

Business Hall of Fame Inductees 2015

The name Bernard Dulal-Whiteway filled many headlines over the years. As Group CEO of the then Neal and Massy Group, Mr. Dulal-Whiteway was a familiar face and a sought-after voice in matters of Business.

He joined Neal and Massy in 1972 and quickly climbed the corporate ladder within the company. He stayed the course, serving in several different companies of the Neal and Massy Group, seeing the company through the economic contraction in the 1980s, challenges of the 1990s and steering with a firm hand to keep it on its path of growth as the century turned. Described as “charismatic, visionary and a calculated risk-taker”, Mr. Dulal-Whiteway’s vision led him to see the positives of globalisation and seek expansion beyond T&T and the region.

Despite the demands of his career, he found time to be a mentor to many young persons with whom he came into contact, and to pursue his love of horse-racing. In 2008, one year before he lost his battle to cancer, he was awarded Trinidad and Tobago’s second highest honour, the Humming Bird Medal (Gold) for “long and meritorious service to T&T” in business. On November 7, 2015, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce will be honoured to induct Bernard Dulal-Whiteway posthumously into its Business Hall of Fame.

Oscar Francois Limited bears the name of its founder. Born to humble beginnings Oscar H. Francois attended Nelson Boys RC in the 1930s. His schooling however did not go much further and he was obliged to leave school at age 14 to get a job, which his mother helped him secure.

Working as an office boy for 53 cents a week, the majority of which he contributed to the household, he dreamed of betterment. Using his skill for sales, determination and acumen for business, he worked his way forward, eventually starting his own distribution business in 1958, thus laying the foundation for the company that is today still headquartered on the site of what was once his mother’s home on Duke Street, Port of Spain. Even as he worked to expand his

pharmaceutical distribution business, he ventured into manufacturing under Intersol Limited, having local rights for the then popular Fabergé brand.

A devoted family man, he ensured that his four daughters were well-educated, and today OFL remains a family business. On November 7, 2015, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce will be honoured to induct Oscar H. Francois into its Business Hall of Fame.

Since 2005, twenty-five men and women have been inducted by the T&T Chamber into the Business Hall of Fame. Initiated to recognise the contribution of the Business sector to national development, the award has evolved to be recognised as a lifetime achievement award which is nationally respected. The T&T Chamber is proud to re-commit each year to the delivery of an induction event that is befitting the accomplishments of inductees.

Both business leaders will join the ranks of other business icons who have been inducted over the past decade. Their stories, of which the foregoing offers but a brief glimpse, will be shared at the red-carpet gala scheduled for November 7, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain.