

THE SWAN CONNEXION

ST HUGH'S HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION CANADIAN CHAPTER



Alumnae Mission Statement

To promote the welfare and advancement of the students of St. Hugh's High School so that each student may successfully complete their education and take their rightful place in society.

To promote close association and foster goodwill among students of St. Hugh's High School.

CANADIAN CHAPTER

Proud Member of The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Association (Canada)

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MESSAGE



On behalf of the Executive Committee and general membership of our association, I'd like to give thanks for the many blessings we received in 2023. Thank you to our supporters and the community at large for continuing to indulge our various fundraising initiatives. We are acutely aware that there's an abundance of other areas to support, so we are very appreciative of you continuing to stand behind us.

We launched our first annual Spring Brunch with a bang! We had an amazing team that worked very well together to launch this inaugural event. Our supporters turned out en masse, so much so that we discovered that the hall was not as big as we thought, BUT it's a good problem to have and one we're happy to fix in 2024. It was a wonderful event with lots of good food, entertainment and constructive feedback from our guests.

Although on a smaller scale than 2022, we had yet another successful Walkathon, with nine (9) Swans doing a 5K walk at Saigon Park in Mississauga whilst laughing, having fun and learning more about each other.

As with 2022, we exceeded our goal for the Daphne Morrison Scholarship. It was with immense pride that I listened to some of the awardees speak at our Annual General Meeting in November. They presented themselves with eloquence and confidence, and demonstrated a clear drive to succeed in their chosen field of study – before us stood the Orthodontist, Engineer, Travelling Doctor, Physiotherapist

and Research Scientist of the future; as well as a Geologist who wants to unlock the potential of Jamaica's natural resources. I am very proud that an association as young as ours has made a meaningful contribution to the furtherance of their goals. Looking at the faces of our members over Zoom, it was clear that we all felt that Swan pride as we were all grinning from ear to ear, or even shed a tear. In addition, for the first time this year, we were able to fund a full scholarship under the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations Graduates Program.

Thank you to our amazing team for stepping up and embracing our vision and goals, and carrying us through yet another successful year!

Our chapter has continued to grow and the Executive and I are grateful for the support of our 30 members (versus 26 in 2022), many of whom have stepped up to volunteer on our various committees such as Spring Brunch and Fall Dance planning committees, Scholarship Selection Committee, Newsletter Committee and Election Committee; as well as representation on the 125th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee and on the St. Hugh's Foundation.

In the same way that we work hard, we like to play hard, and we ended the year in a fun way with our Christmas Mingle. It was an absolute pleasure to have 3 of our Swans from the previous Canadian Chapter of the alumnae association join us for the evening – one from the Class of '58 and one from the Class of '64. The event also gave us an opportunity to record our video for the St. Hugh's 125th Anniversary Celebration.

As we move to 2024, we continue to hold our gaze steadfast on the ambitious goal we've adopted to support St. Hugh's in its quest to renovate the Playfield, inclusive of Courts and Track. I have no doubt that we have a strong team that will rise to the challenges which may come our way.

Stay well!

Fidelitas!

Parbette Tenn



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Management, members of faculty and staff, students and their parents/guardians of the St. Hugh's High School, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate, the St Hugh's High School Alumnae Association Canadian Chapter. Like the swan who remained faithful to our patron saint, St. Hugh of Lincoln, the Canadian Swan Sisters continue to be loyal to their alma mater. They have enriched the lives of their little sisters through programs and initiatives that have engendered their holistic development and reinforced the school's core values.

Being active education stakeholders have yielded positive results, as students across all year groups have attested to the myriad of ways in which these forms of support have improved their life chances.

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic raged, the Canadian Chapter deemed it necessary to outfit our campus with several handwash stations and automatic sanitizing dispensers so that students' hygiene needs were always met. Similarly, they thought it prudent to gift our girls with technological devices. This ensured that they remained attuned to, and engaged in the new paradigm of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) thereby keeping them on the path of success.

Returning to the physical classroom and regular activities was well-anticipated by all. The sporting arena allows the members of the St. Hugh's High School Alumnae Association to maintain a strong presence from a distance. For this reason, they continually donate to this cause.

Research has shown that students learn better when they are well nourished, and eating healthy meals has been linked to higher grades, better memory, alertness and faster information processing. Our Canadian Swan Sisters are quite cognizant of this and threw their support behind the school's initiative to manage its canteen operations. In so doing, they were not hesitant to donate to the purchasing of canteen equipment to feed the

school family.

The mission of St. Hugh's High School is "To educate the whole child so that each finds identity, meaning and purpose in life through active citizenship and an ethos of achievement," and the Canadian Chapter of the St. Hugh's High School Alumnae Association has been instrumental in achieving this goal. They evidently have a vested interest in the continued prosperity of their alma mater, and we are immensely appreciative of their ongoing altruistic efforts. Indeed, they are "Swans time shall ne'er forget."

Fidelitas!

Andrea Bryan Hughes (Mrs.)





Message from The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (AJAA)

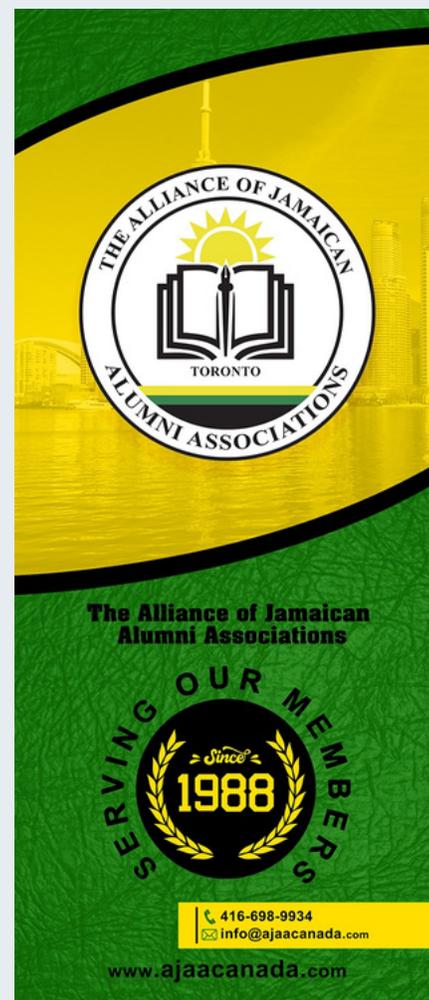
Christmas greetings to you and the ones you spend it with! May this time of year shine light on your blessings and bring new ones in the year to come.

I give you Christmas cheers and goodwill from the Board of The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations. Let me take this opportunity to say I hope, Swan Sisters, that you had a wonderful year of fundraising and are preparing for a follow-up year that will be equally fulfilling. I am sure you will be going into the new year with strength, to build on your accomplishments and to consolidate your position.

Christmas is a time to believe in something greater than ourselves –even for just one night. In a way we do that daily as we fulfill our various missions to assist those in need.

Yes, it's been said, many times, many ways, but we still mean it just as much!
MERRI KRISMUSS!!

The Board of The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations



Meet The Team

Executive Committee



Paulette Tenn
President
Class of '80



Maraye Bonner
Vice President
Class of '80



Yvonne Massey
Secretary
Class of '76



Wendy Smith-Dewdney
Asst. Secretary
Class of '90



Aulene Gooden
Treasurer
Class of '81



Althea Robinson
Asst. Treasurer
Class of '79



Tamieka Bailey
Public Relations Officer
Class of '95

Meet The Team

Our Core Group



Maxine Brown
Class of '76



Zara Brown
Class of '97



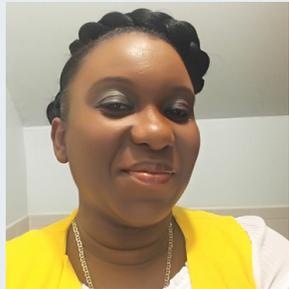
Denese Brown-Bell
Class of '91



Charlene Dennis-Huie
Class of '95



Dr. Paulette Dunn-Pierre
Class of '72



Monique Facey
Class of '94



Rochelle Findley-Wynter
Class of '05



Debbie Gillespie-Mckenzie
Class of '90



Maxine Gordon Palomino
Class of '81



Fern Heckburn
Class of '79



Racquel Muir
Class of '08



Asha Persad
Class of '98



Elsa Robinson
Class of '74



Carol Tai Pow
Class of '82



Amanda Thomas



Nzinga Walker
Class of '82



Tashika Wilson-Barnaby
Class of '96



Sonia Wong-Chin
Class of '62

-  Sandra-Ann Holmes - Class of '77
-  Vivienne Howell-Williams - Class of '91
-  Norma Manning - Class of '76
-  Ebonie Reid - Class of '96



- Marlene Spencer 
- Marcia Wilson - Class of '84 
- Jada-Lee Whytehorn - Class of '96 

LOOKING BACK AT 2023

Inaugural Spring Brunch



June 18th marked the launch of what is to become our Annual Spring Brunch. Lots of tasty food, entertainment that had patrons on their feet dancing, fashion shows that saw our ladies become models, a variety of marketplace vendors and prizes galore.

