



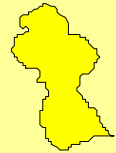
# QC-OSA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Queen's College Old Students' Association

~ Guyana Chapter ~

April 2009

No. 14



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## EDITORIAL

Guest writer: Clarence Trotz

This fourteenth issue of the QC-OSA newsletter covers events which have occurred from mid-2007 to the present time. As we go to press we are looking forward to holding elections for our new executive committee for the coming term.

It must be well known that for some time now QC-OSA has been straining every sinew to recruit interest in and further promote the work of the association. While there is ample evidence that there is a lot of interest in the school and concern for it among alumni of mature years, it has proved difficult to harness this interest, to exploit this concern and to have them manifested as clear commitment. A general appeal issued a year ago for offers of help in different areas of the life of the school received less than minimal response from alumni although, it must be said, when approached personally and asked to help in one way or another, this help was immediately forthcoming. This is encouraging. It is clear, therefore, that while alumni are still very interested in their *alma mater*, there are constraints of one form or another that are proving to be serious obstacles to intimate involvement. This has therefore led to the executive committee considering a change of strategy in which it would deliberately seek to have leadership coming from a younger cohort of alumni.

We would also very much like generally to broaden our active membership by encouraging younger alumni to be more involved in the affairs of the association and are slowly shifting emphasis away from veterans and towards those of yesteryear and the more recent past. We are hoping, therefore, to find a large cohort of younger alumni and alumnae among the next executive committee than we have seen in the past. Given the support of the older heads in matters of procedure, we feel sure that the new breath of fresh air that a young committee will bring with it will revive the fortunes of the chapter and improve its general health as well as its outlook.

Happy reading!

This newsletter is a publication of the *Guyana Chapter* (QC - OSA) of the alumni associations of Queen's College. There are five overseas chapters, viz, the *UK Chapter* based in London, the *New York, Washington DC and Florida Chapters* in the USA and the *Toronto Chapter* in Canada. The Newsletter is circulated by e-mail only; an electronic copy can be sent upon request. Please see the last page for contact information.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### QC student goes to Global Young Leaders conference - 2007

In 2007, Devendra Bhagwandin of the Upper 6th was nominated to represent Guyana as a Global Scholar at the *Congressional Youth Leadership*

*Council* at their August 2007 conference in the United States. Devendra wrote to QC-OSA (among other organisations) seeking sponsorship to attend. He had previously represented Guyana at the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) and the Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF) held in Trinidad in 2006. He also served as the Deputy Head Prefect, the President of the Queen's College Bible Club, and the Secretary of the Interact Club.

Devendra eventually secured sponsorship **(to which the Toronto chapter made a substantial contribution: see other story later)** and wrote to us on his return on August 12. Part of his report read: *"I have just completed the conference which was an amazing experience.... GYLC has successfully inspired all of us 360 participants from all over the globe to be future leaders. There was much to learn from the cultures and ideas coming from representatives, whether they were from North America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa or Australia. We were given the opportunity to analyse current situations through debates and to ask questions of the different world leaders who gave lectures. At our first simulation, where we debated the Politics of Trade, I was selected to be the Chairman of the Panel representing the UN Security Council. At our second simulation where we debated Peace and Security, I was selected again to serve as the Vice-Chairman. ... The accommodation at the Sheraton National Hotel and the Manhattan College Campus was great. At this time I would like once again to thank all concerned for their support, but particularly the Guyana and Toronto Chapters of Queen's College Old Students' Association for allowing me the opportunity to participate in GYLC. I hope that QC-OSA will continue to support such ventures as they are extremely beneficial and worth supporting."*

### Orientation 2008

(Reported by Dominic Gaskin)

Form 1 Orientation took place on Thursday 18th September 2008 at 9am in the auditorium of the college. Old Students attending were Mr. Laurie Lewis, Mr. Conrad Plummer and Mr. Dominic Gaskin.

