



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

505 CONSUMERS ROAD, SUITE 206, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2J 4V8
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For immediate release

Announcing the Winners of the 2009 Guyana Awards Scholarships

The Consulate General of Guyana and the Guyana Awards Council (Canada) are proud to announce the following winners of the 2009 Guyana Awards Scholarships, which will be presented at the **Guyana Awards Gala on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at the Inn On the Park, Centennial Ballroom**, 1095 Leslie Street, Toronto, Ontario:

- ***Ms. Devani Singh***
- ***Ms. Angela Brijmohan***
- ***Ms. Amanda Brijmohan***
- ***Ms. Shauntel Parkinson***
- ***Ms. Tara Omaid***

The Guyana Awards Scholarship Program was established in 2008 by the Guyana Awards Council to support and profile the achievement of academic excellence by students of Guyanese heritage who are currently enrolled, or planning to enroll no later than the Fall of 2009, in a full-time diploma/degree program at an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school in Canada. Scholarship recipients are selected based on a combination of high academic achievement, financial need, strong character/goals and community involvement.

An independent panel of eminent judges selected the 2009 Scholarship winners from the many applications received. The panel was composed of the Honourable Justice Vibert Lampkin, former Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice; Gale Lee, Program Manager for Asia and the Caribbean, CESO and former acting Ambassador to Brussels; and Ken Singh, President, Atlas Cargo and member of the Advisory Council, York University.

Among the sponsors of the 2009 Guyana Awards Scholarships are Scotiabank, Sherene Shaw, and Malcolm Cho-Kee of Kee Plus Realty Ltd. Brokerage.

The premier event in the Guyanese community in Toronto, this year's Guyana Awards Gala features **The Honourable Samuel A. Hinds, Prime Minister of Guyana, as the Guest Speaker**. Tickets are available at \$100 per person and may also be purchased by tables of ten. For information and tickets, contact Felicia Kwang, Guyana Consulate, 416-494-6040 X23, or Bert Bacchus at 905-770-3785.

The Guyana Awards Council (Canada) would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who applied, and to congratulate the recipients of the 2009 Guyana Awards Scholarships.



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For further information, please contact:

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Nancy Rickford, Vice-Chair Public Relations, Guyana Awards Council (Canada), 416-449-4453

May 4, 2009

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE 2009 GUYANA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOLLOW:

DEVANI SINGH

Devani Singh has recently completed an Honours B.A. in English at the University of Toronto Mississauga. She was the recipient of the university's 2008 Lille Huggett Memorial Scholarship, and the 2009 departmental R.W. Van Fossen Award. Last September, she was named an Undergraduate Fellow at UofT's Jackman Humanities Institute, where she is studying storytelling in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

Devani is an Executive Member of the university's English and Drama Student Society, and has just finished a year-long Research Assistantship under Professor Alexandra Gillespie, a medieval scholar with whom Devani has studied manuscript collections at the University of Cambridge. Her enthusiasm for education has led her to various volunteer positions, including E.S.L. Tutor, Teacher's Aide at a local high school, and workshop leader at the Mississauga International Children's Festival. On campus, she has volunteered with the Women's Centre and the Sexual Education Centre, as a Peer Counsellor for 2008-2009.

In addition to her social and extracurricular contributions, Devani has maintained a place on the Dean's Honours List, and will be graduating with High Distinction. This Fall, she will be reading for an MSt in Medieval English Literature at the University of Oxford, where she has been awarded a full scholarship. Thereafter, she intends to obtain a PhD in the same field, and to pursue an academic career.



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ANGELA BRIJMOHAN

Angela Brijmohan is one of the 17-year-old twin daughters of Shanta and Jay Brijmohan and is a firstborn Canadian of Guyanese heritage. Angela's ability to maintain a fine balance in her life is credited to her academic pursuits and deep-rooted devotion to her community.

