

FATIMA COLLEGE



# *Hall of Achievement*

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# FOREWORD

It is with immense pride and profound gratitude that I welcome you to this Fatima Hall of Achievement Induction Ceremony. Tonight, we gather to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of a select group of individuals whose lives and legacies have elevated the name of Fatima College to unprecedented heights.

The Fatima Hall of Achievement is not just a tribute—it is a living testament to the boundless potential of a Fatima education. It is a sanctuary where the stories of those who have dared to dream boldly and achieved magnificently are enshrined. It is a beacon of inspiration, a call to action, and a reminder that greatness is not a destination but a journey—a journey that begins within these revered walls.

This evening's honourees have excelled in their respective fields, embodying the ideals of excellence, leadership, and service that are at the very heart of Fatima College. They have shaped the world around them with determination, innovation, and an unrelenting drive to make a difference. Their achievements are the result of not only their own perseverance but also the values instilled in them by this remarkable institution.

As President of the Fatima Old Boys' Association, I am humbled to lead an organisation that remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding and celebrating the legacy of Fatima College. Through this Hall of Achievement, we immortalise the triumphs of our alumni and community members, ensuring that their stories inspire generations of Fatima boys yet to come.

To our 2024 inductees, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. Your lives are shining examples of what it means to live the Fatima spirit—undaunted, relentless, and purposeful. You remind us of what can be achieved when talent meets opportunity and when determination is guided by discipline and heart.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have made this evening possible—the organising committee, our supporters, and every member of the Fatima community who has lent their support to this vision. Your dedication ensures that the light of Fatima College continues to shine brightly, lighting the path for those who will follow.

May tonight's celebration ignite in us all a renewed commitment to excellence, service, and unity. Together, let us carry forward the torch of Fatima College, ensuring that its legacy endures and inspires for generations to come.

Nitendo Vinces.



**Christian Flemming**  
*President - Fatima Old Boys' Association*



# ORDER OF EVENTS

National Anthem

Opening Prayer

Opening Remarks, Master of Ceremonies - **Mr. Stefan De Gale**

Fatima Old Boys' Association (FOBA) President's Remarks -  
**Mr. Christian Flemming, President, Fatima Old Boys' Association (FOBA)**

Greetings from The Holy Ghost Fathers Board of Management -  
**Mr. Dwight Andrews, Board Member, Holy Ghost Fathers Board of Management**

Featured Speaker's Address -  
**Dr. The Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education**

Presentation of Inductee Awards - **Education**  
**Presented by The Honourable Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education**

Musical Item - **Jeremiah Reyes**

Presentation of Inductee Awards - **Religion, Public Service, Business Sports & Culture**  
**Presented by Mrs. Gillian Ramdass, Principal (Ag.), Fatima College and Mr. Shad Seaton, Board Member - Holy Ghost Fathers Board of Management**

Musical Item - **Arielle Cowie**

Presentation of Inductee Awards - **Pioneer**  
**Presented by Mr. Ruthven Thompson, Board Member, The Holy Ghost Fathers Board of Management**

Musical Item - **Matthew Newallo**

Vote of Thanks -  
**Mr. Jelani Christian Corbie, Chairman, Benefits & Recognition, FOBA**

Dinner



# EDUCATION







## PROFESSOR SANJAY BAHADOORSINGH

Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh, Hummingbird Medal Gold (2024), is a distinguished academic and professional in the fields of Electrical Engineering and Sustainable Energy. He holds a B.Sc. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The University of the West Indies (UWI), an M.Sc. in Power Systems Engineering and Economics from The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), and a Ph.D. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from The University of Manchester. At just 41, he became the youngest male professor at UWI, serving as a Professor of Power Systems and Sustainable Energy and a former Head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (2021-2024).

Professor Bahadoorsingh has made substantial contributions to engineering education and policy in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean. He has served as Chairman of the National Technical Committee for Electrical Codes at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) and as President of the International Electrotechnical Commission's National Electrotechnical Committee for Trinidad and Tobago. His leadership extends to Co-Chairing the Specification Committee for Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles and spearheading significant initiatives such as the country's first commercially inspected solar-powered EV DC Fast Charger.

His professional accolades include serving as an expert witness for the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago, notably during the 2015-2019 submarine power cable failure investigation. A prolific researcher, consultant, and advocate, Professor Bahadoorsingh is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and has championed STEM education through initiatives such as the IEEE E-Scientia Module and the Women in Engineering Affinity Group.

