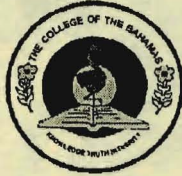


*THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS*  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS**



Celebrating 100 Years of Nursing Education in The Bahamas

***"Recognizing the Past, Present and Envisioning the Future"***

*SALUTES*  
**MRS. IRONACA MORRIS-BAKER**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2002**  
**2:00 P.M.**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



**THE FIRST BAHAMIAN NURSE EDUCATOR  
1966**

## IRONACA MORRIS-BAKER

The first Bahamian Nurse Educator Ironaca Morris Baker received her basic nursing education at Orpington and Sevenoakes in Kent, UK 1954-1959. She then went on to complete her midwifery at Colchester Hospital in Essex, UK. Additionally, she obtained Bachelors in Nursing and a Masters degree in Education from the University of Miami. Mrs. Morris-Baker also has a Sister Tutors Diploma from the Royal College of Nursing, the United Kingdom, and an Advanced Diploma in Public Administration and Policy Management.

Mrs. Morris-Baker's association with nursing education began in 1961 when she taught classes in the Rand Laboratory. Further she was assigned to assist the then Principal Nursing Officer of the School of Nursing Mrs. Monica Knowles who she eventually replaced in 1968.

During her tenure as Principal of the School of Nursing from 1968 to 1983 Mrs. Morris Baker was responsible for advancing the basic nursing programme to world-class status. It was during this time that the Nursing programme in The Bahamas received reciprocity with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. This meant that nurses trained in the Bahamas no longer had to travel to England to complete their professional training which was the situation prior to reciprocity. Also, the Trained Clinical Nursing programme, the first library for students and the Community Health Nursing programme were all established under the tenure of Mrs. Morris-Baker.

In her quest to ensure that nursing in the Bahamas was kept in line with the needs of The Bahamas as well as the times/ rest of the world, Mrs. Morris was apart of the team that moved to have the training of nurses placed in an institution of higher learning. According to Mrs Morris Baker, a major concern at that time was the status of nurses and the need to ensure that nursing was on line with it's counterparts in the Allied Health Professions. To this end, there was a Regional Initiative to determine the feasibility of placing all nursing programmes in institutions of higher learning.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) spearheaded this initiative under the direction of the Ministry of Finance. Based upon the finding of UNDP the School of Nursing by an Act of Parliament was transferred into the College of The Bahamas in 1991.

Achievements worthy of note include, president of the Nurses Association, Chair of the Legislation Committee which lobbied for review of the laws of which the Nurses and Midwives act was passed and the institutionalization of a Nursing Council as a Statutory Body to regulate nursing education and practice in The Bahamas. She also served as a member and the Chairperson of the Nursing Council between 1971-1994.

As a community activist Mrs. Morris- Baker is involved with the Pilots Club of Nassau, Golden Days Association, St Joseph Church Parish Council, St Martins Convent and Xavier's Old Scholars Association.

Mrs. Morris Baker has been the recipient of numerous Honors and awards for the work that she has done towards advancing the nursing profession within The Bahamas and the world.

According to our nurse educator pioneer "We are in a new and scientific era, nurses are a very important resource therefore their knowledge base should be sound and we need to **treat them well.**"

## PROGRAMME

ENTRY OF HONOREE.....	
INVOCATION .....	Mrs. V. Cleare, Supervisor Support Staff, Grosvenor Close Campus
NATIONAL ANTHEM .....	
WELCOME .....	Miss E. Douglas, Provost Grosvenor Close Campus
REMARKS .....	Dr. Leon Higgs, President The College of The Bahamas  Senator, The Honorable Dr. Marcus Bethel Minister of Health  The Honorable Cynthia Pratt Deputy Prime Minister
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER .....	Mrs. H. Douglas, Lecturer School of Nursing & Allied Health Professions
SPEAKER .....	Miss Mary Johnson Director of Nursing
TRIBUTE TO HONOREE .....	Mrs. Willamae Stuart Acting First Assistant Secretary Ministry of Health
SONG .....	
PRESENTATION TO HONOREE.....	Mrs. Maggie Turner, Chairperson School of Nursing & Allied Health Professions
RESPONSE .....	Honoree
UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE .....	
VOTE OF THANKS.....	Miss Shirley Curtis Head of Department of Post Basic Studie

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Miss Zorene Curry, Chairperson  
Ms. Virginia Ballance, Librarian, Hilda Bowen Library  
Miss Ernestine Douglas, Provost, GCC  
Mrs. Diane Holden  
Miss Shirley Curtis  
Mrs. Hilda Douglas  
Mrs. Esther Sherman-Jolly  
Mrs. Shane Neily-Smith

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Faculty, School of Nursing & Allied Health Professions  
Office of The Provost, Grosvenor Close Campus  
Secretarial Staff, School of Nursing & Allied Health Professions  
Library Staff, Hilda Bowen Library