



THE COLLEGE BELL

*The Official Newsletter of the Harrison College/
Queen's College Alumni Associations Network*

November 2024

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Blast from the Past!



Follow us on:



HCQCAA USA

GET MOVING!

VIRTUAL WALK/RUN/BIKE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024 -
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024**

DONATE \$25 TO PARTICIPATE!

Sign up here:



<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/NewYork/HCQCAAUSAVirtualFundraiser>

Calling all HC & QC Alumni in the USA!

The roads far and wide will converge — once again — between November 3 and November 9 as alumni and friends participate in the highly competitive and exciting HCQCAA USA virtual fundraising walk. This is the third annual walk, and we expect participation from around the globe. Barbadians and alumni are everywhere!

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of the
**Harrison College
& Queen's College
Alumni Associations**



EDITOR IN CHIEF: CHERYL PHILLIPS

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

KATHRYN SERIEUX

JO ANN WARREN

YVONNE KOVES

KATHIE DANIEL

DESIGNER: KATHIE DANIEL,
SOUTHPAW GRAFIX INC.

CONTRIBUTORS:

MARY SYMONDS

MELISSA GODDARD

TISHA PETERS



Get Moving! Virtual Walk/Run/Bike

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Join us in this exciting, healthy, and competitive event between Sunday, November 3, 2023; and Saturday, November 9, 2024. Choose one of the seven days to ramp up your fitness routine, and track your progress using your Fitbit, phone, or other device.

Then, either:

Send a photo of your recorded results directly to the Run sign-up website; or

Email your results to your team captain at hcqcalums@gmail.com.

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT!

Post videos and/or photos of your activities on your social media sites. Share your activities in the HCQCAA, USA WhatsApp group or send them to: hcqcalums@gmail.com.

SIGN UP here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/NewYork/HCQCAAUSAVirtualFundraiser>

Proceeds from this virtual walk/run/bike event will go towards our US\$20,000 goal, to cover:

- Annual Scholarships for students entering Harrison College and Queen's College (Barbados) and HCQC alumni entering college/university in the Caribbean/USA (80%); and
- Enhanced science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics infrastructure at HC & QC (20%).

Contact us at hcqcalums@gmail.com for information on how you can sponsor a participant. Join our fundraising event, and GET MOVING TODAY!



We want to hear from YOU!

Send your articles, photos, memories, comments to
communications.hcqc@gmail.com



News from the QCPTA

On September 3rd, we were excited to welcome a new group of students and families as we kicked off the academic year 2024–2025. This day marked an important milestone for both the school and the new students who were joining us. It is always heartening to see the enthusiasm radiating from the new parents as they embark on this educational journey alongside their children. Their eagerness reflects a shared hope for a bright and successful year ahead.

Moving forward to September 28th, we held our first Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Social for the 2024–2025 academic year. This event served as an excellent opportunity for parents to connect and become more familiar with the school community. During the gathering, we organized our traditional school tour, allowing parents to explore the facilities and learn more about the various programs available. The tour was followed by a meet-and-greet session featuring Madame



Principal and the Head of the Physical Education Department. They shared important insights and essential information about the school's vision, goals, and physical education curriculum, ensuring that parents felt informed and involved in their children's educational experiences. Overall, this event fostered a sense of community and collaboration, setting a positive tone for the year ahead.



On October 25, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) will honour Teachers' Professional Day. This day is dedicated to recognizing the hard work and dedication that teachers put into their jobs every day. To celebrate this special occasion, the PTA has decided to give each teacher a small gift as a token of appreciation. This gesture is meant to show gratitude for the time, effort, and passion that teachers invest in their students' education.

When Cats Run the Matters of Kings



Governments must fully understand emerging technologies to act in their People's best interests and protect rights, safety, privacy and well-being. This makes subject-matter expertise a requirement of good governance. So while there is no legal obligation, Barbados' leadership does have a governmental responsibility not to rule from an undereducated consensus. One that surface-level instruction by short course or workshop, and buzzy regurgitation and bold declarations cannot fulfil.