In recognition of his outstanding service to Engineering and Education, he was awarded the Hummingbird Medal Gold in 2024. His contributions to standards development, sustainable energy, and education reflect his unwavering commitment to advancing Trinidad and Tobago's engineering and educational landscape.





## MR. ANTHONY GARCIA

Anthony Garcia is a highly respected professional in the field of education, whose remarkable career has been defined by his dedication to service, leadership, and excellence. A Mausica Teachers' College graduate and University of the West Indies alumnus, Mr. Garcia brought his expertise to Fatima College in 2000, creating history as the only individual in Trinidad and Tobago to serve as principal of both a primary school (Dinsley-Trincity Government Primary) and a secondary school (Fatima College). His tenure at Fatima lasted until his retirement in 2009, during which he transformed the institution into an even more formidable centre of academic, cultural, and sporting excellence.

Mr. Garcia's vision for Fatima College was clear: "To be an educational institution where excellence abounds." He worked tirelessly to achieve this by engaging all key stakeholders, including the Board of Management, the Fatima Old Boys' Association, and the Parent Support Group. He was meticulous in ensuring their input and collaboration in every major decision. Under his leadership, middle management was strengthened, and he insisted that all Deans and Heads of Department were appointed by the Teaching Service Commission, leaving no room for interim roles in his pursuit of operational excellence.

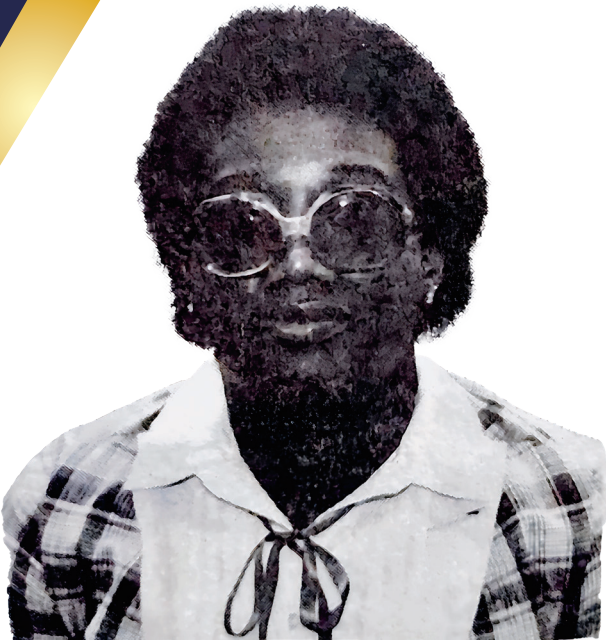
A staunch believer in the principle that "the working conditions of the teachers are the learning conditions of the child," Mr. Garcia collaborated with the College Manager to improve Fatima's physical infrastructure. His efforts led to the upgrading of science laboratories, improved classrooms, and an overall uplift of the campus, always with the support of stakeholders.

Mr. Garcia also focused on discipline, reinforcing the adage that "Fatima Boys are Good Boys" and ensuring they lived up to that standard. Beyond academics, he championed sports and cultural activities, believing that an educated young man should be well-rounded. Under his stewardship, Fatima's choirs excelled at Music Festivals, and the College achieved success in Intercol football, swimming, cricket, and other sports.

Beyond his contributions to Fatima College, Mr. Garcia served his nation with distinction. He was President of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA) for 13 years and President of the Caribbean Union of Teachers for two years, tirelessly advocating for better working and learning conditions for teachers and students alike. He also served as Minister of Education from 2015 to 2020 and was recognised as an Education Icon during Trinidad and Tobago's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations.

A dedicated community servant, Mr. Garcia has contributed significantly to organisations such as the Malabar Village Council, Arima All Stars Steel Orchestra, and Friends of the Arima Hospital. He remains a steadfast supporter of Fatima College, continuing to be actively involved in its activities even after retirement.





## MS. DAPHNE HAYWOOD

Ms. Daphne Haywood occupies a significant and revered place in the history of Fatima College as one of the first two women to join the teaching staff, alongside Mrs. Jeannette Zakour-Elias. Her trailblazing entry into what was then an all-male teaching environment marked a profound moment of progress for the institution, symbolising a commitment to inclusivity and the elevation of diverse perspectives within education.

A dedicated educator, Ms. Haywood brought to the classroom not just a wealth of knowledge, but an innate ability to inspire, motivate, and connect with her students. She was known for her dynamic teaching style, which blended compassion with a firm commitment to academic excellence. Ms. Haywood's unwavering belief in her students' potential helped cultivate generations of young men who would go on to distinguish themselves in various fields. Her lessons were not merely academic; they were life lessons that instilled in her students a sense of purpose, responsibility, and the confidence to face the challenges of the world beyond the classroom.

