



Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

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A brief History of Fatima College

Continued from Issue 5 - Oct 2010

The Past Pupils Union, FOBA's predecessor, was formed in 1964, with Derek Johnson as its first President. Over many years the Union has been responsible, among other things, for organizing an annual Reunion to which all Pupils are invited. In its present day incarnation, FOBA has been responsible for organizing the annual and popular Carnival Fete, Mayfair and Men who can Cook dubbed "Salt and Pepper" events and a most recent addition, an annual Jazz night, raising funds to help the College maintain its first class status.

Fr. Ryan was assisted by many Holy Ghost Fathers - Frs. Anthony Pantin, who

became Archbishop, Timothy Corcoran, Gerard Farfan, James Brett, Thomas Curtin, Michael Harkins, Kevin Power, Anthony deVerteuil, and Gervase Girod.

How can Fatima ever thank these goodly Fathers who molded the character and personalities of the students who came under their care?

Mention must be made of the prefects. Both Fatima and C.I.C. owe a great deal to this group of young men, members of the Holy Ghost Congregation, usually from Ireland who taught in the colleges as part of their preparation for the priesthood. They were assigned to teach in one of the Colleges usually for a period of three years. They devoted themselves totally to the colleges and undertook a wide range of extracurricular activities. Their departure created a void.

In the early years, the positions of Principal, Vice Principal and Deans were not opened to lay teachers. Lay staff held their own staff meetings and they were represented by a Senior lay master, one of whom, Mr. Van Stewart, occupied the post for many years.

A significant change therefore was the introduction of lay teachers into the school administration. Fortunately, for Fatima, there was someone who would turn out to be a superb administrator. He was Mr. Clive Pantin who successfully helped to bridge the transition from a clerical administration to one involving lay staff. He was appointed Dean and the fear of losing him to another institution jolted the Holy Ghost Fathers to opening up the position of Vice-Principal to him and later to become Fatima's very first lay principal.



Beyond the Grey Shirt



School Hall Refurbishment Project

FOBA was asked by the Principal Fr. Gregory Augustine to initiate a project to increase the capacity of the College's assembly hall.

The project involved the design and construction of a mezzanine floor to accommodate approximately 400 persons standing.

The mezzanine floor constructed at Fatima is a steel special moment-frame, which is designed in accordance with AISC 360-05 and the seismic provisions of AISC 341-05. Beams, columns and beam-column connections in steel special moment frame are proportioned and detailed to resist flexural, axial and shearing actions that result as a building sways during strong earthquake ground shaking.

The mezzanine floor area is 11.40m wide and 10m long with an additional arched cantile-

ver of maximum cord length 1.5m. It is five tier with a total floor area of approximately 117m².

Construction of the mezzanine floor commenced on Tuesday 27 July 2010 with the cutting of the floor tiles in the assembly hall. All heavy construction i.e. foundation, columns, beams and composite floor decking was completed by 4 September 2010 to facilitate the opening of the school term on Monday 6 September 2010.

During the months of September, October and November 2010, the metal framing for the tier system and the 20mm plycem board floor system were installed and the entire floor area tiled. These works were executed after school hours and on weekends.

Fluorescent lighting fixtures were installed on the underside of the mezzanine floor and the entire underside was clad using an aluminum framing system and gypsum.

The mezzanine floor project was fully completed by 25 November 2010 and the College had full use of the new mezzanine floor for the annual Christmas concert on the 27th and 28th of November 2010.



Living The Grey Shirt By Derek Chin Fatt



Introducing, Mr. Derek Chin Fatt – Derek graduated from Fatima fifth form in 1977 and continued on to John S. Donaldson technical institute via a pre-certification programme orchestrated by the then principal Mr. Clive Pantin, for a struggling form 2B at the time. There he earned his Electrical\Electronic Engineering technicians diploma.

His further education was conducted due to and while at various positions at a number of companies outlined later on, these include – Digital Electronic training in the country of Malta in 1980, and five other training courses at CTech in Dayton, Ohio. Comprehensive Management training which included such topics as union negotiations, warehouse management, grocery management and the like...

Mr. Chin Fatt's first employment after leaving John S. Donaldson Technical Institute in 1980 was with R.J Shannon & Co. Ltd. repairing and installing (Electronic/Electrical) Cash registers, R.J Shannon was later bought over by CCS and Derek left the company and joined Lisa Ltd. as Manager of the Technical Servicing Department.

In 1985 Derek joined the Family business, Chin Fatt's bakery, Diego Martin, managing the business for the next eight years, followed by Manager of Bakery Operations for the Hi Lo chain of groceries 93-95.

In 1995 Derek joined Jen Mar Business Machines Ltd. where he launched, managed and built the computer department of the company over the next seven years, leaving the company with the computer department as the highest earning department within the company.

