



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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A Brief History of Fatima College

CONTINUED FROM ISSUE 7 – DECEMBER 2011

IN 1976 FR. FARFAN LEFT TO PURSUE MISSIONARY WORK. HE WAS REPLACED AS VICE-PRINCIPAL BY MR. MERVYN MOORE. MR. PANTIN AND MR. MOORE PROVIDED AN IDEAL COMBINATION, TWO SINCERE INDIVIDUALS, UTTERLY DEVOTED TO FATIMA AND EDUCATION.

Almost without warning, Mr. Pantin was gone, having decided to contest the 1981 elections as an ONR candidate. He had been at Fatima since 1954 as Prefect, Dean, Senior Dean, Senior lay master, cricket coach, football coach, Vice-principal and Principal.

The new Principal, Mr. Moore, had joined the staff in 1959 and had served as Dean of Forms Three to Five. A very simple, humane individual he recognized the value of his staff and allowed them the freedom to use their initiative. He and the then Vice-principal, Mr. Pouchet, assigned responsibilities to just about every member of staff. Mr. Moore was very committed to the Catholic identity of the school. In the Principal's Report 1982-1983 he stressed: "Students who leave these portals must be aware of the teachings of Christ and of their responsibilities. They must be motivated by Christian love, and consequently they must be leaders by example in every sphere, but particularly in the sphere of morality". The role of the spiritual has been a constant theme in the Principal's report at Prize-Giving Functions.

Fatima's academic standard rose in the 80's. Whereas in the 70's, the "A" Level pass rate was around 50% it reached 69.9% in 1984, rose to 83% in 1989, and went even further in 1991 to 91%. Fatima also began to win scholarships. Eugene Joseph and Roger Fernandez won Fatima's first scholarships in 1976. In all, Fatima won five scholarships in the seventies. Since then, the College won 39 schols in the eighties and up to 1994 had won 20 in the nineties. The best year was in 1982 when Fatima won 4 Open schols, and three additional. This was a landmark year for Fatima as for the first time, Kieron James won the President's medal for Fatima in the Mathematics Group. In 1984, Fatima again won the President's medal through Kyle Rudder once again in the Mathematics Group.

Fatima saw many changes in the eighties. A streamed class was introduced in 1981 as it was felt that Fatima did not sufficiently encourage brilliant students to excel. In 1981, Myrtle Cumberbatch joined the staff and began to teach Music one year later. She and Maurice Brash have since been preparing a Junior choir to participate in school functions.



1990 was a difficult year for Fatima College. On Monday 11 April Principal Moore had an accident which required him to be hospitalized. It was a traumatic time for everyone as the principal hovered between life and death. Fatima found itself without a Principal, Vice-principal and Manager. This was a stern test for all at Fatima. Mr. Everard Pouchet acted as Principal during this time until July with Mr. Francis John as Vice-Principal. All displayed total loyalty to Fatima during this period of crisis. Mr. Moore was able to return and continue his duties until retiring in 1999.

Mr. Anthony Garcia, former president of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Union, teacher and principal, became principal of Fatima college in 2000, a post he retained until 2008, continuing the high traditions and achievements of Fatima. The position of Vice-Principal and Manager have since been filled by Mr. Bernard Tappin and Fr. Gregory Augustine respectively. Fr. Gregory Augustine is at present the Acting Principal of Fatima College. ■

(THIS CONCLUDES THE BRIEF HISTORY SERIES)

Rocking the Grey Shirt - Dax Cartar

BY STEFAN ROACH



SOME RATE HIM AS TRINIDAD'S LEADING ELECTRIC GUITARIST. HE FOUNDED HIS OWN BAND, 'KRASH' IN 2005 AND IS CURRENTLY THE LEAD GUITARIST OF ORANGE SKY.

Name: Dax Cartar (Class of 2005)

Age: 25

Main Instrument: Electric guitar

Other Instrument: Piano

Music Education: Grade 5 practical piano.

Dax was prepared to take the grade 8 practical piano exam but he was prevented from doing so by a near-fatal car crash plus the death of his Dad within the same year.

Current Bands

- Krash
- Orange Sky
- The Cartars (with his siblings, Marie and Phillip)

Career Highlights

2005 – Krash was formed. The band performed on a stage on a pool for the launch;

2007 – Travelled to L.A. with Krash for the World Championship for Performing Arts. The band won:

- Gold Medal for Original Material,
- Silver Medal for Cover Material and
- Industry Medal.

2010 – Joined Orange Sky. The exposure obtained from joining Orange Sky enabled Dax to get sponsors. "Special thanks to Anthony De Silva (Fatima Old Boy) and friends from Look Opticians for sponsoring some of my musical gear."

