

PRESS RELEASE

BY

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO PUBLISHERS & BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION (TTPBA)

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The Trinidad & Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters Association (TTPBA) in association with Title Sponsor, TSTT Blackberry, last evening hosted its 6th Annual Dinner & Awards for Media Excellence. The Awards were initiated in 2004 by the TTPBA to recognise those who have been in the media industry for over twenty years and who significantly contributed to the development of media in their field.

At the Awards Ceremony held at the Century Ballroom of the Queen's Park Cricket Club on Friday, the TTPBA paid tribute to the late Dunstan Williams, known to all as DEW, with his sister, Eucille Cook, receiving the award on his behalf. Mark Lindersay shared with guests his awe at having been able to meet and spend time with the painfully shy cartoonist as he came up with his clever drawings and one line satire on what was happening in the country at the time. Mr. Lindersay thanked the TTPBA for recognising DEW's contribution.

The other two awardees yesterday evening were Hans Hanoomansingh and Allyson Hennessy. Mr. Hanoomansingh received the TTPBA Award for Media Excellence for his contribution to many aspects of radio, television and print. He gave a wonderfully vivid description of the times in which he grew up and his experiences throughout his broadcasting career. Mr. Hanoomansingh recalled that it was Holly Betaudier who stopped him on the street to tell him that Barry Gordon was looking for him to read the News. He noted too the strides made in reaching almost every niche in Trinidad & Tobago considering that the first programme allowing Indian music to be played was fifteen minutes long. Mr. Hanoomansingh said that though he had received many rewards, receiving this TTPBA Award for Media Excellence from his peers in the industry was indeed the pinnacle.

Allyson Hennessy received her award for the significant role she played, via television, in providing an outlet for the expression of views and exposing the work of our people to the nation. Mrs. Hennessy enthralled guests with a stirring account of how she came to be 'on television' having had no previous experience and being asked by Hazel Ward to do a cooking segment. She said she fell in love with television the first time she entered a television studio. Having interviewed many different people from all walks of life, including Dr. Eric Williams, Michael Jackson and the calypso greats, Allyson said that the real highlight of her career was knowing that she was able to reach and communicate with people in their homes, people who might otherwise not have been reached. This made her certain, she said, that this was her calling.

The Awardees also received a gift from TSTT Blackberry. TSTT Vice President of Customer Services, Dianna de Sousa, spoke of the recent launch of IPTV or Blink Entertainment offering local and

international television channels through its Broadband network. Other sponsors for the evening were the National Lotteries Control Board, BPTT and First Citizens.

The high profile event was attended by industry colleagues, members of the Advertising Agencies Association, representatives of COTT, MATT and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad & Tobago. Also present were past recipients of the Award including Holly Betaudier, Ken Gordon and relatives of the late Sam Ghany.

In her brief address to guests, President of the TTPBA, Kiran Maharaj, said the Awards were a reminder of the passion that has always existed in the industry saying the Awards epitomise integrity in media that she hoped would shine for generations to come.

Ms. Maharaj spoke of the technological landscape and the synergy of the time and urged her fellow media owners and managers to work together to conquer problems and to remember their responsibility to their human resource in preparing them for the future.