The main talk was given by Mr. Conrad Plummer who outlined the history of the school, its values and its traditions. He challenged the students to find out more about the school's origins, particularly about when it was founded in relation to the uniting of the three colonies in the formation of British Guiana.

Once again the old students fielded questions from the current students who, this year, were better prepared and managed to provide answers to most of the questions. A runner (T. Cox of A House) was selected to carry the microphone to those students wishing to ask questions, and he managed to maintain his beginner's enthusiasm to the bitter end as he trotted around the auditorium.

The vexed question of the significance of the ship on the crest re-surfaced, this time from Nicholas Elliot of 1D and Moulder House. Conrad was able to explain that Britain's success as a sea-faring nation may have led to the use of the ship as a symbol of the empire and since Guyana was a British colony at the time and the school was 'the Queen's College of Guiana', the ship was probably seen as an appropriate symbol for the overseas-based institution. The same young man also wanted to know why the school song was still being sung in Latin, and Conrad explained to him the importance of Latin as a classical language and also its widespread use by the church. Drawing on his familiarity with popular culture, Conrad was able to explain the use of Latin in the school song in order to preserve its uniqueness and to differentiate it, for instance, from the music of performers such as Usher and 50 Cent.

Elliot also reported that he had come across a school tie in the National Library which had horizontal instead of diagonal stripes.

Other interesting questions included:

What was the significance of the colours black and gold? Why were there so many houses? How many old students were there when the association was first formed? When was the old students' association formed? How was the fire started? In what year did the fire take place? Has the school uniform changed since the formation of the school? Was the school always at its current location? Why were female students introduced into the school?

The vote of thanks was given by Aftab Crandon of K House.



*Editor's note: Well, readers? I see at least two questions (the first and third) to which I do not know the answer, and would be happy to find this out! Never mind the last question – I know the answer to that.*

## QC students top the region in 2008

For the third consecutive year, a QC student was the Most Outstanding Candidate Overall in the Region in the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations. Yana-Marisa Edwards achieved Grade I in 14 subjects and a Grade II in one subject. Wainella Isaacs and Shirvanie Persaud were the top students in the region in 2007 and in 2006 respectively. QC student Roy Permaul was also recognised by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) for outstanding performance in agriculture in 2008, as well as in all his other subjects.

Yana-Marisa is the daughter of alumnus Dr Morris Edwards of the CARICOM secretariat.

## Career Talks to Senior Students - 2009

In March 2009, QC-OSA President, Clarence Trotz, arranged for several persons to visit QC and give career guidance talks to upper-school students. The first one took place on Thursday 5 March. Mr Neville J. Bissember spoke to a number of 5th- and 6th-formers on law as a career. In his address he outlined the various paths which could be followed to study law, and also identified the various branches of this very wide field of study. The students were assured that a career in law need not involve visits to the courtroom, and one could choose from many different branches of law.

On Thursday 12 March, two speakers made presentations to the sixth-formers. Dr Clive Thomas who had been asked to speak on economics, had to decline because of illness, but he invited Mr Anand Persaud, Head of the Economics Department at University of Guyana, to do so in his stead. This Mr Persaud, a highly experienced economics lecturer did with much gusto, as he spoke to the Upper sixth-formers on the nature and scope of economics, while Mr John Browman, retired agriculturalist, spoke to the Lower Sixth on agriculture and its many ramifications.

### *Our speakers:*

Mr Bissember, an expert in international law, is currently employed by CARICOM. He attended Queen's College from 1970-1977, under the Headmastership of Messrs. M.T. Lowe and C.I. Trotz. His extracurricular activities during those years included stints on the football field and badminton court, along with membership of the QC Stage Society (of which he served as Head for a period). He was a member of Moulder House and a prefect under Head Boy Ian Rambihar. He was also a member of the Photographic Society and served on the QC Magazine Editorial Committee.

