



QCOSA NEWS

The Queen's College Old Students' Association Newsletter

~The Guyana Chapter~

Christmas Issue – December 2002

Dear Old Student,

QCOSA News extends warm greetings to you in this festive season and best wishes for a happy, prosperous and peaceful 2003!

We take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance during the past year and look forward to your continued support as we strive to keep you informed of the activities of QCOSA.

We repeat our request for submission from readers of items of interest, comments on our newsletter and names and e-mail addresses of old students for inclusion in our circulation database.
(The Editor can be reached at vidushi@lawyer.com)



The Editor

- **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF QCOSA :**

2002 has been a year Guyana would not wish to experience again - indeed it may have been so bad that we could only go up from now on.

On the positive side we were able to sponsor and host our First Annual Dinner and Dance. We started preparations late and we did so wish the usual skeptics but a family stood by us and we enjoyed a wonderful night. Thanks to that Family. Since we billed it as the first annual, 2003 will see the second annual.

We are in the process of extending our support programme to appropriate students. As you would imagine it needs support and as 2002 as we are agreed on the procedures we will share the broader detail with alumni with a view to everlasting international support.

The first part of the reconstruction exercise will be completed in 2003. The best comment on this exercise.

OW!!!!!!!! AT LAST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We have seen more youths come on stream - We need to keep developing programmes, which will hold their attention and keep QCOSA alive. Consideration is being given to exploring a different type of membership watch wise utilize the benefits of the electronic age as soon as we have made a decision we will advise.

It is our hope that we will not have to wait until our annual international meeting before we see action on the decisions we made in Washington. That would be terrible and it is our hope that this letter will serve as a wake up call to our movers and shakers.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you - the members of the local chapter and our overseas alumni the very best for 2003.

May GOD Bless All Of Us.

Laurie Lewis.

- **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

This is the time of the year when resolutions are made for the new year and broken after a week or so! Here's a suggestion for a "keepable" resolution – include a commitment to attend our statutory meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at Queen's College.

Pencil in these dates in your 2003 Diaries and remember that old students who plan visits home during 2003 will be especially welcome to attend.

We will be delighted to meet with all old students and we feel confident that your interaction with fellow old students will be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

- **INTERNATIONAL QCOSA NEWS**

We are pleased to announce the formation of an International Committee which has been assigned the task of settling a Constitution for QCOSA.

Ms. Prabha Kiran Persaud, Attorney-at-Law, has been appointed as the representative of the local Chapter to this Committee which is headed by Mr. Mayo Robertson.

- **SPEECH NIGHT**

Queen's College Annual Speech Night was held on December 09, 2002 at the National Cultural Centre, Georgetown. The highlights of this event will be published in a subsequent Newsletter.

- **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**

QC's Annual Remembrance Day Service was held on November 08, 2002 at 10:40 a.m. at the College Complex. This solemn occasion evoked the usual pathos as tribute was paid to the old students who fell in the struggle to make the world a better place.

- **SOCIAL EVENTS**

- **HOUSEFEED 2002**

After anxious deliberation, it was decided to cancel Housefeed 2002.

QCOSA considered that in view of the unfortunate escalation of violent crime during the latter half of 2002, it was inappropriate to proceed with the event.

The management of Banks DIH also announced that until further notice, the lawns of Thirst Park which were identified as the venue for Housefeed 2002 will not be used for public functions.

We look forward to Housefeed 2003 – a major event in the local social calendar!

- **FAMILY FUN DAY**

QCOSA hosted a Grand Family Fun day on Saturday August 17, 2002 on the grounds of Queen's College. A good time was had by all at this event, the success which was due largely to the strenuous effort of Mr. Wayne Narain.

Our thanks to him and to everyone else who assisted in this exercise.

Mr. Patrick Chan, President of the Toronto Chapter attended the Fun Day, and later met with members of the Executive at lunch.

- **CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE**

QCOSA hosted its first Christmas Dinner & Dance on November 30, 2002 at the Grand Savannah Suite of le Meridien – Pegasus Hotel. This gala black tie affair ushered in the Christmas Season in Guyana.

The event was well supported by members of the public and received rave reviews for the splendid arrangements which were put in place.

The President of QCOSA, Mr. Laurie Lewis, proved to be a wonderful exponent of the terpsichorean art as he led members of the executive and guests onto the floor and kept them there until the wee hours of the following morning.

Special thanks to Mr. Lewis and to Ms. Prabha Persaud who worked untiringly to create that memorable magical evening.

And another slot for your diary We will be doing it again at Christmas 2003!

- **GENERAL NEWS**

Mr. John Piggott has acceded to QCOSA's request and has been paying regular visits to QC Compound, making a photographic record of the reconstruction works in progress. We will endeavour to forward some of the prints to our readers. These historic photographs will be stored in our archives.

An unsavory event during the past year was the publication of a Press Release from the Queen's College PTA calling for the removal of the entire Queen's College Board of Governors.

That release spawned several follow-up items in the local Press on the issue.

QCOSA News acknowledges the right of the PTA to publicly comment on matters which it feels aggrieved. However, we deprecate the imputation in the PTA Release that QCOSA concurred in the call for the removal of the Board.

The draft release was in fact reviewed by the President of OCOSA who emphatically disassociated himself from the contents and advised against its publication.

QCOSA wishes to apologise for any embarrassment resulting from the perception that it was a party to the publication and hopes that this unfortunate incident will be put to rest.

Congratulations to old student, Michelle Monkou, who attended Queens in '77-'78 before moving to the US. We are informed that she recently debuted her romance novel – 'OPEN YOUR HEART' by BET Books. The story is filled with many heartwarming moments, memorable characters and provides a wonderful read. OPEN YOUR HEART is available in bookstores and on <http://www.amazon.com>. Visit her website at <http://michellemonkou.com> for more information.

- **CONDOLENCES**

We were shocked and grieved at the news of the death of QC Old Student, Omari Blake in Alabama, U.S.A. during November 2002. This young man, the youngest son of Mr. Byron Blake, Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM and Mrs. Clare Blake, retired Deputy Headmistress of Queen's College, was just one semester away from graduating as a veterinary surgeon when he was involved in a fatal motor accident. QCOSA News extends heartfelt sympathy to his sorrowing parents, relatives and friends.

Sympathy is also extended to Mr. Curtis DeSouza, a Queen's College old boy and to members of his family on the death of his two children during December, 2002.

This tragic event resulted from a freak accident during the Gavin Narine Memorial Motor race Meeting at the Dakota Circuit, Timehri when a competitor lost control of his vehicle which ran off the track and ploughed into spectators.

QCOSA News remembers with gratitude the sterling contribution of Mr. De Souza at ICQC 2000 when he embroidered the school crest on souvenir T-shirts and other items.



