

2015 SAINT Awardees

Sybil Joyce Thompson, OD Class of 1941



Old Girl extraordinaire - A Dynamic, Innovative Powerhouse

Sybil excelled at her beloved alma mater (1935-1941) and recorded an outstanding career in the civil service as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mining, and Director of the National Insurance Scheme in the Ministry of Social Security, just to name a few. In 1997 she was conferred with the Order of Distinction for outstanding service to the Government of Jamaica.

Sybil has spent her life establishing strong foundations on which individuals, groups, organizations and her island home Jamaica, can build and prosper. In 1975, Sybil founded the Reach Women's Club, to assist less fortunate Jamaicans to improve themselves, and the elderly who need material or emotional assistance. Another initiative was her 1991 revival of one of St. Andrew Parish Church's outreach projects: its ministry to the St. Clement's Mission in Kencot, St. Andrew. Sybil did this by starting a Sunday School there, and now St. Clement's hosts church services every Sunday.

Sybil also spearheaded the construction of the Kencot Training and Development Centre, which houses a homework centre for children in the community, offers job placement assistance, and provides adults with life skills and skills training. Sybil herself is an integral part of St. Clement's outreach, counseling persons of all ages in need of assistance, organising summer camps, executing an annual Christmas treat for the children, and running a mentorship programme for boys and young men living in and around the Kencot community.

Sybil currently serves on the St. Andrew Old Girls' Executive and in 2012, she initiated a programme of visitation to elderly Old Girls, enabling old girls of different generations to enjoy each another's company and learn from one another.

To Sybil, all things are possible with God, and she can do all things through Christ. Her life has been one of service to God and humankind. Sybil's brain is sharp, and her faith is strong. Positive transformation of the heart and mind are central to her philosophy of life.



Ambassador the Hon Patricia Durrant, OJ, CD Class of 1960 (6th form)



Distinguished Career Diplomat, exemplary Role Model and a committed SAHS Alumna

This diminutive, accomplished and dignified lady has been associated with St. Andrew High School for over five decades. A career diplomat since 1971, Pat has served as Jamaica's ambassador to several countries and from 1983-87, represented Jamaica at the United Nations as Deputy Permanent Representative and was later appointed Permanent Representative from 1995-2002. In 2002, Pat became the first person to ever hold the post of United Nations Ombudsman, and served in that position until 2007. Undoubtedly this huge international honour, is a testament to her calm, peaceful demeanour, her excellent interpersonal skills, and her ability to bring people together.

In recognition of her sterling career in the diplomatic service, the Government of Jamaica in 1971 conferred on Pat the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) 1971 and in 2002, the Order of Jamaica (OJ) for services to Jamaica in the field of international relations. In 2005 she received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of the West Indies, and in that year, she was also recognised as a SAHS 80th Anniversary trailblazer.

Despite the many awards and accolades she has received, in her retirement years Pat continues to serve her country and St. Andrew High School in many ways. She is a Director of the St. Andrew High School Foundation, chaired the organizing committee for the 85th anniversary, served as the vice-chairperson for the 90th anniversary committee, and assists on a regular basis with the Leadership Development Programme for sixth formers.

Pat is an active member of the United Nations Women's Guild (Jamaica) and served as President from 2009 to 2015. Currently serving as the Coordinator for Social Services she works with the Guild to provide assistance to pre-school children as well as needy high school students. She also mentors young diplomats and is an exemplary role model for Jamaican women, in all fields of endeavour.