



ANTHONY N. SABGA AWARDS E-NEWS



THE
ANTHONY N. SABGA
CARIBBEAN AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE

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Merry Christmas 2019



We take this opportunity to wish all our subscribers and members of the ANSA Caribbean Awards for Excellence family a merry Christmas and every good wish for the coming year.

We also take this opportunity to welcome four new laureates to our distinguished college — Dr Olivene Burke of Jamaica, Mr Jallim Eudovic of St

Lucia, Dr Shirin Haque of Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr Andrew David Mendes of Guyana. (Brief profiles of each are on the inside pages). This has been an eventful year for the region and the world. We hope that the work our laureates do help in some small way to comfort the needy, give hope to the hopeless, and make our collective future brighter.



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New Laureates

(Full profiles at ansacaribbeanawards.com)



Dr Olivene Burke is a social scientist who has been the Executive Director of the University of the West Indies Mona Social Service (MSS) organisation for the last decade. Dr Burke is responsible for executing the organisation's vision of strengthening under-developed communities via a six-pillar social intervention model comprising education and training, health, sports, entrepreneurship, crime and violence reduction and peace. She is a leader in the university's "gown meets town" initiative to make interventions in its communities.

MSS was established in 2008 and under Dr Burke's leadership has transformed the lives and livelihoods of over 40,000 residents in sixteen Jamaican inner-city communities – including August Town in St Andrew and Salt Spring in Montego Bay. These communities are among the most volatile in Jamaica and the Caribbean. Eighty-five young people from six of the communities have received MSS's UWI Township tertiary scholarship, and 33 have graduated thus far.

MSS's interventions are at every level of the communities they serve: school, homes, recreation, and commerce. Through its activities, several basic and primary schools have been outfitted with refrigerators, stoves, proper ventilation and safety provisions, electrical system upgrades, and teacher training provisions. Students were provided with meals and laptop computers while kitchen gardens were initiated to provide means of self-sufficiency.

In addition to formal schooling, MSS also provides skills training to those older than school age in areas as diverse as construction, housekeeping, and database management for those who would not be caught in the formal school system.

New material on Facebook. Visit and share

Jallim Eudovic is a sculptor from St. Lucia. His work, wood, bronze and marble sculptures, are rooted in the Saint Lucian/Caribbean culture but enjoys international appeal. He has been invited to various parts of the world, including China, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Africa, Martinique and has been entrusted with the work of creating sculptures for public spaces in several Chinese cities where he has erected seven monumental sculptures to date.

Some of his more recent works include a government-commissioned public monument for the Castries waterfront in St Lucia entitled "All In" to commemorate the island's independence. Additionally, he has exhibited at the Afro Future Art Exhibition (Miami, 2019), the Zari Gallery (London, 2016), at Carifesta, Suriname (2013), the Stephen Lawrence Centre in London (2016), the 532 Gallery Thomas Jaeckel (New York, 2017) and in various group shows in France and Martinique. One of his most consistent foreign ports of call is China, where he has been invited to create public works for the cities of Zhengzhou, Changchun and Fuzhou since 2008.

Eudovic is a wholly indigenous talent. His early education comes from his father, famed St Lucian wood sculptor Joseph Eudovic and later, through his many international exploits which shaped his life's philosophy and made him a rele-

vant voice in the African diaspora. He is well-known through the Eastern Caribbean and beyond, though he remains in St Lucia, and draws on the indigenous knowledge of the island for his work.

The Jamaican curator, Ludlow Bailey, founder of Contemporary African Diaspora Art (CADA) in Miami lauds him as a "trailblazer amongst the new breed of Caribbean artists".





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New Laureates (Full profiles at ansacaribbeanawards.com)

Andrew Mendes is an entrepreneur who brings a welcome change to the extractive industries (logging and oil), which are becoming more unpopular due to environmental concerns. He is the Managing Director of Farfan and Mendes Ltd (FML – a family business in Guyana).



When he joined it in 1992, it was a small concern, employing fewer than 20 people and known mainly for selling chainsaws to the timber companies, with an annual turnover of G\$78 million. Today, because of his leadership, FML has

business interests in not only forestry, but also in the mining, agricultural, and oil and gas sectors, and employs more than 370 people with an annual turn over in excess of G\$5 billion.

FML competes locally, regionally and internationally with the Farfan & Mendes Group now comprising Mines Services Suriname NV and two new ventures: Jaguar Oilfield Services and Panthera Solutions. Both have been built through smart partnerships with established global companies giving FML a strong foothold in the emerging oil and gas sector. This led to Panthera Solutions Inc. being the first Guyanese company to develop the capacity and work on the newly arrived Liza Destiny FPSO within two years of its incorporation.

The company is also making a name in the world of renewable energy. In 2019 it was awarded a \$25 million government contract for the supply, installation and commissioning of solar photovoltaic systems for ICT hubs, installed the first private grid connected solar system at their offices at Providence, the first hybrid solar, generator and lithium ion storage system in the country, and has installed over 5 MW of solar systems countrywide.

New material on Facebook. Visit and share

Dr Shirin Haque is an astronomer, a senior lecturer, former deputy dean and former head of the Department of Physics, at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. She is the first and only woman to head the department to date. In 2018 she also became the first woman to be awarded the prestigious CARICOM Science Award.

Dr Haque is an inspiring teacher and researcher in the cutting-edge field of astrobiology, at the UWI, which seeks to understand the complexities of life in the universe. She has pioneered work on the Pitch Lake at La Brea and the mud volcanoes in Trinidad that is recognized internationally. She was featured on BBC's *Science in Action* programme in 2008 for her work in Astrobiology at the Pitch Lake. She collaborates with astrobiologists in Finland, Germany and the USA.

She started an observational astronomy programme at St Augustine, in collaboration with the University of Turku in Finland, and its success has brought more international attention to UWI with contribution of data to the monitoring of a monstrous binary black hole system and the first comet lander mission. The National Science Foundation in the USA, through the National Radio Astronomy Observatory appointed her as programme director for the development of a Caribbean hub in radio astronomy in 2018.

Her love of astronomy and passion for

teaching have led to significant success in popularizing astronomy in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region through her research, public lectures, news paper, magazine articles, short courses for the public, documentary videos and the first ever Caribbean Astronomy series on television on *IeTV*. She produces and is editor of the magazine *The Intellectual – art, science and architecture* distributed regionally and internationally.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, Member of the International Astronomical Union and the American Astronomical Society. She is a founding member of the Caribbean Institute of Astronomy (CARINA).



The 2020 Awards in Trinidad

After travelling round the region for the last three years, the 2020 Awards Ceremony returns to Trinidad and Tobago. We look forward to seeing all our laureates, past and present, EPP members, committee heads, and our guests. The ceremony will be held on April 25.

Happy 2020

