



The BHSOSA Express

Registered No. 738 Burial and Friendly Societies Act Chapter 36:04

P.O. Box 101796, Georgetown, Guyana

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e-mail bhsosa@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

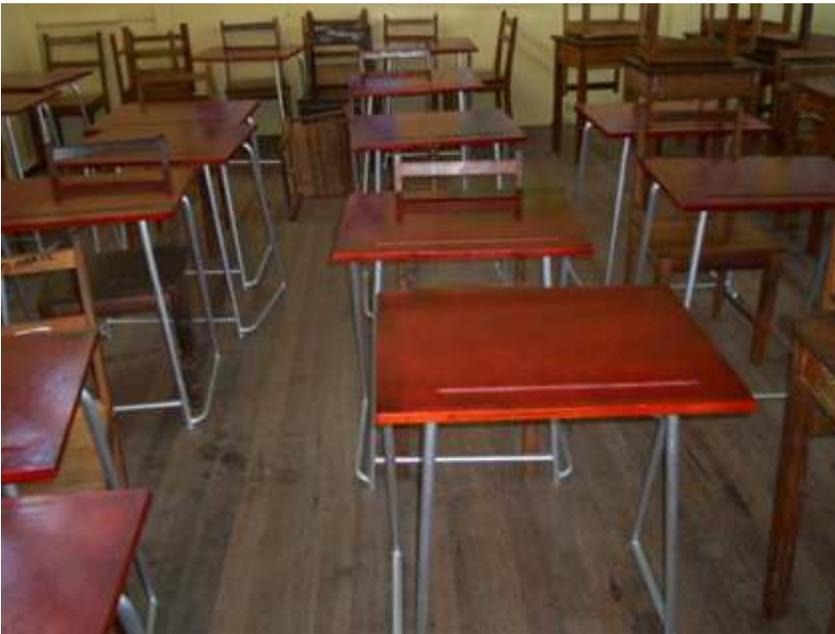
The main objectives of the BHSOSA Express allow alumni to have hands on information about the Association, its Chapters and all activities pertaining to the school and its old students.

It is this Executive's hope that this publication would be available at least once quarterly detailing all activities held and upcoming for the relevant periods. Please ensure you give your thoughts and suggestions to the upkeep of this publication.

The objectives of the BHSOSA and BHSOSA Express are:

- First: to encourage and foster the interest of the old students in the present day activities and aspirations of the school
- Second: to make some contribution in the sphere of education by giving help primarily to the school and also to the community in general
- Third: to help old students maintain the ties of friendship

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BHSOSA 2005/06



Giving back: As part of activities planned, the BHSOSA Executive initiated a project to refurbish all the furniture in the school, including teachers' desks and chairs. On Saturday, October 7, 2006, the contractor presented the furniture to Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott, Headmistress, BHS.

BHSOSA

EXECUTIVE 05/06 — WHO'S WHO

The Executive Committee is voted for by the Alumni at its Annual General Meeting which is held either in October or November, every year. The Committee is responsible for all financial matters and any other business, the BHSOSA will transact within the year. All positions are fulfilled voluntarily.

These are the persons who are the present office holders with their contact information:

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President's Message

Lance Hinds

My Fellow Old Students

Please allow me to extend greetings on behalf of the Executive of the Bishops' High School Old Students Association and also to welcome you to the first edition of the BHSOSA Express. The Express is part of an overall effort to provide frequent updates about the activities of BHSOSA and also achievement of the Bishops' High School. In this edition we outline the activities we engaged during the year and the results of those efforts.

We recognize that there were difficulties in communications with the wider membership during this year. The executive has therefore committed to developing its website at <http://www.bhsosa.org.gy> with support from DevNet, and to use this website to keep the old students and other interested persons updated on activities and events. We hope that those who access to the Internet will also be generous and share information with those who do not have access, so that we could take advantage of the new technologies to retain the ties of friendship. The website will be an extension of the Express and will also have an online forum for members to contribute positively to the overall mission of the Association.

We invite you therefore to read the BHSOSA Express and please feel free to give us feedback on its overall quality and level of content. This is the only way that we can improve our efforts and make it more sustainable.

