Empowering and Inspiring Youth for the Future

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 29
8:30AM TO 3:00PM

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 30
8:30AM TO 12:00PM

QUEEN’S COLLEGE
Thomas Lands, Georgetown | Guyana

Presented by Queen’s College of Guyana Alumni Association (NY), Inc. in Cooperation with the Guyana Ministry of Education
Salvete!
Greetings and welcome to the 2015 Queen’s College Student Conference. We are happy to have the opportunity to present this conference in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. In this our second conference, our theme is Empowering and Inspiring Youth for the Future and we believe that after listening to the feedback from last year’s conference, we have crafted an agenda that will target the key drivers to empower and inspire you in your future endeavors.

We are really excited to have gathered a virtual All-star lineup of presenters and facilitators. Most of these presenters and facilitators are alumni who once walked these halls, sat in these chairs and participated in sports and clubs just like you now do. And each of us eagerly volunteered to be here with you. You are younger versions of us and we cherish this occasion to give back to an institution that we love and that has given us our solid foundations. Together we share a rich tradition of excellence and camaraderie. Queen’s College taught us, as it is teaching you, that labor omnia vicit improbus, steady work overcame all things. So we have come together at this time in history to energize and to encourage you to continue to strive for excellence on your journey to your wonderful destiny. Our hope is that that one day soon you will join our ranks and that you too will reach back to the younger generations. Together, we are keepers of the flame.

To our guests from our sister schools, we are honored by your presence and warmly welcome you to the conference. We hope that your involvement is fruitful and that it sets a standard for future endeavors. Our destinies are intertwined. Let us be reminded always that we are one people, one nation, one destiny.

Enjoy the conference and be sure to give us your feedback!

Sincerely,

Mr. John Campbell
President, QCAANY
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Concurrent Session I Workshops

1a | Steps to Respect: Strategies to Stop Bullying
Presenter: Ayodele Dalgety-Dean | Family Therapist, Founder and Managing Director, Blossom Inc.
Nathilee Caldeira, Ph.D. | Clinical Psychologist/Founder, Let's Talk Psychological Wellness, P.C.
This workshop will help you increase your understanding of the impact of all forms of bullying behavior. You will learn how to be more than a bystander and assess the safety of intervening, as well as how to take action to help create a school culture of acceptance, tolerance and respect.

1b | Youth Volunteerism
Presenter: Kezia Campbell | Project Coordinator, The Benab Foundation | Student, University of Guyana
Through this session, the presenter will enable students to understand the importance of volunteerism and its quintessential role in fostering the development of a rounded character. The aim would be to answer the following questions:
• What is volunteerism? [entails an overview of the scope of opportunities available]
• Why should I serve others? [includes the benefits of volunteering]
• How do I become involved?
Mahatma Gandhi opined that the best way of finding ourselves is to lose ourselves in the service of others. Volunteerism offers opportunities for self-discovery and personal enhancement. Young people are key agents of social change. The United Nations estimates that youth contribute up to $35 billion per year in volunteer hours. We each have a role to play as we bring a unique set of ideas, skills and talents to the table. There are a plethora of opportunities available and this worship aims to help students to understand the concept of volunteerism, its benefits and to guide them in choosing suitable areas of involvement.

1c | The Mindset of an Entrepreneur
Presenter: Mark Dalgety | Founder, Dalgety Teas
This workshop will demonstrate the working mind of an entrepreneur and the way opportunities are grasped. It will also explore the challenges that an entrepreneur encounters, the ways that challenges are handled and the journeys that an entrepreneur may face in building a sustainable and successful business.

1d | Information is Power. Make your own.
Presenter: Vijay Datadin, M.Sc. | Owner, RedSpider
In this Information Age, STEM skills and the ability to “crunch data” in some way is important for many careers, e.g., public health, engineering, sociology, banking or politics. Developing countries in particular need citizens with these data science skills, as good decisions come only from good information. The seminar will show examples on how new information related to issues in public health, crime and education were developed using the internet and mobiles - to inspire thinking about taking a data-driven Citizen Science approach to issues.
Session Descriptions Continued...

