



Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

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This issue

*A brief History
of Fatima College
- (continued)*

*The Past Principals
of Fatima College
- (continued)*

*A Trini in Beijing,
Part I*

*Tribute to Mrs.
Kathy Ann Garcia*

*What's happening
in Sports*

Flashback page

*Letters to the
Editor*



*A*brief History of Fatima College

Continued from Issue 2 - Jan. 09

Mr. Cockburn left in August 1945 to study for the priesthood, and he was followed in the path to the priesthood by Messrs. Kelvin Tam, Albert Clarke, Cyril Ross and Herbert Seignoret. Some of the other early members of staff were Terry Julien, Jeffery Belgrave, Leroy Fermin, Wilfred Naimool and Van Stewart.

Mr. Stewart remained on staff until 1961, and later became the Schools Supervisor with the College coming under his charge. The College has acknowledged his contribution by naming a House after him.

In the following years, Fatima expanded rapidly. In 1949 the Eastern and Western wings were added to the section facing

Mucurapo road and in 1951 major earthworks were undertaken to divert the Maraval river running east of the College grounds. A reinforcement wall was built and a much needed Assembly Hall was erected on the former riverbed. This Hall was blessed and opened on the 2nd February 1952. The chapel and three more classrooms were built in 1954.

In 1947, the first batch of Fatima students sat the Cambridge School Certificate and six out of nine students succeeded. The shining star was Edgar Sosa who attained a Grade One with four distinctions. He joined the staff and taught at the College for 12 years. He subsequently earned academic distinctions in Jamaica, Australia and Germany. In 1950, five years after the opening, Rupert Ramcharan won the first House Scholarship for the College, and in 1954, only nine years after the opening, five out of the 24 House Scholarships in Trinidad came to Fatima.

In 1947, Father Byrne designed the Fatima College crest and placed it on the Fatima

flag which was officially blessed by His Grace the Archbishop on May 13th of that year. The Holy Ghost is the emblem of the Congregation, the six roses represent the six apparitions of Our Lady (the Mystical Rose) at Fatima, blue is traditionally Our Lady's colour and the white roses and the dove against a gold background are specific colours of Our Lady of Fatima. He also selected for Fatima, its motto "Nitendo Vinces" – By striving we conquer

Fr. Byrne remained at Fatima until 1955 when he was transferred to C.I.C. When he left, Fatima's roll was over 600 and staff 25.

Look out for the continuation in Issue 4

Upcoming Events

*FOBA Annual Salt and Pepper IX
October 2009
Details coming out soon*



Mr. Anthony Garcia: February 2000 – December 2008

Mr. Garcia took over from Mr. Moore in 2000, bringing with him experience as a strong leader for teachers' rights, being the President of The Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA) from 1983 to 1989 and again from 1992 to 1998. During the period in between he served as President of the Caribbean Union of Teachers.

Mr. Garcia attended Hillview College and then received his Teacher's Diploma at Mausica Teachers' College before beginning his extensive teaching career. He was a teacher at North Manzanilla Government Primary School, Arima Boys Government School and Five Rivers Junior Secondary School, and then served as Principal of Dinsley/Trincity Government Primary School before coming to Fatima College. The transition from Dinsley to Fatima was a challenge as both schools

had totally different atmospheres and different types of administration was required. But Mr. Garcia rose to the occasion using all his past training and experience that he had acquired from the many positions which he had held throughout his career.

Mr. Garcia went into pre-retirement in December 2008 and prided himself on the fact that during his tenure at Fatima he had brought improvements to the school infrastructure, had seen the CXC student pass rate improve significantly from about 60% to over 85% along with an increase in overall educational achievements, and the student participation in sports had increased. He had maintained, and in some areas improved, Fatima College's status as a top school of choice for many SEA students. His aim was obviously to instill a sense of pride, love and loyalty for the institution, all of which he, himself, discovered during his time at Fatima.



A Trini in Beijing, Part One

By Ruthven Thompson, Class of '91

Beijing, a city whose very name evokes images of the unknown... the exotic. Even in this day and age when access to information is but a mouse click away, I felt the thrill of the unknown as I embarked upon my trip to the country that is home to the Forbidden City.

Like most of the planet heading to that corner of the world, my trip to China was to attend the 2008 edition of the Olympics. But more importantly, my trip was rooted way more deeply than as a sports enthusiast. My trip centered around family. You see my brother is Richard 'Torpedo' Thompson, and I, along with my parents and some other close family and friends, went to support him in the Far East in his first Olympics.

We flew to New York where we caught a connecting flight on China Air and 13 hours later we landed in Beijing. The fact that we lifted off at 4.30 pm on a Monday and arrived at 5.30 pm on Tuesday was a sobering reminder of just how far away from sweet TnT we were.

