

Laureate News



ANTHONY N. SABGA AWARDS
Caribbean Excellence



About Us

The Anthony N Sabga Awards, Caribbean Excellence was established in 2005 to recognise and support excellence in human endeavour that uplifts the region.

Since then, we've awarded 71 laureates, presenting them with over TT\$34 million to further their careers.

The Awards' Laureate News is a regular publication – all about our laureates and the infrastructure that selects and supports them.

[Learn More](#)



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Our 2026 ceremony

Our 2026 ceremony at the Guyana Marriott in Georgetown, Guyana saw our Joint Science & Technology Laureate Dr Niven R. Narain using his acceptance remarks to pledge his prize money to establishing mobile units for women's health in Georgetown and Miami. Patron of the Awards, Mr A. Norman Sabga, immediately matched the Laureate's pledge, remarking that he was deeply touched by his generosity.

The keynote speaker, Prime Minister of Guyana, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, reflected on a question posed by beloved Guyanese musician, the late Dave Martins. "Where are your heroes, Caribbean?" asked Prime Minister Phillips. "The answer tonight is simple: They are right here. They are in this room. They are in our universities, our laboratories, our boardrooms, our clinics, our studios, our families, our farms, and our communities. They are walking among us, often quietly, often without fanfare, but always with impact."



2026 Laureates



MS SHEENA ROSE

Arts & Letters



MR DEAN NEVERS,OD

Entrepreneurship



MRS SHAMELLE RICE

Public & Civic Contributions



DR NIVEN NARAIN

Science & Technology (Joint)



PROFESSOR TANNECIA

STEPHENSON

Science & Technology (Joint)



Red Carpet



State House

The day before the awards ceremony, we paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana.

President Ali congratulated our five new laureates and emphasized that they must continue to contribute to Caribbean development in their respective fields. In an audience that lasted well over an hour, the President also spoke about his government's efforts to add value to Guyana's agriculture sector by stimulating agri-investment and encouraging greenhouse production and agri-processing in low-income communities.



Diva and the deep blue sea

Marine biologist and 2024 Science & Technology Laureate Dr Diva Amon recently headed a team of Trinidad and Tobago scientists on the first ever locally-led deep-sea exploration of the ocean around T&T. The team set off on their month-long expedition on the RV Falkor (too) on June 29.

Streaming live from their sub-sea Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), they gave Caribbean nationals a glimpse of the wonders of the deep, at times exceeding 5,000 feet. Among the sights were an impressive mussel metropolis, crabs feasting on the tissue of a ray that had sunk to the sea floor at 3,000 feet, and a tiny deep-sea octopus.

The team mapped the seafloor and gathered a vast amount of data to give us all a better understanding of T&T's deep ocean. Congrats, Diva and team on your discoveries of #deepwonders!

On one dive, the team collected what could be the first specimen of an unknown deep-sea octopus (at right). Scientists will study it in detail and it will be preserved in T&T where it can be accessed by scientists, educators and future generations.