LOOKING BACK AT 2023 AJAA WALKATHON



“Dis long time gal mi neva see yu, Come mek wi walk and talk”. And that we did on August 12th. Nine of our swans turned out to enjoy the early morning walk to raise funds for our scholarship program. Our 5K walk was done around the scenic Saigon Park in Mississauga. Great fun, lots of sharing and nuff girl talk. It started out with light showers of blessing with raincoats, ponchos and designer garbage bags for covering, and ended with glorious sunshine. And of course our dance session to wind up the morning.

LOOKING BACK

AT 2023

FALL DANCE PARTY



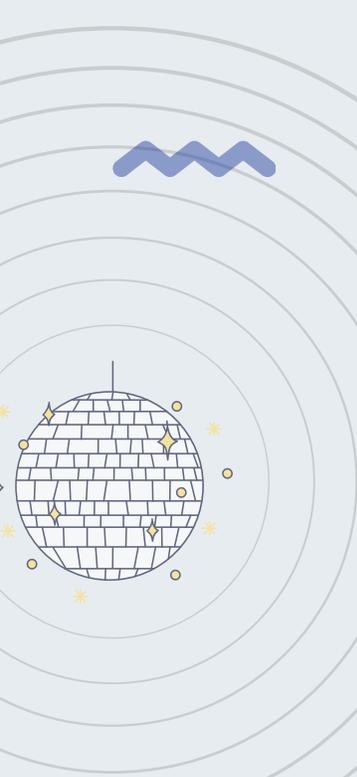
ST. HUGH'S HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

FALL
DANCE
party
with

DJ Marcus Ouja

SATURDAY OCT. 14 9:00PM
1158 AEROWOOD DR, MISSISSAUGA, ON, L4W 1Y5

COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENT	TICKETS \$40	CASH BAR	SOUP ON SALE
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The Fall Dance Party in October was our third fundraising event of the year. This was like a fete back in the day, fun, fellowship, dancing and food. We learned a lot of lessons along the way, hope to throw a better vibe for our next party!

Movers & Shakers

Dr Paulette Dunn-Pierre



Dr. Paulette Dunn-Pierre epitomises the words of St. Hugh's High school song, leading with zealous care and bringing to task or game the best that she can do. She openly attributes to St. Hugh's her transformation from the "shy girl from the country" to the person she is today: Founding Partner, Executive Director/Senior Consultant of Dunn, Pierre, Barnett & Company Ltd. – a human resource development, labour market assessment and training firm established in 2010 with offices in Jamaica and Canada – and with over 30 years' international experience in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Born in St. Ann, Paulette attended St. Hugh's from 1967 to 1974, boarding at the hostel for the last three years of its existence. She credits headmistress Inez Carnegie with making her realize that good leadership is critical to the success of any business, any system and any enterprise.

Some of the initiatives that Mrs. Carnegie introduced that impacted Paulette were the Reading Lab, Career Guidance Counsellor, and a nutritionist as a member of the canteen staff. At school, Paulette had the opportunity to hone her leadership skills as form captain, Girl Guide Leader, House Captain (Hardie House), and Deputy Head Girl.

Movers & Shakers

Dr Paulette Dunn-Pierre

Teachers who had a lasting impact on Paulette were history teacher, Mrs. Pansy Robinson, with whom she later co-authored a social studies textbook; Miss Daphne Morrison, who deepened her interest in English Language and Literature; and Geography teacher, Mrs. Rita Symes, who opened up the world for Paulette and led her to go on to study Geography at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels at university.