Mr Browman attended Queen's from 1949 - 1957 and was Head of Raleigh House, a Prefect and acted as Deputy Head Prefect. He was also President of the Literary and Debating Society, reached the rank of Acting Sergeant in the Cadet Corps and represented Queen's at athletics in the half mile and the mile.

Unfortunately, although Mr Trotz had scheduled a number of other speakers, the career talks have had to be suspended to accommodate the holding of internal examinations in March. It now seems that they cannot resume before the end of April.

The members of the QC-OSA would like to express their appreciation to Mr Bissember, Mr Persaud and Mr Browman for their contributions to career guidance and career information at QC.

## DONATIONS

### Global Young Leaders nominee - 2007

The **Toronto Chapter** contributed US\$500 for QC 6<sup>th</sup>-former Devendra Bhagwandin to attend the 2-week Global Youth Leadership Council Conference in the US in August 2007, subsequent to his nomination as a Global Scholar. The remaining funds (close to US\$2000 excluding airfare) were contributed by the Public Service Ministry and a private donor.

### Books for the library - 2007

In 2007, John C. Yates donated 40 books and a CD-ROM to the school library. The subject matter of the books included biology, the art of writing, politics, mathematics, public speaking, psychology, law, chemistry, sociology, Spanish, history and marketing. The scholarship dictionary was no doubt very welcome, as were the other books.

### AT 2007 ICQC...

Guyana hosted the 2007 ICQC reunion and annual business meeting from September 24 – 30. During the week of activities, various contributions were received. The UK chapter donated 800 alumni ties to QC-OSA; the Toronto chapter 'pitched in' with CDN \$1,000 for the Special Awardees programme; and David Singh of the Toronto chapter donated US\$250 on his own account to the Special Awardees fund. QC-OSA very much appreciates these gestures of support, especially for the Special Awardees Programme which is playing a vital role in the school lives of a number of students.

### Computer Room - 2008

When Guyana hosted ICQC in 2007, participants toured the school's computer lab and noted that several machines were not functioning. Out of this observation grew the idea for a substantial donation to QC which would effectively provide a new computer lab for the school. In March 2008, after much work to procure and ship the items decided upon, the equipment was handed over to QC.



Following is the list of equipment provided: 30 Dell Computers & Monitors, 2 Laserjet Printers P2015DN, 1 Laserjet LJ3055, 3 extra toner cartridges, 1 Lexmark X2470 Inkjet (donated), 1 Security System.

The School Board had also requested a special item of special computer software to meet the school's needs - a DELL Optiplex 740 Desktop with Windows XP Pro SP2. Although the cost of this was much higher than envisaged, the Dell representative (an alumnus) was able to obtain the item at a cut price and it was duly included.

On completion of the project, ICQC Executive Secretary John C. Yates described it as "the first cooperative event by ICQC; though painstaking, it was successful." The value of equipment donated by the New York, Toronto, UK and Florida chapters eventually exceeded US\$26,000. In addition to the items purchased, there were contributions of one of the printers, a waiver of the Dell agent's commission, and discounts on freight charges. John La Rose and Keith Corsbie of the Florida Chapter were instrumental in procuring these concessions and during the entire process.

### A donation on a sad occasion - 2008

At the funeral of the late David King in May 2008, his family indicated that they would like to take a collection and contribute this to the school's computer room. A total of just over G\$179,000 was collected and handed over to the QC-OSA. The Association was extremely grateful.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Newsletter

Prominent in our chapter's news must be the fact that, after two years, the Chapter has been able to publish another newsletter. The hiatus was due not to lack of will, but rather a severe lack of time in which to put one together. We now hope to resume regular publication of our newsletters.

### Former QC Principal produces textbook - 2007

(Guyana Chronicle, March 4, 2007 – reprinted with permission)

VETERAN Physics teacher Mr Clarence Trotz and one of his former students, Mr Alec Farley, have collaborated to produce "CXC Physics", the first textbook of that subject nature to be produced by Guyanese.