Yet Bajan expertise is rarely on display in governance, and official faces are overwhelmingly political. Indeed, STEM professionals are often forced to highlight gaffe after avoidable gaffe, from the periphery, to no avail:

Ministers with financial backgrounds fronted a subpar public response to the breach of the Barbados Revenue Authority, without a credentialed Data Protection Officer in sight. Government promotes digitisation but, absent visible expertise, struggles to follow privacy standards, eg the crippling QEH cyberattack and pdf release of the Electoral list. A Joint Select Committee re-examined the Cybersecurity Bill; not one Member was trained in cybersecurity. Nearly \$1 billion for Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals is slated for the Prime Minister's Office, continuing the trend of STEM innovation led by those without STEM education. Something which may have contributed to Barbados' precipitous 40-spot tumble down the Global Innovation Index. The nation's top voice on climate change is a lawyer without a related tertiary degree, internationally campaigning while local public health, ministerial habits and urban planning ignore best practices. And the list goes on.

Most high-ranking selectees hold no advanced science qualifications. The remainder were largely trained in the last century or tangential specialities. So politicians stretch beyond their academic reach every time they speak on STEM with authority, whether identifying concerns, understanding convention,

or addressing misuse. The uncomfortable truth is that they're unqualified.

Barbados has already spent millions of dollars educating two generations of experts to bridge this knowledge gap. In ways that are robust and shielded from the vagaries of tribal politics and cronyism. STEM institutes, organisations and working groups should be actively in the policy ecosystem, with proper channels and platforms for apolitical scholarly exchange. Experts should have the space to provide information and context, support implementation, and advocate without worrying about political pandering. This would allow decision-makers access to reliable local sources in ways appropriate to their skillset, so they spearhead informed, culturally relevant, beneficent policies. Plus the public could see the science that affects them.

STEM expertise is essential to development and must be integrated into progressive governance. Not dismissed, denigrated, or demonised by combative political traditions that prioritise party loyalty, ego and reputation. If professional critiques are clucked at as too negative, or begging for position or audience, we risk fostering an arrogant hostility to truth, accountability and equitable advancement, even as partisan ranks solidify.

Denouncing intellectuals to reinforce political infallibility is a hallmark of authoritarianism. Democracy makes room for expertise, especially when it advises caution. It rejects the suggestion that credentialed voices should only be heard endorsing State action. That to dissent professionally is to challenge politically or dislike personally. Progressive democracy does not set proven expertise alongside empty political rhetoric, social-media conspiracists and rank imagination, as if the fanatical, farcical and fantastical are equal to fact.

A cat can look at the king; everyone enjoys equal freedoms in a fair society. But no one would suggest that those cute creatures of mischief and stubborn mayhem should handle the very human complexities of running a country.

But in deferring to the uninformed input and ambition of career politicians, that is precisely what we do:

We set the matters of kings before cats and expect them to rule wisely.

Melissa Goddard, PhD
Harrison College, Class of 1991



This Year's HCQCAA Toronto Scholarships Awardees

The Scholarship Committee of the Harrison College Queen's College Alumni Association, Toronto, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 scholarships, the Diana Massiah Memorial for a student attending Queen's College and the Harold Brathwaite Memorial Scholarship awarded to a Harrisonian.



Introducing **Shannon Vaughan** as the recipient of the **Diana Massiah Memorial Scholarship**.

Shannon is currently enrolled in the Global Business and Digital Arts program at the University of Waterloo in Canada, where she demonstrates a strong aptitude for integrating technological innovation with business strategy.

Shannon's diverse interests include sports, math, reading, and video games, but her true passion lies in utilizing her technical and business skills to create and market projects that captivate her. Looking ahead, she is eager to use the knowledge and experience she gains during her studies to give back to her alma mater, Queen's College, the HCQCAA Toronto, and her home country, Barbados.

With the support of the Diana Massiah Memorial Scholarship, Shannon is well on her way to achieving her goals and making a lasting impact both locally and internationally.



Introducing **Najja Lowe: Harold Brathwaite Memorial Scholarship Recipient**

We are proud to introduce Najja Lowe as the recipient of the Harold Brathwaite Memorial Scholarship. Najja is an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science. Her passion for programming began during her school years, and she has since been captivated by the potential of different coding languages to create innovative solutions.

Najja's ambition is to broaden her expertise in various programming languages, with the goal of using her skills to contribute to the technological advancement of the Caribbean. She hopes to decrease the region's vulnerability to external challenges by fostering local innovation. Additionally, Najja is passionate about inspiring other young Black girls to pursue careers in technology and engineering, fields where their representation remains limited.