Her contributions to Fatima College extended well beyond her teaching duties. Ms. Haywood's presence brought a much-needed dimension of diversity and inclusion, enriching the faculty's approach to education and fostering a more holistic learning environment. She worked tirelessly to uplift the standard of teaching, collaborate with her peers, and nurture a spirit of unity within the Fatima community. As a mentor to both colleagues and students, Ms. Haywood set a benchmark for dedication, professionalism, and the profound impact that a single teacher can have on an institution.

Throughout her tenure at Fatima College, Ms. Haywood's contributions laid the groundwork for the school's continued evolution, reinforcing its reputation as a beacon of educational excellence in Trinidad and Tobago. Her pioneering efforts and steadfast commitment to shaping young minds left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire.

Ms. Haywood's influence did not diminish with time; her impact is still felt today as an integral part of the fabric of Fatima College's history. By breaking barriers and setting new standards, she exemplified the transformative power of education and the importance of inclusivity in building a brighter future. Her legacy remains a cornerstone of the institution's history and a guiding light for future generations.





## DR. BRUCE PADDINGTON

Dr. Bruce Paddington is a trailblazer in education and audiovisual innovation, whose contributions to Fatima College and Trinidad and Tobago have left an indelible mark on the fields of education and media. From 1973 to 1978, Dr. Paddington taught History and English at Fatima College, during which time he revolutionised the educational experience by establishing the first Audio-Visual (AV) Centre in the country.

Under his leadership, the AV Centre became a hub of creativity and innovation, training over 100 teachers and students in the use of audiovisual aids and educational technology. Dr. Paddington organised regular film screenings in the AV room, school hall, and even on the playing field, creating an engaging learning environment. He also worked closely with students to produce short films, three of whom went on to careers at TTT, the national television station.

The AV Centre's success garnered national recognition from the Ministry of Education and led to the creation of four AV positions at the newly formed Mucurapo Schools Community Project (MSCP). Dr. Paddington served as Director of Instructional Materials for the project, running workshops across the country and driving the production of educational programmes like the A La Orden series, which involved both students and teachers from Fatima.

During his tenure at Fatima, Dr. Paddington co-directed and produced *The Model*, which won the Secondary Schools Drama Festival for Fatima College, showcasing his commitment to nurturing artistic talent. The key figures from the MSCP—both teachers and students—later formed the foundation of Banyan Productions, which Dr. Paddington co-founded in 1974. Banyan went on to produce influential works such as *Who the Cap Fits* for the Family Planning Association, involving ex-students and teachers trained at Fatima.

The AV Centre also hosted numerous distinguished visitors, including the renowned author V.S. Naipaul, further solidifying its reputation as a centre of excellence and innovation.

Dr. Bruce Paddington's visionary contributions to education and media have left a profound legacy, and his impact on Fatima College and beyond makes him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## MRS. JEANNETTE ZAKOUR-ELIAS

Known affectionately as “Miss Zakour” during her time at Fatima College, Jeannette Zakour-Elias is remembered for her intelligence, grace, and unwavering dedication to her students. A pioneer in many respects, she was the first woman of Syrian-Lebanese descent in Trinidad to be awarded an Island Scholarship, which she used to pursue studies in French and Spanish at The University of the West Indies (UWI).

Mrs. Zakour-Elias broke barriers as one of the first two women to join the teaching staff at Fatima College, where she spent eight impactful years. She was celebrated for her engaging and creative lesson plans in languages and religious knowledge, leaving a lasting impression on her students. While teaching, she earned a Diploma in Education with distinction and co-authored both a French and a Spanish textbook, the latter in collaboration with then-principal, Clive Pantin.

Following her tenure at Fatima, she embarked on a remarkable 31-year career in corporate communications, most notably at the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC). As the manager of NGC’s Corporate Communications Department, she became an early advocate for corporate social responsibility, championing initiatives that directed funding to support the arts, sports, and science. Her vision and leadership had a profound impact on the communities NGC served.

Mrs. Jeannette Zakour-Elias passed away in April 2024, leaving behind a legacy of trailblazing achievement, steadfast dedication, and an enduring commitment to education, community, and family. She remains an inspiring figure whose impact continues to resonate.



