Thursday May 16, 2019. We hope that Panache will be able to be our guest artists for both of these shows, if their schedules allow. Our students love seeing and hearing Panache every time they come. Once university settles in, some of our recent grade 12 grads are looking to join Panache if there is room for them!

One of the most exciting things this year is that the WHCI Steel Bands have been invited to travel to Chicago in April 2019 to play the year-end concert with amazing *Paganini of Pan*, **Virtuoso Liam Teague** and the **Northern Illinois University (NIU) Steel Band**! Liam was in Toronto in Feb 2018 with the Hannaford Silver Band and WHCI steel pan had the opportunity to perform with him as part of this show. Liam himself invited us to go and perform as his special guests. Prices and details are being worked out as this article goes to press! (*videos of the Toronto performances are on our FB site, whcimusic.com and on YouTube*)

Whether we go to Chicago or return to Cleveland or NYC, the **Music Trip** in Spring 2019 is bound to be amazing. All steel band classes will be voting on where to go very soon. Chocolate almond sales have started already, which really helps to offset student costs. We are already booked to do concerts at a school near Guelph, local schools, Havergal College, Black History assemblies, church services and more.



Julie Rajcoomar, co-recipient of the NAAC Steel Pan Millennium Scholarship with Mr. Ras Shreeram (NAAC), and Mr. Joe Cullen, Head of Arts, WHCI

The winners from last year's pan program were the following: The NAAC Steel Pan Bursary was awarded to Jassica Bhargal, the NAAC Steel Pan Millennium Scholarship was a tie, awarded to Ryid Gilani and Julie Rajcoomar. The NAAC Steel Pan award will be given out to a student from grade 10 pan class and will be in the next issue. All of these students were involved in many music and school activities too numerous to mention here, and they all achieved a very high level of musicianship on the steel pan.

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. We are able to have our pans tuned regularly 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!



Ryid Gilani, co-recipient of the NAAC Steel Pan Millennium Scholarship with Mr. Joe Cullen



Jassica Bhargal, recipient of the NAAC Steel Pan Bursary, and Julie Rajcoomar, co-recipient of the NAAC Steel Pan Millennium Scholarship with Mr. Joe Cullen

'Pioneer of drama' Mavis Lee Wah passes away

Loop News – Darlisa Ghouralal
26 JUNE 2018

The Jamaican-born actress passed away around 9 am on Sunday.

Lee Wah, nee Arscott, had acted in several plays before entering the University of the West Indies, where during 1951-1955 she established herself as the leading undergraduate actress.

According to the Cambridge Guide to African and Caribbean Theatre, Lee Wah had roles as "Knowledge" in Everyman; "Juno" in Juno and the Paycock; "Mrs. X" in Strindberg's The Stronger, "Jocasta" in Oedipus Rex, and "Amanda" in The Glass Menagerie.

In 1952-1954 she was President of the University Dramatic Society.

In Trinidad, she appeared for the Drama Guild as Pegeen in Playboy of the Western World (1957); in Bell, Book and Candle (1958); in Derek Walcott's The Charlatan (1962), and in Trinidad Theatre Workshop's production of the play when it was taken to Jamaica in 1973.

For the Secondary Schools' Drama Association she played the nurse in Romeo and Juliet (1969) and Lady Macbeth (1974) and she appeared in A Day in the Death of Joe Egg (for The Alternative National Theatre 1981); in Fanlights by Rene Marques (1988); again as Amanda in the Glass Menagerie (1989) and as The Queen in Shaw's Dark Lady of the Sonnets (1990).

Lee Wah served Naparima Girls' High School as a teacher, Vice-Principal and then Principal (1984 – 1986).

She maintained close ties with the school even after her retirement, actively involved in the high school production of many musicals including South Pacific and My Fair Lady.

Current Principal of the school, Carolyn Bally-Gosine remembered Lee Wah as a pioneer of drama at the institution.

Extending condolences to the family on her passing,



she was remembered as a warm, compassionate, kind, soft-spoken, gracious and beautiful woman who worked passionately and conscientiously to promote her love for the performing arts.

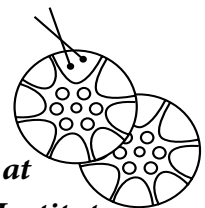
Meanwhile, condolences were extended from the Theatre community.

"A true pioneer...and a giant in the field of theatre...actress, director, administrator," Zeno Constance said.

"She embodied the spirit of all that was, and is, schools' theatre and indeed Trinidad drama. She nurtured the arts and was intimately involved in every aspect of our craft, as an actress, director, administrator and adjudicator," The Secondary Schools Drama Association added.