I wish to remind everyone that our Annual General Meeting is going to be held in the Oswald Parry Hall at Bishops' High School

on October 28, 2006 at 4 P.M. I urge all to attend and to actively consider serving on the executive. Many positions will need to be filled because of the term limits established by the BHSOSA constitution. I ask, also if you believe that you want to serve that you consider very carefully the amount of time you have available and your other commitments. The committee was under tremendous pressure because the Business, Academic and family of many of the members.. myself included. As I said constantly during my presidency this is no longer the association of forty or twenty years ago. Our role has evolved significantly as a primary stakeholder in the Bishops' High School family. As we are all aware these are difficult times. We are often called to do more and that sometimes takes a lot of time. I urge again, the younger members to come on board and participate fully in the activities of the Association. We have been around for over 70 years. It is our duty to make sure that we are around for a similar period and beyond.

It has been a distinct honour to serve as the president of the Bishops' High School Association these past three years. The people that I have met, the friendships I have resumed after so many years, and the sense of service that runs through all of you has made my life so much richer and my horizons so much more extensive. I continued to be amazed at the level of skills that I encounter amongst Alumni locally and within the Diaspora. I truly believe that the effective coordination and harnessing of all these talents can result in marvellous things being done for our beloved alma mater. I will continue to serve in other capacities and will always be available for help and support.

May God bless and keep you all.



General Assembly at the Bishops' High School. *Photo courtesy of Adele Williams Sewell*

Computerisation at BHS

BHSOSA and the UK Alumni Chapter are implementing a Student Records Information System

The primary focus of the information technology related initiatives at BHS to date has been to provide the necessary facilities to prepare students to sit the Caribbean Secondary Examinations Council (CSEC) and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) information technology and computer studies subjects. This initiative had been quite successful with the establishment of a computer laboratory which will be extended during this academic term to over 25 computers running on a Local Area Network (LAN). It is felt now that some attention should be paid to the information capturing processes of the school's administration.

It is in this vein that Bishops' High School Old Student Association (BHSOSA) with the financial support of the UK Alumni Chapter is currently in the process of computerising the primary administrative operations of the school. The overall objective of this project is to design, develop and implement a Student Records Information System (SRIS). The specific business functions of this system will be the following

- ? The data input and storage of student bio-data
- ? The data input and storage of student academic information
- ? The data input and storage of student health information
- ? The data input and storage of specific activities (academic awards, service medals, etc) per student.
- ? The generation of school reports and academic transcripts
- ? Statistic information on student population (i.e. by gender, form level, subjects areas etc.)

A Local Area Network (LAN) will be installed to support multiple and concurrent access to the SRIS. This network will consist of at least five (5) workstations and one (1) database server. Three workstations would be installed in the staffroom while the server and the other two workstations and the database server will be installed in the Headmistress's offices. The network will use a combination of cabling and wireless technologies because of the distance between the staffroom and the administrative offices.

Based on the funding from the London Chapter and its own financial resources, BHSOSA will provided project management and support for the following:

- ? Design, development and implementation of the SRIS
- ? Installation and testing of the Local Area Network (LAN)
- ? Training of academic and administrative staff in the of SRIS
- ? Training of academic and administrative staff in the use of the Local Area Network (LAN)
- ? The data entry of biographical information of all current students at Bishops' High School

BHSOSA will recruit data entry staff that will be responsible for entering current biographical student information. It is estimated that this will be at over 500 records. The feasibility of entering records of past students will be examined for a future activity. If it is deemed necessary, BHSOSA will also arrange limited basic training for members of staff who may not have exposed to computers and related peripheral equipment.

All teaching staff will be trained to use the SRIS. Selective administrative staff will be trained to also perform specific data maintenance activities like daily/weekly system backups, system reporting. BHSOSA will provide continuous oversight and will be the technical liaison with the supporting vendors.

An accounting management information system will also be installed to provide support for financial administration.

It is estimated that this project will eventually cost in the vicinity of \$G3.2 million



BHSOSA restructures the requirements for the lab project.

At the 2005 reunion in Washington, BHSOSA briefed the overseas chapters on the condition of the science labs and committed to revising the estimates to repair the labs based on the fact the government through the Ministry of Education had commenced repairs to the floors. The revision had now been completed. The following tasks therefore have been identified:

- ? The tiling and refurbishing of lab tables
- ? Servicing pressure pumps and air tank
- ? The installation of new water services pipes to the labs
- ? Clearing of draining pipes and installation of pipe fittings
- ? Repairs to storage cupboards
- ? Repairs to the stage, teacher's desk and teachers storage cupboards
- ? Installation of ceiling fans
- ? Security grill for eastern windows of Biology lab, grill door for lab entrance
- ? The servicing of gas regulators

BHSOSA has also revised project proposal and sent it to the chapters who committed to supporting this project at the reunion. The Barbados Chapter has already contributed \$G400,000.00. The London Chapter had initially sent \$G180,000.00. The New York, California and Canada chapters had also committed to support this project, as well. The revised estimate is in the vicinity of \$G4,000,000.00. This is a significant reduction from the original estimate of \$G12,000,000.00 that was submitted previously.



The Physics Lab

Continuing the Heritage True Comrade and True Friend

Spreading the Legacy The Bishops' High School as a Link between two Regions



Dr Cheryl Miles

(We decided to include this speech because we believe that these ideas are as current now as they were last year. These ideas were presented for further discussion. We do not believe that this has been done. It is hoped therefore a reprint triggers a level of discourse that we believe is necessary for the Bishops' High School family in general and the Bishops' High School Old Students Association in particular)

Address given by Cheryl Miles on Thursday 18 August 2005

I'm truly honoured to have been given the delightful task of addressing fellow alumni this afternoon. And I want to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Washington Metropolitan Chapter for inviting me to be the keynote speaker at this luncheon during the eighth International Reunion of the Bishops' High School Alumni Guild. When I received Gwen's invitation all the way back in February, I accepted without hesitation. Granted, it took me some time to convey my consent as I first had to wrestle with a host of scheduling problems. But I knew that I would be here. The call was simply irresistible.

I would have preferred to chat with you without the help of written notes. However, I thought that I had better try to discipline myself today since I have a time limit, and if I want to transmit the gist of my message I will have to avoid the inevitable temptation to ramble too far down memory's lane. But I'm sure you will allow me one small digression if I promise to be brief.

As I sat at the computer to prepare these remarks, I realized with a bitter sweet sense of nostalgia that fifty years have passed since the day I first entered the Bishops' High School. And I had a flash back. I had a vivid recollection of my ten year old self - a bespectacled girl with pig tails, fully knitted out in green uniform, tie, banded Panama hat, and purse. Do you remember the little purse with a shoulder strap? I was so pleased and proud to have won a scholarship to attend the premier Girls' School in colonial Guyana, and so innocently excited, and at the same time scared about the future. In retrospect, I realized just how much I had enjoyed my time at Bishops'. Please don't misunderstand. I'm not referring to some

kind of Paradise Lost when all was harmony and loving kindness. Life is not perfect, and schooldays are a part of life. In my individual case I can share with you that, despite academic achievement, my time at school had its share of problems and unhappiness. I remember myself as a shy and bookish pupil, woefully poor at sports, lacking in social skills, and living in a world of imagination and creativity that to me was infinitely more alluring than everyday life in Georgetown. There is even a story, surely apocryphal, that my friends still tell just to embarrass me. It is alleged that at one of my birthday parties I completely ignored my guests and spent all my time doing what I loved above all else reading. My social skills have improved these days. However, given a choice between attending yet another cocktail party and curling up with a good book there's no doubt that I would still opt for the book.

But while during my school days I never attained the popularity for which I yearned, I did make lasting friendships. It is a wonderful feeling to know that, whatever the passage of time, I can contact a classmate and we can pick up where we left off. "May each to each prove ever true comrade and true friend." This line from the school hymn has resonated through the years. Its truth has never and, pray God, will never, degenerate into triteness.

Moving on from schooldays musing, I mentally reviewed the direction of my life and it struck me, as never before, how deeply I had been affected by the lessons inculcated in the seven years I spent at BHS. I am sure that all of us as alumni would agree that the academic instruction we received was critically important both in itself and in providing a solid foundation for higher scholastic achievement and successful careers. We learned how to learn.

But as I continued to commune with myself, I recognized that even more valuable were those life lessons subtly taught by wise and dedicated teachers, and for the most part unwittingly absorbed by students through a process of osmosis. Each of us developed her own personal code of ethics. A code that might vary in the particular, but that was firmly rooted in the basic values of integrity, honesty,

sincerity and courage.

In our dealings one with the other, we were urged to practise the virtues of kindness, acceptance and tolerance, and these lessons remained with us as we matured and moved on to make our lives in the real world.