1e The Audacity to Pursue your Passion: Lessons from a Recovering Chemical Engineer
Presenter: Michelle Mickle Foster, Ph.D. | CEO, Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA) President & CEO, Foster Solutions, LLC

There are many persons who struggle with selecting their university majors and consequently their careers. They are torn between what their logical minds are telling them would be best and what their hearts are screaming are their true passions. There are also others who discover their true passions after they have started in careers. Attendees will learn how the presenter was able to successfully pursue her passion as a social entrepreneur and the lessons she learned along the way. This pursuit involved her changing from a career in chemical engineering. The workshop will teach attendees that there is nothing wrong with changing direction if it leads to fulfillment of purpose. Topics covered will include: Discovering your strengths/gifts, educational preparation, managing change, time management, stress management and continuous improvement.

1f Goal-Setting and Time Management in the Digital Age
 Presenter: Linden Headley | Software Engineering Team Lead, Accenture

The workshop is targeted to young people in secondary school who have to contend with the distractions presented by digital media (Facebook, texting, etc.) and the potential for negative impact on time management. The workshop will also address the importance of successfully negotiating the tactical (time management) in order to achieve the strategic (goals).

The workshop will present specifics around effectively managing time and setting goals as they relate to academic endeavors. What was for a long time a “first world” phenomenon is now increasingly making its presence felt in what are considered to be “lesser developed” countries; Guyana is no exception. That phenomenon is access to digital media – Facebook, cell phones, texting, the internet, etc.

By all means these technologies need to be embraced but students need also to not let them be encumbrances to effectively managing time and ultimately affecting their ability to achieve their goals.

1g Creative Problem Solving Using the Arts: An Introduction
Presenter: Paloma Mohamed, Ph.D. | Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Guyana

Creative Problem Solving Using The Arts is an interactive workshop which will help participants to understand social problems and think about ways to solve them using techniques from the arts. It is expected that participants will have created an artistic or a series of artistic responses to any social problem they choose by the end of this fun filled session. Even those who think they are not creative or artistic are welcome!

1h Coming to America – to Study Higher Education
Presenter: T. Ramon Stuart, Ph.D. | Associate Provost & Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, West Virginia State University

Studying higher education in America may be a dream for many Guyanese students. Come learn more about the benefits of studying in America, how to apply, how to gain financial support and learn how to prepare for any challenges that may occur along the way.

1i Step by Step to a Career in Petroleum and Geology
Presenter: Newell Dennison | Deputy Commissioner, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission

Learn about careers at Guyana Geology and Mines Commission. How does one go from sitting in a First Form Classroom to being a leader in geology? Learn about the career possibilities in this field. Hear about the specific steps that the current Deputy Commissioner took to get to his current position and what you can do to get started.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Concurrent Session II Workshops

2a Goal-Setting & Time Management
Presenter: Safi Khan

The session begins with a general introduction and a questionnaire about goal setting and its significance not only to the academic but also to the vocational and personal success of students. It is followed by hands-on sessions during which small group activities are used to illustrate the application of time management in real life. This session closes with video clips, Q & A session from students and presenter evaluation.

2b From Product Conception to Marketing: Hands-on Business Development
Presenter: Saran Nurse, MBA | Founder & CEO, Kiki's Pet Spa & Boutique

This is an interactive workshop that allows students to create a business plan in one hour! Students will brainstorm as a group to create their own product and then develop the concept from product conception through getting it to market. They would work together to determine the product attributes (within certain stated parameters) and then develop a marketing plan that would maximize sales of the product.

2c Resume and Cover Letter Writing, Interview Skills and Business Etiquette
Presenter: Deoki Pestano | Research Analyst, WCAS

This workshop is designed to connect students from Queen’s College graduation to the workforce. At this workshop you will learn how to compose a resume that reflects your greatest strengths and talents. Students will increase their understanding of how a resume and cover letter are used in the job search process and how to effectively target specific employers. Additionally, the workshop will answer questions on how to start the process of looking and finding work, how to network successfully both in person and through the internet using sites such as LinkedIn and how to master the interview process with success and confidence.