The Harold Brathwaite Memorial Scholarship will support Najja as she continues her studies and works toward making a significant impact in her community and beyond.

PASSAGES

Celebrating the social, professional or personal milestones of our alumni. If you have announcements that you'd like us to feature, please reach out to us at communications.hcqc@gmail.com

Queen's College has yet again had excellent results in the annual island and exhibition scholarships. Congratulations to our outstanding students who brought home nine scholarships.



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PASSAGES

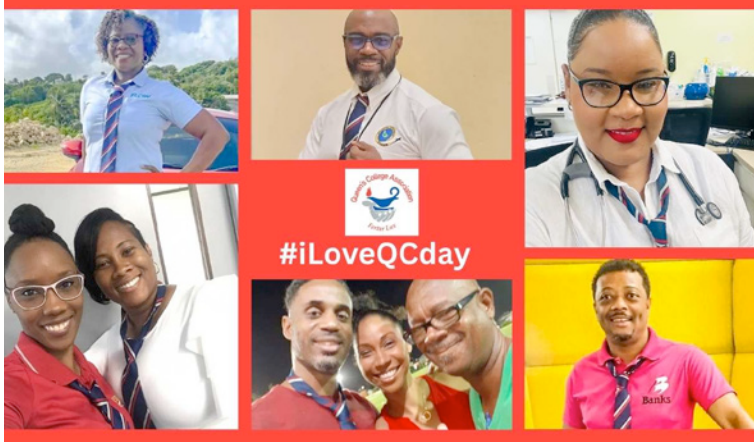
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QCA Week 2024 was celebrated this year from September 29th – October 5th. The week was jam-packed with events, gatherings and the ever-popular “I Love QC Day” which is now an international social media event.



PASSAGES

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PASSAGES



Ewan Atkinson, alumnus of Queen's College, has been selected to exhibit in the Prospect 6 Triennial in New Orleans this November. This is a city-wide exhibition featuring 49 respected artists from around the globe including Ada M. Patterson a Barbadian resident in Amsterdam.

Ewan describes his installation as "rather ambitious" and has been having a hard time raising the funds necessary to get him and his art there. He would be most grateful if you would go to <https://gofund.me/abba2e3d> to donate, no matter how small.

The installation consists of over 25 works - drawings, prints and objects. It is called Stories from the Neighbourhood: The Great Exposition. When the work comes home after Prospect 6 closes in February, Ewan plans to exhibit again in Barbados.



Niel Harper, alumnus of Queen's College and cybersecurity expert, has been awarded the ISC2 Global Achievement Senior Professional Award – EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) Region.

This award is given to an individual who has significantly contributed to the enhancement of the cybersecurity workforce in their region by demonstrating a leadership role in their profession.

For 20 years Niel has been a senior leader and advisor in the cybersecurity field to global organizations such as AT&T, CIBC Caribbean, Deloitte Consulting, the European Commission and the United Nations.

He currently serves as an advisor to the Professional Standards Working Group of the UK Cybersecurity Council. He was recently identified by the New York Times as one of the most board-ready cybersecurity leaders in the world.



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PASSAGES



When Kolij Men gather in London, England in Summer Wally Allen and friends...



HCQCAN Fund-Raising Drives

by Mary Symmonds, President of HCQCAA, USA and Chair of the HCQCAN Steering Committee



HCQCAN
4th Annual
Virtual Uplifting
Year-End
CONCERT
Thursday
19 December



Save the Date

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

HCQCAN continues with its fundraising efforts for 2024 and we hope you can help us bring our efforts to a crescendo by participating in our upcoming fourth annual virtual uplifting year-end concert. So please save the date and join us on **Thursday, 19 December 2024**.

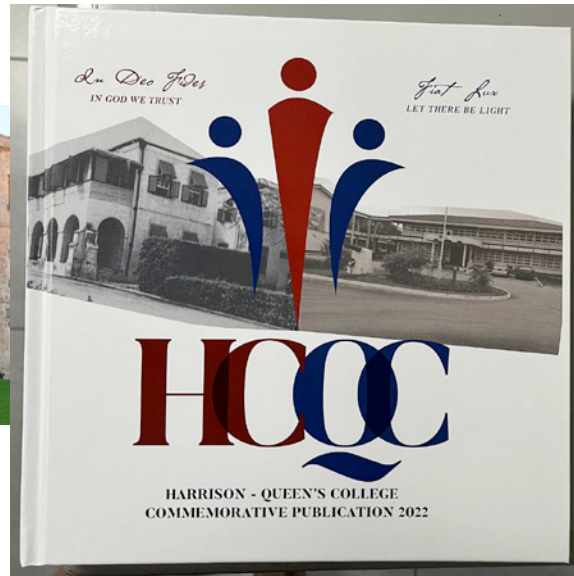
Why do this?

