



Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

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A brief History of Fatima College

In 1944, Father Francis Flavin O.P., the parish priest of St Theresa's in west Port of Spain, and a man of great foresight, became convinced of the need for more Catholic Secondary education particularly because of the number of Catholic boys attending the Government school, Queen's Royal College and the number rejected each year by St Mary's College, since there was no space available. In order to give this school of his dreams a secure foundation, Father Flavin contacted His Grace, Archbishop Finbar Ryan, with a view to obtaining a suitable site for the school and a Religious Order that could run the school. As regards the site, one was obtained from the Corporation (City Council) sufficiently spacious, on the western edge of the Maraval River on what had once been known as the

"Transport Savannah", as it was at this location that the Corporation kept their horses and carts used for garbage collection. The present Fatima grounds was covered with trees and grazing cows and formed part of the "Mucurapo Pasture"

As regards, running the school, the Dominicans were not interested and at first the Holy Ghost Fathers were even opposed to the idea. The Archbishop however was a very intelligent man. He knew that the Holy Ghost Fathers had on numerous occasions, resisted very strongly the introduction of Religious Brothers to Trinidad to work in education; indeed they had once even threatened to leave Trinidad if a rival Catholic school for boys was set up in Port of Spain. The Archbishop informed Dr. J.J. Meenan, the Principal of St Mary's College and the Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Trinidad, that he considered a new Catholic Secondary school absolutely necessary and (since the Holy Ghost Fathers had not taken up the option) he was going to approach

the Benedictine Fathers (or possibly the Presentation Brothers) to establish it. This maneuver on the part of the Archbishop was completely successful. Dr. Meenan soon wrote a letter to the Mother House in Paris to justify himself, saying:

"The College (Fatima) had become practically a necessity. If the Holy Ghost Fathers declined, another Congregation would have been invited (possibly the Benedictines.) The Protestant Archbishop had applied for an - Anglican Secondary School in the same neighbourhood."

Look out for the continuation of "A Brief History of Fatima College" in Issue 2 - Dec. 08

Upcoming Events

*FOBA - Annual Cook-out
Saturday 11th October, 2008*

from 7:00 -11:30 pm

Dinner 7:30 - 9:00 pm

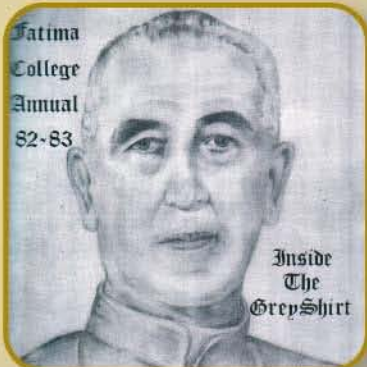
Tickets \$250.00 - drinks inclusive



Beyond the Grey Shirt



The past Principals of Fatima College - part one



Father J.E Byrne 1945 - 1955

In 1945 Father Byrne was appointed the first Principal of Fatima College, being transferred from St. Mary's College where he had been Vice-Principal. Father Byrne was the great builder, as he was commissioned to build and staff Fatima College. Almost half of the present Fatima College was built during his principalship and his buildings have stood the test of time. Father Byrne can be described first and foremost as a man of business, one who is organized and disciplined in whatever he does. Along with his business orientation he was also very much a Teacher and priest who found time for friends and students. He also had an artistic side, as he designed the crest for Fatima College and selected the motto "Nitendo Vinces" - By striving we conquer. In 1955 Father Byrne was transferred back to St. Mary's College, and eventually returned home to Dublin, Ireland.



Father J.H. Ryan 1955-1972

After seven years as a teacher at Fatima College, Father Ryan took over the reins and held them for the next seventeen years. His nickname among the boys was the "Raj", the Sanskrit word for Master or King, and he truly bestrode the institution as a benevolent and caring father. As was said at the Requiem Mass on the occasion of his death, "He did not build physical monuments; his architecture was in molding, the character and personalities of the students who came under his care".