RELIGION  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
BUSINESS  
SPORT  
CULTURE







## FR. GREGORY AUGUSTINE C.S.SP.

Fr. Gregory Augustine, C.S.Sp., has dedicated over three decades of his life to faithfully serving Fatima College, his alma mater, as an educator, administrator, and spiritual leader. A beloved son of Fatima, Fr. Gregory's journey began as a student in 1974 and culminated in his tenure as Principal from 2009 to 2021. Even after retirement, his steadfast commitment to the College continues today in his role as School Manager and Chairman of the Board of Management.

Born on 14th December 1961, Fr. Gregory's early education began at Diego Martin Government School and Newtown Boys' R.C.. In 1974, he entered Fatima College, graduating in 1981 after completing his Advanced Level studies. His passion for education was evident from the start, and following graduation, he taught at St. Monica's under the guidance of Sr. Mary Eunan H.F.C.

In 1982, Fr. Gregory began his discernment and formation with the Holy Ghost Fathers at Tisserant House, Arouca. He pursued studies for the priesthood, earning a B.A. in Theology from the University of the West Indies, with courses delivered at the Seminary of St. John Marie Vianney and the Uganda Martyrs. In 1992, Fr. Gregory was ordained a deacon and assigned to Fatima College, where he taught Religion and History and served as School Manager. On 25th April 1993, he was ordained a priest, solidifying his vocation to serve the Lord through the sacred work of education.

As Principal from 2009 to 2021, Fr. Gregory's vision and leadership transformed Fatima College, significantly improving the school's infrastructure and fostering a culture of excellence. Among his most notable accomplishments, some of which were in conjunction with FOBA, were:

- School Hall Refurbishment Project (2010)
- Library and Form 6 Study Room Renovation (2011)
- School Pavilion and Gym Renovation (2012)
- Construction of a New School Wing (2013)
- Installation of Smartboards (2016)
- Chapel Renovation (2017)
- Basketball Court Renovation (2019)

Beyond these tangible improvements, Fr. Gregory uplifted the College spiritually, physically, and administratively, inspiring students and staff alike with his steadfast leadership and unwavering dedication.

After retiring in 2021, Fr. Gregory returned to Fatima College in 2023 to resume his role as School Manager and Chairman of the Board of Management. His enduring commitment to the Fatima community continues to leave a profound impact, making him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## MR. ROY AUGUSTUS

Roy Augustus is a trailblazer in education, community development, and culture, whose exceptional contributions to Trinidad and Tobago continue to resonate today. Born on 22nd April 1943 at #8 St. Paul Street, East Dry River, Roy spent the first 29 years of his life immersed in a community that inspired his lifelong passion for service. A proud alumnus of Bethlehem Boys' R.C., Nelson Street Boys' R.C., and Fatima College, Roy achieved his Senior Cambridge Certificate in 1960, choosing to prioritise his academics over football, where he represented Fatima up to the Colts level.

Roy's journey as an educator began with his training at the Government Teachers' College (1964-1966) and spanned several decades, including impactful tenures at Talparo R.C., Success R.C., and Rosary Boys' R.C., where he served as Principal. A devout Roman Catholic, Roy also chaired the Catholic Teachers' Association in the Port of Spain region and served as Vice Chairman at the national level, influencing educational policy and practice. He retired from teaching in 2000, two years before the official retirement age, leaving behind a legacy of excellence and mentorship.

As a passionate advocate for his East Dry River community, Roy was instrumental in the construction of the St. Paul Street Community Centre, one of the first in Trinidad. He chaired the centre and championed initiatives that fostered sports, music, and youth development. A proud member of the City Symphony Steel Orchestra, Roy also played a pivotal role in Trinidad and Tobago's steelpan movement, becoming the first President of Pan Trinbago when the organisation was renamed from the National Association of Trinidad and Tobago Steelbandmen in 1971. His leadership was marked by teamwork, innovation, and a deep commitment to pan culture.

In public service, Roy's influence extended to the National Carnival Commission, where he served as Chairman on two occasions. He was also a trusted advisor to the Ministers of National Security and Multiculturalism and contributed significantly to Trinidad and Tobago's cultural landscape. In 1986, as part of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Roy's organisational acumen helped secure a historic electoral victory, demonstrating his political skill and dedication to national development.

Roy's achievements have been widely recognised, including being named an Honorary Distinguished Fellow by the University of Trinidad and Tobago in 2018. Despite fully retiring from public life, Roy remains an advocate for Laventille and its abundance of talent, calling for greater investment in opportunities for the area's youth. Roy Augustus's enduring legacy as an educator, cultural leader, and community advocate makes him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## MR. STEVE BIDESHI

After completing a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management at the University of the West Indies in 1979, Mr. Steve Bideshi embarked on a career marked by exemplary leadership and innovation. His academic journey continued at the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, where he earned a Master's in Business Administration.