2d Developing Critical Thinking
Presenter: Raymond Ramsaroop | Edward B. Beharry & Co. Ltd.

Rote learning and short-term study habits have increasingly become the predominant mode by which students assimilate information. In the extreme, rote learning does not evaluate or question the information presented but simply seeks to store and regurgitate it. Critical thinking questions the information, evaluates the evidence, examines assumptions and explores and considers many possibilities in coming to rational solutions and conclusions and in generating new ideas. Critical thinking, therefore, better develops the learner and adds to the body of existing thinking.
OWN YOUR SOBERPOWER

2h

**Presenter:** Doret Edmonds, M.S. | Director of Nursing Services at START Treatment and Recovery Centers, New York

Understand the effects of drug use on your life, health, wealth and happiness. Everyone possesses the strength and power to opt for sobriety in the face of everyday pressures and temptation. This interactive presentation empowers attendees to cope effectively in the face of adversity, find allies with the same goal, and find strength in numbers. Own your Sober Power...Own your Success!

CREATING & NURTURING MATHEMATICIANS & MATHEMATICAL SCIENTISTS

2i

**Presenter:** Terrence Blackman, Ph.D. | Chair, Mathematics Department, Medgar Evers College

Through a highly interactive learning experience, you will be introduced to a set of culturally informed, evidence-based Mathematics education design principles that provide a framework for creating transformative Mathematics learning environments for First to Sixth Form students. Learn about a range of tools available in-school and outside-of-school to support the teaching and learning of mathematics and the sciences.

ENGINEER? YES, YOU TOO CAN BE AN ENTREPRENEUR

2f

**Presenter:** Oscar P. Walters, Jr., P.E. | Owner/Chief Engineer, Demerara Engineering, PLLC

The following questions will guide this workshop:

- What do Engineers In General and Civil Engineers in Particular have, that can make them Entrepreneurs?
- What Defines the Marketplace that is available to us Civil Engineers and How Do I Get Myself Prepared?
- What are the first steps that can lead to Civil Engineering Entrepreneurial Success?
- How do you turn academic theories that you learn in school (Primary thru University) into practical engineering problem solving ideas that will be needed for successful Civil Engineering Entrepreneurial endeavours?
- Are you really cut out to be a Vibrant and Successful Entrepreneur whether it is Engineering or Otherwise?

LET'S TALK ABOUT STUDY SKILLS

2g

**Presenter:** Karen Wharton, M.S. | Senior Systems Engineer, Thomson Reuters

The vast majority of successful students achieve their success by developing and applying effective study habits. That includes getting the most out of class time. Let us discuss some of the more effective study habits you can develop so that you can study smarter, not harder, and become a lifelong learner.

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT: THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

2e

**Presenter:** Amlata Persaud, MPhil | Doctoral Fellow, Teacher’s College, Columbia University

Education is a fundamental human right, yet millions of children around the world are not in school, or attend school but do not have the skills needed to get a job. This workshop will present an overview of the global education challenge, and will invite participants to critically reflect on their own experiences in education. The workshop will share strategies used by young people all over the world to be a force for change in education, and will brainstorm ways in which youths in Guyana can become more actively involved in promoting education, skills and learning for all.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL TEAM ACTIVITY EXERCISE

In this team building exercise, students will work together in teams to develop an innovative idea that would improve school life for the wider school community. The team will present a brief overview and plan, explaining the idea and why it will improve the school or life at the school. Your team idea can be varied and does not need to be of a specific type; it could be a suggested improvement to the school building or grounds, a new program or student club that benefits the well-being of students, or a new school learning program. We are looking for ideas that are creative, innovative and practical; an idea that with support can be introduced and implemented into your school.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

Through this exercise, you will learn how to set goals with a shared purpose, how to communicate and work together as a team and how to problem solve as you build positive team culture. You will have an opportunity to showcase your presentation skills and power of persuasion. But most of all, you will be coming up with an idea that is important, relevant to you, and can make a difference in your school!