Father Ryan was a simple, meticulous, kind hearted and serious, the utmost professional, who got things done in his own gentle, persuasive style. He organized staff training sessions, which some teachers talk about up to this day. He believed that discipline did not represent mere ordered activity; it was the pursuit of truth, the

inculcation of good habits of behavior where self-discipline would eventually replace external control. He considered it his duty to build a Fatima community, a second home with a family atmosphere. Father Ryan retired in 1972

Look out for part two of *The Past Principals of Fatima College* in Issue 2 - Dec. 08

morals and values willing to serve their community, their country and by no means least of all, their Alma Mater - Fatima College.

Thank you

Noel Aming, President
Fatima Old Boys Association (FOBA)



A word from our president

Welcome All. The Fatima Old Boys Association (FOBA) is a voluntary organisation founded in 1966 with its first President being Mr. Derek Johnson. As stated in its constitution, its primary objective is to lend support and assistance to Fatima College, its staff, and students.

Part of this is achieved through two major annual fund-raisers namely: The Salt & Pepper Cook-Out held in October and our Carnival Fete. We also give support in the running of a couple of stalls at the school's annual Mayfair and we have just completed assisting in "Career Day 2008", organised by the parent support group and the school's administration. Some of the topics included Medicine, Engineering, Sports Administration and Environmental Management.

Representatives of these three groups form the Fatima College Stakeholders Committee, which is responsible for all plans and decisions made for the school and the implementation of them.

The Old Boys Association feels that its contribution to the College has become even more necessary in these perverse times. We hope that the example we set will be recognised especially by the present students of the College, so that upon completion of their educational journey at this institution, they can hold their heads high as young men of sound

FOBA Management Committee

President	Noel Aming (class of 68)
Vice-President	Barry Davis (class of 81)
Secretary	Colin James (class of 89)
Assistant Secretary	Graeme Ottley (class of 84)
Treasurer	Ruthven Thompson (class of 91)
Assistant Treasurer	Anthony Joseph (class of 84)

Ordinary members	Anthony Moore (class of 80)
	Dwight Andrews (class of 83)
	James Camacho (class of 76)
	Kenny Young (class of 71)
	Newman George (class of 72)
	Roger D'Abadie (class of 73)
	Stafford Yorke (class of 72)
	Stephen Harris (class of 84)
	Wendell McCollin (class of 94)

Historian	Keith Simpson (class of 68)
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Memorium for the late Mr. Francis John



Mr. Francis John

Mr. Francis John spent almost 50 years at Fatima College, during which time he wore the hat of student, Dean, Acting Vice Principal and Senior teacher.

After seven years as a student at Fatima, Mr. John went off to U.W.I. Mona campus, Jamaica on a Government scholarship. Three years later, in 1966, he returned to Fatima as a member of the teaching staff with a B. Sc. (Hons) degree in Chemistry. He was the Form Five Dean in 1976 and the Form Six Dean in 1982-83. He retired

in 2004 after 38 years of teaching service but reentered that same year on contract as an Assistant Instructor and also as the Sports Coordinator.

An avid sports enthusiast, Mr. John was the captain of the Fatima teachers' football team and played hockey with the Notre Dame Club. His untimely passing was totally unexpected and left a great void in the lives of the College fraternity. Mr. John left behind his wife Helen and three children, two girls and one boy who is currently in Form Six at Fatima.