(The funeral service for the late School Principal was held at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church, Carib Street in San Fernando.)

NOTICE: Steelband Classes 2018/2019 Season



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

- ***Beginners: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.***
- ***Advanced: 7:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.***

Contact: Winston Poon

- ***Tel: 905-824-3589***

email: wpoon354@rogers.com

Former UMSU President goes on to international career

Notable alumnus returns to Winnipeg to talk diplomacy and influences

by Amber Ostermann • May 15, 2018

Winston Dookeran [BA/66, LL.D./91] recently returned to the University of Manitoba to share stories of a fulfilling career in economics, politics, and academia. In the talk, **Small States in Today's World of Diplomacy**, Canada was depicted as both a model and advocate to the Caribbean states. Dookeran provided examples of how small states can function successfully in a global world and described foreign policy initiatives he contributed toward. His visit also provided an opportunity for Dookeran to reflect on his career and appreciate how his time at the university helped shaped his future choices.

Dookeran came to Winnipeg in the 1960's as an international student following in his brother's footsteps to study at the University of Manitoba. He quickly adopted his new country and surged forward with a positive attitude and boundless energy embracing his surroundings, immersing himself in student life.

Three individuals stand out for Dookeran, "K.J. Charles taught me my very first course in Economics and gave me an appreciation of the nobility of public service". Clarence Barber, the Department Head at the time, taught Dookeran that economics is a science, "he focused on the methodical side – the data, the facts – and how that grounds all the decisions we would make". Peter St. John introduced him to the balancing act between local and global policy. He says, "Through an International Relations course, I learned of global issues and how those issues influence us locally, whether it was here in Canada or considering how it affected my home of Trinidad and Tobago".

His studies and his growing interest in making a difference, led him and some friends to campaign for the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) leadership. "We recognized that the community in Manitoba and here on campus



was made up of many different nationalities. We needed to grab people's attention," said Dookeran. To help themselves be noticed, they produced posters featuring many different languages hoping that students would be attracted by their own language and stop long enough to learn about their campaign. It worked. Dookeran became the first international student voted in as President of UMSU. "UMSU ignited a confidence in me. This, along with the opportunities I had to learn from Duff Roblin, Ed Schreyer and others in Manitoba who treated me with respect and regard really made a difference."

While many of his friends stayed in Manitoba after graduation, Dookeran felt the need to move on. He obtained a master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science and then began his first job as a researcher in the Prime Minister's Office of Trinidad and Tobago. He recalled, "My goal was to make Trinidad and Tobago like Canada. But, I soon realized that the solution didn't lie purely in economics." Manitoba's political climate again influenced Dookeran's career decision. "Manitobans have patience. They build

(Continued on next page)

Former UMSU President

(Cont. from previous page)

in stages, systematically. Leadership also requires patience and steadiness. I took this premise and decided the best way for me to improve my country's economic development was to take a personal risk and run for office."

This decision took Dookeran on a winding path. He has had a varied and storied career in both economics and politics having served in numerous cabinet posts in the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance, and Deputy Leader. He did this serving under three different parties, one of which he formed himself. During his time in office, Dookeran launched a series of programs designed to jumpstart the economy and steadily improve economic conditions. He never strayed far from his economics roots, taking turns as a lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI), a Senior Economist at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

How can today's students relate to Dookeran's experience? Going back to those three individuals who started Dookeran on his path, "I've learned that a vision must be structured by facts and data. A visionary without data will not make change. Hold on to that vision, but don't stop learning as you work to make it happen."

Dookeran, awarded an honorary doctorate from UM in 1991 for distinguished public service, shows no signs of slowing down. His newest book will be released later this year and he will be back teaching International Diplomacy at UWI in the fall. He adds with a smile, "I am grateful for my experience and my health in both mind and body. What's next for me? We shall see where I may best be able to help."

(Editor's Note: Winston Dookeran is an alumnus of Naparima College).