Paulette earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Sheffield, a Master of Arts degree (Geography, Sociology, and Statistical Research Methods) from Ohio University, a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree (Economics and Geography) and a Diploma in Education from The University of the West Indies. She holds a Certificate in Public Administration from the Royal Institute of Public Administration (U.K.), a Certificate in Examinations Administration from the University of Cambridge, Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), and a Certificate in the Development of National Qualifications Framework from the ILO/CINTERFOR.

As a workforce development expert, Paulette has worked extensively across the Caribbean region with international development agencies, ministries of education, and national training agencies. She was instrumental in developing the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications and has provided technical assistance to the Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA), the umbrella organisation for training authorities and TVET councils in the Caribbean.

As a member of the St. Hugh's Past Student's Association, she has given back to her alma mater through participation in the mentoring programme and financial contributions, including a substantial sum towards the construction of the monument at the entrance of the school in commemoration of its 120th anniversary. This landmark has become a favourite site for photo opportunities. She is a member of the St. Hugh's Alumnae Association – Canada Chapter and serves on the Scholarship Committee.

For her outstanding achievements and contribution to Education and Workforce Development, the St. Hugh's Past Student's Association local chapter, conferred the award of *Distinguished Past Student for 2023* on Dr. Paulette Dunn-Pierre.



**LOOKING
BACK AT
2023**

DAPHNE MORRISON Scholarship

Third time's a charm. In our first year we offered one scholarship, the second year we budgeted for five but awarded seven, and in the third year we increased the value of the scholarship awarded to grades 12 and 13 students.

I think Miss Daphne Morrison, the visionary and past Vice Principal in whose honour this scholarship is awarded annually, would have been proud of us as she always acknowledged excellence and encouraged girls to push themselves beyond their limits. And this is the reason why we continue to do this.

Identified by the school's Guidance Counselor, this year we were pleased to offer scholarships to seven students who displayed exemplary brilliance within their academics as well as student body. Three ladies within grades twelve and thirteen received \$700.00 CAD each and four from grades nine through to eleven received \$500.00 CAD each.

It is without a shadow of a doubt that the fundraising efforts of the Alumnae have facilitated our scholarship program, with this year being the most successful since its inception. This speaks to the tenacity of our CORE members and all who have supported our Alumnae throughout the past year.

The seven young ladies are indicative of the wealth of talent and excellence that St Hugh's has and the reason we as an Alumnae do what we do best, love on our younger swan sisters. For me, this scholarship is personal in that Miss Morrison encouraged me on one of my down days at school. "You are extra bright, extra pretty and extra kind", a conversation she was recounting that she had with another student prior to meeting me. Most if not all of the Core membership, were taught by or had contact with Miss Morrison and as a result have a special love and respect for her. It is the reason that The Daphne Morrison Scholarship is very special to us as we seek to increase the impact of scholarships awarded in the coming years.

Well done to all those who were awarded. As an Alumnae we wish nothing but the best for you.

Contributed by Asha Persad



Scholarship Committee:

Maraye Bonner

Zara Brown

Dr. Paulette Dunn-Pierre

Fern Heckburn

Vivienne Howell Williams

Yvonne Massey

Racquel Muir

LOOKING BACK AT 2023

DAPHNE MORRISON SCHOLARSHIP *Congratulations*



Dr. Paulette Dunn-Pierre, member of the scholarship committee, was on hand to present the awards to the lucky recipients.

L-R: Kayla-Ashley Allen; Pris-Ann Barrett; Rhianna Miller; Leah Chambers; Dr. Paulette Dunn-Pierre, Hanifah Facey; Aneshka Paharshing; Omaria McFarlane



Awardees and Dr. Dunn-Pierre with principal Mrs. Andrea Bryan Hughes

Treasurer Auleen Gooden represented the Canadian chapter at the *Meet the Scholars* announcement ceremony on October 2023



**LOOKING
BACK AT
2023**

DAPHNE MORRISON SCHOLARSHIP

2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY

As part of the scholarship application process, students are asked to write an essay highlighting the reason they are deserving of a scholarship award.

Here is one of the best essays that was received.

Why I deserve this scholarship

By: Omaria McFarlene

Malcolm X once wisely proclaimed, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it now." In the face of life's numerous challenges, I have always held onto these words as a guiding principle. As Vladimir Lenin aptly stated, "Learning is never done without errors and defeat," underscoring the importance of perseverance in our educational journey. My name is Omaria McFarlane, and I proudly graduated from St. Hugh's High School in 2022, a place that enriched my life for six remarkable years. This esteemed institution not only provided me with an exceptional education but also fostered enduring friendships. Today, I am excited to share my story and apply for the Daphne Morrison scholarship, believing that my dedication, resilience, and ambition make me a deserving candidate.

My journey at SHHS began with excitement but took a tragic turn when my beloved grandfather, my sole father figure, fell victim to a brutal ambush during a community dispute. Tragically, he succumbed to his injuries due to financial constraints that prevented him from receiving proper medical care. His sudden death left my mother without her main support system and me without the only father figure I had ever known. The incident was deemed an act of self-defence in the Jamaican judicial system, leaving us devastated and without closure. This profound loss deepened my resolve to pursue a career in Criminal Law, fueled by the belief that justice must prevail for innocent Jamaican citizens, particularly in the Caribbean.

This heartbreaking experience has molded my path, inspiring me to work relentlessly to rectify such injustices in the future.

My journey at St. Hugh's was marked by academic excellence. I received my first Gold Standard award in the eighth grade, and my accomplishments only grew more impressive with time. In the ninth grade, I achieved a perfect GPA of 4.0 and was recognized as the top achiever in subjects like chemistry, geography, and social studies, among others. However, the arrival of Covid-19 posed a significant challenge. I found myself without a laptop and internet access due to my mother's job loss, which added financial pressure to our lives.



Cont'd

**LOOKING
BACK AT
2023**

DAPHNE MORRISON SCHOLARSHIP

2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY . . . CONT'D

Nevertheless, I persevered and graduated with a 4.0 GPA, an 86.5% average, and Gold Honours, proudly standing among my fellow graduates. Additionally, I successfully completed three CXC exams in the 10th grade, earning scores of ones and twos. Alongside my academic achievements, I also served as the Student Council Representative for two years and held the position of Junior President of the Wellness Club, actively participating in various clubs and societies. These experiences honed my leadership and teamwork skills, enabling me to contribute positively to the overall experience at St. Hugh's High School.

I must be candid; I genuinely need this scholarship. At the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica, the annual tuition for law school is a staggering 1.4 million JMD. My mother, a hardworking single parent employed as a bartender, faces continuous financial difficulties. She dedicated her life to raising me and never had the opportunity to attend college. Pursuing higher education not only allows me to address systemic issues within Jamaica's legal system but also serves as a tribute to her unwavering support.

This scholarship would help towards covering my first year of university tuition, offering much needed relief to my resolute mother. Throughout the years, I have faced significant financial strain, including the daily commute from St. Thomas, which incurs substantial expenses.

Despite these challenges, I remained resolute, emerging as the top achiever in last year's class, 12W. In conclusion, I am confident that I am deserving of this scholarship because of my unwavering drive to achieve my goals, regardless of the obstacles in my path. If selected, I pledge to uphold the same high academic and personal standards that have guided me thus far in my educational journey.





Do you know the song by the Four Seasons –
Oh, what a night!
Late December back in sixty three
What a very special time for me
As I remember, what a night

Well our version of the song is
Oh, what a day!
Early September back in seventy five
What a very special time for me
As I remember, what a day



That day changed our lives.

We started school as Maraye Kitson in Grade 7³ and Paulette Plummer in Grade 7⁴. We had classes together and were acquaintances.

Fast forward to Grade 12. St. Hugh's first fund raising barbecue at Ranny Williams Entertainment Center was coming up and we decided to dance . . . Who told us we were dancers? Who knew if we would be able to perform in front of such a large audience?

The first of many problems came when we could not settle on what song to dance to. *'It's a Girl's Affair'* by Change was the winning song and rehearsals started in earnest. Many days of practice at school, at Paulette's house and at Maraye's house. Imagine, five perfectionists working together. Then nervously, we went to auditions.





We made it through auditions, but with that came a new problem. What would our costumes be since we had no money? Since new clothes were not an option we dug into our closets, borrowed from friends and came up with satin pants and matching tube tops. Have you ever danced in tube tops... putting your hands in the air several times?

The night came, and surprisingly we were all calm, although we all had butterflies in our stomachs. You could not tell us that we were not the hottest item on the program. Our performance went off without a flaw. Tube tops sliding, but no wardrobe malfunctions, thank God! And even better, everyone seemed to have loved it!

