



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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ISSUE

13

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New Fatima School Wing Opens

FOBA EMBARKED ON A MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT THIS YEAR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MUCH NEEDED NEW WING. THIS WING IS A TWO STOREY STRUCTURE OCCUPYING THE SPACE WHERE THE ART AND TD ROOMS AND HALF-COURT BASKETBALL COURT (PREVIOUSLY HYDROPOONICS AREA) EXISTED.

Demolition began in May and in just over three months the new wing "opened for business" on the first day of school in September, much to the delight of parents, teachers and of course the students themselves. Most parents and students were simply amazed at the fact that the building was actually in a ready state at the start of the school term. FOBA received several commendations on the delivery of the new building on time and under the original budget of 4 million dollars.

This new structure provides additional classroom space for Form 6 classes, as well as better facilities for Art, TD and Geography in addition to allowing for expansion of the curriculum. The wing was officially blessed on 4th November by Bishop Robert Llanos, the Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, and also a Fatima alumnus.



Even though the wing is completed the loans that were taken to complete the project still need to be paid and fundraising is still priority number one so FOBA continues to plea their alumni, parents, supporters and the general public to remember to donate to this worthy project. All help and support is needed. Donation options are as follows:

- Online via Paypal, www.foba.fatima.edu.tt/products-page
- Via Linx at the FOBA office.
- Via cheque made out to FOBA. This can be delivered by mail or by hand to the office at Fatima Old Boys Association, Fatima College, Mucurapo Road, Woodbrook.
- By directly depositing to our bank account at Scotiabank. The account number is 1200454 (St. James branch). ■



SITE OF NEW WING PRIOR TO DEMOLITION WORKS



DEMOLITION BEGINS, MAY 2013



NEW WING COMPLETED, SEPTEMBER 2013

Living the Grey Shirt – Etienne Charles

ETIENNE CHARLES, (CLASS OF 1999 - 'O' LEVELS, 2001 -'A' LEVELS) HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING AND EXCITING YOUNG JAZZ ARTISTS USHERING THE GENRE INTO GROUNDBREAKING NEW TERRITORY. STILL IN HIS 20S HE HAS ALREADY RECORDED THREE IMPRESSIVE AND WELL-RECEIVED ALBUMS.

Etienne is a trumpeter, bandleader, composer, and educator, rooted in both the jazz and Afro-Caribbean folk traditions of his native Trinidad, making his music somewhat mercurial – yet always accessible and inviting. He also plays steel drums and cuatro. Charles comes from a long line of musicians dating back four generations.

Charles found his way to trumpet early and took it up in earnest as a young teen. After high school, he began winning awards at Fatima College. He was the first three-time winner of the Provincial Cup, and the youngest student ever to win it. In 2008 he received his Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School of Music and was awarded the William Schuman Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music. Charles garnered much experience by appearing on stages with a host of notable musicians, including Wynton Marsalis, Monty Alexander, Gerald Wilson, Roberta Flack, Frank Foster, the Count Basie Orchestra, Maria Schneider, Johnny Mandel, and Benny Golson.

In 2006, Charles won the National Trumpet Competition, Jazz Division. That same year, his debut album, "Culture Shock", appeared, and received positive reviews. By the time "Folklore" was released in 2009, Charles had formed his own touring and recording band. In 2011, he began teaching at Michigan State University's College of Music as an assistant professor, and released his third album, "Kaiso". He released his fourth album, "Creole Soul", in July of 2013. You can visit his official website at www.etiennecharles.com.

Q Describe your musical qualifications.

A Bachelor of Arts - Music | Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
Master of Music | The Juilliard School, New York, NY

Q Are you living comfortably as a musician or is it challenging to earn a living?

A I am able to pay my bills.

Q Do you earn your income purely by performing or are there other means?



Performing (trumpet/percussion), teaching (Assistant Professor at Michigan State University), recording, composition commissions & arranging. Most musicians do more than just play. I teach at MSU, write arrangements for other groups as well as record.

Q Tell me about your musical influences growing up.

A All the sounds around me. The radio played great music back then. Healthy mix of calypso, reggae, R&B and pop. Then there was the sound of pan, parang and African drumming. Those were my earliest influences

Q Who was your first music teacher?