We spent the first few days getting to know the people and the culture. I searched high and low for China's famed dog stew and 'rat-on-a-skewer' but all to no avail, (although I must admit that



one time I came across a reasonable fac- simile of the 'rat-on-a-stick' but wasn't impressed enough with the sanitary conditions of the place to partake in the delicacy... LOL). In all honesty, I have never eaten so much

McDonalds or KFC in my entire life as I did in that 1st week in Beijing!!!

The days passed quickly enough and next thing you know it was Friday night. My dad, my uncle & I went to the fabled 'Bird's Nest' Stadium to watch Richard run his heats. That stadium is fabulous!!! To behold the Bird's Nest in person was breath-taking. Richard won both of his heats convincingly, some would even say easily, and we left the stadium feeling on cloud nine! He was in the semi-finals.

Saturday 16th August 2008, is a day that I will never forget but it was also a nervous one for my family & me. We knew what Richard was up against in the semi final, with the likes of Asafa Powell, Tyson Gay et al in his heat. While I never doubted for one moment that once he was in the final there would be a medal in his future... getting to the final was the hurdle. Well we were not to be disappointed. He finished his heat second to Asafa Powell... He was in the FINAL of the MEN'S 100M, one of the Olympics most prestigious events!! We were so happy; we knew that this was what he had dreamed of. Just making it to the final was a dream come true for him!

Look out for Part 2 in the next issue



A Tribute to Mrs. Kathy Ann Garcia



Mrs. Kathy Ann Garcia

In 1971 I heard that Fatima College was looking for a Secretary as the then Secretary, Mr. Ormond Gabriel, was leaving the job. I applied to the Principal, Fr. J.H. Ryan, and was accepted into the Fatima family where I subsequently spent 37 years as Secretary to the Principal.

I was a novelty to the school, as all the teaching staff, lab assistants and library assistants were male. Being the only female at the school meant that there several staff adjustments to be made to accommodate me. In his wisdom and in

order to ensure that I was comfortable and not overwhelmed by the men, (you have to remember that I was very young and that this was my first job), Fr. Ryan assigned Mary Abdool, one of the cleaners/kitchen staff to look after my needs. I must say that everyone was friendly and this made it very easy for me to adjust and fit in.

In his first meeting with me, Fr. Ryan explained to me that the Cornerstone of the College was the honesty, integrity, dedication and hard work that went into making the institution one of the best in the island. He also emphasized that multi-tasking was desirable as each member of staff was encouraged to get involved in more than one aspect of school life. As my abilities became more and more evident so did my tasks increase and I was assigned the added responsibilities of functioning as school account-

tant, which I did for many years, as well as tutoring typing to Forms IV and Lower VI.

It was difficult in those days not to become involved in the social activities of the School. There was good interaction by all levels of staff and Fr. Ryan encouraged this by organizing a 'Soiree' once a month. These events were treasured by all members of staff because it gave us an opportunity to get together in a relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other. I am happy that this tradition was maintained over the years as successive principals encouraged and assisted with the planning of outings, functions, fete matches, etc.

I count it an honour to have worked with four of Fatima's five Principals, Fr. J.H. Ryan, Mr. Clive Pantin, Mr. Mervyn Moore and Mr. Anthony Garcia. Each Principal had his own style of doing things but all of them had the welfare of Fatima College at heart which has contributed to the great institution that is 'Fatima College'. Their dedication and firm commitment to making Fatima a school to be proud of was my inspiration to always aspire to give of my best regardless of the situation."to the great institution that is 'Fatima College'. Their dedication and firm commitment to making Fatima a school to be proud of was my inspiration to always aspire to give of my best regardless of the situation.

I urge the Old Boys Organization and Parents Support Group to keep up the good work that they have been doing to support the School. To the parents who gave of their time to help in the office over the years my heartfelt thanks. To the students, whom we are all here to serve, live by your watchwords 'Nintendo Vinces' (By striving you will conquer). It was a pleasure working with the staff over the years. Now that I am no longer with you physically I want you to know that I will cherish always the great memories and genuine friends that I found here. Thank You and I pray that God continues to richly bless every one of you.

Mrs Kathy Ann Garcia is married to Mr. Francisco Garcia, teacher at Fatima College. She has three children, a son who is presently at Fatima College, and two daughters.



What's happening in SPORTS

Sports Achievements Sept. 2008 to May 2009

Football

Senior Division League - Runners Up, North Zone Intercol - Semi Finalists, 2nd Eleven - Knockout Champions, Under 16 - Knockout Finalists, Under 14 - Knockout Champions, Form 1s (Under 13) - League Champions, National Selection: Under 19 - 2 Players, Under 16 - 5 Players

Rugby

Under 17 Senior Division - Champions, Under 14 - 2nd Place Outstanding Performer - Garvin Nero, Coach - Graham Chin

Track and Field

Garvin Nero - Top junior middle distance runner excelling in 800m, 1500m and 3000m and also reigning Carifta Champion - 800m and 1500m