Mr. Bideshi began his professional career at Citibank Trinidad in 1982, progressing rapidly through pivotal roles including Managing Director of Citicorp Merchant Bank and, by 1995, Managing Director of Citibank Trinidad. Under his leadership, Citibank expanded its franchise across the Caribbean and achieved global recognition as the most innovative and profitable franchise in Latin America. His expertise in capital markets positioned Trinidad and Tobago as a key player internationally, with significant achievements such as sovereign bond issues for Caribbean nations.

In 2004, Mr. Bideshi was appointed Division Executive for Turkey, Israel, and Central Asia, where he oversaw operations in nine countries. His tenure included spearheading Citigroup's acquisition of a \$3.2 billion stake in Turkey's largest bank and earning accolades as the Best Corporate Finance Bank, Best Foreign Exchange Bank, and Best Cash Management Bank.

Returning to Trinidad in 2009, Mr. Bideshi offered his expertise to the government during the financial crisis stemming from the collapse of CLICO. As Chairman of the Restructuring Committee, his leadership facilitated a plan approved by Parliament in 2011, ensuring policyholders received their claims without financial loss.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Bideshi's philanthropic contributions are profound. Strongly influenced by the late Clive Pantin, he has been instrumental in initiatives such as rehabilitating the St. Michael's Home for Boys during Trinidad's economic downturn in the 1980s and co-founding FEEL (Foundation Enrichment and Enhancement of Life), where he served as its first Chairman. FEEL remains one of Trinidad and Tobago's foremost charitable organisations.

A proud member of the Class of 1975, Mr. Bideshi has dedicated his efforts to fundraising and community support through the Fatima Old Boys' Association (FOBA). Serving as FOBA President in 1984, he played a pivotal role in expanding its influence and continues to honour the legacy of Clive Pantin through initiatives like the annual Clive Pantin Charity Golf Tournament.





## MR. ANTON CORNEAL

Mr. Anton Corneal is a distinguished leader in football development, coaching, and education, whose extensive career has significantly impacted the sport in Trinidad and Tobago and across the Caribbean. A proud alumnus of Fatima College, Class of 1980, Mr. Corneal pursued his passion for football and education with excellence. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Erskine College, South Carolina, where he was a three-time All-American Soccer Team member and was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame.

Mr. Corneal's remarkable contributions to football include serving as Technical Director of Trinidad and Tobago Football, FIFA Technical Development Officer for the South-East Caribbean, and a Senior Coach Educator for CONCACAF. He has designed and conducted coaching education programmes, including the first-ever A License course in the Caribbean, empowering over 500 participants.

On the international stage, Mr. Corneal has held pivotal roles, including Assistant Coach of the Trinidad and Tobago Senior Team during the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany and Head Coach of the U-17 National Team, which became the first Trinidad and Tobago youth team to qualify for a FIFA U-17 World Cup in South Korea. Over the years, Mr. Corneal has participated in three FIFA World Cup campaigns and played a key role in advancing youth development, grassroots programmes, and women's football.

As a FIFA and CONCACAF Instructor, Mr. Corneal has conducted numerous courses across the region, focusing on grassroots development, elite coaching, and technical leadership. His innovative work includes contributing to FIFA's Technical Directors Manual and Youth Coaching Manual and supporting strategic planning and performance programmes globally.

Mr. Corneal's accolades include the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation Sterling Contribution Award, being the youngest player to score a hat-trick for Trinidad and Tobago's Senior Team at 16, and recognition as a Triad Area Leader and Top 40 Under 40 in North Carolina.

Mr. Anton Corneal's unwavering dedication to football development and education exemplifies excellence, making him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## MR. PETER SAMUEL

Born in Woodbrook, a hub of Trinidad's mas culture, Mr. Peter Samuel's journey in Carnival began early, inspired by the vibrant mas camps in his neighbourhood. With a career spanning over 49 years, Mr. Samuel is a mas maker, mas player, and mas ambassador whose contributions continue to shape Carnival arts today. Most recently, his band, Kinetic Mas, made headlines with a triumphant return to the Peter Minshall-designed "Mas Pieta," winning Band of the Year in 2020. In 2023, his collaboration with new designers resulted in "Yokoso," which won Medium Band of the Year.