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Put together your team and together sign up as a group listing the names of the members of your team. Teams should have ten (10) students.
- Team must have a name.
- Each member must belong to one and one group only.
- There will be a maximum of 6 teams from Queen’s College.
- For non-Queen’s College students please sign up with the other students who are selected to be a part of the conference. Since your team will be smaller than ten, you may consult and collaborate with your wider school community to come up with your idea.
- Once you’ve formed your team it is then time to develop your plan.
- On Friday, October 30th, you will be assigned a Queen’s College alum mentor who will work with you to further develop your idea and help you create a “pitch” for presentation.
- You will then have the opportunity to present to your peers, specially invited guests and other Queen’s College alumni.

HOW WILL YOUR IDEA BE EVALUATED AND RECOGNIZED?

Your peers, as well as a panel of judges, will review the idea presented by each team. Your idea will be evaluated based upon creativity, feasibility, impact, sustainability, teamwork and diversity of your team. The top three ideas will be rewarded. Good luck!
Kezia Campbell  
*Project Coordinator, The Benab Foundation Student, University of Guyana*

Ms. Campbell is a former Head Prefect and House Captain [Percival (“A”) House] who is in her final year of the Bachelor of Laws programme at the University of Guyana. She is pursuing a career in international law and development. Currently, she serves as the Project Coordinator of the Benab Foundation and works as a youth leader in her local church. Ms. Campbell is adventurous and has a knack for public speaking and working with young people. Something she considers more of a passion than a hobby is caring for those around her, especially the less fortunate. During her tenure at Queen’s College [2005-2012], she was involved in a myriad of extracurricular activities in and out of school. She has volunteered both locally and abroad and is always seeking to expand her experiences in volunteerism and youth development.

Ayodele Dalgety-Dean  
*Family Therapist, Founder and Managing Director, Blossom Incorporated*

Family Therapist, businesswoman and community volunteer, Ms. Ayodele Dalgety-Dean attended Queen’s College from 1986 to 1990 before leaving for the UK in 1990. There she was educated, completing post-graduate work in Systemic Practice with Children and Families. She worked as a Family Therapist before returning to Guyana in 2008. As a Family Therapist, Ms. Dalgety-Dean managed programs for families in the UK, recruiting, training and supervising staff and developing care plans, services and activities for service users (children and families) living under difficult circumstances. She also managed programs working with young people leaving state care to live independently, supporting them in becoming productive members of society. Ms. Dalgety-Dean has been an active volunteer in the UK and Guyana for many years. Today, she is a practicing Systemic Family Therapist, past Vice President and Treasurer of the Inner Wheel Club of Georgetown Central, Chair of the Visiting Committee for Children’s Homes, member of the Adoption Board and the Founder and Managing Director of Blossom Incorporated.
career in Nursing in 1984 at Interfaith Medical Center School of Nursing and New York City Technical College concurrently, where she earned an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences and graduated as a Registered Nurse. She has since pursued Higher Education at the University of Phoenix and has earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Nursing. In addition she holds a Master of Health Administration degree. She is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree.

Ms. Edmonds has held various positions in the industry ranging from Staff Nurse to Director of Nursing Services in Behavioral Health, but she is never far removed from being intimately involved with the populations she serves. From facilitating adult and childcare services for substance abusing families to ensuring safety in the care of the elderly, her love and compassion are clearly evident. She is currently employed as a Regional Manager with concentration in Elder Care, and is Director of Nursing Services at START Treatment and Recovery Centers, New York.

Michelle Mickle Foster, Ph.D.
CEO, Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA)
President & CEO Foster Solutions, LLC

Dr. Michelle Mickle Foster was born in New Amsterdam, Berbice and attended Queen’s College from 1977 to 1984 and was in D’Urban (“D”) House. She has had a distinguished career as the chief executive officer of the Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA) in West Virginia since 1998. In this capacity, she has developed, implemented and evaluated more than a dozen community economic development programs that strengthen thousands of marginalized citizens annually. Additionally, Dr. Foster launched Foster Solutions in 2010 to provide development, evaluation, research and leadership consulting services globally, building on the KISRA experience. Michelle has a doctorate in community economic development (CED) and two master’s degrees – one in CED and another in engineering management. She is also a certified economic development financial professional and a certified housing development financial professional. Prior to her CED career, Dr. Foster was a chemical engineer. Most recently, she has completed studies in impact investment, non-profit management and leadership at Oxford University, Said Business School and Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Foster is a member of the Queen’s College of Guyana Alumni Association (NY), Inc. Her notable projects have included a comprehensive needs assessment of Queen’s College and the facilitation of recruiting and scholarship awards for Queen’s College students by West Virginia State University. Dr. Foster was recognized by QCAANY at the 2015 Gala celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Co-Education.
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES continued...**