Trotz, in a recent interview with the Sunday Chronicle, said that the text was commissioned by Macmillan Publishers and will be in book stores around mid next month. Trotz, 73, said he has been in the profession for the past fifty years and has a wealth of knowledge and experience. He currently teaches Physics at his home to students from Form Four to the Upper Six level. Farley, he said, resides in the Bahamas and teaches at the St John's College there. He said he was his teacher in the 1960's.

He told this newspaper that he taught at Queen's College from 1957 – 1980 and was the headmaster from 1974 to 1980. He is currently a member of the Old Students Association. He subsequently headed St Stanislaus College from 1980 to 1982. He was then the coordinator of Mathematics and Science in the Education Ministry until 1988.

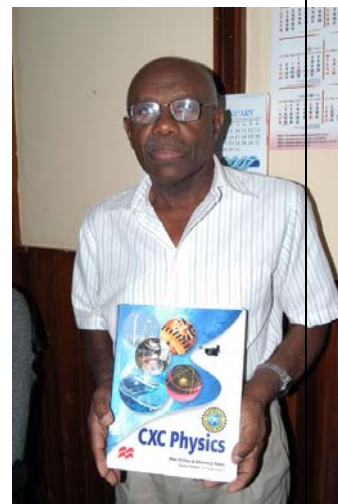
Trotz said he then spent two years as the head teacher of the Montserrat Secondary School before migrating to Britain where he taught from 1991 to 1996. Farley was an old student of his in the early 1960's. Trotz was the first CXC Chief Examiner for Physics from 1985 to 1989. He said that for the corresponding period, Farley was Chief Examiner for Integrated Science. In addition, Trotz helped put together the first CXC Physics Syllabus in 1985.

The two started the book in 2001 and it was completed in 2004. According to Trotz, little research was needed because of their vast experience. "After teaching for so many years you don't have to do much research," he said, adding that most of the information came from memory. He pointed out that the book is based on the CXC syllabus and even goes beyond because it also caters for students doing the GCE examination in the Bahamas. Trotz said every chapter has the objectives clearly outlined. Some of the topics covered include Waves and Light, Behaviour of Matter, Forces, Energy and Mechanics and Measurement and Practical Work. According to Trotz, the book has large print, diagrams to accompany explanations and is not difficult to understand. He said that he plans to write the CXC regarding having the book placed on the booklist for examination students.

He said too, that the National Centre for Educational Research Development (NCERD) and the Ministry of Education received copies of the book about two weeks ago and he is currently awaiting their pronouncements. Trotz said students who were able to browse through the book opined that it was well written and presented. According to Trotz, one student who wrote the examination last year expressed regret that she did not have a copy of the text in time for her studies. The book which has 587 pages will be used by the entire Caribbean. The Series Editor is British Dr Mike Taylor.

### Changing of the Guard!

In April 2008, significant events took place – three persons who had been continuously associated with the QC-OSA for many years decided not to stand for re-election in the 2008 - 2009 year. Despite efforts to get them to change their minds, Messrs Laurie Lewis, Conrad Plummer and Raymond Khalil (at the time President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Treasurer respectively) declined nomination at AGM 2008 in

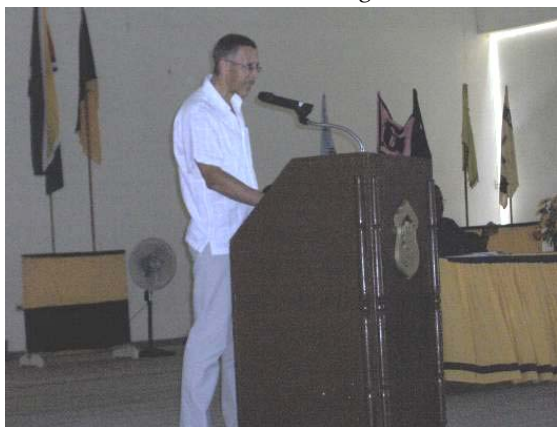


order to make way for others to serve. In a way it was a true changing of the guard, clichéd though this phrase may seem, for these gentlemen have been associated not only with QC-OSA but were active in the school itself, with Laurie and Conrad serving on the Board of Governors for quite some time. They have given invaluable service to the OSA and though we keenly felt the loss, we had to concede that perhaps they deserved a furlough. Clarence Trotz consented to serve for one year as President, while Dominic Gaskin was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Colin Jackson as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president. A few other new faces also joined the Committee. The entire Committee is listed on our last page.

