

Queen's College of Guyana Alumni Association (New York Chapter)

Report from the President – 1998-1999

Fellow Alumni:

As the 1990s come to an end, we in the New York Chapter of the QC Alumni Association can look back on the past decade with some pride. We are the youngest of the active chapters and have carved out a place in the vast body of QC Associations as a progressive group. We have become regarded as a focus of many of the activities of the wider body.

As usual however, the question that we have often faced has been “What have you done for us lately?” As an organization matures, this question becomes harder to answer. It becomes harder because an organization that works well does things that go unnoticed. One of the greatest achievements of our organization has been that we have become much better organized. We have an outstanding Secretary who cements our committee. We have a committee that welcomes challenges and produces whenever needed. We have a group that understands each other and which works for the betterment of the organization. This year we have indeed done a number of things. Among them, has been an outreach – albeit somewhat unsuccessfully – to our members in Queens. We have held a number of meetings in Queens and will continue to do so as part of the effort to widen our active membership. We urge our members to attend these meetings and help make this effort a success.

We had a great Christmas party this year. The success was in part due to the tremendous efforts put out by members such as Mohamed Karimullah and Vishnu Mahadeo. Our run of successful events continued with our formal function held at Chateau Royale. We hosted the headmistress of Queen's as our “Guest of Honour” and we all had a great time. We must express extreme gratitude to the management of Chateau Royale for their facilities. One of the high points of the evening was the presentation to the headmistress of a symbolic cheque for the supply of air conditioners for the schools' computer lab. The supply of the air conditioners was later formalized with the transfer of funds to Guyana to cover the purchase and installation of the units.

For the first time since the inception of the New York chapter of QC, we hosted a family fun day. The event was held in New Jersey and was intended for the entire family of our alumni and friends. The feedback we received about the event was positive and we hope to make this an annual event.

We attended the ICQC meeting in Toronto. Despite a stirring address by Bobby Moore, our attendees were disappointed at the conclusion of the meeting. The pace of the meeting led to many topics on the agenda not being addressed. The

charge of revitalizing ICQC seems to have been missed by the London chapter. It may be that that falls back on us – the chapter that gave birth to the idea of ICQC.

Our group achieved its objective during the Labor Day weekend. The joint Barbecue with Bishops Alumni association was an unmitigated success. This function has now become part of the holiday calendar for many people. So great was our success that we had to close the doors to potential partygoers on four occasions. While we apologize to those who were locked out, it was done in the interest of safety and it was the right thing to do. Despite this, it was a heck of a party.

For the coming year, one of our major projects involves inter-chapter business – the revitalization – if possible – of the Washington DC chapter. This is the oldest chapter outside of Guyana and has become inactive. We have already made contact with key people and will be visiting the DC area later in the year to assist with resuscitating the chapter.

Another project – the brainchild of Mohamed Karimullah – is the transference of Dr Laurence Clarke's Book of Records to CD-ROM. The relevant permission for use of the material has been obtained and we are now having the information scanned in preparation for transfer to CD. Mr. Lloyd Houston now leads the charge on this project.

Once again, we must express gratitude to our resident web-master – Louis London for continuing the excellent job on our web site. It is a "hot" site. Keep up the work Louis.

For myself, it has been a pleasure to have led this organization from its inception, to have watched it improve and become what it is today. I have been lucky to have been part of hardworking and eager committees – none more so than the present committee. While I remain committed to the organization and willing to serve in any capacity, one must not overstay one's welcome, and, as the only President this organization has known to date – it is time. The time has come for changes in the committee, that new ideas are put forth and different methods tried. One cannot obstruct the normal evolution of the organization. The core is now so good that I am sure that the person elected President will serve the organization well. It has been good.

Aubrey N. Smith
09/09/99