**Linden Headley**  
*Software Engineering Team Lead, Accenture*

Mr. Linden Headley was born in England and migrated to Guyana with his family as a young child. He attended Queen’s College between 1970 and 1978. After returning to England in the early 1980’s, he attended South Bank University in London where he graduated with a Bachelors of Engineering degree in Chemical Engineering. He subsequently attended Sheffield Hallam University and gained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Engineering Information Technology.

Mr. Headley now resides in the United States and works for a global consulting company as a software performance engineer.

**Safi Khan**  
*Self-Employed*

Born and raised in Guyana, Ms. Safi Khan’s professional and personal life experiences span the Broadcasting, Insurance, Airline, Education and Medical fields. Her childhood and early adulthood were spent in Guyana where she was exposed and involved in the broadcasting arena through her father, the late veteran broadcaster and alumnus, Mr. Ayube Hamid. In Guyana, she worked for GTM and then started her airline career at BWIA. After migrating to the U.S.A., she continued in this field for many years, owning and operating her own agency, and working for major international airline companies. Ms. Khan has also had experience and training in the Early Childhood Education and Medical fields. She is the mother of a teenage son.

**Paloma Mohamed, Ph.D.**  
*Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Guyana*

Dr. Paloma Mohamed is an alumna of Queen’s College and former Deputy Head Prefect. She is a behavioral scientist and award winning creative artist. Dr. Mohamed is the Executive Chair of the Theatre Guild of Guyana, CEO of InPEAC (Institute for Peace Actions) and founding Director of CineGuyana Inc. Through these institutions and her personal Healing Arts Foundation, Paloma consistently bridges the gap between the arts and sciences with specific focus on children and youth in service to humanity.

Dr. Mohamed was educated at the University of Guyana, Harvard University and the University of the West Indies where she was awarded a Ph.D. She returned to the University of Guyana in 2008 as Director of the Centre for Communications Studies and, in 2012, she was the first woman to be elected Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. In addition, she is an essayist and a prize winning playwright and director who has won the coveted Guyana Prize for Literature on two occasions.

**Saran Nurse, MBA**  
*Founder & CEO, Kiki’s Pet Spa & Boutique*

Ms. Saran Nurse is a Queen’s College alumna who migrated from Guyana to attend Florida International University in Miami, Florida. She graduated cum laude with a double major in Marketing and International Business and after a two year stint as an Associate Buyer at Federated Department Stores, returned to complete her graduate education in business. She graduated from Georgetown University with a Master of Business Administration. Upon graduation from business school, she was recruited by American Express where she worked in the Consumer Card marketing group and Small Business Services divisions. As with many people in corporate America, she grew restless and wanted more independence and control but most of all she yearned to do something she was more passionate about. Following this desire, she entered the entrepreneurial world, conceiving the idea of Kiki Pet Spa & Boutique where a pet owner can have all pet care needs fulfilled under one roof. Kiki’s Pet Spa & Boutique opened its first location in 2003 and now has three locations in Brooklyn, New York with a fourth slated to be opened the beginning of 2016.

