



# Anthony N Sabga Awards' E-News

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## Ceremony in Barbados

With three Laureates from Barbados this year, it was a foregone conclusion that we would host our ceremony there.

The Barbados Hilton proved an excellent location and we were delighted to have Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason President of Barbados among our distinguished guests.



Laureate Dr  
Diva Amon

Our Laureates – Dr Stefan Walcott, Arts & Letters; Mr Johann Epstein, Entrepreneurship; Ms Kerryann Ifill, Public & Civic Contributions; Dr Diva Amon, Science & Technology (Joint); and Dr Morris Scantlebury, Science & Technology (Joint) – brightened the evening with interesting and entertaining remarks.

For the first time in Awards history, we welcomed top performing students to the ceremony, and hope they were as motivated by the standard of excellence on display as we were.

Specially invited top-performing



students arrive at the ceremony





Her Excellency the Most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason President of Barbados, Chairman of The ANSA McAL Foundation Mr Andrew Sabga, and Chairman of the EPP Professor Compton Bourne



Professor Compton and Mrs Pamela Bourne



Laureate Stefan Walcott and family



Laureate Johann Epstein with ANSA McAL Foundation Directors Amanda Jardine and Sharon Christopher.



A performance from "Handel's Caribbean Messiah" by Stefan Walcott and Friends



Laureate Dr Morris Scantlebury and Rhonda Richardson, with neurologist Dr Avidesh Panday and Anali Maharaj





## Independence 45

Economic development consultant, playwright and poet, Laureate Dr Adrian Augier (Arts & Letters, 2010) wrote a poem titled “Independence 45” for St Lucia’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence celebrations held earlier this year.

Not so much a date  
as a mandate  
that every life  
must flower  
blossom  
bloom  
and seed  
in joy and safety  
with space enough  
to dream  
play  
grow  
question  
declare proudly  
all of this is me,  
and work  
and be,  
communing peaceably  
into the best  
that we  
could ever  
seek to be.

Dr Augier’s poem (excerpted above) was dedicated to Dr Charmaine Gardner, a member of our Eminent Persons Panel who is recovering from illness.



Dr Adrian Augier



St Lucian entrepreneur Dr Charmaine Gardner



## Z for Zinc



Plant scientist Laureate Dr Mahendra Persaud (Science & Technology, 2023) and his team at the Rice Research Station in Berbice, Guyana, have released the Caribbean's first zinc-enriched rice variety. The variety was released for commercial cultivation in October 2023 and is now grown in farmers' fields across Guyana. Zinc is known to strengthen the immune system and Dr Persaud says the new rice variety is a good choice for farmers and well suited for the local and export markets.

## Liam, Arts Champion

Laureate Dr Liam Teague (Arts & Letters, 2014) was recently presented with the Champion of the Arts Award by the Fox Valley Music Consortium in Illinois, where he heads Steelpan Studies at Northern Illinois University.

Dr Teague's success followed that of his son, 16-year-old Jaden Teague-Nunez, who won the prestigious Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition in February.



Jaden performed selections from *A Visit to Hell*, a feature for solo steelpan and orchestra composed by his father.



## Ambassador Professor Bourne



Have you heard that the Chairman of our Eminent Persons Panel, Professor Compton Bourne, is moving to Brasilia?

Prof Bourne was recently appointed as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to Brazil. He is expected to take up his post in the Brazilian capital in the next couple months. A host of bilateral issues including infrastructure development, military assistance, and cross-border migration await.

Ambassador Bourne will continue to serve as Chairman of the EPP. We wish him all the best in his diplomatic endeavours.

## The People's Choice



Laureate Joanne C. Hillhouse (Arts & Letters, 2023) won the People's Choice Award for her "Creative Space" online column at the Caribbean Broadcasting Union's Caribbean Media Awards in 2023. Joanne is an Antiguan writer. Her "Creative Space" spotlights Antiguan and Barbudan/Caribbean art and culture.

You can check it out at: [CREATIVE SPACE | johadli \(wordpress.com\)](https://johadli.wordpress.com)





## Three new EPP members

The Regional Eminent Persons Panel recently bid farewell to Mr Christopher Bovell and The Most Honourable Sir Kenneth Hall welcomed three new faces: Mr Richard Byles, Governor of the Bank of Jamaica; former St Lucia Ambassador to Caricom and the OECS Ambassador Dr June Soomer; and the first female Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at UWI Mona, Professor Minerva Thame.



Ambassador Dr June Soomer



Mr Richard Byles



Mr Christopher Bovell



Professor Minerva Thame



Sir Kenneth Hall

