



## SAGE Newsletter

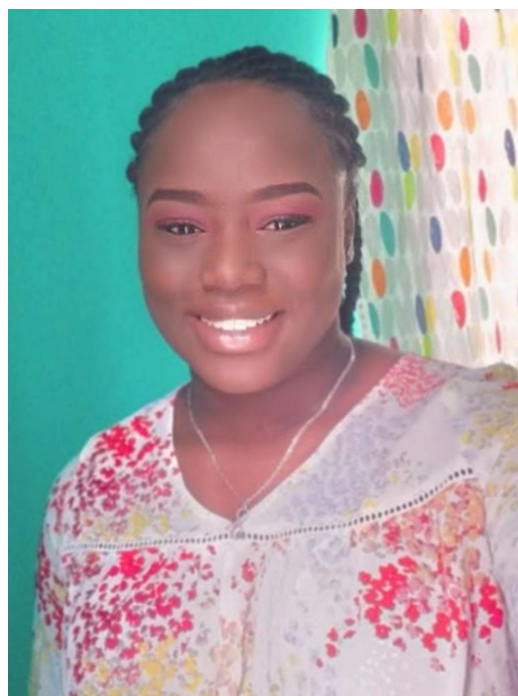
### Spring 2022

#### Hello from SAGE!

The spring semester at the University of Guyana began on March 21st and will continue through July. We have eleven scholars currently studying at UG, including **Canisha Primo**. Canisha was awarded a SAGE scholarship in September 2021. Below, she shares her thoughts on being selected as one of our scholars.

We are also excited to share that a **new memorial scholarship** was established in 2021. Keep reading to learn about the remarkable individuals for whom the scholarship was established.

#### Meet Canisha Primo!



Selected as a 2021 SAGE Scholar, Canisha is studying Environmental Science at the University of Guyana. In response to her selection, Canisha had this to say:

*"I am equally grateful and honored to be a SAGE Scholar. It's a blessing to be granted this startling opportunity to contribute to my country's development."*

We are thrilled to have Canisha as part of the SAGE family and look forward to sharing more about her studies in the future.

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### **Introducing the Christine and Alvareen Kisten Memorial Scholarship!**



SAGE is proud to announce the establishment of a new memorial scholarship honoring Christine and Alvareen Kisten. The Christine and Alvareen Kisten Memorial Scholarship supports the education of a SAGE Scholar working towards a STEM degree. Here we share more

about the remarkable individuals this scholarship honors:

*Christine was the daughter of Robert and Alvareen Kisten. She was an integral part of her brothers' support system in their high school years in Guyana, and their undergraduate years in New York. She spoke often with pride of her brothers' achievements. In Guyana, Christine was an enthusiastic member of her church community, and her involvement in helping those around, even beyond the confines of the church, was a source of mutual joy and satisfaction. Her love of children led her to be a Sunday School teacher and to later support underprivileged children around the world. To her teachers, Christine was a warm and friendly student, who was affectionate and well-liked. Her favorite subjects in high school were English and Literature. She later became a Registered Early Childhood Educator in Canada and enjoyed the time spent with her young charges immensely.*

*Alvareen, was not only mom to Christine, but also to twins whom she was determined would be very successful. She wanted them to have access to education that was not afforded to her. This was evident in her approach: she kept a vigilant watch over their academic progress, often waking them up at 4 AM to study for upcoming exams in high school. She earned the title of "cook extraordinaire," in her efforts to encourage them to eat well. She balanced her determination for their success with equal parts of fun and faith. Weekly family attendance at church and spirited cricket matches with neighborhood kids provided the much-needed respite from the rigors of academia. Her efforts were not in vain. Both of her twins have achieved all she had envisioned for them. Today, Shadrach is the Chief Technology Officer for a media company, and his twin, Meshach, is a Controller for a private equity firm in New York City. They both reflect with appreciation on the legacy left by their mom, who was their biggest supporter, and their sister Christine, who was always in their corner.*

*Christine and Alvareen's belief that education was the most accessible path to success, inspired Shadrach Kisten to offer a full Scholarship for Advanced Global Education, to a student without access to higher education, in a STEM field, in their honor.*

## Support SAGE!

SAGE began in 2009 and supports scholars every academic year at the University of Guyana. To date, **26 deserving students** have received full scholarships to pursue a wide range of majors.

SAGE Scholars are selected based on their academic record and dedication to making a positive impact in Guyana.

Help us continue our important work! To learn more about how you can support SAGE click **HERE**.



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