A Mr. Michael White, Bishop Anstey Junior School.

Q Who was your most influential music teacher?

A I've had many influential teachers. Marcus Roberts, Ralph MacDonald, Mark Gould, Joe Wilder, Chris Jaudes, Richard DeRosa, Tony Woodroffe, Francis Pau, Michael White, Bryan Goff, Boogsie Sharpe, Lin Biviano & Leon Anderson.

Q What musical instruments do you play?

A Trumpet & Percussion

Q What was your first musical instrument?

A I sang in the choir from age 4. I started playing the recorder at 5 or 6.

Q How did Fatima influence your musical career?

A When I was at Fatima there was a small crop of us interested in music. Mrs. Gomes would round us up leading up to every feast day to rehearse the hymns. We'd play for the celebrations at St. Theresa's. We'd also get together and play for prize giving. There were also the intercol matches where we'd play. At that time music class stopped after form 2. My voice broke so I was no longer able to sing in the choir. Fatima is also right across the street from Phase II, so we had that as a great source of music as

well. The biggest influence set at Fatima was the importance of a solid work ethic. I'm grateful for that.

Q From where do you draw your inspiration?

A Life. It's an amazing gift. The stories and events shape my music.

Q When and how did you know that this is what you wanted for your life?

A I always loved music. It's been a source of joy for me from birth. I decided to make it a career when I was about 16.

Q What subjects did you chose for Form Six and why?

A I chose French, Spanish & math. I'll never regret choosing those subjects as they made me familiar not only with languages of different cultures, but also with literature and arts from French and Spanish regions. Anytime I'm traveling I think of my foreign language teachers, Mr. Brash, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Poon and Mr. Joseph for French. Mr. DeSilva, Mrs. Marin, Mr. Ramdass, Mr. Holman and Mr. Roach for Spanish. If it weren't for them I'd be mute whenever I travel to these countries to play or record. I'm glad I took their words seriously. I took math because I needed a 3rd subject :)

Q What do you miss most about Fatima?

A Fatima is a great community to grow and develop as an individual. It also teaches you respect. School helps to structure your mind so that whatever you take interest in, you can develop a strategic approach to improve and hopefully be successful. I miss midday league from form 1, football & cricket practice, swimming practice lunchtime, liming on the bench, or the steps or wherever. The level of sh*t talk was always high. Sports day was always a blast. Big up Stewart house. We won EVERY year! Yes. 7 years in a ROW!!! I doubt that record will ever be broken. I wasn't a fast runner but nobody could touch me in lime and spoon race!!!

Q What do you miss most about Trinidad?

A I'm home a lot now so a lot of things I don't miss because I know I'll get some of it in a few weeks. In winter I miss the warmth and the beach. I also miss the panorama season, practicing in the pan yard and of course borough day celebrations in Point. I also miss the sense of community and neighbourhood that I had growing up and get a taste of every time I'm home. I DON'T miss the traffic.

Q Who were your favourite teachers at Fatima?

A Well of course I have to big up the music teachers and teacher musicians. Ms. Cumberbatch, Mr. Brash, Mr. DeSilva, Mr. Holman, Mr. Ramsingh, Mr. Roach & Mrs. Clerk. We used to have St. Theresa's rocking. Mrs. Gomes was all love, rallying us together time and time again to put music to the liturgy. Mr. Seemungal's geography class in form 1 was a great time. He was clever, informed and always asked us questions. Classes were more of a discussion, out of which you got loads of information. I specifically remember geography class being right after the first break time when in rainy season the weather would change. He asked us why! In form six we had some deep conversations with Mr. Des Vignes in GP class. I called it life lessons 101. Mr. Joseph's French class was something else. His use of common sense is something I take with me into the classroom. Ms. Poon and her "repetition facilitates learning" phrase is one that I use with my students daily. Fr. Gregory's religion class was another special one. Even just random daily conversations and confessions with him always put a different perspective on the table. He was really the first to address us as men with responsibilities as opposed to boys. Mr. De Silva & Mrs. Wilson for lighting a spark and answering any questions I had about foreign languages in form one. Mr. Ramdass! (is there a subject he doesn't teach?) I think I had him for Spanish, POB, cricket & football. The example he set taught me that you can really do many things once you're organized and methodical in thinking. I was never a science buff so I wasn't privy to Mr. Garcia's super physics classes but we had some great dialogues in my time at Fatima. Special spirit in him. Piggy John was my dad's classmate years before so he looked over my shoulder a bit. Loved his football too.