**Amlata Persaud, MPhil**  
*Doctoral Fellow, Teacher’s College, Columbia University*

Ms. Amlata Persaud is a Doctoral Fellow at Teachers College, Columbia University, pursuing an Ed.D. degree in International Education Development. Ms. Persaud has worked at national and international levels in education. From 2009 to 2012, Ms. Persaud worked for the Government of Guyana, first as a consultant on the national Millennium Development Goals Progress Report, and later as the Head of the national program for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), with specific responsibility for piloting M&E development in the education and health sectors. From 2007 to 2009, Ms. Persaud served as an Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Fellow at the Ministry of Education in Malawi. During her time in Malawi, Ms. Persaud was responsible for the coordination of the national education budget process, and worked on the development of the national education strategic plan. She also conducted research in the areas of educational finance, policy and planning. Most recently, Ms. Persaud worked with UNESCO in Paris conducting research in international education. Ms. Persaud received a B.A. (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford, as well as her Master’s degree at Oxford where she graduated with an MPhil in Development Studies. Ms. Persaud received the Rhodes Scholarship in 2004, becoming the first female Guyanese to win this prestigious award.
Ms. Deoki Pestano was a student at Queen’s College (Guyana) from 1975 to 1982. After graduation from Queen’s College, she taught Spanish and History at Bygeval Secondary School on the East Coast Demerara. She has been living in New York for the past 29 years and has worked for financial companies such as JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs. Ms. Pestano is currently employed by a private equity firm in New York City. She graduated, magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from Queen’s College, City University of New York.

Mr. Oscar P. Walters, Jr., P.E. attended Queen’s College from 1970 to 1978. As a member and ultimately Head of Weston (“F”) House, Mr. Walters was an excellent athlete who represented his House and his school in sports and was awarded The 1977 Sportsman of The Year Award and School Colors for Football, Track and Field Athletics and Basketball (School Captain). He was Troop Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster of the 9th Georgetown, 27th Guyana Queen’s College Scout Troop, Sports Editor of the Lictor, School Prefect, and was a member of The Queen’s College Stage Society.

Mr. Walters began his career as a Structural Engineer with the Guyana National Engineering Corporation, where he worked until 1986 when he began lecturing in 1986 on a full time basis at the University of Guyana, Faculty of Technology in the areas of Soil Mechanics and Structural Design. He currently holds the position of Owner/Managing Principal for the engineering firm Demerara Engineering, PLLC, a practice that was organized in 1991 dedicated to the structural engineering design of buildings and other structures. Under Mr. Walters’ leadership, Demerara Engineering, PLLC produced an outstanding record of technical successes in the practice of structural engineering design in New York City, with a history of more than 20 years and $500M of successful completion of building and infrastructure projects. He has published and presented in professional journals and conferences.

Mr. Walters graduated with B.S. in Civil and Structural Engineering, Magna Cum Laude – Upper Second Class Honors from University College Cardiff, Cardiff UK and with a Master of Civil Engineering from Polytechnic University of New York, Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Ramsaroop worked as an educator for many years: full-time from 1987 to 1989; part-time from 1990 to 1993; and as a volunteer from 1998 to 2008. He specialized in chemistry and physics but also taught integrated science and mathematics. He was involved in training the debate teams. After Queen’s College, Mr. Ramsaroop worked at the University of Guyana and is now employed at Edward B. Beharry & Co. Ltd.

Dr. T. Ramon Stuart attended West Virginia University where he earned undergraduate and graduate engineering degrees before obtaining his doctorate in higher education administration at Ohio University. Dr. Stuart currently serves as the Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at West Virginia State University (WVSU). In this role, he has responsibility for several major administrative units while also playing an active part in the retention and success of WVSU students.

Mr. Walters began his career as a Structural Engineer with the Guyana National Engineering Corporation, where he worked until 1986 when he began lecturing in 1986 on a full time basis at the University of Guyana, Faculty of Technology in the areas of Soil Mechanics and Structural Design. He currently holds the position of Owner/Managing Principal for the engineering firm Demerara Engineering, PLLC, a practice that was organized in 1991 dedicated to the structural engineering design of buildings and other structures. Under Mr. Walters’ leadership, Demerara Engineering, PLLC produced an outstanding record of technical successes in the practice of structural engineering design in New York City, with a history of more than 20 years and $500M of successful completion of building and infrastructure projects. He has published and presented in professional journals and conferences.