Mr. Samuel's love for mas was ignited during his high school years, when he bought out a section in the Starlift Steel Orchestra's band, Shindig. From there, he embarked on a prolific career as an individual mas player, collaborating with Stephen Leung and Peter Minshall to create iconic costumes. His work earned him eight King of Carnival titles and cemented his status as a global Carnival ambassador. His artistry has been showcased internationally, with performances at the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympics, Bastille Day in Paris, and world stages such as the Royal Albert Hall in London and Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Beyond mas, Mr. Samuel has been a lifelong advocate for Carnival arts and culture. He has also made significant contributions to sports, having represented Trinidad and Tobago in swimming and water polo for 15 years and coaching for over a decade. He pioneered aqua therapy and aerobics programmes, including at UWI and in local community pools, impacting countless lives through his dedication to fitness and health.

In 2005, Mr. Samuel was awarded the Humming Bird Medal (Silver) for his outstanding contributions to sports and culture. A tireless champion of the Carnival arts, Mr. Samuel continues to create, inspire, and elevate the cultural and athletic legacy of Trinidad and Tobago.





## MR. ROBERT SOLOMON

Mr. Robert Solomon was a visionary creative, philanthropist, and community builder whose remarkable journey from Fatima College to a celebrated career in event design and charitable initiatives left an indelible mark on his community. His time at Fatima College showcased his early talents, particularly in decoration and artistic expression, as he contributed to the College's iconic Carnival fundraisers, setting a standard for creativity and dedication that continues to this day.

After beginning his professional career at Royal Bank, Mr. Solomon discovered his passion for event planning and decorating. What started as side projects quickly grew into a thriving career, allowing him to bring his artistic vision to life and create memorable experiences for countless clients and events.

Mr. Solomon's philanthropy was equally impactful. A cornerstone of his legacy is his charity, "Humans Helping Humans," which he founded during the pandemic lockdown. This initiative provided meals to those in need, embodying his deep commitment to service and compassion. His work was also closely tied to the Cyril Ross Nursery, a home for children born with HIV/AIDS, where he directed his creativity and resources to support those in need.

In 2021, Mr. Solomon launched an initiative to bring holiday cheer to police stations across Trinidad and Tobago. Inspired by his love for community, he encouraged decorators to adopt police stations in their areas and beautify them for Christmas. What began as a call to action for a handful of decorators quickly grew into a nationwide movement, with over a dozen decorators—both professional and amateur—joining the effort to transform police stations into festive spaces. Businesses such as Excellent Stores also partnered with the initiative, offering special rates to decorators as part of this community-building project. The initiative received overwhelming support, with ISOS (I Support Our Services) and other community leaders lauding Mr. Solomon's vision and its positive impact on law enforcement personnel and their communities.

A true advocate of living life to the fullest, Mr. Solomon's motto, "Live, Love, Laugh," defined his approach to every challenge he faced. His contributions to Fatima College and his broader community exemplify the values of generosity, resilience, and boundless creativity, making him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





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PIONEERS





## DR. NICK FULLER

Dr. Nick Fuller is a distinguished leader in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Automation, currently serving as Vice President of AI and Automation at IBM Research. In this role, he oversees a global team driving innovation in large language models (LLMs) and agent-based systems for enterprise management software. His work spans diverse data modalities, including text, code, time series, and images, with applications in business functions, IT systems, software engineering, and asset management.

With over 20 years of client-facing experience, Dr. Fuller has been instrumental in advancing IBM's IT Automation portfolio and has contributed to the launch of groundbreaking modernization products for IBM and Red Hat. His leadership also shaped IBM's full-stack edge computing research strategy and influenced five successive CMOS generations, addressing the needs of IBM Systems and OEM clients.

An IBM Master Inventor, Dr. Fuller holds over 75 patents, has authored more than 80 technical publications, and has been cited over 3,400 times. As a thought leader, his insights frequently appear in prestigious outlets such as Forbes, IEEE Spectrum, and Techspot.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Fuller earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Mathematics from Morehouse College and a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from Columbia University. Beyond his professional achievements, he is the author of *Struggle and Progress* and enjoys soccer, music, travel, and writing. He resides in Long Island, New York, with his wife and two sons.

Dr. Fuller's exceptional contributions to AI and automation, along with his dedication to innovation and thought leadership, make him a worthy inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## DR. KERN GUPPY

Dr. Kern Hayden Guppy is a distinguished neurosurgeon, engineer, and academic whose career spans over 25 years in medicine and more than a decade in engineering. A proud alumnus of Fatima College, Class of 1972, Dr. Guppy's academic journey began with an AMOCO scholarship to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering at the University of Tulsa. He later earned a Master's and PhD in Petroleum Engineering, along with a Master's in Industrial Engineering, from Stanford University, where he also served as a teaching assistant and Sigma Xi Science Honor Society member.