Q Who was the scariest teacher?

A Form 1 - Mr. Ramdass & Mr. Romero
Form 2 - Mr. Des Vignes
Form 3 - Mr. Des Vignes (back to back victories!)

Form 4 - Mr. Lee Ha
Form 5 - Mr. Joseph
Form 6 - Mr. Cooper (the sheriff)

Q If all your teachers were still there, who would you check first on visiting Fatima today?

A Wouldn't they all be in the staff room?
Probably Fr. G.

Q Fatima has produced many musicians. Who were the musicians during your time at Fatima? Share some of your memories of performing with them at school.

A Tony Woodroffe Jr. was two years ahead of me in Fatima. We both played and studied at the brass institute. Francois Ottley and I were in the same year. He was the calypso/extempo champion. Steve Sealy Jr. was a football star in Fatima. Now he's a big songwriter on the scene. Barry Bibby (Tripped and Falling) was there as well with his left handed guitar. The ever talented Garnes brothers, Diamanda, Duvano, Ati and Christen were all there as well. There were so many other cats on guitars, bass, drums and pan. Obasi Springer and I joined Orange Sky together. Then I pulled Woodroffe into the mix. Singers like Jason Morancie and Andre Mangatal. Marc Chauharja-Singh and I started playing panorama with Phase II the same year (2000). Abay and Kit Israel were there as well. Kit is a producer, Abay a DJ.

Q Which part of the school brings back your best memories (e.g. AV Room, Hall, Quadrangle)?

A Definitely the AV. That was my solace. During free periods I'd go to the AV and try to pluck songs out on the piano.

Q What does the New York Jazz Scene have that Trinidad is missing?

A New York is the mecca of jazz. It's a vibrant space with some of the greatest artists in one small radius. There are many venues where the music can be heard and you get to rub shoulders and interact with your heroes. I'd say the biggest differences are the number of musicians as well as the number of venues.

Q What ingredient does Trinidad's music industry need to catalyze its diversification and expansion?

A Any successful industry comes from the balance of supply and demand. In live music that refers to performing artists and audiences. Once we build up a formidable crop of both the rest will take care of itself.



Q What is the most valuable lesson you learnt at Fatima?

A Nitendo Vinces

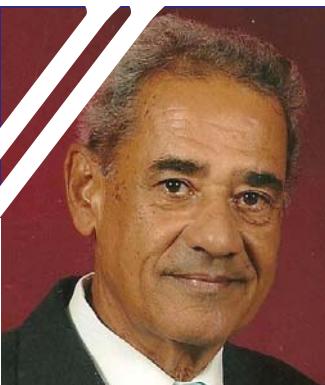
Q Advise a Form three student who is about to choose his CXC subjects and wants to be a musician.

A Is music an option now? That's great! For subjects i'd advise taking foreign languages, POB/Econ, accounting, history and literature. Foreign languages because you'll have to negotiate contracts in different languages. POB/econ because you'll be running your own business. Accounting because taxes for musicians is quite tricky as the income comes from many different places. History to know what came before and how music fit into the scheme then vs now. Literature because good art inspires good art.

Q Any closing remarks?

A All I can say is thanks! ■

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When Fatima's Union Was Called To Arms

BY FIRST FOBA PRESIDENT, DEREK JOHNSON (NEWSDAY NEWSPAPER, 29 JULY 1995)

IT WAS ALREADY TEN YEARS THAT I HAD LEFT FATIMA, WHEN, ONE DAY IN 1965 MY MOTHER TOLD ME SHE HAD MET FR. RYAN. HE ASKED HER FOR ME AND TOLD HER HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME. I MISSED FATIMA DURING THESE YEARS; HAD NEVER VISITED SINCE LEAVING IN 1955; SO I WAS HAPPY FOR THIS EXCUSE TO PAY A VISIT.