2011 – Obtained a coaching position in Orange Sky's School of Rock;

2011 – Performed at Tobago Jazz with Orange Sky;

2011 – Opened for Evanescence in Trinidad with Orange Sky. Dax got his first "arena solo" opportunity;

2011 – Krash performed with Alternative Quartet in Miss T&T;

2011 – Hired to play background piano for SAM's graduation 2011 thanks to Nigel Rojas;

2011 – Performed an original solo composition titled 'Ode to Japan' (inspired by the tsunami events) at the opening of a workshop at NAPA for world famous guitarist, Michael Angelo Batio.

Dax Cartar is inspired to be the Franz Liszt of Guitar, inspired by the technique, passion and genius of the renowned composer. Marty Friedman, Slash, Rhandy Rhoads and

Dimebag Darrell are all guitar greats that have influenced and shaped Dax's guitar playing prowess.

His skills come at a price however, proving the importance of hard work and perseverance. Dax claims that on a good day, he can practise up to 18 hours. Yes, 18 hours!! This includes 10 hrs on piano and 8 hrs on guitar. He awakes at 8 am and after a hot drink and sometimes breakfast, he begins his musician's regiment, practising piano till about 3 pm, when he switches to guitar. Lunch is usually squeezed in around 4 pm, and then he continues practicing till late-night/early-morning hours switching between piano and guitar. This sort of routine has led to bad eating habits but varies depending on if he has a band practice, a gig or a lime. He mainly eats dinner if he's out liming, usually consisting of avenue food such as a gyro or doubles. Dax wants to be a virtuoso electric guitarist first, then a virtuoso classical pianist and through that kind of 18 hr hard work and sacrifice he intends to achieve this. He is supported totally by his family comprising his mom and his siblings, Marie and Phillip (performed at All-inclusive with Dil-e-Nadan) who have both chosen a similar musical path.

At Fatima College, Dax performed with an early incarnation of Krash for his Form 5 graduation, playing "In the End" by Linkin Park. The band evolved and members changed throughout Form 6 as they performed for a couple school functions, including a Christmas Party hosted by Form 6 for orphanage children. His classmates, Rhys Libert, Vincent Gabriel, his brother Phillip Cartar and himself eventually officially formed Krash in 2005 with lead singer, Chris Badal (Trinity Old Boy). Dax recounted fun times in Fatima, leaving school early with friends to go Audio Concepts music store (run by Fatima Old Boy, Robert Johnson at the time) to jam on the instruments. They usually told the school's guard that they were heading to visit the Princess Elizabeth Home. The Form 6 dean, Mr. Seemungal was expectedly very upset at them whenever he found out. Dax is especially thankful however to Mr. Brash, Ms. Cumberbatch and Ms. Duff amongst other teachers that always

supported him and believed in him. He said that Ms. Duff still makes time to come to his shows up to today. At Fatima, he also had the opportunity to meet and jam with other musician friends, Christopher Bhageratty, Stefan Roach and Johann Chuckaree.

Life has been nothing short of exciting for Dax and Krash so far. The very inspiration for the name of the band is rooted in a near-fatal accident involving some of the members. Once, during a loud practice session in the residential Westmoorings, an annoyed neighbour called the police for them. It is all part of the world of rock and roll, not to mention the numerous chicks that are in love with Dax's guitar skills. Clad with a few tattoos, long, curly hair and hoop earrings, he certainly looks the part too. Is it surprising to note that Dax is in fact a practicing Catholic, grounded in the faith.

Goals

- Intends to transform his favourite composers' best compositions into his own rock and roll symphonies.
- Longs to attend the Franz Liszt Conservatory in Hungary to enhance his composition and performance skills. "I am obsessed with Franz Liszt and Chopin. They are like yin and yang to me."

Dream

"I dream to be on an International stage as a virtuoso on both ends of spectrum, both piano and guitar, earning enough money to own a world class practice room, state of the art equipment and to be able to record regularly."

Websites/Contacts

Krash is on MySpace and Facebook, Dax is on Facebook, Email: daxcartar@gmail.com ■



Interview with Retired Teacher, Fenrick De Silva

BY STEFAN ROACH



Class of 1986 – 25 Year Reunion

THE FATIMA CLASS OF 1986 GOT TOGETHER FOR THEIR 25 YEAR REUNION ON THE WEEKEND OF 16 DECEMBER 2011.

A mass was held in the college chapel on Friday with Fr. Girod as chief celebrant. This was followed by a lime at classmate's Mark Laquis' residence.

A dinner was held at the college hall on Saturday night and teachers who were still on staff were specially invited. At the event the class recognized their most famous and renown classmates, including Brian Lara. A gift committee was also formed and one of their first targets was the outfitting of the school with new computers.

On Sunday there was a small goal football and cricket cooler lime at the college field. Pictures from the reunion weekend can be viewed on both the website and Facebook page. ■



Q: What year did you retire?

2005 at the beginning of the school year.