Among the findings of extensive research undertaken by Harvard and Yale Professor Emeritus, African-American, 103-year-old Dr. Edmond Gordon, whose career was grounded in Education psychology, is the important role that people who have faith in the performance of students play.

The student's individual effort is indispensable, and we continue to see this and applaud the outstanding performance of the outgoing class of 2023/4 school year at both HC and QC. The complementarity of efforts like ours is, however, vital.

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HCQCAN Fund-Raising Drives *Continued from Page 11*



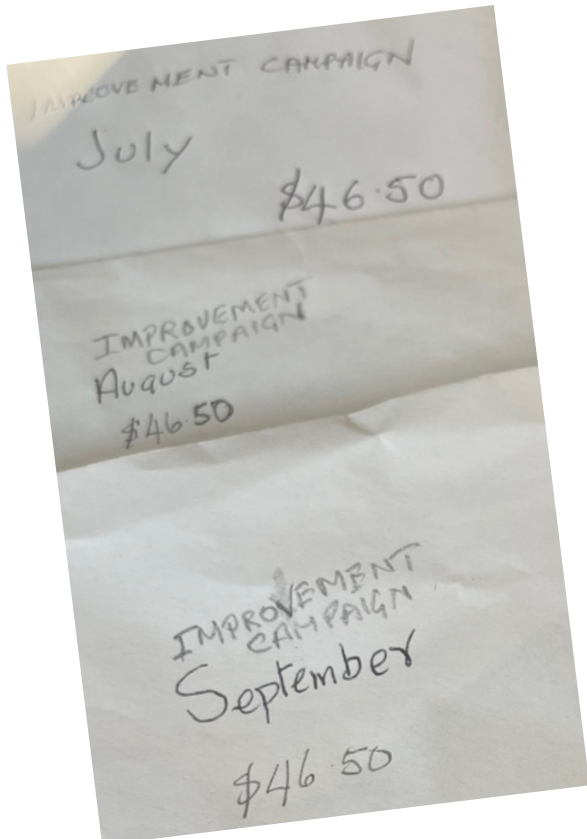
How we continue to play our role and how can you?

1. Purchase a copy of our Commemorative Publication

Another factor that Professor Gordon's research identified is the influence of role models.

The **HCQCAN Commemorative Publication** produced by HC alumnus, Grant Morris, is replete with biographical stories of alumni who triumphed over significant odds and became high achievers. It is an important contribution for motivating our youth. You will never know how your copy of this collector's item will influence young students who visit your home or office. You can do your part by purchasing your copy. We have 40 copies available, so place your order today:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqy0Ry32ltdf6_7W8blre4fBW5mtYgIC5pVf29JqMftoWzWw/viewform



2. Participate in our Challenge

We are also reminding you of our challenge. Remember those holiday savings plans of yesteryear? You or your parents or grand parents will.

In July, we encouraged you to take a leaf from this concept and empty your pockets daily of those jingling coins. Put aside U.S. 70 cents a day for the next year, or U.S. \$1.50 a day for the next six months. If only 30 year groups from each school did that, we could reach our fundraising goal. We look forward to hearing from you at the end of this year whether you and your peers joined me in doing so and are ready to donate.

HCQCAN is a registered charity in Barbados and donations are tax deductible.



Blast from the Past!



Can you indentify these Queen's College teachers, dressed as students, in this Blast from the Past photograph?

How to Join the Associations

HCQC AA (USA)
Mary Symmonds
Email: hcqcalums@gmail.com

HCQC AA (Toronto)
Cheryl Phillips
Email: hcqcaatoronto@gmail.com

QCA (Barbados)
Nicole Clarke
Email: qcapresidentbarbados@gmail.com

OHS (Barbados)
Rudo Catlin
Email: kolijpresident@gmail.com



Your Alumni Associations look forward to welcoming new members, and to your participation in upcoming reunion events both online and in person!