And then a most embarrassing thing took place. I knocked on his door, he looked up and said: "Well Mr. Johnson, what can I do for you?". For a brief moment I was lost for words.

On my way to the visit, I was thinking: "What did the Rajah want to see me for?". I thought: "Did he want to apologize for some of the licks he inflicted?". After all I was a frequent visitor to the Dean – at least once a term. Or maybe, I thought "He probably just wanted to keep track of my whereabouts". He always preached to my mother about the friends I kept.

So when he threw the Yorker at me, I almost lost my stumps. He made me feel that it was I who wanted to see him and not the other way around. I stuttered a reply, which must have been in my subconscious: "Fr, I was thinking it is about time we formed our own Old Boys' Union and I thought perhaps you may be in favour of such an idea".

In his typical conservative way he replied: "I don't see any need for a Fatima Old Boys' Union. All Fatima Old Boys are eligible to join the St. Mary's College Union. That's a very good organization". At that point, I said to myself: "DJ, you are the last person to suggest such a radical idea to the Rajah". I'll never forget, once, many years ago, him telling me: "Johnson, you are the most unreliable person in this whole school". I cannot recall the incident that led to that remark, but I always remember it made such an impression on me as a young man, I was determined that no one would ever say that about me again! Mentally, I always thanked him for that remark.

I thought about the days when we used to have to participate in the joint sports day with Saints on their grounds. It was intimidating and embarrassing. We always felt like "outsiders". And over the years, Fr. Ryan used to try to encourage old boys to join the St. Mary's College Union. But the only ones who ever joined up were those who had left Fatima to complete their Cambridge Higher certificate at CIC. And even then, there was a

strong desire for our own College Union. Ricardo Inniss was a typical example. A true patriot.

We talked about the pros and cons and he confessed that he missed seeing many of his old pupils and would love to see them reunited. That was the spark. Very soon, circulars were in the mail and the first Fatima Old Boys' Reunion was planned. He himself was in the forefront in tracking down all the past students, pulling out his meticulous records to grab as many people as possible. I remember the night. The Rajah, though sedate, as beaming with happiness, a gentle smile, corners of his mouth twitching constantly as he moved around the hall greeting long lost friends and the First Reunion was already a success.

When eventually the formal proceedings got underway and he stood on the stage he was greeted with a long standing ovation, until he was forced to revert to his old restraining command: "Steady now! Steady now lads!". And there was total silence...just like old times. In his welcome, he naturally maintained his conservative view that an occasional reunion was sufficient but that we should continue to belong to the St. Mary's College Union.

As soon as he was through with his greeting, the first speaker to stand on stage was well known cricket umpire, Ralph Gosine, who set the tone and direction of what was to be a recurring plea for our own organization. Every single speaker thereafter repeated the call.

Draft Constitution

I was asked to chair the Standing Committee which would plan the formation of the organization. Among those who served on this pioneering committee were Ricardo Inniss, Mervyn Thompson, Winston Wilson, Carl Nanton and others. Our tasks were to draft a constitution and call a meeting to have it adopted.

On January 21, 1966, the Fatima College Union (that was the official name), was inaugurated. I was elected President, Fr.

Ryan was appointed First Vice President, Peter Phillip was Second Vice President, Kenneth Williams was Honorary Secretary, Carl Nanton was Honorary Treasurer, and Winthrop Holder was Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Committee members were Michael Armoogam, John Gooding, Alvin "Coosh" Holder, Ricardo Inniss, Gerald Nanton and Hollis Roberts.

Other pioneering members of the Management Committee in the subsequent early years included Vernon Mangatal, Arthur Chinn Fatt, Stephen Almandoz, Gene Hutchinson, Bing Richards, Winston Wilson, Mervyn Thompson.

Because of Fr. Ryan's ultra conservative disposition, the Union was never really called upon to play a pro-active role in fund raising projects. The main thrust of activity was in social projects, which although well meaning, never really challenged the Union. Around that time the sports pavilion was being planned and the old boys, though more than willing, were never asked to take on any fund raising responsibility towards its establishment.