Angela credits her impressive academic calibre to her family, whose constant support is the undercurrent of her success. This combination has resulted in a total of 18 school awards including multiple Staff Proficiency Awards. Angela is the proud recipient of the University of Toronto National Book Award and was presented with the Millennium Excellence Award from the Canadian Government. Such recognition from both the Canadian and Guyanese community is a blessing and an honour.

Angela is Editor of Woburn C.I.'s 2009 Yearbook and Secretary of the Executive Council for Student Ambassadors. She volunteers as the youth lecturer at Osgoode Hall for "Doors Open Toronto" and at St. Michael's Hospital in the Cardiology lab. One of Angela's principal accomplishments was her advocacy on behalf of Julliette's Place, a shelter helping abused women in her community, resulting in a reward of \$5,000 which she donated to Julliette's Place.

Culturally, Angela sings bhajans, plays harmonium, dantaal and piano. She received early acceptance to the University of Toronto where she will study Life Sciences

AMANDA BRIJMOHAN

Amanda Brijmohan is an accomplished 17-year-old student, graduating from Woburn Collegiate Institute in Spring 2009. The recipient of a multitude of awards both in the classroom and the community, she has demonstrated a high calibre of both academic and leadership excellence.

Amanda's dedication as a prominent student leader was recognized when she was selected to represent her school in the York International Global Leadership Program as a student ambassador. Her leadership is also demonstrated within her school as Senior Editor of the Woburn 2009 Yearbook and in her responsibilities as a Senior Student Prefect. Her commitment to volunteerism is demonstrated in her efforts as a student peer tutor and at the YMCA in her promotion of the Strong Kids Campaign.

Amanda has received an early offer of admission to the University of Toronto where she plans to pursue post-secondary education in the field of Biological Sciences.

One of the twin daughters of Jay and Shanta Brijmohan, Amanda is a first-generation Canadian with a proud Guyanese heritage. She is a multi-faceted vocalist and instrumentalist on the harmonium, daantal, dholak and piano. Amanda attributes her success to her family's undying support. They taught her that no path is forbidden and no mountain too high to conquer, with the presence of faith in oneself.



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SHAUNTEL PARKINSON

Shauntel Parkinson is a Grade Twelve student at Woburn Collegiate Institute. She has been accepted at the University of Toronto and will pursue studies in the Life Sciences beginning this Fall.

Shauntel is a well- rounded individual who is not only strong academically, but is involved in numerous extracurricular activities. She has consistently been on the Honour Roll every term from Middle School to High School and was the class valedictorian for both her Elementary and Middle Schools' graduating classes. She has received numerous awards for sportsmanship, leadership, science, drama and dance.

As a top competitive sprinter on Woburn's Track and Field team, Shauntel has successfully represented her school at both the City and Provincial levels.

In 2008, Shauntel was appointed President of the National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter at Woburn, and with a few of her peers has started her school's first Caribbean African Student Association.

Shauntel has for many years been a devoted volunteer in the Guyanese community—at the annual Guyana Independence Festival and Last Lap Lime, and at numerous BHS Alumni Association activities. Since 2006, Shauntel has been a member of the Toronto Public Library's Youth Advisory Group, and remains an active member of her Church community by teaching Sunday School.

TARA OMAID

Tara Omaid is a 25-year-old graduate student from Vancouver, B.C. who is currently completing her Master's degree in Counselling Psychology. In her graduate thesis, she is researching factors that help children of immigrants to Canada achieve a healthy balance between their traditional cultures and their new Canadian culture, as she believes that well-adjusted youth are less likely to seek inclusion in gangs and other negative activities. She is also a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, an invitation-only academic society for students who rank in the top 15% of their faculty or program.

In addition to her studies, she has worked for many years with the Youth Group of the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Cultural Society of British Columbia, promoting cultural awareness and understanding. She also works as a Family Support Counsellor at B.C. Children's Hospital providing emotional support to families and children in need, and as a Community Counselling Intern in low-income areas of the city, working with those who may not otherwise have the chance to access mental health services.

Tara is an accomplished dancer, having trained professionally since childhood in Bharatnatyam, ballet, and jazz, and delights in sharing her love of dance with others.