At this juncture his life took a major turn leaving our shores to manage and re-engineer the workings of Palm Court restaurant in Guyana for the next two years. On return to Trinidad and at a cross roads he made the decision to go into business for himself forming CAM Services in 2003, being able to register the business in 2004. CAM Services today is an ongoing and successful concern in the business of design, installation and maintenance of Point-of-Sale and security systems and music (equipment and D.J. services).

What is your best memory of your time at Fatima? – Form 4, with the creation of the A.V. (Audio Visual) center. Derek was one of the boys in the very first group involved with the A.V. center under Mr. Bruce Paddington. The activities at the time by this group involved archiving music, organizing educational films

and operating the projector facilitating educational programmes.

He also remarks about being at Fatima for the entry of the very first female teachers Ms. Kelswick and Ms. Zakoor (for whom any of us who had the pleasure of being at Fatima during her tenure left an indelible impression to say the least)

What is your worst memory of your time at Fatima? – Form 2 where he was among the group of boys of Form 2B who at the time were considered the most delinquent, rebellious students of the school.

Did you have a "nickname" while at Fatima? – reluctantly he discloses that on some occasions he was called "Bighead"... Boys will be boys.

Derek notes among the most enjoyable times of his life being an avid Windsurfer and a founding member of the (now defunct) Windsurfing Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

Today Derek continues to run and grow his company, is married and the father of a daughter (studying culinary arts in Barbados) and three boys, two of whom have joined him in the business and the last still in school. He has also been a D.J. since fifteen years old and continues to do so under the sobriquet of D.J. Harddrive.



Wayne Blackman, Class of 1984

My experience at FOBA's Carnival fete 2011 was overwhelming to say the least. The theme this year was 'Shine For All to See' and it was a wonderful night of great entertainment by Roy Cape and the All Stars, featuring Blaxx, Rita Jones and Olatunji with a guest performance by Iwer George; with further performances by Dil E Nadan and Destra with T.C., Swappi and Skinny Fabulous. Food of every variety and premium drinks were in abundance such that you couldn't possibly sample all. Patrons all agree – FOBA's Carnival fete is safe, decadent and tremendous fun where you get your money's worth and then some!!

(go to www.foba.fatima.edu.tt for the full article as well as pictures)



What's happening in SPORTS Sports Achievements, Sept. 2010 to May 2011

Athletics

14th November, 2010. Brendan Hatch, Antonio Achee, William Alexander, Scott Ifill and Kevin Hannays accepted the invitation from Mayaro Secondary School to participate in its 1st 5k Relay held in Mayaro. Our FATIMA boys performed very well and established themselves as a force to be reckoned with. This group set the tone for the rest of the competitive season.

28th November 2010. At the National Amateur Athletic Association (NAAA) cross country meet in Couva, fourteen of our boys participated in the boy's under-15 division emerging the champion boys' school. This was the first of several titles Fatima has claimed this season and was also the first time we have ever participated in the NAAA cross country event.

15th January, 2011. Next up was the Secondary Schools 5K Championship in Toco. Here, 11 of our talented athletes (from forms 1 to 6) endured the long trek to and from Toco, placing fourth (4th) out of the colleges present and eighth (8th) out of the eighteen (18) boys schools.

10th February, 2011. Fatima College emerged as the champion team at the National Secondary Schools Relay Festival in the under-20 4x400m event (Breon Mullings, William Alexander, Mikheil Caraby, Ché Carr) and the under-15 4x100m race

(Graeme Felix, Xavier Mulugata, Jonathan Cassimire and Nkosi Craigwell-Walkes). The full team of 48 placed fourth (4th) out of all secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago and second (2nd) in the colleges category.

(Submitted by Mr. Nigel Cooper, Teacher/Coach – continued in Issue #7)

Swimming

The swimming season started with the first competition in November 2010 with Fatima College emerging victoriously in the National Secondary School Swim Competition and the Best North Secondary School Competition with 328 points over St. Mary's College who had 308 points.

The Fatima boys who excelled in swimming are Shane Corbie in the non-competitive competition and Joshua Romany, Dillon Carter, Joshua Baptiste and Blaine Sobrian in the competitive competition.

The Second National Swim Competition was in February 2011. Although we have dominated this competition for the last four (4) years we were beaten into second place by CIC who had 338 points to Fatima College 310 points.

Water Polo

Last year the open Fatima team won this division for the first time since this competition started. Ten boys have made it onto the

Trinidad and Tobago National Water Polo team.

(Submitted by John G. Ferreira, Coach - continued in Issue #7)



Swim Team



Form 1 Water Polo Team



Open Water Polo Team



Flashback - Pictorial Review



1963 or 1964 - First Eleven



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

Can you identify anyone in these old photos?

Email your answer and any old photos you have from school to: contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt



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