Memorium for the late Mr. Krishna Rosamond Charles



Mr. Krishna Charles

Mr. Krishna Rosamond Charles was born on the 3rd March 1947, he attended St. Mary's College, Port of Spain from 1960 to 1966, where he was awarded a Government of India Scholarship, he then migrated to India and in 1969 graduated with a BSC honours in Chemistry with Physics and Mathematics from the University of Calcutta. He then returned to Trinidad and attained a job at St. Mary's College where he taught Physics, Additional Mathematics (Pure and Applied) from 1972 to 1974 as a Temporary Teacher

11, he then moved on to Rio Claro Government Secondary School where he taught Mathematics from 1974 to 1976 as a Temporary Teacher 11, his last stop was at Fatima College starting in 1977 where he taught Mathematics, Additional Mathematics and Chemistry as a Temporary Special Teacher 111, he was appointed special teacher 111 in 1979, he served at Fatima College from 1979 to 2007. He functioned as Head of Department for Chemistry and General Science from 1977-2007, he retired from Fatima College on 3rd of March 2007 (on his birthday) at the age of 60. Due to his undying love for his students, he continued his teaching career at Fatima College.

In July 2008, Mr. Krishna Charles decided to visit India where he studied, for a six week vacation. He then fell ill with a Massive Stroke and died on Tuesday 29th July in Shillong, India, at the age of 61.

He was cremated on the 2nd August 2008 in India. His Ashes was brought back to Trinidad.



What's happening in SPORTS

Fatima College participated in a number of sports in the 2007/2008 school year among which were football, cricket, basketball, hockey, karate, rugby, swimming, water polo, squash and athletics.

In Football Fatima finished 3rd in the league behind St. Anthony's College and Malick and lost in the North Zone Intercol Semi-finals.

In Cricket the senior squad finished 2nd in the league and qualified for the National Semifinals where they lost to Presentation College Chaguanas.

In Athletics three Fatima boys were selected to represent Trinidad & Tobago at this year's Carifta Games: Jovon Toppin, Gavyn Nero and Andrew Hall. Gavyn Nero represented in the 800m and Andrew Hall became Fatima's first ever National High Jump representative. Form Six student Jovon Toppin excelled on the track in both the 200m and 400m and went on to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the 4x400m relay.

In Swimming five Fatima boys were part of 36 swimmers who participated in the Carifta Swim Championships held in Aruba: Keegan Boisson, Joshua Romany, Blaine Sobrian, Rory Yearwood and Zadok Isaacs. They helped Trinidad & Tobago finish 2nd overall in the games, up from the 3rd position that TnT had been occupying for the previous 4 years.

In Water Polo a number of Fatima boys made the National Teams in the Carifta Games held in Jamaica in March 2008. The National Under-15 team (with Fatima boys Andrew Clarke, Russell Ferreira, Marc Stauble, Daniel Tardieu, Simon Wilkes) won gold and the national Under-18 team (with Fatima boys Jonathan Bolai, Mattheus Otero, Michael Deane) took silver.

Teachers who left from 1988 - 1997

- 1988 Mr. Bahadurali Sunderji (17 yrs service)
- Fr. Kevin Power (retired - 33 yrs service)
- 1991 Mr. Christian Harragin
- Fr. Gervase Girod (25 yrs service)
- 1992 Mr. Thompson (12 yrs service)
- 1993 Ds. Blackman
- Ms. Defour
- Mr. A. Newallo
- Ms. Quong Sing
- Mr. Ifill
- 1994 Ms. Daphne Heywood (21 yrs service)
- Ms. Saignoret
- Mr. Manbodh
- Ms. Stephens
- 1995/96 Mr. Clive John (retired - 28 yrs service)
- Mr. Kublasingh
- Mr. Newallo (P.E.)
- Mr. John Romero (26 yrs service)
- 1996/97 Ms. Johnson
- 1997/98 Mr. Clifford Roach (31 yrs service)
- Mr. Everard Pouchet (retired - 32 yrs service)





Flashback - Pictorial Review

Can you identify anyone in these photos?
Email your answer and any old photos of
the School to: contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt



Letter to the Editor

Anyone wishing to send letters to the
editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond
the Grey Shirt" can e-mail their
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contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt



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This Newsletter was designed by:
Simon Farrell Graphic Designs
Tel/Fax: (868) 665-2334
Mobile: (868) 362-6218
Email: simontfarrell@yahoo.com
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