Yuh know it's time to burn that Trini passport when:

1. You require a straw to drink from a coconut...
2. You start tellin' people "hi" instead of "AYE BOY"...
3. Yuh cyar walk bare feet on the hot pitch like long time...
4. You don't know what "woi" and "mamaguy" mean
5. You say "Y'all" instead of "ALLYUH"...
6. You queue up in an orderly fashion...
7. Your accent changes by the time you land in the airport
8. You forget how to climb a tree
9. You start saying 'buck' instead of 'a red' or 'dollah'
10. You feel comfortable at 0 degrees celsius
11. You ask "Bunji who?"...
12. You start asking for "slight" on your doubles
13. You eat roti with a knife and fork...
14. You forget what month Carnival is in
15. You prefer grits, green eggs and ham, over two doubles or an ah aloo pie for breakfast
16. You say soda,softdrink and pop instead of sweetdrink or SwEEdRink
17. You start saying "how are you?" instead of "wha iz de scene?"...
18. You can't remember what is a "latrine" or "outhouse"...
19. Yuh start saying "give me a holla" instead of saying "gimmeh ah call dey"...
20. You forget what a clean-neck chicken looks like

“The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada is a secular organization open to members of all ethnic and religious backgrounds who fulfill the membership requirements and adhere to the aims and objects of the Association.”

CHRONOLOGY

— NAAC MILESTONES & SUPPORT —

1978 – 79

- Founding of NAAC

1979 – 80

- New constitution was accepted and printed.
- Quebec unit formed
- Donations of \$100 each to alumnus high schools and St. Andrew's Theological College

1980 – 81

- Donations of Collier's Encyclopedia sets to Iere High School and Hillview College on their 25th anniversary
- Sponsored exchange visit between Naparima Girls' High School and Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute (Guelph)

1981 – 82

- Hosted visit by Naparima College Sea Scouts

1982 – 83

- Donations of \$100 to the Iere Home and \$200 to St. Andrew's Theological College's outreach program
- First Family Retreat Weekend held at Claremont Education Field Centre
- Children's Executive formed
- Associate members granted voting rights
- Founding member of The Federation of Trinidad and Tobago Organizations in Ontario

1983 – 84

- Initiated Citizenship and book awards to each of the five high schools in Trinidad
- Sponsored St. Augustine Girls' High School – Vincent Massey Collegiate Institute (Etobicoke) exchange visit

1984 –85

- Sponsored conference of the “West Indian-Ontarian: Societal involvement”

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued

1985 – 86

- Incorporation of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) in Ontario
- Donation of auditorium lighting to Naparima Girls' High School

1986 – 87

- Naparima Girls' High School Diamond Jubilee fundraising
- Launch of NAAC's 10th Anniversary celebrations

1987 – 1988

- Start of Tenth Anniversary Cultural Week celebrations. Sponsored San Fernando Theatre Workshop production of Willie Chen's *Freedom Road* in Canada.

1988 – 1989

- Donated 5,000 exercise books, bookmarks & balloons. Shipped to San Fernando to celebrate the formation of the new City of San Fernando, where they were distributed to all primary students.
- Last year of the annual Family Retreat Weekend

1990 – 91

- Initiated the bursary program in Trinidad
-\$500 to a graduating student from each of the five high schools.
- Donation of \$500 to Naparima College's rewiring project
- Donation of \$500 to Hillview's building fund

1991 – 92

- Sponsored St. Augustine Girls' High School Alumnae Choir visit to Ontario and its *Festivals of a Rainbow Country – Trinidad & Tobago*
- Donated \$500 to St. Andrew's Theological College's Centennial building fund
- Bingo sessions assigned through North York Athletic Club as a means of fund raising for NAAC

1992 – 93

- Initiated a partnership program with West Humber Collegiate Institute to assist in the purchase and maintenance of instruments for the school's steelband program.
- Donation to University of Toronto's Emmanuel College scholarship fund in memory of Rev. James Forbes Seunarine
- Initiated five Canadian bursary awards of \$500 each to students graduating from Ontario high schools to attend post secondary institutions.

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued

1993 – 94

- Donated 1000 books to the Carnegie Library in San Fernando. This completed NAAC's Carnegie Library 1000 Project.
- Donation of \$3,200 made to the Scarborough Board of Education for Canadian Citizenship awards at six schools
- Initiated NAPs 100 Project in support of Naparima College centenary project to build an auditorium/gymnasium
- Co-sponsored education conference *Education in the 90s: Is it working?*

1994 – 95

- Initiated Steelband Partnership program at Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute, similar to WHCI's partnership program.
- Donations to the WHCI & Cedarbrae CI total \$6,000.
- NAAC granted its own bingo license to manage sessions to raise funds for the Association
- Donation of \$1,000 made to Tarana Dance group
- Presented Showcase '95 – a variety concert reflecting the multicultural mosaic that is Trinidad and Tobago – proceeds towards the Naps 100 project

1995 - 96

- Launched the NGHS Building project – tea party, bowlathon & Showcase 96

1996 – 97

- Donation of \$6,220 made to NGHS building fund
- Donations made to Devon Hospital, Alberta and St. Andrew's Theological College, Trinidad, in memory of Rev. Roy G. Neehall