Interestingly enough, these events took place almost one year ago, and later this month a new executive will be elected.

**QC-OSA meets School-Leavers - 2008** In June 2008, the QC-OSA met with the fifth- and sixth-form students who were nearing the end of the second tier of their formal schooling. They were briefly addressed by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Dominic Gaskin, who encouraged them to become members of the association so as to make a contribution to their alma mater in whatever way they could. Each student received a QC-OSA bookmark and a QC-OSA fact sheet, and their names and e-mail addresses were recorded for future reference.

*Below: Dominic Gaskin addressing the students; at right: a section of the audience.*



**QC-OSA Visits QC - 2008** Some of our executive members visited QC in May 2008 to have a look at the state of some recent donations by our sister chapters. We were able to see some of equipment that was donated for the Physics labs by the UK and NY chapters being used.



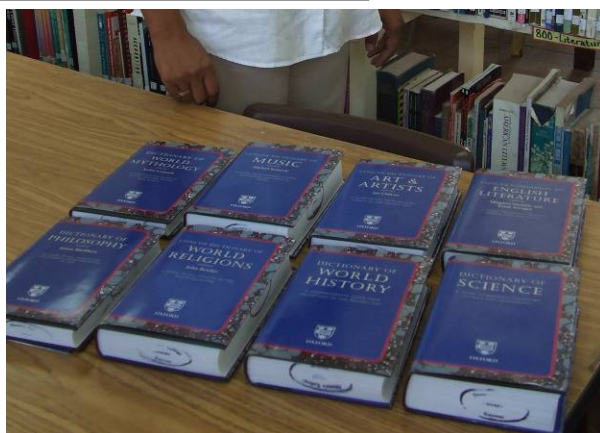
Students exploring solar power



Students working with a voltmeter



Using a Vernier calliper



Eight subject dictionaries from Peter Fraser – London Chapter, UK.

**Games Nights** The paucity of active members in the QC-OSA continues to be our constant lament. While there has been no shortage of novel ideas for fundraising, socialising and promoting the aims of the association, regrettably these have inevitably had to be noted and 'put into storage' for want of "living bodies" to give them form and bring them to reality. Nevertheless, we soldiered on and were able to hold three Games Nights over the period June 2008 - February 2009, each of which produced some very modest but certainly welcome funds.

Our first two, in 2008, were held at the Malteenoes Sports Club, which Lance Hinds very kindly made available to us. We would like to express our thanks to him, and to Marcel Gaskin and Louis Lowe for their financial contributions on these two occasions. Our most recent event was held at Queen's itself on a Friday evening and those attending were asked to make donations. While the turnout was moderate, as was the case with the other two, a wider variety of games was played this time. There was even a game of bilingual Scrabble, where two of the four players played in German while the other two played in English simultaneously. It made for an interesting variation! The refreshments for this last Games Night were kindly provided by Les Ramalho, Orette Cutting and DDL.

**Annual General Meeting 2009** Our Annual General Meeting will be held on April 18. Please see the notice below. The first notice of this meeting appeared on March 7 in two daily newspapers and by e-mail. As is customary, there will be no statutory meeting in April.

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Queen's College Old Students' Association will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 13:00h in the QC-OSA / PTA room.**

The Agenda for the AGM is as follows:-

- 1 Adoption of Agenda
- 2 Adoption of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 President's Report
- 5 Adoption of the Statement of Accounts of the Association and the report thereon submitted by the Association's Auditors
- 6 Election of Office Bearers
- 7 Appointment of the Auditors
- 8 Consideration of Notices of Motion

Notices of Motion must reach the Secretary at least 48 hours before the appointed time of the meeting.

