

PROFILES OF THE HONOARY GRADUANDS 2023



Ms Alison Hinds

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt)

Alison was born in England and lived in London until the age of 11. She then moved to Barbados with her mother where she found her love for Caribbean music like Calypso and Reggae. At the tender age of 17, she joined 'Square One' as one of the band's lead vocalists. The band recorded several albums and won multiple awards with hits like 'Ragamuffin', 'Aye Aye Aye' and 'Faluma'. 'Faluma' topped the charts in many Central American countries including Guatemala for 46 weeks. Faluma is widely considered as the greatest ever Soca song. In 2005, Alison formed her own band and released her first solo album titled 'Soca

Queen' in 2007. The album delivered her positive message of love and upliftment for one and all and was a celebration created for her fans all over the world. Her most successful international song 'Roll It Gal', peak at #52 on the Billboard R&B charts in 2006. The song has been featured in many Hollywood productions such as Greys Anatomy. "Togetherness," was also featured on the album and is another Soca anthem that is played at every West Indian festival around the world.

During the course of her illustrious career Alison has been a trailblazer for female Caribbean artists as highlighted.

2014

Appointed International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) Goodwill Ambassador.

2016

Sang the United States national anthem before the start of the National Basketball Association (NBA) match-up between Brooklyn Nets and Cleveland Cavaliers at the Barclays Center.

2018

Alison received the designation Barbados Cultural Ambassador from Prime Minister Freundel Stuart. She joined Rihanna as the only other female to be designated with a Cultural Ambassador post for Barbados.

On June 28, 2018, Alison headlined Rotterdam Carnival 2018. She performed in front of a partisan crowd of 45,000 people. It was a ground-breaking moment as she became the first female soca artist to headline one of the largest festivals in the Netherlands.

On August 9, 2018, Alison was again honored in New York city. She received the Brooklyn proclamation by the Mayor of Brooklyn for her outstanding career and service to the Caribbean community.

2019

Performed at the Vodafone Ghana Video Music Awards. Becoming the first soca artist to ever perform at the Ghana Music Awards.

Was a prominent cast member in the Afro-Caribbean movie 'Joseph'. The movie was shot in Jamaica and Ghana.

2021

In August 2021, Alison became the first soca artist to be interviewed on New York's most popular radio show - the Breakfast Club. Alison highlighted her journey as an artist and spoke about her family life during the interview.

In October 2021, Alison was honored by the city of Miramar for her outstanding contribution in the arts and entertainment field at the Annual Black British Awards Ceremony.

Alison Hinds is a vital element on the Caribbean music scene and a major force in the eruption of innovative, urban-influenced Caribbean-based music. Similar to artists such as fellow Bajan popstar Rihanna, Sean Paul, and Shaggy, Alison has had an impact on music worldwide and has left an indelible footprint on the Caribbean music scene.

When Alison is not performing she takes time out to work as an advocate for causes such as AIDS awareness, Women's rights, diabetes and cancer foundations as well as organizations for disabled and physically challenged children.



Mr Ian Hickling
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (DSc)

New Zealander Mr Ian Hickling holds a BSc degree in Cell Biology and Biochemistry as well as a MSc degree in Biochemistry from The University of Auckland. He is also the holder of a MBA from Warwick University Business School.

Mr Hickling is the President of Lenstec (Barbados) Inc, a commercial medical device factory which he opened in 1996 in Barbados. Lenstec develops and manufactures intraocular lenses and currently employs more than 260 employees. The manufacturing technologies and processes are designed and built in-house by Lenstec's engineering staff. Many of Lenstec's employees are UWI graduates. Lenstec's proprietary lens manufacturing technologies, including micro-precision lathes, mills, polishing equipment, and molds, have enabled the company to produce premium lenses with reduced variability to help improve surgical predictability. Its lenses are produced for several IOL companies under private label. Currently more intraocular lenses are made with Lenstec technology worldwide than any other system.

As President of one of the leading export manufacturers in Barbados, Mr Hickling was invited by Export Barbados to serve as Member of its Life Sciences Oversight Committee to oversee the development of a Life Sciences industry in Barbados under The Bio-Island initiative. He has delivered keynote addresses to the Barbados Association of Engineers Annual Conference, and The UWI Cave Hill Campus Science Festival. In a civic capacity, he has served on the Board of Management and the Parent Teachers Association at the St Gabriel's Primary School in Barbados.

Prior to establishing Lenstec in Barbados, Mr Hickling was the Industrial Research Biochemist at New Zealand Pharmaceuticals Ltd, R&D Manager/Production Manager at Spectrum Laboratories Division of Douglas Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Quality Assurance Manager at Nufarm Ltd and Manager of Technology Transfer, Fred Hollows Foundation. At Fred Hollows Foundation, he oversaw the building of medical device manufacturing facilities in Nepal and Eritrea.



Mrs Trisha Tannis
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD)

Mrs Trisha Tannis holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Accounting from The University of the West Indies (The UWI). Mrs Tannis is professionally qualified as a Chartered Professional Accountant of Canada. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute of Canada as well as Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados.

Mrs Tannis, an experienced strategic finance professional, is the Managing Director of the Unicomer (Barbados) Group. She was the first female appointed to the office of Managing Director in the Unicomer Caribbean and Latin America Group.

Mrs Tannis was elected unopposed to serve as President of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce (BCCI) in May 2019 and she served with distinction for two terms. She ably steered the BCCI during the COVID-19 pandemic which was a very challenging period for all; nonetheless, Mrs Tannis was able to strategize and assist the Government of Barbados in managing the pandemic including lockdown and reopening measures.

Mrs Tannis is the first female Chair of the Barbados Private Sector Association (BPSA) after being nominated and elected unanimously in September 2021. Under her leadership, the BPSA tendered recommendations to the Government of Barbados for the 2022 Budgetary and Financial Statements, some of which were included in the Government's 2022 Budget presentation by the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley. During her tenure as Chair of the BPSA, Mrs Tannis worked proactively with the government to stabilise the cost of basic food items to stave off the inflationary effects of the war in Ukraine and supply chain disruptions.

Trisha Tannis has become a key strategic partner of the Cave Hill Campus as Chair of the BPSA to strengthen private sector engagement. She co-organised the inaugural UWI Private Sector Forum and the Business and Management Research Think Tank, both events in 2022. Deepening private sector engagement is recognised as a prerequisite and key strategic goal of the 2022-2027 Cave Hill Strategy to drive entrepreneurship and innovation.