Mr. Walters graduated with B.S. in Civil and Structural Engineering, Magna Cum Laude – Upper Second Class Honors from University College Cardiff, Cardiff UK and with a Master of Civil Engineering from Polytechnic University of New York, Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Karen Wharton attended Queen’s College from 1976 to 1981 and was in D’Urban (“D”) House. She is an active member of QCAANY and is currently its Vice President. Some of the QCAANY-related projects she has worked on include providing internet access to Queen’s College and its students in 2005; organizing the Conference for Queen’s College Students in Georgetown in October 2014; and leading the collaboration that delivered the This Is Ours visual literacy program to students at Queen’s College and Bina Hill Institute in North Rupununi in March 2015. (A book of the students’ work will be published and available for purchase in the fall of 2015.) In addition, she chairs the Grade and Class Representative Committee of the Parent Association Board of Packer Collegiate Institute, a K-12 independent school in Brooklyn where she coordinates school-wide communications to parents. Previously, Ms. Wharton chaired Brooklyn Child and Family Services, a non-profit organization that provided services to over 200 under-resourced families in Brooklyn, NY, where she resides.

Ms. Wharton graduated from Boston University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and from Pace University with a M.S. in Telecommunications.
Queen’s College Of Guyana Alumni Association (NY), Inc., Also Known As The New York Chapter, Is A Registered Non-Profit Corporation That Was Formed In 1991. We Hold Meetings On The Second Sunday Of Each Month, Mainly In Brooklyn. On Occasion Our Meetings Are Held In Queens, New York Or In New Jersey. All Alumni Are Welcome.

Throughout the years we have made significant financial contributions to the school. In the past decade, these contributions have exceeded US$100,000 and included supplies for the physics and biology labs, computer lab equipment, multimedia equipment, furniture, sports apparel and equipment, and trips for student events in Guyana, the Caribbean and the US. We generally sponsor special projects like the recent replacement of the phone system at Queen’s College; 2005 Flood Relief assistance to adversely affected faculty, staff and students; and installation of DSL service that enabled Queen’s College to be the first school in Guyana to provide Internet access to its students.

Our current annual contributions include:

- The Vernley Ward Bursary – provides the first two years of tuition for a top performing science student planning to enroll at University of Guyana. The Bursary is valued at up to US$2,000 per student and has been in existence since 2001.
- Annual assistance with payment of CXC and CAPE Examination fees to indigent students.
- Annual upkeep of the high speed Internet service at Queen’s College.
- Funding the salary of a Social Worker to provide services to students.

Over the past twelve months, we have had sustained engagements with Queen’s College and Guyana. We sponsored the 2014 conference that engaged over 200 students during the 170th school reunion. The overwhelmingly positive response from students, faculty and volunteers to the 2014 conference is the driving force behind our decision to return this October. Our February 2015 collaboration with West Virginia State University to recruit and to provide partial scholarships to students at Queen’s College and Guyana reached 90 students, one of whom is currently enrolled at the institution. Our partnership with e2education delivered the This Is Ours: Guyana visual literacy initiative in March 2015 at Queen’s College and at Bina Hill Institute in Annai, North Rupununi, the results of which will be published later this year. We also engaged in a comprehensive needs assessment of the school and are reviewing the social services needs of the Queen’s College students. Additionally, our community commitments included hosting the one-woman play “Demerara Gold” in February 2015 and a successful celebration of the 40th anniversary of co-education at Queen’s College, arguably the highlight of our year in April.

In order to finance activities that help us meet our mission, we hold two or three fundraisers each year in the New York City area to fund our giving. We also depend on the generosity of alumni, friends and corporate sponsors.

For more information, email us at nychapter@qcguyanaalumny.org. Visit our website at www.qcguyanaalumny.org and Facebook at www.facebook.com/qcguyanaalumny.
Thank you for attending the 2015 Queen’s College Student Conference.

Reginae Collegium
Ista Laus Ornato!

MEET THE CONFERENCE Planning Committee

John Campbell
President of QCAANY

Saran Nurse
Treasurer of QCAANY

Karen Wharton
Vice-President of QCAANY

Michelle Foster
Member of QCAANY

Nathilee Caldeira
Member of QCAANY

Onya Sam
Member of QCOSA

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Muline Mickle
Leslie Ramalho
Empowering and Inspiring Youth for the Future

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Thomas Lands, Georgetown | Guyana