Swimming

Nov 2008 - National Secondary Schools' Competition Champions (winning 8 of 18 male individual awards)
Feb 2009 - TSTT Foundation National Secondary Schools' Competition Champions
Carifta Games - 5 swimmers on National Team
Dylan Carter (11-12 age group) - 9 Gold Medals and 8 Carifta Records and 2 National Records, Coaches Paul Newallo and John Ferreira

Water Polo (1st Time Competing)

Feb 2009 - U19 2nd Place, U16 Champions, U14 2nd place

National Selection: Carifta Games: 6 swimmers out of team of 11 were Fatima boys, Open Category - 2nd place

Russell Ferreira - 2008 ASATT Water Polo male player of the year, Coaches John Ferreira and Allan Too-a-Foo

Cricket

U19 - North East Zone Champions, Nationals - Semi Finalists, National Intercol - Quarter Finalists, U16 North Zone Champions, Nationals - Champions, Under 14 North Zone Champions, Nationals - Champions, Form 1s (U13) Unbeaten, 2nd Eleven - Played unbeaten in four (4) games, 20/20 Finalists vs Tranquility (Game to be played)

National Selection

U17 3 Players (Akeil Hosein, Savion Lara and Christian Herrera)
Coaches Michael Carew Jr and Miguel Paty

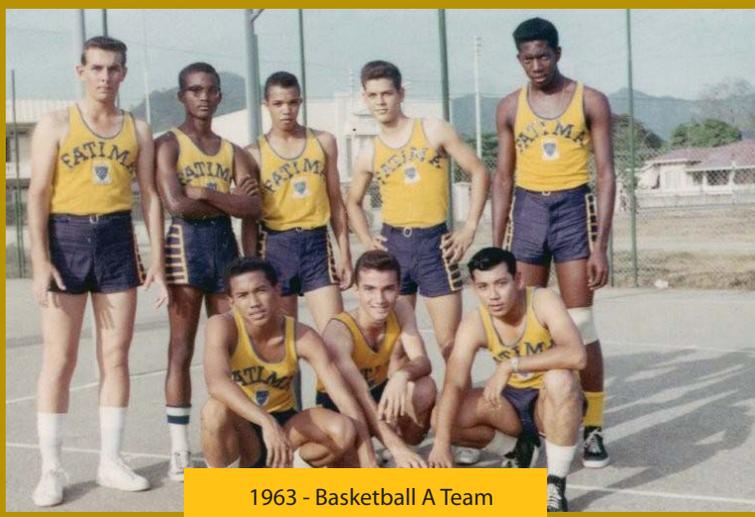
Hockey

SSHL U-20 - North West Zonal Runners Up
SSHL U-15 - North West Zonal Champions

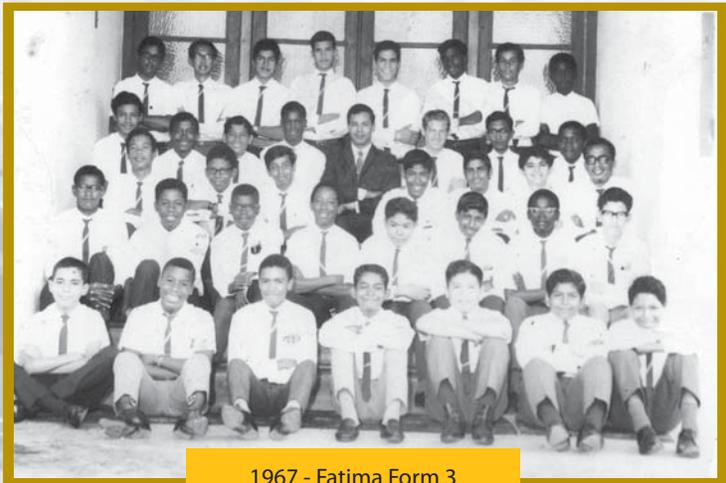
National Selection

Andrew Vieira - Trinidad and Tobago Senior National Team
Dominic Jaikaransingh - Trinidad and Tobago Junior National Team





1963 - Basketball A Team



1967 - Fatima Form 3



Letters to the Editor

I would like to say thanks for producing this website and the newsletter. It was very emotional for me to see the pictures of the building and of my two colleagues who have departed this world. As I read about my Alma Mater I couldn't help but think about the great times I had there when I was a student and as a teacher. I look forward to visiting this site on a regular basis to keep up with what is happening at the college. Thanks again for a truly great job. Strive On Fatima Boys, Strive On!!!!

Mark Ifill (Class of 1980)

Congratulations!!!! I am pleased that so many boys are involved in sport. This says a lot for their mentors, teachers and parents. How are their other life skills? How do they fear when they stand alone outside a team? Thanks for the Sharing.

Warren Patrick (Class of 1969)



1962 (Carnival) Fatima Boys in Westside Story - Conrad Aleong, Benedict Lee Chow, John Mollenthiel, Stanley Chu Fook



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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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