And since the real world can be at times a cold and hostile place, this inner strength can provide enormous comfort. Speaking for myself, and perhaps for others, I can truly say that I have learned to value every experience, and to internalize the understanding that one can find a gold nugget of happiness in any situation, however unpromising and difficult it might appear to be.

The legacy may have been different for each of us. But I don't think that anyone here will demur with the opinion that you and I were fortunate to have received our formation at the Bishops' High School.

However, the challenge that I am throwing out to you this afternoon is this. Are we doing enough to ensure that this cherished legacy will not only continue but will spread within the context of Guyana's existence in an increasingly globalized world - a world where the only constant is that of rapid flux and change? In management terms, how can we expand our Circle of Influence? Or to express the same thought spiritually, we have been blessed. Are we passing on that blessing?

I have a few ideas that I intend to share with you. But let me start by defining my terms of reference. Financial assistance, whether in cash or kind, is usually the first thing that comes to mind when we think of helping our Alma Mater, particularly in the light of the difficult economic circumstances in Guyana. Not only is Guyana a small developing country, it is a HIPC, a Highly Indebted Poor Country. Every national sector suffers from a lack of human and financial resources. Therefore, it is almost automatic to fund raise.

BHS alumni do it consistently and do it so well that, even if one were to argue that there is always room for improvement, the work of our Chapters is already the envy of many other similar bodies functioning in the Guyanese diaspora.

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Continuing the Heritage True Comrade and True Friend

From Page 4

There is no doubt that each contribution is of significant help in enhancing the ability of the School to provide the requisite facilities for training a new generation of students.

Although this aspect of assistance is not the focus of my presentation today, I do have one suggestion to make.

I think that the time is right for Bishops' Alumni to establish a Foundation.

I am no expert on the modalities for creating such a body, but in my view it is a logical step to take at this stage of maturity of the Alumni Groupings. A step that could open the way to the garnering of a sufficiency of funds, both for the upkeep and maintenance of our beloved High School, as well as for the provision of structured assistance to selected elements of the wider community in Guyana.

I commend this proposal for your serious consideration.

But what I would really like to spend a little time on this afternoon is the theme of knowledge and ideas. I don't believe that I need to remind you that each of us possesses resources that, in their own way, are just as valuable a currency as money. I refer to our collective intellect, our accumulated experiences and skills, our networking abilities. Whether gathered here in Washington D C, or assembled in other cities around the world, or meeting in our own capital city Georgetown, BHS alumni represent a Think Tank, an Advisory Group, call it what you will, that has the potential to give the kind of help and guidance that could bring immeasurable and exponential benefits to the students of Bishops' High of course, in the first instance, but also to the young people of Guyana as a whole.

Does this sound unrealistic, even utopian? It shouldn't. The Knowledge society, intellectual property rights, have become everyday terms in today's world. It has long been recognized that information is power, but today that power has increased to the extent that the Information Divide is arguably the greatest difference between rich and poor societies, between the haves and the have nots.

Take the example of Brazil, the country where I am accredited as Ambassador. The GDP of the State of São Paulo is not only the largest of any State in Brazil but it is greater than that of all other countries in South America. Yes, just one Brazilian State is richer than countries like Venezuela

or Peru or Bolivia or Ecuador or, for that matter, Guyana.

Yet poverty is so extreme in certain parts of Brazil that President Lula da Silva took the issue to the United Nations last year to spearhead an international appeal for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in Brazil and in the world. And what is seen as the ultimate answer to this problem? It is education. It is the power of information and ideas to transform lives and bring about rapid social mobility. In the Brazilian situation, the Information Divide is within the country itself.

But I digress. Let's return the focus to Guyana. When I was a school girl, Guyana was engaged in the process of emerging from the cocoon of colonialism. In many ways the teachers at that time tried to prepare us students for this change by instilling in our young minds those concepts of Guyanese nationhood, patriotism and independence of thought and action that were not evident in the textbooks we used. Now as the nation prepares itself to celebrate 40 years of independence somewhat turbulent years were they not? Guyana is again on the cusp.

This time we are not so much facing the prospect of political change as that of carving out a bold new direction in our foreign policy and development thrust. For Guyana has begun to assert what some have called its continental destiny. Albeit still with some hesitancy, we are looking south, thereby engaging with the countries of the South American continent of which we are a geographical part and, of more importance to national development, opening up the hinterland through improved physical linkages from the coast to the Rupununi Savannahs.