Dr. Guppy began his professional career as an Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Southern California, where he collaborated on blood flow dynamics modeling with the medical school, igniting his interest in medicine. This passion led him to Northwestern University, where he obtained his MD, followed by a residency in Neurosurgery and a fellowship in Complex Spine Surgery.

Currently, Dr. Guppy is the Chief of Neurosurgery Spine at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Sacramento, California, and the Co-Lead of the Kaiser Permanente National Spine Registry. He also serves as Clinical Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco, and the University of California, Davis, where he is the off-site Director of the Residency Program in Neurosurgery. His practice focuses on complex spine surgery and brain tumors, earning him recognition as a leader in the field.

A prolific researcher, Dr. Guppy has published over 65 peer-reviewed articles and holds numerous leadership positions in prestigious professional organizations, including past presidency of the San Francisco Neurological Society. Among his accolades, he received the 2022 Morris F. Collen Research Award for extraordinary accomplishments as a clinician-researcher and multiple awards for his clinical research.

Dr. Guppy maintains strong ties to Stanford University, serving on its Alumni Association Board of Directors and participating in the Stanford Alumni Mentoring Programme. In 2024, he achieved another milestone by earning a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University.

Dr. Kern Guppy's exemplary career, bridging engineering and medicine, reflects his unwavering dedication to innovation, education, and patient care, making him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





DR. COLIN PARRIS

Dr. Colin J. Parris is a visionary leader in technology and engineering, recently retired as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of GE Digital and a Senior Corporate Officer of the General Electric Company. In this role, Dr. Parris drove GE Digital's strategic vision, spearheaded the development of innovative technologies to enhance products and services, and created transformational solutions to deliver value across GE's Gas Power, Aviation, and Renewables businesses.

Previously, Dr. Parris served as Vice President of Software and Analytics Research at GE's Research Center in Niskayuna, New York, where he led the creation and application of industrial analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. Notably, he pioneered GE's Digital Twin Initiative, an engineering and data analytics innovation that significantly optimized industrial asset performance, delivering over \$500 million in value within two years.

A trailblazer in his field, Dr. Parris is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and was named the 2023 Black Engineer of the Year. He also serves on the Board of Directors for APTIV and Diebold Nixdorf, chairs the Innovation and Technology Committee for APTIV, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Before joining GE, Dr. Parris spent 20 years at IBM in various executive roles, including Vice President and General Manager of IBM Power Systems and Vice President of Corporate Technology. His career at IBM spanned leadership in P&L management, software development, and systems research, where he managed teams of over 6,000 developers globally.

Dr. Parris holds a Ph.D. and an M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.Sc. in Management from Stanford University (as a Sloan Fellow), and a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Howard University. With over 16 technical patents and numerous publications, Dr. Parris has consistently demonstrated excellence in innovation and leadership.

Dr. Colin Parris's extraordinary contributions to technology, engineering, and business make him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## DR. DAMANI PIGGOTT

Dr. Damani Piggott is a distinguished academic, clinician, and leader in the fields of infectious diseases, epidemiology, and biomedical education. A proud alumnus of Fatima College, Dr. Piggott's educational journey began with his exceptional performance in Trinidad and Tobago, earning him a National Scholarship in 1992. This achievement set the stage for a stellar academic career, culminating in his valedictorian honors at Morehouse College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Spanish, summa cum laude.

He pursued his medical and doctoral studies at Yale University, obtaining an MD and a PhD in Immunobiology. Dr. Piggott further honed his expertise through residencies and fellowships at Yale New Haven Hospital and Johns Hopkins University, specializing in internal medicine, pediatrics, and infectious diseases.

Currently, Dr. Piggott serves as an Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. He is also the Inaugural Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Diversity and Partnerships and the Executive Director of the Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative, a groundbreaking \$150 million program aimed at fostering pathways for underrepresented students in STEM fields.

Dr. Piggott's research focuses on aging and HIV, particularly among marginalized populations, and he has made significant contributions to understanding frailty and inflammation in these communities. His leadership extends to global public health initiatives and mentoring programs, reflecting his deep commitment to equity and excellence in education and healthcare.

Dr. Damani Piggott exemplifies the highest standards of academic and professional achievement, and his legacy is a source of inspiration to the Fatima College community and beyond.





## MR. RONALD ROBERTS

Born on 17th February 1968 in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Ronald Suresh Roberts is a distinguished alumnus of Fatima College, where he was also a member of the Trinidad national swim team. After excelling at UWI Primary School and Fatima College, Mr. Roberts received a National Island Scholarship in 1986, propelling him to academic success at Balliol College, Oxford, and later at Harvard Law School, where he earned his Master of Laws. While at Harvard, Mr. Roberts shared the classroom with then-future U.S. President Barack Obama.

Mr. Roberts's illustrious legal career began at the prestigious Wall Street firm Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts. During his time there, he was awarded a fellowship to coordinate an international delegation of 85 lawyers who monitored South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994. Inspired by this transformative experience, Mr. Roberts chose to remain in South Africa, dedicating himself to the nation's emerging legal and constitutional reform processes. His advisory work on privatisation and public-private partnerships had a defining impact on South Africa's policy development, earning him recognition as a key contributor to the nation's National Water Act and Water Services Act.

A prolific author, Mr. Roberts's first book, *Clarence Thomas and the Tough Love Crowd*, was a critical exploration of neoconservative ideology. He later co-authored *Reconciliation Through Truth* with Kader and Louise Asmal, a pivotal work on apartheid-era governance, featuring a foreword by Nelson Mandela. Mr. Roberts's literary accomplishments continued with a biography and critique of Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer and the authorised biography of South African President Thabo Mbeki, *Fit to Govern*.

Currently residing in Cape Town, South Africa, Mr. Roberts has transitioned into commercial ventures, serving as a shareholder and executive of a consultancy that bridges critical data gaps for multinational stakeholders across Africa. His work continues to shape understanding and foster growth in developing markets. Mr. Ronald Roberts epitomises the values of excellence, service, and intellectual achievement, making him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.





## MR. GEOFF SEYON

Mr. Geoff Seyon is a National Open Scholar, high-tech CEO, and a trailblazer in the U.S. digital health industry. A proud alumnus of Fatima College, Mr. Seyon attended the school from 1985 to 1992, hailing from Guanapo Village, Arima. During his time at Fatima, he excelled in academics, sports, and leadership, embodying the values of discipline, innovation, and community.

Under the guidance of his most influential teacher, Mr. Harry Ramdass, Mr. Seyon learned the importance of being a well-rounded individual. He played cricket from the Giants B-Team to becoming Vice Captain of the First XI, representing Trinidad North Zone along the way. A natural leader, he was a founding member and Secretary of the 1991 Student Council and spearheaded the publication of the 1988-1991 Fatima Yearbook, raising over \$15,000 in advertising for the school. His entrepreneurial spirit emerged early when he founded his first company, OmniSoft Computing Ltd., in Form 4 to provide custom software solutions.

After earning the National Open Scholarship for Business Studies, Mr. Seyon attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he completed both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Computer Science with a focus on Artificial Intelligence in just four years. He later earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, the world's leading institution for leadership, joining the ranks of other Fatima alumni like Robert Wickham and Richard Vieira.

Today, Mr. Seyon is the Founder and CEO of Celeritas, an AI company revolutionising billing for medical equipment and supplies. He has also made his mark in Silicon Valley, establishing STUDIO IXORA, a venture studio that has built several successful companies, including Livongo Health, which was acquired for \$18.5 billion.

Mr. Seyon's dedication to Trinidad and Tobago remains a cornerstone of his work. He has groomed talent through initiatives like Caribbean Tech Pioneers and hired numerous Trinidadians to his teams, including at Celeritas. As co-founder of Medullan, he built a "best of Boston" company, creating over 100 software jobs in Trinidad and leaving a lasting legacy before its acquisition by ZS Associates.

Mr. Seyon credits Fatima College for shaping his success, instilling in him the values of discipline, leadership, and community. His remarkable achievements and commitment to giving back make him a most deserving inductee into the Fatima Hall of Achievement.



# 2024 INDUCTEES

## EDUCATION

PROFESSOR SANJAY BAHADOORSINGH  
MR. ANTHONY GARCIA  
MRS. DAPHNE HAYWOOD  
DR. BRUCE PADDINGTON  
MRS. JEANNETTE ZAKOUR-ELIAS

## RELIGION

FR. GREGORY AUGUSTINE

## PUBLIC SERVICE

MR. ROY AUGUSTUS

## BUSINESS

MR. STEVE BIDESHI

## SPORT

MR. ANTON CORNEAL

## CULTURE

MR. ROBERT SOLOMON  
MR. PETER SAMUEL

## PIONEERS

DR. NICK FULLER  
DR. KERN GUPPY  
DR. COLIN PARRIS  
DR. DAMANI PIGGOTT  
MR. RONALD ROBERTS  
MR. GEOFF SEYON



FATIMA COLLEGE



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Achievement*

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