So of course, the next year we decided to subject the masses to another presentation. We were really suckers for punishment! This time, dressed in high fashion - blue knickers with suspenders (sewn by Maraye), white shirts, white socks and Mary Janes - we danced to the tune Burn Rubber On Me (Why You Wanna Hurt Me) by the Gap Band. Well, that was two under our belts. We were not bad at all or were we too stupid to realize that we were not as great as we thought we were.

University came and went and we did not see much of each other after. Then many years later we met again at a birthday party of a mutual friend in Canada.

In the fall of 2019, we both attended a meeting hosted by a fellow Swan Sister who was trying to revive the Toronto chapter of the St. Hugh's Alumnae Association. We both joined the newly created Board and since then we have discovered that we both a great desire to help St, Hugh's, both have a passion for baking Christmas cake AND we still love to dance (Surprise, Surprise !!)

Contributed by Maraye Bonner



LOOKING BACK AT 2023

AJAA GRADUATES PROGRAM

In 1993 The Alliance of Jamaican Alumnae Association (AJAA) launched the Graduates Program to recognize the achievements of high school graduates of Jamaican descent. The AJAA Graduates Awards reception is hosted annually in July, where the achievers are awarded with a bursary to assist in their post secondary education. This year the St Hugh's Alumnae Association – Canada Chapter gave their first full bursary and this was awarded to Kezia Harley.



Kezia Harley is a recent graduate of the Pine Ridge Secondary School in Pickering, Ontario. She is committed to academic success and strives for excellence at every opportunity. Her strong work ethic and thirst for learning are assets that inform all aspects of her life. She is passionate about the arts, particularly fashion. Her dream is to have her own clothing line and to design clothes that are inclusive of persons of all body types, especially those who are plus-sized. She is pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Fashion Arts program at Seneca College.



PR Chairman Tameika Bailey presenting the bursary to Kezia's dad as she was unable to attend the Graduates Award banquet.

Swan in the News

Nzinga Walker



Our Swan sister, Nzinga Walker is the Executive Director of Stella's Place where she champions the destigmatizing of mental health in her work and the community. She was featured on CP24 on October 6, 2023, where she spoke about her place of work and its approach to mental health in the community. Please enjoy this 'electronic interview' with her.

Q. What year did you graduate from St. Hugh's High School (SHHS)?

A. In 1982

Q. What did you like the most and the least at SHHS?

A. I believe St Hugh's reinforced that as young women we were capable of achieving anything. Since then, I kept a woman-centered approach in whatever I do. Some of that came from St Hugh's as well as the Jamaican culture where women held strong leadership roles and were quite vocal about their opinions. I wish the school had more support for students who struggled. My father whom I loved dearly died after a long illness with prostate cancer the August before I started at St Hugh's. I really struggled with grief and loss and wish I had someone to speak with.

Q. When you attended SHHS did you ever see yourself going into a field that champions the destigmatizing of mental health?

A. I always had a strong interest in politics and changing systemic barriers that obstruct the most vulnerable. I volunteered in Jamaica at Women Inc. which supports women who experienced domestic violence but didn't realize I could pursue a career helping others till I migrated to Canada. The intersectionalities and complexities one faces in life can develop or trigger preexisting mental health challenges. This is what transitioned my career into mental health.

Swan in the News

Nzinga Walker

Q. What led you to that field and the role of ED of Stella's Place?

A. I have been a Program Director for more than fifteen years with a focus on youth and women. I was attracted to the role at Stella's Place because of the age group they serve 16 -29 years old. It's a very misunderstood demographic and there are limited appropriate treatments, options, and space for these young adults. It is estimated that 1.2 million children and youth in Canada are affected by mental illness. These are alarming numbers for a developed country. Yet only 20% will receive appropriate mental health treatment. Stella's Place appears to be on to something because the attendance and retention rate has exceeded other agency's averages. I first served as the Director of Program of Operations at Stella's Place. The board offered me the position after the previous Executive Director retired however I turned them down because I really enjoy program development. I took the job in the interim and then transitioned into the permanent role.

Q. What message do you have for our little sisters at SHHS?

A. Make the most you can with your time at St Hugh's because it's a stepping stone to the next journey of your life. You don't need to figure out everything at graduation but it helps to have a vision of where you want to be. Don't limit yourself or give up because life is not currently going as planned. Life's challenges can be part of God's plan for preparing you for where he plans to position you.

Q. If you could go back in time, is there anything that you would tell your grade 10 self?

A. It's okay not to have life figured out. Your tenacity will lead you to places you cannot imagine at this moment, but you will be pleased.

*Contributed by
Maxine Gordon-Palmino*



EMPOWERING **The Next Generation of Business and Financial Leaders**



In the dynamic landscape of education, there are few roles as critical as that of a high school teacher. They mold young minds, imparting knowledge and skills that will shape the future of our society. One such teacher is Mrs. Julia Baker-Senior, a past student and dedicated teacher at St. Hugh's High School who is passionate about imparting financial and business wisdom to the next generation.

Mrs. Julia Baker-Senior

Q: What year did you graduate from St., Hugh's High School?

A: 1990

Q: What subject/s do you currently teach?

A: Accounts and Business at the CSEC Level.

Q: Were these any of your favourite subjects?

A: No, I did not do Principles of Business (P.O.B) in high school and Accounts was recommended for me by my teacher when I repeated Grade 10.

Q: How did your experience at St. Hugh's help you navigate your way after high school?

A: I wanted to become a teacher but not to teach business maybe Geography. At St. Hugh's I did not feel confident with Accounts and was just doing my best to pass. After graduating and attending the University of Technology (Utech) this is where my confidence grew as I understood the subject much better.

Q: What are your favourite Swan memories?

A: I became a Christian at the end of 1st form through the Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) club. In 4th form, I was a member of a singing group that represented the school at the festival – Gospel category. I was also form captain in both 4th and 5th form and prefect when I went on to 6th form. Through ISCF I developed public speaking skills as I led devotions, and my faith grew. I was groomed as a leader and honed leadership skills as I was also a peer counsellor in training.

EMPOWERING The Next Generation of Business and Financial Leaders cont'd

Q: How do you compare St. Hugh's then and St., Hugh's now?

A: Very different in terms of the generation, students ask questions and say things without fear. In my time attending school some of these questions and comments would be deemed disrespectful. Parents' involvement at school has increased; there are far more resources for students; online content and materials are readily available. To what extent the student has access to the internet is sometimes lacking however the school has a computer lab where students can go which wasn't available when I was a student.

Q: Do you think being a past student has created some advantages for you now being a teacher at St. Hugh's?

A: No, being a teacher here is beneficial and a proud feeling. When students learn I am a past student they understand where I am coming from and say that is why I am so passionate about my school when I speak. I am passionate about behaviour, discipline and decorum. There are certain rules that have stuck with me throughout the years such as not buying on the road in your school uniform and not idling on the road after school. I emulate one of my past teachers who was never absent, and I do the same, I am only absent when sick.

Q: Who were your favourite teachers?

A: Mrs. Richards – English and Mrs. Haynes – Geography

Q: What drives you to continue in this profession?

A: To see my students progress even higher than me, to see when they take what you have taught and build on it. When students return and say thank you, I feel motivated to continue. Each year the CSEC results would come out and my students send a thank you message, the feeling is rewarding. To see my students flourishing ignites the passion of teaching within me.

Contributed by: Charlene Dennis -Huie

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS - 1899 – 2024

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS? !

2024 marks the 125th anniversary of our Alma Mater. From its establishment in 1899 on Hanover Street, the Deaconess Home School as it was known then, has grown exponentially in terms of enrolment, its location, and of course, its core and extracurricular activities.

The theme for the anniversary is “Swan Sisters – Fit & Alive for 125”, encouraging us to get fit if we aren’t, and to maintain our fitness, mentally and physically, as a lifestyle. A number of exciting events will herald the commencement of yearlong activities starting with Global Launch which was held on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 1:25 pm (local time).

This was a Hybrid event where each Chapter was asked to host a live “event” (get-together) to be shared online. Anniversary Plans for that Chapter will be announced leading up to the 125th Anniversary Homecoming Week, in particular the Chapter will share plans to raise funds for the school.

Swans worldwide are invited to participate in the Swan Challenge 125 – Swans are encouraged to make and share a 25 second video, (using a standard format) and take on the challenge of committing to a minimum contribution of \$125US each, for the year. This contribution can be done as a lump sum amount or as monthly contributions totaling \$125US or more. For example, Swans may choose to contribute \$12.50 per month for 10 months totaling \$125US by October 18, 2024. It is hoped that each Chapter will set monetary targets leading to a little friendly competition with the winning Chapter being announced at the Banquet or another appropriate time.

Chapters are also encouraged to challenge themselves in other ways, for example a personal fitness challenge to fit into their original school uniform in time for school uniform Roll Call 125 on Friday, November 15, 2024.

Thursday
November 14, 2024

**Cocktails for
overseas Swans**

Friday
November 15, 2024

Swans Nite Out

Saturday
November 16, 2024

**Banquet at the
Jamaica Pegasus**

Sunday
November 17, 2024

**Church Service
at St. Luke’s
Anglican Church**

Other Activities Planned

- **Senior’s Luncheon – (for those who are 70+)**
- **A beach outing**
- **Class reunion activities**
- **Gold Tournament**
- **Hostel Girls Reunion**
- **Annual School Graduation and Prize-Giving**

ACTIVITY PLANNER

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS - 1899 – 2024

Plans will be shared with the Chapter as soon as activities are confirmed and it is hoped that the Canadian Chapter will be represented by a large group during the Homecoming Week. Volunteers are still needed for the Fund-Raising Committee and interested members can write directly to 125th Planning Committee at St. Hugh's Past Students' Association SHPSA shhs.psa@gmail.com

Our Canadian chapter has adopted the goal to renovate the Playfield, inclusive of Courts and Track. This is part of a larger global goal focused on addressing infrastructural needs at the school. It is a very ambitious goal for our chapter, but we are willing to rise to the challenge with your help. Supporters, friends and family of our chapter who would like to make a contribution can send their donation via e-transfer to shhsaacan@gmail.com.

PRESENT

your contribution now,
soon or by the very latest,
October 18, 2024

E-Transfer your donation to:

SHHSAACAN@gmail.com

The email subject line should read
125th Anniversary Swan Challenge Donation

**Donations can also be made by
cheque and other money transfer
methods. Contact us for details.**

**Send your donation monthly or
in a lump sum**

SWAN CHALLENGE 125



Contributed by Paulette Dunn-Pierre



Recording of 125th celebration video



CHRISTMAS MINGLE 2023

In Memorium

*We remember the members of the SHHS family that have gone before.
And as we reflect on & cherish memories of the good times shared with loved ones and friends
they will never be forgotten.*



Tamiaka Peary
Class of '97
January 10, 2023



Ann-Marie Pottinger Edy
Class of '81
January 26, 2023



Jo Ann Goldson
Class of '73
January 27, 2023



Carol-Gaye Morris
Class of '76
September 28, 2023



Dr. Carole Emden-Patterson
October 11, 2023



Dr. Barbera-Ann Noel

President



Paulette Tenn

Vice President



Maraye Bonner

Treasurer



Althea Robinson

Secretary



Yvonne Massey



CANADIAN CHAPTER

*Incoming Executive Team
2024-2026*

Assistant Treasurer



Auleen Gooden

Assistant Secretary



Monique Facey

Public Relations Officer



Tameika Bailey

CONTACT US

We would love to hear from our Swan Sisters and supporters. New members are also welcome. You may reach out to us at our email address shown below. Together we can do great things for our Alma Mater!

 shhsaacan@gmail.com

 [@shhsaacan](https://www.instagram.com/shhsaacan)

 [St Hugh's High School Alumnae](https://www.facebook.com/StHugh'sHighSchoolAlumnae)

EDITORIAL TEAM



Asha Persad



Charlene Dennis-Huie



Maxine Gordon Palomino



Sandra-Ann Tyndale Holmes

OUR SCHOOL SONG

St. Hugh of old was wise and bold
A Bishop of renown.
For man and bird and beast we're told
Loved Hugh of Lincoln Town.
He conquered self by fast and prayer,
And when the fight was won
He wrought and toiled with zealous care
To lead his people on.

We build our name and spread our fame
And honour good St. Hugh
When'ere we bring to task or game
The best that we can do.
In willing service, ordered rule,
And duty fairly met.
We'll write a record for our school
That time shall ne'er forget.

And when at last our school days past,
On other roads we fare,
Our hearts shall keep the sunshine cast
From these glad days we share.
The knowledge won, the vision gained,
God grant we may not lose
But cry from noble heights attained,
We'll still keep faith, St. Hugh's.

LYRICS: MISS B. ORMSBY

COMPOSITION: MISS M. BINNS