*Secretary*

*Queen's College Old Students' Association*

**Members, please ensure you have paid your annual QC-OSA subscription for 2009. Please see the last page if you are ready to do this but do not know how. Our subscription is G\$1,500 a year.**



## NOW OBITITS

### Our friends and alumni who have passed on ...

Since the last newsletter, the passing of several QC alumni has come to our attention.

- Oliver Mortimer Valz, aged 83, April 2007 (Georgetown)
- Joseph Theodore 'Theo' Morris, aged 57, May 2007 (Georgetown)
- Clement Yhap (not an alumnus, but long-serving master and then headmaster), December 14, 2007 (Canada)
- Andrew Agrippa, aged 66, January 11, 2008 (USA)
- Deryck Bernard, aged 57, February 5, 2008 (Georgetown)
- Aubrey Sylvester, (brother of Carl Sylvester; Secretary, QC Board of Governors) February 19, 2008 (Georgetown)
- Leon C. Thompson, February 18, 2008 (Canada)
- Shahabudin Mohamed McDoom, aged 62, March 8, 2008 (London)
- David King, aged 63, March 25, 2008 (Brazil)
- Kenneth Potter, aged c. 73, June 10, 2008 (Australia)
- Charles Egerton Denbow, aged 63, February 10, 2009 (Jamaica)
- Joshua Reuben Ramsammy, aged 80, February 11, 2009 (Georgetown)
- Terence J. Akai, aged 59, February 28, 2009 (USA).

*QC-OSA extends sympathy to their surviving relatives and friends.*



### ON DIT ...

... that in October 2007 a young QC alumnus, writing in the sports section of a daily newspaper, re-christened Woolley House "**Wholly House**".

... that a certain paediatrician, who is a member of the QC-OSA, upon hearing this exclaimed "**Wholly mackerel!**"

### Note!

Readers' submissions, particularly reminiscences, are always welcome. Additionally, if you have any news of old students and their activities and would like it featured, please send it to the Editor.

Submissions are considered by the Executive Committee and may be edited for clarity, grammar, spelling, etc.

**INFORMATION**

**QC-OSA Executive Committee for the 2008 – 2009 term**

Clarence Trotz – **President** (D'Urban)  
Dominic Gaskin - **1st Vice President** (Moulder)  
Colin Jackson - **2nd Vice President** (Raleigh)  
Orette Cutting – **Treasurer** (Percival)  
Sharon Kreuter – **Secretary** (Pilgrim)  
Mizana Gonsalves - **Assistant Secretary-  
Treasurer** (Percival)  
Jason Plummer - **Sports Officer** (Raleigh)  
Melisa McRae – **PRO** (Weston)

**Committee Members**  
Phillip Allsopp (Raleigh)  
Trumel Redmond (Raleigh)  
Leslie Ramalho (Moulder)  
Selwyn Daniel (Raleigh)  
Neville Burke (D'Urban)  
Mario Ramotar (Nobbs)

**2009 Annual General Meeting:**

April 18, 13:00h at Queen's College in QC-OSA / PTA Room

**Payment of annual subscription and donations:**

Please contact Treasurer, Orette Cutting, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Mizana Gonsalves, the Secretary, Sharon Kreuter, or any other member of the Executive.

**Contacts from April 2008 – April 2009:**

Clarence Trotz, President	ctrotz@guyana.net.gy
Dominic Gaskin, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	topaz@networksgy.com
Colin Jackson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	cottonzemi@yahoo.com
Orette Cutting, Treasurer	orettec@aol.com
Sharon Kreuter, Secretary	sharind@yahoo.com
Mizana Gonsalves, Asst Sec-Treasurer	shammah@networksgy.com