In 1967, Gene Hutchinson launched a regular newsletter, which he called The Amitaf News. It served a very good purpose in keeping the members informed about goings-on among old boys. Sometime later when gene no longer was involved in the management committee, it died.

It was not until Clive Pantin was appointed Principal that the Union was really called to arms...and it answered the call. The first project was the building of the JH Ryan Audio Visual Centre. The Union was the catalyst that raised the funds and the Centre was built. Thereafter, the organization grew in confidence and took on many more challenges over the years.

The establishment of Club 200 was an idea mooted by Gregory Farfan. The target was 200 persons each giving \$10 a month to a fund that would be used in whatever way the principal wished. Every month a draw was

made - the first three persons won a prize of \$120 each (their year's subs were refunded, as it were). Club 200's funds were used to provide books, travel allowances, meal subsidies and so on for some students who needed such help from time to time, and for emergency situations generally.

In the late 70's we joined forces with Fr. Girod in organizing the annual Mayfair with the help of staff and parents. In 1983, a fund was launched among the old boys themselves, for the purchase of a Mazda 26-seater bus. Among us we were able to raise the \$36,000 required and the bus was bought. Today that bus is still in use. In 1983 we also began the establishment of a Computer Department. The classroom was identified and the first order of computers

was placed with a source in Miami. Very soon, Fatima became the leader in this aspect of education, with Fr. De Four as the Head of Department.

In 1983 we were instrumental in organizing the first Long Service Awards Ceremony. Special plaques, purchased and inscribed in Miami, were presented to 20 members of staff, with years of service ranging from 10 up to 30. A special award was given to the groundsman, affectionately known as Freddie.

Over the years the College Union raised over \$2,000,000 for the college, all of which went directly into the college's account. The Union never operated a bank account, except for the Club 200's funds, a joint account,

requiring the Principal to be a co-signatory.

Many old boys also served as president of the Union for varying lengths of time: Dennis McSween, Dennis Ramdeen, Steve Bideshi, Reynold Makhan, Mark Carmino, Keith Simpson, George Khan, Mervyn Thompson and Ian Benjamin. They all served with dedication and love. It is interesting to note that three of those: Mark Carmino, Dennis Ramdeen and Ian Benjamin, were recipients of the Principal's Cup and Medal, an award to the student who 'best exemplifies the spirit and ideals of Fatima College'

May the spirit and these ideals continue to help us all to keep on striving. ■



Tribute to Retired Teacher Mervyn Achille

BY GLEN ROACH

I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MERVYN ACHILLE ONE OF FATIMA'S MOST POPULAR AND RESPECTED TEACHERS. SOMEHOW HE MANAGED TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE IN HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL SECTORS WITHIN THE FATIMA COMMUNITY.

He was firm with his pupils but not overly strict, vocal in staff meetings but not adversarial. He enjoyed an excellent relationship with all his colleagues but was never afraid to express an unpopular opinion.

Mervyn formed part of the popular Achille family of Mercer Street, Diego Martin. His father was a well-respected teacher and his mother, a seamstress. Like so many young men of that era, he enjoyed a very active social and sporting life in a village full of open spaces. He attended Diego Martin Boys, then Belmont Intermediate in Standard five, passing for St. Mary's College in 1959. During his stay in CIC, he took part in a final every year, whether football or cricket. He also joined Harvard Club as a Colt in 1960.

Mervyn represented St. Mary's College at the highest level in cricket and was part of the 1965 successful Intercol team that contained players like Richard De Souza, Wayne Smart, Kedar and Rudy Rickie and Anthony Franklyn. Guess whom they beat in the final? Fatima College.

Most of us know him as an excellent Mathematics and Chemistry teacher but Mervyn majored in Languages in St. Mary's. He entered the Languages stream in Form 4 and studied French, Spanish and Latin in

Form 6. His classmate was a guy called Clyde Harvey. He left CIC in 1965 and gained employment in Customs and Excise, "a most boring and mundane job". His good friend, Henry Makhan informed him of teaching vacancies at Diego Martin Secondary and Fatima College. Henry went to Diego Martin Secondary and Mervyn to Fatima.

What was Fatima like in 1965?

It was a great year as Fatima won its first Intercol final with Roger Duprey, Tony Weekes, Gally Cummings, Earl Fough, Wayne Jackson, Buff James and Frankie Mahabir. Mervyn was an integral part of the Fatima teachers cricket and football teams. Games were organized by the Irish prefects like James Farrelly, Patrick Kelly, Patrick Murphy and Shay Buckley.

He spoke in glowing terms of Father James Ryan "his mere presence commanded discipline". Mervyn knew where his future resided. However, he decided to switch to Sciences and began attending night classes in Physics and Chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute. He then left Fatima in 1970 to attend University, returning in 1974 until his retirement in 2005. He taught Mathematics, Additional Mathematics and Chemistry. He also served as Lower Form Dean and Head of Department.

He thoroughly enjoyed his stay at Fatima College, especially the camaraderie and the rich social and sporting life. He appreciated the family spirit that was emphasized and the positive and encouraging working environment. Mervyn decided to enjoy all that Fatima had to offer until ill health, movement to Santa Rosa and loss of his car severely restricted his activities. He was forced to leave home very early and return in the dark. Only on weekends did he see his house and family in daylight. He retired in 2005 and unfortunately suffered a mild stroke the following year that has impaired use of his left side. However, he remains as cheerful and pleasant as ever spending his time in therapy, reading, listening to music and gardening. He is well read and speaks with authority on a wide range of topics. His pressure rises at the mere mention of West Indies Cricket. He is passionate about cricket and is pained by the decline of the once mighty West Indies. I tried my best to steer clear of this topic.

Mervyn is highly regarded by his colleagues. He is depicted as very intelligent, an oracle, a receptacle of knowledge, a good listener, a warm and very approachable human. It was indeed a pleasure to work with him.

Thank you Mervyn for your commitment to Fatima College! ■

Exalt: Acts of Praise 2013



IN 2013 THE FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION ADDED ANOTHER FUNDRAISING EVENT TO ITS CALENDAR. THE EVENT WAS A GOSPEL CONCERT FEATURING SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST TALENTED ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS INCLUSIVE OF A FEW PROUD FATIMA ALUMNI.

The concert was staged on the weekend of September 13th – 15th at the Central Bank Auditorium and was done under the patronage of his Grace, Joseph Harris, The Archbishop of Port-of-Spain. Among those in attendance were the Governor of the Central Bank, Jwala Rambaran (a Fatima Old Boy himself) and his family. Given that this was the first time the concert was put on, it was indeed a success and this is based on the positive feedback received from patrons who openly shared their appreciation.

Fatima's renowned boys' choir took the stage first and impressed the audience

with smooth voices, four part harmonies and dynamic interpretations of each song. By the end of the set, which included takes on "He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother" and "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", it was clear that their reputation had been well earned. The school choir was followed by Stefan Roach - a striking guitarist and Fatima Old Boy. Stefan opened his innings with an exciting Flamenco number that must have had the audience feeling as if they were transported across seas to an authentic Spanish café. The speed at which his fingers picked the strings of his instrument was truly a sight to behold. He was then joined by a dancer who added a lovely visual to a more subdued but equally engaging piece. Stefan closed his account by switching to the role of an accompanist as two of his friends performed a beautiful version of the modern Christian standard "This is the Air I Breathe".

The way had now been paved for G.R.A.C.E. Music Ministries to put the perfect finishing touch to the show's first half. G.R.A.C.E. is well known and regarded within the local Catholic Community and from the onset they showed why as patrons were out of their seats once the band and vocalists cranked out their first notes. They played an impressive set that switched between moods and styles - from upbeat to reflective - praise & worship to calypso. Their performance of "Who is Like the Lord", which emphasized the strength of the full band, and "Instrument", led by the charismatic Artherley Nicholas were highlights of their set.



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1975, FROM LEFT FRANCIS O' NEAL, CHRISTIAN FARFAN PRESENTING A CHEQUE LAST WEEK TO FATIMA PRINCIPAL, FATHER GREGORY TOGETHER WITH DENNIS RAMDEEN.

Fatima Class of 1975 Gives Back

FORTY SIX YEARS AGO SOME 11 YEAR OLD BOYS ENTERED FATIMA COLLEGE AND THEY HAVE NEVER LEFT.