Over the last five years events have moved with astonishing speed, especially when viewed from the perspective of international relations. Consequently, Guyana now finds itself a member of the following South American groupings.

- ? The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) with Headquarters in Brasilia
- ? The Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA) with Headquarters in Buenos Aires
- ? The South American Community of Nations (CASA) which is assisted by a rotating Pro Tempore Secretariat. This Secretariat will move from Lima to

Brasilia after the convening of the First Summit in Brazil on September 30 of this year

? The Rio Group. Guyana represents Caricom within this Latin American grouping. Next year, 2006, Guyana will assume the Chairmanship of the group for one year.

In addition, bilateral relations with Brazil are developing apace. Trade flows are expected to increase dramatically when cargo can be transported by land between the two countries, and especially when the Bridge over the Takutu boundary river is completed early next year. There is already a road link from Linden to Lethem. This still needs to be upgraded and eventually paved. However trucks, buses and passenger vehicles are currently using the road on a regular basis.

This new regional policy does not mean that Guyana intends to abandon its traditional association with the Caricom countries. As we know, the Caricom Secretariat has just taken occupation of a spanking new building in Georgetown, a move that has occurred at the right time bearing in mind that the Single Market and Economy is due to start functioning in 2006.

Rather, Guyana sees itself as a Gateway between the Caribbean and South America. To some extent this is a political concept in that Guyana is now a partner in the integration processes of both regions and can act as a bridge to promote a closer and more meaningful relation between them. Seen from another angle, the Gateway concept is an economic necessity. In the face of globalization, small states such as ours are likely to be washed away by the rising tides of competition unless we augment our bargaining power by establishing linkages with larger hemispheric groupings. There is also a physical aspect to the idea. The completion of a road and bridge system between Guyana and Brazil, with extensions to Venezuela to the west and Suriname to the east, will not only benefit Guyana's development process, but will redound to the economic benefit of our neighbours. It is surprising but true that Guyana offers the closest and most convenient access to the sea for the States of Northern Brazil.

It is always a risk to make predictions with regard to international relations. But I am prepared to wager that, within the next decade, Guyana will have established a physical interconnection with Brazil and Venezuela, and that there might even be a bridge over the Corentyne River to Suriname.

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Continuing the Heritage True Comrade and True Friend

From Page 5

I ask you to take a futuristic approach and to think about the effect that such developments will have on Guyana, especially on the youth of our country.

From virtually living on an island ourselves, albeit an island separated from the rest of the South American continent by culture rather than water, we will need to handle the conversion to becoming an entrepot society. From a situation where the vast majority of our population and the main population centres are located on the coastal and riverain areas there will be a shift in polarity to the centre and the south of the country. Without losing our special position as the only English speaking country in South America, the use of Spanish and Portuguese will become more common, especially in border locations.

If we want to ensure that the Bishops' High School will continue to play its historical role in Guyana. If we want to ensure that the legacy continues and spreads. If we want to ensure that BHS students are well equipped to deal with the challenges and

potential of a new Guyanese reality, then we must prepare to marshal our intellectual resources to help manage the inevitable process of change.

In this regard, the time is probably right for us to think of some way of creating an Ideas Bank - funding for implementation could eventually come from the Foundation, thereby linking the concepts. But some proposals could be put into effect almost immediately. For example, what about the BHS Alumni Guild helping to put in place exchange programmes both real and virtual between BHS students and students of neighbouring countries? What about twinning Bishops' with schools in those countries? What about developing a programme of studies in the hinterland, perhaps in the Iwokrama Rainforest Centre, during the holiday periods? What about creating a Pilot Language Training Centre at BHS that could be a revenue earning project? What about establishing a programme of Latin American Area Studies at Bishops' that could be a nucleus for other Secondary schools in Guyana?

There are a multitude of possibilities that would need to be considered, discussed and prioritized. I repeat. We need an Ideas Bank.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the wonderful and dedicated work of Carmen Jarvis in producing A History of the Bishops' High School. I think that we owe it to ourselves and to the students to use this research as the basis for establishing a School Heritage Centre. A Centre that would be a living Museum of Achievement, linking the past and the future through the present. I can't think of a more appropriate way to continue the Legacy and to bring an end to my presentation.

