



# BENPOST



*Bulletin of St. Benedict's College Alumni Association (Canada)*

ISSUE 48

MARCH, 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**I**t gives me great pleasure to write this short message as we begin the 19th year of our Alumni Association.

A big Thank you to the Council members and their spouses for their tremendous support in organizing all

the events in 2008. I am also grateful to everyone who participated in these events. Without your cooperation, we would not have had the successful year that it was.

The much awaited "Benedictine Nite" dinner dance is scheduled for Saturday May 9, 2009 at the Claireport Place Banquet Hall, Etobicoke. (Please see page 4 of this Bulletin for details). Let's start the year with a bang. I look forward to seeing you with your family and friends at the dance—Be assured of a very enjoy-

able evening in the company of two popular live bands.

The College has appealed to all overseas branches for funds towards the "Swimming Pool Project" that would cost Sri Lankan Rs. 25 Million and have requested us for a contribution of \$10,000.00. Your support is solicited towards this project.

With best wishes,

*Lucian Alles*



## VISITORS FROM DOWN-UNDER



**B**en's stalwart, Morley Fernando (*center, in stripe shirt*) and his charming wife, Joan (*in floral blouse*) from Melbourne, Australia, made a brief stop-over in Toronto during their tour of Los Angeles including Las Vegas and New York. They were greeted by family and friends at the residence of cousin, Barbara Paiva on Friday, October 3, 2008. The couple planned on visiting Vancouver, B.C. before returning home.



**Y**et another Ben's stalwart, Srirajan Fernandopulle (*seated in blue shirt*) from Sydney, Australia, made a surprise visit to Toronto in September, 2008 during his tour to Turkey and the United Kingdom. In spite of his tight schedule planned by cousin, Malik Candappa, Srirajan was pleased to meet some of his friends at a thanksgiving luncheon held on Sunday, October 12 at the residence of Mike & Yvonne Alvis.



## YULETIDE BASH 2008



Let's have a look at what our Alumni Association did to make 2008 Christmas shine! We held a memorable Christmas party on November 29, 2008 at St. John The Divine Church Hall in Scarborough. A packed hall of alumni, family and friends and 16 children who joined the party went home with gifts from Santa, enjoyed fine food, sang Christmas carols, danced to the rhythm of maestro, Isaac Wenaden and had a wonderful experience at our Bash!

A big thank you to our vibrant Social Secretary, Doyne Ramenaden and all who helped to make this evening a success—Thank you to all who attended.

Let's cut the story short and enjoy the Christmas Bash photos! To view more pictures [CLICK HERE!](#)

### PIX BY NAGE MEYAPPAN

Lucian Alles: →  
And his voice  
reverberated the  
hall  
When he sang  
'Angels From  
The Realms Of  
Glory'



The Venderkoe Brothers singing 'Rudolph'



Young Joshua Diaz singing 'Deck The Hall'



Singing 'O Holy Night'—Stanley Arnold



Strumming to a Christmas melody, young Shihara Dematagoda



Tickling the ivories in concert, the charming, Shadini Dematagoda



Brian Felthman and charming wife, Stephanie



They call themselves 'The Kitchen Band'



Percy Pregasam and Pal, Brian Alles



Santa's little girl



Bashing away



## CAROLS AT THE SENIORS HOME

Once again a group of our dedicated alumni, their spouses and their families brought Christmas to the Seniors Health Centre at Sheppard Avenue, Toronto, on Sunday, December 14, 2008 when they sang Christmas carols. Dakini Alles provided the accompaniment on the ivories while Emmanuel Thiruchelvam strummed. The seniors and staff truly enjoyed our singing which brought in the holiday spirit to everyone at the Centre!

Bens' Alumni Association wish to thank all those who participated in the singing.

To view more pictures [click here!](#)



### LEAP YEAR BIRTHDAY BOY

Although his birthday comes once in every four years, Bens Alumni Association President and founder member, Lucian Alles, celebrated his 65th Birthday on Saturday, February 28, at a private party among relatives and

close friends at his home in Mississauga. Bens in Canada wish Lucian good health and happiness for the future.



### SURPRISE PARTY

The look on his unsuspecting face was priceless when the guests—all started singing "Happy Birthday" to Brian Alles who was a guest at Lucian's 65th birthday bash held on February 28, 2009. Although Brian turned 60 on March 3, a surprise for him was planned by Lucian Alles and wife, Dakini to coincide with the party held for Lucian.

We wish Brian good health and happiness over the coming years.



### BIGGEST SURPRISE

The biggest surprise of the evening's celebrations held at the Alles' residence on February 28, 2009 was the announcement of the birthday of Ben's stalwart, Terrence Anthony who turned 58 and was a guest at the party held for Lucian and Brian. Terrence himself was surprised as he intended to keep his birthday a secret. We wish Terry the very best.

### OBITUARIES

Bens Alumni Association is deeply saddened by the loss of Bens stalwart:

**SRILAL DISSANAYAKE**- on January 1, 2009  
Brother of the late, Rev. Fr. Hilarion,  
Winston (Sri Lanka) and Nimal (Canada)



Our deepest sympathies to the family of the dearly departed.

## TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING BENEDICTINE

*By Lucian Alles*

Lasantha Wickrematunge born on April 5, 1958 was just over 50 years old when his life was cut short under tragic circumstances on January 8, 2009; A great loss to the College. One of the finest products of St. Benedict's College, Lasantha was a brilliant student and a loyal old boy of the College always ready and willing to help his Alma Mater whenever possible. A little known fact about Lasantha is that he was a good cricketer. He played for the under 16 team and shone as a left arm leg spinner. He could not continue with his cricket because he went off to the United Kingdom to further his education.

Lasantha was the Editor-in-Chief of the "Sunday Leader" newspaper in Sri Lanka. He remained unbowed and unafraid to the very end. The Benedictine family paid their last respects in large numbers and were joined by the De La Salle Brothers, Old Ben Priests, present and past Benedictines and Staff Members at the funeral procession to the cemetery. The funeral ceremony concluded with the playing of the Last Post by the College Western Band.

Lasantha is the brother of former College cricket captain, Lal and Old Ben Anil. Lasantha is the father of three children, presently studying in Australia.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the members of the family.

## 18TH ANNUAL "BENEDICTINE NITE" DINNER DANCE



**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009**  
**CLAIREPORT PLACE BANQUET & CONVENTION CENTRE**  
**65 CLAIREPORT CRESCENT, ETOBICOKE, ON.**  
(HWY 27 & ALBION ROAD)

**DANCE TO LIVE BANDS**  
**BRIAN FELTHMAN AND SHADE**

**&**

**NAKED FLAME**

**\$50.00**

COCKTAILS: 7:00PM — 7:45PM  
DINNER: 9:00PM

**FOR TICKETS & RESERVATIONS CALL:**

DOYNE RAMENADEN (905) 814-5351  
PRIYAN RANASINGHE (905) 428-8733  
BRIAN FELTHMAN (416) 439-6263  
BRYAN WOOTLER (905) 840-3023  
ANESLEY XAVIER (416) 282-8130