Forty six years ago some 11 year old boys entered Fatima College and they have never left. The school records would show that most of them graduated from Form 6 in 1975. But the Class of 1975 has managed to stay together after all these years, meeting on a monthly basis for the sole purpose of doing good works for the community in general and their Alma Mater in particular.

Recently, the Class of '75 held a Bingo to raise funds for the new school wing which was blessed by Bishop Robert Llanos, the Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, and also a Fatima alumnus. Acting school principal, Fr. Gregory Augustine, thanked all who supported in this endeavour, especially as the wing was built in just over three months and completed under budget.

"Although the wing is completed the loans that were taken to complete the project still need to be paid and fundraising is still priority number one, so all help and support is needed.", said Dwight Andrews, President of the Fatima Old Boys' Association.



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CLASS OF 86 HANDS OVER COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO PRINCIPAL FATHER GREGORY AUGUSTINE WITH FORM 6 STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE

Fatima Class Of 1986 Gives Back

"WE OURSELVES FEEL THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS JUST A DROP IN THE OCEAN. BUT THE OCEAN WOULD BE LESS BECAUSE OF THAT MISSING DROP". – MOTHER TERESA

At their 25 year reunion, the Fatima Class of '86 decided to give back to the school in the form of new computers, and a fundraising committee was created comprising of Kevin Giffard, Mark Laquis, Alain Laquis, Anthony De Silva, Dean Ammon, David Downer, David Franco, Christopher Camacho, Shiraz Ali, Ravi Tewarie and Graham Fernandes.

Through a partnership with various companies the committee was able to raise over \$350,000 which allowed them to provide thirty-seven (37) state of the art computers to the school, as well as to upgrade the associated information technology infrastructure at the school.

This is envisioned to be an ongoing project with Fatima becoming a computer literate school.

The Class of '86 heartfelt thanks go out to all who were involved in this project and their wish that God will shower them with his richest blessings.

The well-dressed St Anthony's Senior Folk Choir got things going again in the second half and like the Fatima boys' choir before them, they sang with beautiful voices and harmonies. They were very clinical and clean in their delivery, so much so that one might have thought that they were in a music festival final and singing for their salvation. Notable pieces included "All Arise" and "The Lord is My Shepherd". Coming next to the stage was a remarkable combination of talents. When the likes of Raymond Edwards (tenor), Johann Chuckaree (pannist), Anthony Woodroffe Jr (saxophonist), Reynold Woodroffe (bass, vocals) and Enrico Camejo (guitarist) come together you know that you are in for a special musical cocktail. These guys are accustomed to jamming together and they brought their synergy to the event starting with a spirited rendition of the Bill Withers classic "Lovely Day". Raymond was the vocal centerpiece of the group and led performances of songs like "Heal Our Land" and the anthem of patriotism "Trini to the Bone". College Principal, Father Gregory Augustine, joined the guys on stage during the Friday night performance of "Trini to the Bone" much to the delight of the audience. The night was closed by the veteran artist Chris "Tambu" Herbert who was versatile,

affable and engaging all at once. All his years of experience were on full display during his lengthy performance. What was truly special about his performance was how well he interacted with the audience. Songs were always well introduced and put into an appropriate context with anecdotal stories and words of wisdom. He breezed through song after song in different styles with a certain ease and confidence. He delivered an impromptu serenade of a couple in attendance and also sang a verse of "The Greatest Love of All" directly to a young child in the audience. Some of his stronger pieces were the reggae-styled "No Greater Love", the evocative "What Does it Prophet a Man" and "Wake Up". However, the audience would be brought to its feet when the opening words of his classic "The Journey Now Start" were belted out. Smartly he chose this inspirational song as his closing number and it ended the night on a truly high and memorable note. The Fatima Old Boys Association is very thankful for all the support given to this event and is working towards making it a staple on the events calendar.

Review by Burt Bushell of the Sunday show on September 15th, 2013 ■

Salt And Pepper XIII

Fatima Old Boys' Association ANNUAL COOKOUT Salt & Pepper XIII

Saturday 12th October 2013
7:00 PM TO 11:00 PM
(Dinner served from 7:30 PM TO 9:00 PM)

College Courtyard
CONTRIBUTION: \$300.
Revenue Bar available

All proceeds will go towards the funding of the new wing.