Thank You.

Obituaries

BHSOSA expresses condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni who have passed or had families who have passed during the year:

Marcia Abrams George 2006
Barbara Osman 2006
Mona Baird Bender 2006
Teresa Fraser Rai 2006
Hazel Phillips Griffith 2006
Irma King 2005
Marjorie King 2006
Lavern Scott-Garraway 2006
Lola Willems 2005

Giving back - School furniture



Some of the new furniture which was handed over to Elizabeth Isaacs-Walcott, headmistress of the Bishops' High School on Saturday, October 7, 2006 as part of the BHSOSA's Teachers' Furniture Project.

This Project was undertaken to ensure that every classroom had a comfortable desk and chair for the teachers who are conducting classes on a daily basis. Approximately 25 pairs were put in place. Also refurbishing was done to some of the furniture for the students too.



From October 9, all the teachers at the Bishops' High School were able to have either new or refurbished set of furniture in every classroom. This was made possible through the BHSOSA's Teachers' Furniture Project.

Academic achievements of the Bishops' High School

Bishops' High School continues to perform well at the Annual Caribbean Examination Council Secondary Education Certificate examinations. The following are the results for this year's sitting CSEC

Subjects	Sitting	Passing	% Passing
Agricultural Science	16	16	100
Biology	26	26	100
Caribbean History	25	25	100
Chemistry	23	22	95.7
Electricity & Electronic Tech	11	9	81.9
English Language	79	78	98.7
English Literature	71	59	83.1
Electronic Data Processing & Management	8	8	100
Food & Nutrition	16	16	100
French	28	24	85.7
Geography	31	24	77.4
Home Management	10	10	100
Human & Social Biology	43	43	100
Information Technology	24	22	91.7
Integrated Science	51	51	100
Mathematics	80	74	92.5
Office Administration	23	23	100
Physics	21	21	100
Principles of Accounts	23	23	100
Principles of Business	37	37	100
Social Studies	67	67	100
Spanish	8	8	100
Technical Drawing	10	10	100
Typewriting	3	2	66.7

Total # of Entries:734
 Total # of Passes:698
 Average Passes:95.09

CAPE

Subjects	Sitting	Passing	% Passing
Caribbean Studies	31	31	100
Communication Studies	31	31	100
History	3	3	100
Literatures in English	3	3	100
Law	17	15	88.2
Sociology	13	13	100

Total # of Entries:98
 Total# of Passes:96
 Overall Percentage:97.9

The Best High School (BHS) Choir



Was judged the best choir at the Festival of Choirs during Education Month and Ms. Shelly Harris was given the award for being the best Choir Mistress.

Scenes at the Bishops' High School



The Basketball Court



The Home Economics Room



The Biology Lab (new floors were done by the government after the floods)



Inter-House Debating Competition



The Chemistry Lab



The Lilian Dewar Library



The Information Technology Room



The Art Room



The Industrial Arts Room



The BHS choir performing during the Festival of Choirs at the National Cultural Centre

Emergency Works - *What needs to be done*



This is what the back fence and drain of the Bishops' High School look like. So with this in mind, some Alumni have expressed concern and have undertaken to pledge support for a project to enhance the school's surrounding, mainly the fence.

BHSOSA completes second Mentoring Program

BHSOSA has completed the second phase of its mentoring program with the staff and students of Bishop's High School. This project which was funded by UNICEF to the amount of \$G 1.1 million, and developed in collaboration with the Tutorial High School Old Students Association, was a significant feature of this administrative year. It was the first time that association received funding from a donor agency to execute a project. It was also the first time that the Association worked with another alumni association to share the ideas which will support the development of youth in Guyana.

Meetings were convened with parents so as to provide information about the mentoring programme and its overall objectives. Workshops were facilitated to sensitize and train the members who volunteered to be mentors. These mentors were then assigned to the participating students. There are now ongoing discussions for additional funding from UNICEF for a third phase.

The project was managed by a team which included the President of BHSOSA, Madga Pollard, Vidyaratha Kissoon, Janice Jackson and BHSOSA treasurer Dorett Leander.

The Bishops' High School Old Students' Association

Honour Roll

Roxane George-Wiltshire
Appointment to the Judiciary



Desiree Bernard
Appointment to the Caribbean Court of Justice