1997 – 98

- Donation of \$500 to Scarborough Public Library Board towards materials for its Black and Caribbean Heritage collection
- Entered steelband partnership program with Durham Board of Education, similar to WHCI & Cedarbrae CI

1998 – 99

- Support of \$1,000 to alumnus Rabindranath Maharaj for his new novel, *The Lagahoo's Apprentice*
- Donation of \$3,100 to Iere High School for purchase of 100 chairs
- Donation of \$500 for 28 Caribbean titles to the Toronto Public Library

1999 – 2000

- Donation of \$1,200 to J.C. MacDonald House for the Aged in San Fernando in memory of NAAC two-time president, Harold Naphtali

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued



*2008 Christmas Dinner & Dance
(L to R: Riselle Maharaj with
Aneesa & Selwyn Baboolal)*

*2008 NAAC
Fun/Run/Walk*



*2008 Dinner & Dance
(L to R: Executive Members
Norma Ramsahai and Pam Rambharack)*

*2008 Dinner & Dance (L to R:
Honorary Members
Rev, Arthur Dayfoot,
Mrs Cynthia Seunarine)*



Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued

- Partner in donation of books (est. value US \$250,000) to UWI, St. Augustine, National Library and the libraries of the five alma mater schools
- First NAAC 5K Fun Run/Walk 2000

2000 – 2001

- NAAC awarded Medal of Merit by the government of Trinidad and Tobago for outstanding and meritorious service in the public area
- NAAC's silver anniversary celebrations launched with church service
- Donation of \$1,500 made to Naparima College Old Boys' Association for refurbishment of classroom furniture at Naparima College

2001 – 2002

- Donation of \$1,000 to York University's Jagan Lecture Series
- Donation of \$500 to Youth Without Shelter
- Donation of \$300 to Knox Presbyterian Church

2002 – 2003

- Donation of \$1,000 to North Brampton United Church Outreach program
- Donation of \$1,000 to Sunnybrook Hospital
- Donation of \$1,000 to Youth Without Shelter
- Donation of \$1,000 to Caribbean Children Foundation
- Donation of \$1,000 to the University Health Network Patient's Account

2003 – 2004

- Social/Education Committee arranged a successful Wine Tour of the Niagara Wine Region
- Seminar on The Art of Feng Shui

2004 – 2005

- Donation to the Ontario March of Dimes \$2,500 for purchase and installation of a picnic table to accommodate the disabled at Huron Park in Toronto, in the name of Rev. Arthur & Mrs. Bessie Dayfoot

2005 – 2006

- Launched our own website www.naactoronto.ca
- Donation of \$500 made to NGHS Alumnae Association towards an *Anthology of Past Students' Writings* in memory of Beulah Meghu
- Donation of \$350 made to Rev. J.E.W. Newbery Bursary fund
- Donation of \$500 made to fund a bursary at York University in memory of Harold Mahabir

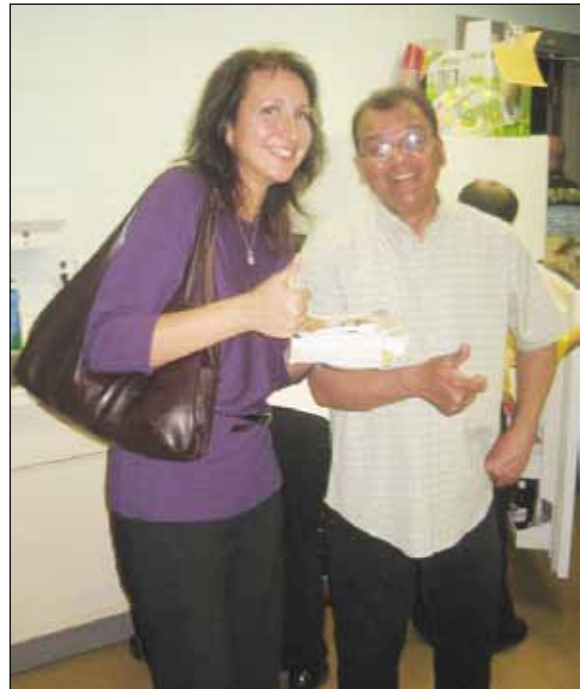
Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued



Panache at NAAC's Jerry Ramlochan Memorial Golf Tournament



*2009: Vijay & Gemma
Boodram*



*2009: Spring Fling Shirley Zanchetta
and Rustin Oree*

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued

2006 – 2007

- NAAC Trini Kaleidoscope event. Proceeds to fund literary awards for creative writing to be given to Fifth Form female students. The first award in 2006, the Meghu/Scrimgeour Literary award of \$150, was presented to a student at NGHS
- Disbursement of C\$45,840 being the total of the Naps 100 Fund, sent to Naparima College towards the completion of the gymnasium
- Donation in the amount of \$3,000 sent to Naparima College Old Boys' Trust Fund. (Proceeds from the 2005 5K Fun Run/Walk)
- Silent Auction of four of Ian Ali's original oil paintings. Proceeds to be donated to SAGHS Building Fund

2007-2008

- NAAC's Panache Steelband launched its first CD titled *Simply ...Panache* with a run of 1,000 copies
- Trini-Tea Party and Indo- Fashion Show, October 2007. Proceeds to fund additional annual Literary Writing Awards at SAGHS & Iere High School
- Donation of \$950, which represented the proceeds from the silent auction of paintings, forwarded to SAGHS Building Fund.

2008 - 2009

- Accepted the Consul-General's Award for Excellence for 2008 for NAAC's decades of community work and its major contribution to the "Naparima" schools in Trinidad
- Celebrated 30 years of NAAC giving back to our communities with a Dinner & Dance at the Holiday Inn in Brampton. Featured speaker was Dr. Aleem Mohammed, CEO of S.M. Jaleel. Principal of Naparima College, Michael Dowlath, brought greeting from all five schools and showed a video that was made especially for the occasion.
- Bingo sessions at new venue Ultimate Bingo Charity Association at Keele Street, Toronto.

2009 – 2010

- Literary Committee's luncheon, "Kaleidoscope II" fundraiser held to increase funding to add awards to include students from SAGHS and IereHigh School.
- Panache raised funds through a Spring Fling event to defray the costs of travel to perform at Naparima Alumni Association of Quebec's 30th Anniversary celebration in Montreal.
- NAAC's Membership Fees raised by \$5.00 for the first time since its inception in 1978. Increase in effect January 1, 2010.
- Panache performed on the big stage for the first time at "Snowflakes on Steel" concert in Toronto.

2010 – 2011

- Panache Steelband makes its 2nd CD titled "Simply...Panache II – Fusion".

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued



Panache, XMAS 2010.



DJ, Winston Look Foe & Master of Ceremonies, Harold Hosein.



2010 Xmas Dance: Feeroza and Rasheed Sultan Khan



George & Ena Lalsingh.

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued

- La Pique 100 Committee is struck to raise funds for a new building block to house a Music Room, a Pan Theatre and Science Labs.
- Bingo Funds continued to be used for pan-tuning and bursaries at Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute and West Humber Collegiate Institute as per Partnership Agreement. Funds also used for honoraria for pan tutors for after-school community programs.
- NAAC continued to award bursaries on an annual basis to students at CCI and WHCI in the amount of \$1,000.
- Donation of \$1,000 received from La Prima Investments to fund a bursary here in Ontario.
- Launch of “La Pique 100” Fundraiser at Elite Banquet Hall. Guest speaker, Dr. Patricia Mohammed, NGHS alumna, Dean of Graduate Studies at UWI, and Professor of History and Gender Studies.

2011 – 2012

- NAAC Bursary Guidelines amended to include any student, not just in first year at a university or college program, with one stipulation, the applicant must be sponsored by a NAAC member.
- La Pique 100 Fund raised \$9,600 which was topped up by the NAAC. A total of \$15,000 was donated to NGHS Building Fund.

2012 – 2013

- Donation of \$2000 made to Morning Star Middle School for the purchase of pans for a program to encourage underprivileged children to learn to play.
- Donation of \$750 made to defray cost of medical expenses in Toronto for David Mohammed, a student at Naparima College.
- West Humber Collegiate Grade 12 pan players performed with a live connection via NASA, to the International Space Station.

2013 – 2014

- Panache Steelband performed for the Prime Ministers of Canada and Trinidad & Tobago at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.
- Donation of \$200 made to the Howard Sammy Memorial Prize to a student of Geography at Naparima College.
- Zero revenue from Bingo Sessions for one year spurred NAAC’s withdrawal from the Ontario Lottery & Gaming roster.
- NAAC reduced the annual amount donated to the schools in Trinidad by \$500 each.

2014 – 2015

- NAAC’s commitment to the schools in Trinidad now stands at \$3,760 annually.
- New event for NAAC Members in the Greater Toronto Area, a Toronto harbor cruise that included lunch and a 3 ½ hour cruise of the Toronto islands and harbor.