FATIMA SALT AND PEPPER AS YOU KNOW IS A FIXTURE IN FATIMA'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS. IMAGINE WE HAVE REACHED NUMBER THIRTEEN. YES, THIS WAS MEN WHO COULD COOK XIII, NIGHT OF ONE HUNDRED COOKS.

Among the guests in the packed courtyard were many of the familiar faces that loyally patronize Fatima's events and some first timers. The New Wing stood tall in the background, a proud product of patrons' invaluable contributions.

Guests were greeted with a glass of Vina Maipo at the door and before rounding the bend to the main courtyard, those interested paused to purchase some Fatima

memorabilia such as polo shirts and, coffee mugs. Others figured that the memorabilia could wait till after the meal. The tables were adorned by creative vegetable centre pieces, which guests were allowed to carry home afterwards.

Once again Fatima delivered incredibly delicious dishes. There were men who could cook and men who could 'rel' cook...or maybe their wives and caterers could 'rel' cook. Nevertheless, guests were served their money's worth. The seafood section was especially a hit this year. I heard that Steve Bedeshi's dish was 'Shrimply Delicious'.

What's happening in Sports

FATIMA REPEAT AS RUGBY CHAMPIONS

Congrats to the U14 and U17 Rugby Teams in their 4th consecutive year as Champions! Fatima College has won the schools' U14 and U-17 rugby championships for the fourth time in a row yesterday!

They defeated CIC 26-0 in the U-14 final and defeated International School 12-0 in the U-17 final.



Letters to the Editor

Anyone wishing to send letters to the editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt" can email their contributions to: contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt

'Conchs in Curry Sauce' and 'Lobster in Garlic Sauce' by Larry Largen and Richard Camacho were probably the most popular dishes judging from the length of their lines while Kent Jerry gave generous servings of 'Doh be so Shellfish'. Those favouring the meats, may have tried 'Wine like a Lamb', Patrick Drakes 'Lagahoo Roast in a Cabal Sauce' or Colin Darmanie's 'Jack & Kamla's Local Government Chicken'.

Desert choices ranged from the sweet to savoury and from the healthy to the 'I hope meh doctor doh find out about this nah'. Mama's Homemade Ice Cream featured in



FATIMA COPS NORTH ZONE INTERCOL FINAL

Despite a 4th place finish in the North Zone League this season Fatima enjoyed a late season surge during Intercol, defeating Diego Martin North 4-1, and then North Zone League Champions St. Mary's 2-0 to progress to the North Zone Intercol Final to face East Mucurapo. At the end of regulation the score was tied 2-2 and Fatima prevailed 4-2 in a penalty shoot out to capture the North Zone Intercol title.

In the National Intercol semifinals Fatima easily defeated the Tobago champions, Speyside, 4-0. The National Finals on 3rd December against St. Augustine "The Green Machine" was a rematch of the 2005 final which Fatima had won, and was in fact the

her cart not too far from the corn soup and the quite efficient bar.

Guests laughed, reminisced and ole talked. For many, this was home, given the close-knit nature of the Fatima community. Many entire families came out while some couples used the opportunity for a romantic date. Live entertainment was provided by Dena Underwood, a pianist and vocalist from Philadelphia, U.S.A, her jazzy repertoire setting a relaxing ambience for the evening . It was a 'kool' vibe throughout. ■

last time Fatima had won the title. St. Augustine last won the Intercol title in 1984. Alas Fatima's successful came to an end as they were crushed 4-1 at the Hasely Crawford National Stadium.

FATIMA TOPS IN UNDER-20 INDOOR HOCKEY

At the National Secondary Schools' Indoor Hockey Under-20 Tournament held on Saturday 14th December 2013 at the Woodbrook Youth Facility, Fatima emerged champions with a 3-2 victory over QRC. Well done guys!!! In the Under-15 division, Queen's Royal College successfully defended their title when they defeated Fatima College 2-1 on penalties after the teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation.



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