Q: How many years did you teach?

37 years...I taught for 3 years after form 6 (1965 - 1968) then left for university. I rejoined the staff in 1971.

Q: What subjects did you teach?

Spanish, French...I also taught Latin but until the early 70s when it was stopped.

Q: What school did you attend?

Fatima College

Q: Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities?

I participated in the sporting life and played for the cricket and football teams. I also played for the masters football team as teacher.

Q: Tell me about the staff and the teachers during your time as a Fatima student?

There was a very mixed staff. There were about 10-12 priests in administrative posts especially in addition to their teaching assignments. Scholastic prefects mainly from Ireland also taught as well as the lay teachers. Fr. Ryan was the principal at my time as a student up to my early years as a teacher. There was an all-male staff.

Q: What is your proudest moment in school?

As a student, I was the best language student out of sixth form. As a teacher, I always felt satisfied by my students' success.

Q: Any highlights of your upbringing?

Throughout my years growing up from Primary to Secondary school, my parents never had to come in school because of indiscipline. My parents did a good job instilling good values into their children. I have four brothers, two of which also attended Fatima...one before me and one after me.

Q: How was university life?

I studied foreign languages, French and Spanish at UWI. I did Sociology in the first year too. I was a founding member of 'UWI Steelband' which was formed in 1969. Martin Albino, brother to Merle Albino de Corteaux, was the arranger. This was before the steelband, 'Birdsong' was around.

Q: Tell me about Fatima's Calypso competition?

A group of us teachers at the time in Fatima who were musicians used to visit the 'House of Refuge', now known

as the 'St. James Infirmary' and play in the wards, especially around Christmas time. Mainly the members of this group including Clifford Roach introduced the Calypso competition. We also played in other school functions like prize-giving and in music festival with the school choir for the folk song category.

Q: How many children do you have? (schools they attended)

My wife and I have three children, two sons and a daughter. My family is a real Fatima family. My sons attended Fatima, one brother's two sons and another brother's son.

Q: What have you been up to during your retirement?

Firstly, I'm very happy I never went back out to work. I'm home being a good house-husband, occupying myself. My grandchildren also keep me occupied. My youngest son has two children and my daughter also has two, ranging from 1½ to 6 years. It's a lot of fun when they visit. The oldest grandchild is following in the family tradition of loving and playing music which is very much part of our family's culture. There are a lot of musicians in the family. One son plays in church with me and another son does gospel rap. My main instrument is bass and I mainly play in church.

Q: What matters to you most in life?

At this stage in life, it matters most that my life is pleasing to God. If by my example and interaction with people, I can convince them that the most important thing is to have the right relationship with God, I consider myself to be living a fulfilling life.

Q: Any advice for a young teacher?

Ahhhh...Times have changed so much and the school environment as well. But what would work in any environment and any era is if you could convince young people that you are really interested in them and are seeking their best interest, no matter what, it would eventually work out.

In closing I take the opportunity to wish my past colleagues the best health...since having more time to reflect on life...as we grow older, learn to be grateful for life and the Giver of life for giving us this gift. I wish my former colleagues the best and urge them to develop a good relationship with the Giver of life. ■



FOBA Old Years Night Party 2011

BY WAYNE BLACKMAN

DECEMBER 31ST, 2011 SAW FOBA LAUNCH ITS FIRST EVER OLD YEARS NIGHT PARTY, THE BRAINCHILD OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, MR. DWIGHT ANDREWS.

Dwight was the main thrust in bringing the event to fruition, with only two months time prior to the event, to plan, organize and advertise. He was able to pull off what could only be described as a "coup".

of "black and white", and the décor and dress code of the staff for the evening reflected this. Music was supplied by D.J. Hurricane George with live entertainment by the band Dil E Nadan.

Titled T.O.Y. (Trini Old Years), the party took place at the Fatima College school hall. A platform was constructed over the outer driveway along the hall thus providing outdoor, open air dining for those who so wished. The entire party was in the theme

As is keeping with the excellence of all FOBA events, the night was well organized and classy, with an excellent menu of local Trini food, beautifully done décor and great music. Yet another successful FOBA event set to become a yearly occurrence. ■

2012 All-Inclusive Carnival Fete

BY WAYNE BLACKMAN

"LET THERE BE LIGHT" WAS THE THEME OF FOBA'S 2012 CARNIVAL FETE, ENCOURAGING PATRONS TO WEAR WHITE, MOST EVERYONE ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE.

The Fatima Old Boys Association continues to deliver a phenomenal experience with the premier fete of the season. This year had seen many improvements on an already exemplary template of organization.