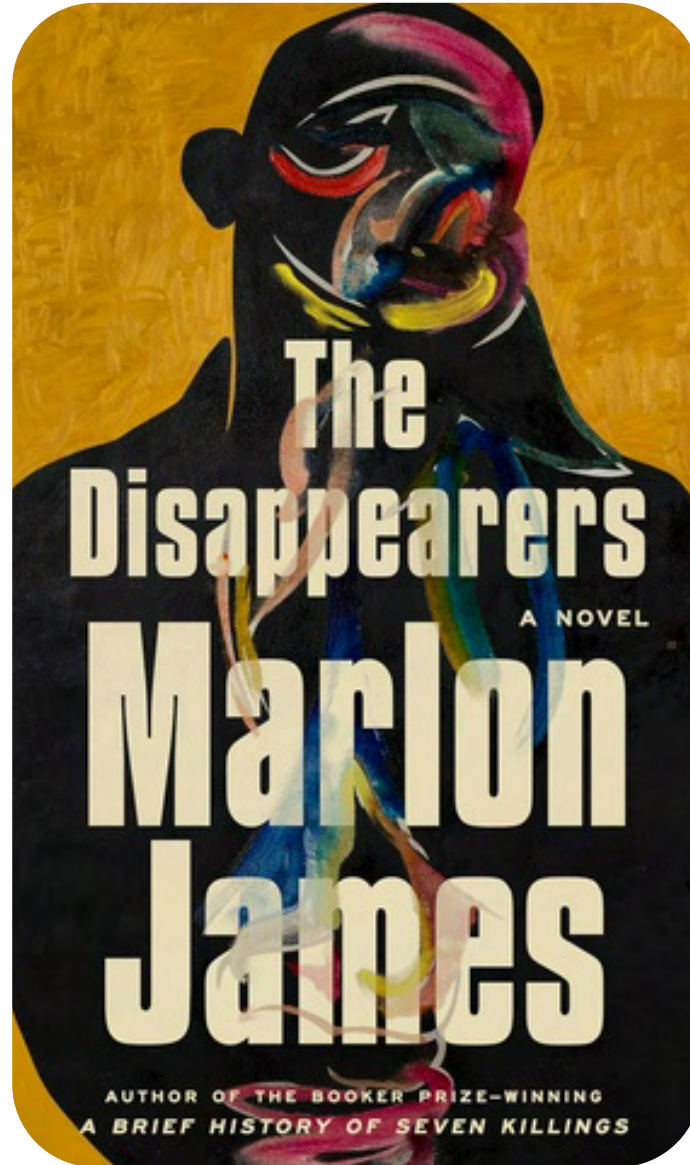
Marlon nominated for Booker

Author and 2022 Arts & Letters Laureate Marlon James has been nominated, once again, for the prestigious Booker Prize. The Booker nomination is for the novelist's yet-to-be released book about an anti-gay hate crime in 1980s Jamaica, *The Disappearers*. It is one of 13 books nominated for the distinguished British literary award.

The Disappearers is scheduled for September 1 release and the Booker nominees will be whittled down to a shortlist of six on September 22.

The 55-year-old Jamaican author, resident in New York, previously won the Booker in 2015 for *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, his novel about Bob Marley and a series of fictionalized characters set in tumultuous political times in Jamaica.

The Booker Prize is worth £50,000.



And in news of the infrastructure that supports the awards...

Seeta makes the shortlist

Guyana Country Nominating Committee (CNC) member Dr Seeta Shah Roath has made the shortlist for the Guyana Prize for Literature in the Drama category for her play *Kisna*.

Dr Shah Roath is an educator and journalist who has written for stage and radio. She is a curriculum specialist and an instructor in Research and Film courses at the tertiary level.

The Guyana Prize is the country's premier literary award. Winners will be announced August 7.



‘Apologize for the slave trade’

Ambassador Dr June Soomer, a member of the Regional Eminent Persons Panel which selects our laureates, has told a Reparations Forum on the sidelines of the 51st CARICOM Summit in St Lucia that a manifesto on reparations launched at the summit starts “with a full and formal apology, which all of us think is important and which we think has been disregarded.”

Soomer, who is a member of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, told the audience at the manifesto’s launch that financial reparations for the Atlantic slave trade are important, but the manifesto addresses deeper issues on “the return of our dignity, our personhood, of who we are as a people.”

“The manifesto demands a number of things from those people who enslaved us. But it also demands things from ourselves with regard to how we treat each other, how we regard each other, how we see Pan-Caribbeanism, and how we see Pan-Africanism.”

Ambassador Dr June Soomer, member of the CARICOM Reparations Commission



Man of Steel

Pannist Jaden Teague-Núñez, son of our 2014 Arts & Letters Laureate Liam Teague, is the subject of a new YouTube documentary titled *Man of Steel*.

In 2024, Jaden won the Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Orchestra's (CSO) Young Artists Competition, becoming the first steelpan player in history of the event to do so. He began studying classical and jazz pan and piano at age 8.

"It's not lost on us the incredible responsibility that Jaden has on his shoulders and will continue to have on his shoulders if he ultimately continues to pursue this path. Because the instrument is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, and an instrument, truth be told, so many Caribbean countries identify with."

So as much as we would love to see Jaden continue to succeed as an individual, we're also excited to see what he can do to open new doors for up-and-coming steelpan musicians."

Liam Teague in *Man of Steel*



A regional tragedy

The Anthony N Sabga Awards would like to extend our sincere condolences to friends and relatives of all affected by the MV Barima ferry tragedy in July.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our entire Guyana family.

