



QUEEN'S COLLEGE OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ICQC 2003 – FLORIDA
REPORT OF THE GUYANA CHAPTER

*Presented by Chapter President, Laurie L. Lewis at the Annual Business Meeting on
October 10, 2003*

Greetings to all the assembled alumni from the Executive and Members of the Guyana chapter.

Our chapter continued to function, carrying out several activities as detailed below.

Fund raising:

- **Housefeed** was scheduled for Sept 28, 2002, but was canceled due to Thirst Park placing a temporary prohibition on events at the site, the escalating crime situation, and weather problems. Our main fund-raising event of the year thus did not come off.
- **September Fair** Another fund-raising event planned for the QC premises in Sept 2003 was canceled, one of the main reasons being the PTA and Board's concern over the sale of alcohol on the school grounds.
- However, **Housefeed 2003** is scheduled for early December 2003.

Rehabilitation:

- **Phase 1** Several deadlines for completion of Phase 1 of School were given by the Board; eventually, the new auditorium and admin block was dedicated on September 19th. Phase 2 involves a student forum and canteen and Phase 3, more work on the auditorium.

Guyana Chapter's Assistance to School:

- **Printers** 2 Laser Jet printers were purchased using funds from the UK chapter's donation on the Headmistress's urgent request, in time for the CAPE and CXC info technology exams. More printers are needed, but options other than purchasing

printers which may remain idle for the better part of the year are being explored, to ensure best use of funds.

- **Lab equipment** Clarence Trotz conducted a survey of the labs and provided a list of needed equipment and fittings. Our chapter is looking into providing what is needed, to which the remainder of the UK donation will be applied.
- **Feeding Programme** The chapter has been attempting to make improvements to the programme, notably in the area of food quality, about which students have been complaining; in fact, students have begun going to the canteen of another nearby school to get lunch. The matter is still evolving; and our chapter is prepared to fund the programme as long as we can do so.
- **Auditorium chairs and cooling** The Board is currently looking to place an estimated 1000 chairs in the auditorium (cost ranges from about US\$35-45 per chair), on which Chairman Ronald Alli had approached the TO chapter. Additionally, the auditorium needs a cooling system. Brian James is advising on how best to do this, and has indicated an extractor fan system as the best way to go.
- **Sports person** The school needs someone to coordinate sports activities in the School. It is understood that the DC chapter will fund this officer and will liaise with our chapter on this. QCOSA is assisting in locating such a person and / or a sports coordinator.
- **Staff problems** at the School persist, best highlighted by the salient points of the Headmistress's report for September: teacher entitlement is 60, with 43 actually teaching; there were 9 resignations since the new school term opened. 4 teachers are absent without leave. The staff situation as always is acute; the main problem is teachers' low salaries.
- **A Joint QCOSA / PTA** project has come onstream to provide coffee, tea and Milo for teachers' refreshments during the school day.
- **Other Needs of the School:** The local chapter met this week with the Headmistress and has begun compiling a list of what the School needs immediately and over the medium term. On our return we will meet with her again to complete it and to prioritise it; after which this list will be circulated to the chapters.

Additionally, the local chapter has recommended that the staffroom and Headmistress's office be curtained (these areas currently have large glass windows) so that the staff can have privacy, which is altogether lacking under the present conditions.

Other Activities

- **Socialising** The First Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance was held in December 2002. The event, which was to promote bonding rather than fund-raising, turned out to fulfil its aim admirably. Also, a number of Games Nights were held for socializing and attracting members.
- Our **Newsletter** is now circulating regularly in the able hands of the Editor Vidushi Persaud, after having just started up at the time of last ICQC.
- **Website** The QCOSA Guyana Website was created, but further work is to be done to make it ready for launching. The Executive officer who was primarily responsible for this project left to pursue studies overseas, but the expertise of another old student will be requested as soon as contact can be made.
- **QCOSA / School relations** QCOSA continues to work at maintaining and improving a cordial relationship with the HM and staff of the School for the benefit of the students. QCOSA after a recent successful meeting with the HM and DHM intends to meet with them on a monthly basis to keep communication at a high level. James Holder, alumnus and currently School Administrator, has been of great help in maintaining communication between QCOSA, the Board and the PTA.
- **Use of computer-assisted teaching** QCOSA has discussed with the HM the possibility of moving more into this realm. In the first phase it was suggested to them that some multimedia equipment be procured, and later on explore setting up a fully equipped lab.

Other:

- **Inter-Chapter meeting** QCOSA hosted Patrick Chan (president of TO chapter) at lunch in August. Cordial and fruitful discussion took place, including the unsatisfactory situation of chapters liaising directly with the School and in one case, with a student, to make donations; also not communicating plans to local chapter.
- **BHS / QC relations** Bishop's High School OSA invited QCOSA to participate in their reunion and anniversary activities in Sept 2002. The aim is to foster a closer relationship between these two bodies for mutual advancement.
- **School caps** The Guyana chapter is suggesting that the School return to having students use school caps in school colours with the crest imprinted, instead of ordinary caps.
- A **Cocktail reception** is planned by the Board to mark the dedication of the new auditorium. QCOSA has asked that Daniel Ram, top Caribbean student for 2003, be honoured at this function.

Members' achievements:

- Vice President Conrad Plummer completed studies and was awarded his MBA degree earlier this year.
- Member Shaun Caleb was awarded a scholarship to Princeton University.