

## **FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**19 MAY, 2009**

Special welcome to Mr. Clive Pantin, Former Principal and Fr. Gregory Augustine, acting Principal.

Guys, I must begin by saying that the 2008/2009 period has been quite an eventful one.

During this time we had the launch of our FOBA website, logo and newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt". This launch was held together with the hosting of our annual "Salt and Pepper" cookout in October 2008 and I would like to thank Stephen Harris and his committee for a job well done. At the cookout we introduced the karaoke competition as part of the entertainment and from feedback after the event it was well received, or to quote Peter Blood from the Trinidad Guardian, "a stroke of genius". From this cookout we realized a profit of **\$88,267** as against **\$100,335** for 2007. A special thanks to the 100 odd cooks. We look forward to seeing you again.

Then we had the retirement of our principal Mr. Anthony Garcia who went off on pre-retirement leave at the end of November 2008. Fr. Gregory Augustine has since been appointed acting Principal, creating history by being the first Fatima old boy to be appointed this post. We thank Mr. Garcia for his support and congratulate Fr. Gregory on his outstanding achievement.

During this time as well, our on-going database update continued with the hiring of 2 persons to transfer the records of all Fatima old boys from the inception in 1945 to present. These records which we obtained from the school's administration (thanks to our retired school secretary Kathy Garcia) are now awaiting data verification – records are old, persons may have passed on, change of address. As soon as verification is completed they will be added to our database.

In September 2008 the association assisted The Parents Support Group in getting past students of various professions to come in and lecture to the boys of Forms 3 and 4 at a Career Day hosted by the support group. So successful was this seminar that a follow-up is being considered.

The executive of FOBA serve on the Stakeholders group of the College which provides a valuable forum for parents, administration and Old Boys to contribute to the long term enhancement of the core values, as well as the physical development of the College. By their very presence in the College they act as valuable role models for the students and gain insight into the professional needs of staff and the successful strategies deployed by other schools. Some of the projects completed were:

- (a) The refurbishing and equipping of the computer lab
- (b) The purchase of a tractor and gang-mower
- (c) The installation of a perimeter fence

- (d) The upgrade of the school cafeteria
- (e) The air-conditioning of the school hall

### Wall Signage

Wall signs continue to be one of our major revenue earners. Special thanks to Kenny Young for his continued efforts in the exercise. The amount generated this period was **\$300,000** as against **\$173,750** last year. The monies received are used for the development of sport within the college in areas such as supplying uniforms and equipment, payment of fees for coaching and technical staff, providing transportation, rental of pool facilities for our swimmers, refreshments, etc. A few old boys also work closely with the coaches and athletes by attending training sessions and matches. I must say that our efforts have borne fruit in that we have won championships in football, rugby, track and field, swimming, water polo and cricket within the last 12 months, with some of these athletes gaining national selection in all of the above disciplines except rugby.

### Our 2009 carnival all-inclusive fete, "Radiance"

Again FOBA continues to excel where hosting of this event is concerned. For the first time this year, and after much speculation re: it's location, being away from the main event, the hall was used and transformed into a dining area called "The Grand Ballroom, where so impressed were some patrons, I understand that they spent the entire night there not venturing into the main fete area. Mind you, there was plenty of food and a premium bar with waiter service as well for these guests. The number of tickets for this year's fete was reduced by approximately 400. This decision was made after reviewing last year's crowd and finding the area a bit congested. This year's crowd of approximately 3,200 was monitored and was found to be quite adequate and manageable. What 2010 will bring we are not sure, but we are already playing with a them for next year.

Again special thanks to Robert Solomon, Wendell McCollin and all those from the decor committee. Kudos also to Roger d'Abadie, Newman George, Stafford Yorke, Ruthven Thompson, Dwight Andrews, Kevin Crosby and their respective committees for once again making this event the tremendous success it is known to be. Net profit was **\$633,752** as against **\$742,017** for 2008. This deficit was due to the reduction in the number of tickets sold.

For those who are not aware the association has four sub-committees set up to handle specific areas of responsibility:

- (a) Alumni membership – database, website, newsletter, etc.
- (b) Alumni recognition – hall of fame, scholarships, etc.

- (c) Educational and professional development – teachers training and development, etc
- (d) Sport, cultural and social events.

Some of the future plans on the drawing board for 2009-2010 are:

- (a) Revival of the 7-a-side football tournament in September 2009
- (b) Recognition of the first intercol champions of 1965 – Everard “Gally” Cummings, Roget Duprey, etc.
- (c) Dinner – Introduction of first set of Hall of famers and/or Scholarship winners
- (d) Friendship games – Trini-match competition featuring 4 colleges and 4 convents
- (e) Jazz you like it – a jazz concert featuring one of the world’s best trumpeters, Etienne Charles, together with Ray Holman, Junior Woodroffe and friends, and other Fatima old boys.

These events coupled with the usual Cookout and carnival fete require much planning, research, time and commitment if they are to be achieved with the same high standard and excellence for which we are known. So guys, do not leave it up to the elected committee members alone. We ask that you volunteer in whatever area you can, to make a valid contribution so that the 2009-2010 period can be even more successful.

Once again I say thank, and wish to express my deepest gratitude to the outgoing management committee and those non-committee members, especially Trevor De Landro and Derek De Gannes for their tremendous support and assistance in the past year. Thanks also to Fr. Gregory for making himself available in spite of his hectic schedule and for allowing us access to the College for all events.

Last and by no means least, on behalf of the old boys association I extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Karen Sandiford, our office administrator, for her tremendous contribution to the overall success of all our endeavours and to the smooth running of our day to day operations.

There is a slogan...I believe started by Mr. Garcia our former Principal that ‘FATIMA BOYS ARE GOOD BOYS’ but it is my wish that in the not too distant future that slogan could become ‘FATIMA BOYS ARE THE BEST BOYS’.

Thanks again

Noel Aming