Chronology: NAAC Milestones & Support continued

2015 – 2016

- First NAAC Picnic for members and friends since the 90s at Lakefront Promenade in Mississauga, ON.
- Another new venture in Fall 2016 was a day at the races with a buffet lunch in the Post Parade Dining Room at Woodbine in Etobicoke, ON.
- Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance is now the only fundraiser in support of the schools in Trinidad
- After-school Steelband Program at Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute discontinued.
The partnership no longer viable.

2016 – 2017

- Panache participated in “Ottawa Welcomes the World 2017” with two performances in celebration of Canada’s 150th birthday.
- The High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Mr Garth Chatoor presented “A Cultural Recognition Award” to Panache Steelband following the band’s second performance “in recognition of the sterling efforts of NAAC (Toronto) in promulgating the national instrument of our Twin Island Republic”.

2017 – 2018

- NAAC ‘s 40th Anniversary year began with a Picnic at Greenwood Park in Ajax in the Spring.
- Fall 2018 event was the popular Day at the Races at Woodbine with an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch.



Panache performance at “Ottawa Welcomes the World 2017” for Canada’s 150th birthday.

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, so much different from what youngsters experience today. ...continued from Spring issue).

Instead of a gas station, we had a smithy. A muscular middle-aged blacksmith made horseshoes by pounding red-hot iron into shape on an anvil, and then plunging it hissing into a barrel of water. He then grasped the horse’s foot between his knees, and nailed the shoe on the hoof, using a unique little nail of rectangular cross-section, which he may well have made himself. Then he would trim the horse’s hoof to match, with a sharp curved knife. The horse would not mind a bit, and would even look a little self-conscious, bobbing his head approvingly, as he stepped away carefully with his new shoes. The smith’s work was heated in a hissing forge, fed by a long-levered bellows. It burned hard charcoal, the same as the train engines, different from our domestic coal that was locally-made in clay pits. You would never forget the sweetish smell of burning charcoal. It was quite common to find old rusty horseshoes around our yard, presumably from earlier days when Grandpa’s business was a going concern. We always had a small pile of them under the house.

In the rainy season, there were exciting floods of brown water across the roads and fields, and in the ravine. We got soaked several times a day, despite dire warnings and scoldings. About a quarter of a mile behind Grandma Bach’s, we had some rice fields that we tended. It was a happy adventure for us youngsters to accompany the grown-ups to this field. Across a long slope behind Grandma Bach’s, past the cedar tree that

made seed pods useful for mounting windmills, into a wet dip, left at the far bank along Bach’s rice-field, right into a copse of brush that included a single cashew tree if you knew where it was, down the track to a large, slippery log across a pleasant little stream, left again where the bush with the little purple berries sometimes provided refreshment, up a clearing to a giant calabash-mango tree on the brow of a hill, left for a long way beset by needle-grass on our bare feet, to the first rice-field, which Uncle Hubert worked, past a little shelter he had built, along the “mairie” or bank to an almost triangular plot — that was the way to our rice-field!

We made this trip when the man with the plough was ready. We watched as his plodding black bull pulled the blade back and forth in the soft earth, (Uncle Hube taking a turn at guiding it and explaining to me in passing that he kept the furrows straight by looking at a tall tree on the far bank). Then

the rice grain was sown in a special damp locale. We went again, when the fields were flooded. The rice seedlings were taken up and re-anchored in small clumps in the furrows by our people bent over ankle deep in water. When the rice was ripe and tall and dry, groups of people would come to help cut them with grass-knives - semi-circular, serrated hand-scythes. They would pass the sheaves to men who beat them all day on marchands, (a table-like arrangement of staves), until the grain piled high below; then the women winnowed it in their skirts and poured it into bags, which the men bore homeward at days’ end.

The rice was spread on jute sacking to dry in the sun. We children had the job of watching

(Continued on next page)

At Home in the Fifties

(Cont. from previous page)

over it to keep the birds away. In earlier days, the rice was husked for cooking, one or two meals at a time, using a “dhenkee” under the house. This was like a see-saw made from a heavy beam, pivoted so that one end always rested on the ground. Here a small bag of rice was placed, whilst the beam was raised and dropped on it to husk the rice.

In my time, rice was milled at a small machine under Ayman’s house, diagonally across the road from us. Ayman’s grandfather and my great-grandfather had arrived from India on the same ship. Ayman would pour a sack of dry unhusked rice into the big hopper, and the clean husked grains would come shooting down a home-made metal spout into a waiting sack. During the dry season, the thump of the rice mill mingled with the lowings of Samuel the bull and his herd, presenting a constant backdrop to our quiet country evenings.

In the dry season, before the rice was cut, the fields would dry out, and the grain would wave in long sheaves. The furrows of rice made for wonderful hide-and-seek for four boys and a dog. Standing on the bank, you might see an unusual ripple in the sea of rice that indicated the progress of a submariner. As the season progressed and the ocean grew deeper, movements would disappear into complete oceanic mystery, resolved only by Jippy’s excited canine sleuthing.

We children knew each trail and bush and tree on an individual basis. We knew where there were two soapy-seed trees (whose dried berries actually produced a cleansing lather and refreshing smell), the pingwing bush, a hummingbird’s nest; a place where lizards were plentiful, and iguanas might be espied; where dank vegetation flourished, or different types of

guavas nestled; or limes, mangoes, or cashews in season could be found; a place where you could cross the ravine, and find sour gri-gris, or sources of souple-jacques, and roseau, and bois-canot; a place of long mosses and soft grass; or silent curves of the river fringed with tall still trees and birds’ whisperings in the dim leafy canopy above.

As you would expect, store-bought toys for children were few and treasured. Plastic was unknown! Cheap toys were made of tin, marked “Made in Occupied Japan”. You could often see a “Fry’s Cocoa” label on the inside of a toy car. The few toys and games we had were bought to be shared by all the children. Boys made most of their own toys, such as kites, wooden tops, little wagons with wheels made of round sand-box seeds from a tree at the far end of the savannah, tractors made from an old thread-bobbin and rubber-bands (the latter being a clip of red or black bicycle tubes), sling-shots from strips of the same tubing, whistles from strips of tin-can, horns from coconut leaves or slit pumpkin-leaf stems, and a variety of other makeshift bric-a-brac. In this, we were always frustrated by lack of the simplest tools or materials. We used to salvage rusty nails, carefully hammering them straight for re-use – I never saw a new nail until we moved to the town! And there was no such thing as a tube of glue, or scotch tape, or even string.

Our home entertainment centre was a treasured Victrola, a large Victorian-styled gramophone. There were five books or albums of 78 RPM records, such as “Oh What a Beautiful Morning” by Sinatra, “In the Sweet Bye and Bye”, “I - I - I - I Love You Very Much (you are too - too - too - too divine)”, “In a Little Dutch Kindergarten”, “Humoresque”, “Merry Widow

(Continued on next page)

At Home in the Fifties

(Cont. from previous page)

Waltz”, and other monster hits of the thirties. Each playing of a record was accompanied by a change of the gramophone needle, a small stainless steel item dispensed from a pyramidal tin container. The container bore the famous picture of the little dog with its ear cocked toward a gramophone loudspeaker, “His Master’s Voice”. We weren’t allowed to change the needles, but we could take turns winding up the gramophone with its big detachable crank handle.

We also had an old piano that the grown-ups played all too infrequently. Uncle Winston played it more often when he came home from America in the mid-fifties.

Also in the living room were a number of framed colour prints of 1920’s vintage, which were sold or given to Grandpa by a departing missionary.

The first radio in the village was brought in for one night near Christmas by my father, on whom it had been pushed for trial by a hopeful salesman. This new-fangled thing would run off my father’s car-battery via a large grey transformer (supplied), the salesman said. The radio played the Quiz Kids, sponsored by Lifebuoy Soap and Crix Biscuits, baked by Bermudez; and Christmas music. When Dad went to replace his car battery, we found a small crowd of people gathered around the gate in the warm night, listening with pleasure to the music.

The first moving pictures we ever saw were shown by a similarly powered apparatus running from a van, in Grandma Bach’s yard. Uncle Dan, her son, spread the word (“Free-Show!”) around the village all day, and an excited crowd gathered at dusk in his front yard, most like my

cousins and me, not knowing what to expect. Grandma Bach obligingly hung a large white sheet from her balcony, and the picture-show began. The film was from India, a delightful mixture of animation and ornamentation, featuring fields of choreographed flowers growing and dancing to Indian music shrilly provided by loudspeakers on top of the van. We were all entranced.

When electricity was to come to our village, we were all quite excited. Then I noticed that a number of my favourite trees along the road, including the majestic roble outside Auntie Vio’s, and a large immortelle further down, were marked with white paint. “Those are the trees they are going to cut down, to make way for the wires and poles,” someone explained. It was my first inkling that progress has a price; but it was only the beginning. Much later, in the 1970’s, our entire idyllic village was divided by a super-highway; our rice-fields and parts of the savannah were paved; our river was diverted, and childhood haunts and the whispering mysteries of a tropical forest village were cleared. Thousands of vehicles have since hurtled past our old kitchen window every day.

As in many locales in many countries, the older faces and kindly words of our childhood passed on into bare memory. Most of the younger people moved away, to make new homes and memories in different places, changed careers, and other days.

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

La Pique 100



Panache at Launch of La Pique 100



*Guest Speaker
Dr. Patricia Mohammed*



Gemma and Ronald Mahabir



Pearl Seunarine, Presenter



Karma Naike, Presenter



Norma Ramsahai and sister Janet Sanayhie

MAIL BAG...

*E-Mail received on
August 31, 2018*

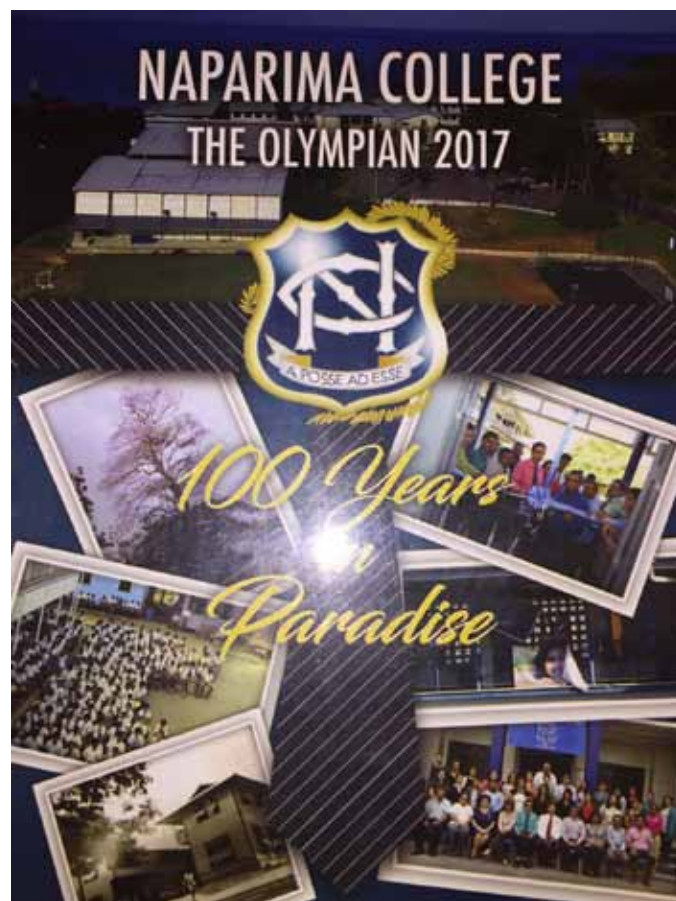


My name is Megan Roberts and I received one of two Bursaries that were awarded in November 2017.

The funds are being used for my field of study – 3D Animation at Humber College Institute of Technology. 3D Animation is very technical and complex. It involves Rendering, 3D Modeling, Layout, Lighting, Texturing and that's just the beginning. More than 75% of the class quit within the first month when they realized that this is not just about Japanese Anime and Gaming. The 2nd year started in September 2018 and it is very exciting.

My classmates are a very friendly small group. We help each other understand how to use the software in the most efficient way possible, because it seems the software updates every week, and sometimes it is hard to keep up with the changes. We know we have to get along well and support each other until graduation day, and who knows what the future brings.

Personally, the bursary has inspired me to achieve more. I finished my first year at Humber with the highest grades I have ever been awarded, even higher than high school! I sincerely want to thank the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada for giving me this bursary. I am truly grateful for the financial support in pursuing my dream to become an animator and I look forward to keeping you updated on my progress. Overall, my first year at Humber College has been most challenging, but amazing. I look forward to the years ahead.



Naps Olympian

*Contact Vashish Ramoutar to receive a
copy of this special issue
of the Olympian.*

vashishramoutar@hotmail.com

Condolences to

Condolences to...

*Kathy Sammy on the passing of her brother,
John Edward Inglis MD, on Sunday June 3rd
in St. Catharines, ON. John was uncle to
Joy and Julian Sammy.*

*Desmond Teeluckingham and Merle Ramdial
whose brother, **Clive**, died on September 4th.
Clive attended Naparima College and taught
there for four years upon his graduation.*

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2018 Activities



Photos by Tim Rostant

*Picnic in the Park
at Greenwood Park, Ajax.
July 8th, 2018.*



Photos by Brian Teelucksingh



*Day at the Races at
Woodbine Race Track,
September 9th, 2018.*