The main stage was relocated, allowing a better view from anywhere in the compound, and of course more space, which equaled additional tickets to be sold. Four upstairs classrooms were transformed into

corporate boxes for sponsors/patrons. A ticket lottery was brainstormed and conducted by the alumni membership sub-committee. Approved by the executive of FOBA, this lottery allowed for a number of old boys who are registered with FOBA, to be randomly selected and given access to purchase two (2) tickets. I, not being much of a drinker, was pleased at the large barrels of chilled bottled water placed throughout the grounds.

These simple innovations together with great music, tremendous selections of food, unbelievable selections of alcohol, a very secure environment and a great crowd made for further improvements on which could immodestly be dubbed an already "perfect" fete.

Pictures of the event and a full account of the fete, article by Stefan Roach, can be found on FOBA's website. ■

E-Store Update

FOBA's alumni communications sub-committee, with the participation of the executive committee, has been working arduously on bringing to fruition a functioning E-store to FOBA's website. I would challenge that we should see its emergence before the end of 2012.

At this point, the sub-committee has been using every opportunity/event to advertise the e-store's coming and to introduce some of the Fatima memorabilia that will be available. You can view items in our new showcases located outside the hall at the school and make purchases of these caps, jerseys, mugs, etc at any time at the FOBA office at the school.

We endeavour also to be present at all FOBA events for the year, so you may purchase our "wares". Hold tight...we coming strong!

WAYNE BLACKMAN



What's happening in Sports

**SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS JAN 2012
TO MAY 2012**

ATHLETICS

On Sunday 15th January, 2012 six (6) middle distance runners from the Fatima College Athletics Team participated at the National Secondary Schools 5k Championships. The results were very good as Jonathan Pantin (Form 3-3) again showed his class by placing 2nd in the Under-17 category and 17th overall out of the 135 competitors.

On Wednesday 8th February, 2012 Fatima College was crowned the champion 4x100m Under-20 team at the National Secondary Schools Relay Championship. The squad of Trey Hart, Abraham Bowen, Breon Mullings, and Alexander Prevatt captured the title in a time of 43.1 seconds on a bone-hard track. Close behind was the Under-17 4x100m team of Xavier Mulugata, Kyle Joseph, Brendon Creed and Marquise Hoyte who placed second in their division with a time of 45.54 seconds.

On Saturday 24th March, 2012 Fatima College was victorious at the schools 4k relay race hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago International Marathon (TTIM) Committee. The race, which was open to athletes 15 years and under, began at 3 p.m. opposite Whitehall as part of a weekend festival of running, culminating in the TTIM Marathon on the following day. The team finished in a good time of 13 minutes 33 seconds capturing the overall title as well as the secondary schools title.

CRICKET

Fatima College's Under 14 cricket team played in the Cricket Nationals Under-14 finals held at the Cricket Centre Couva on Friday 20th May, 2011. At this game, Fatima College clashed against Presentation College Chaguanas. Of course the Winner was Fatima College, captained by Haffiz Emamalie, The best batsman for the match and the most outstanding player was Daniel Brown who scored 52 runs from 51 balls.

The Fatima Under-14 cricket team successfully claimed The North Zone title from years 2008-2011. Furthermore they were victorious in obtaining the National title in the years of 2008 and 2009.

Last year Fatima College's Under-16 cricket team was split into two teams: A and B captained by Kelly Rosalis and Johnathan Hirst respectively. Interestingly, both teams clashed in the semi-finals of the North Zone league. Unfortunately, our Under 16 team was edged out of the National quarter finals by El Dorado.

HOCKEY

Fatima is making a strong comeback after dominating the sport during the late 80's and early 90's. In 2011, under the guidance of new coach, Bruce Tang Nian, Fatima's Under-15 hockey team was crowned 1st during the last Sept-November Indoor season. None other than Fatima's very own, Jordan Vieira, was awarded the title of MVP as well as Most Goals scored. The Under-20 hockey team placed 2nd last season. Special mention must be made of Andrew Vieira and Ryan Daniel who helped steer the team to victory! ■

National Under - 14 Cricket Team



Chess Champion
Joshua Johnson



EXTRA

CHESS

Bearing the title of National Under-18 champion while vying for the UMADA Cup and contributing to Fatima's 1st place in Lucozade's School Championship over the last couple of years, 'Fatima and Chess' seems to have become synonymous with 'Joseph Gill,' a present Form 6 student. And rightfully so, as his achievements include his playing games in places from Bento Goncalves, Brazil to Mar del Plata, Argentina. In the former tournament, which occurred in August 2010, he played top international chess players like the Venezuelan Under-18 champion and Mexican junior champion, whom he both defeated.

Form one student and soon the mantle of carrying the title of 'Fatima and chess' will be handed to the Under-20 National Junior Champion who is just 12 years old - "Joshua Johnson." His achievements rival those of his predecessors, and is inclusive of him placing first in the Umada Cup, 1st place Under-12 National Junior championship, 2nd Place Overall - Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions Tournament, aiding Marc Reys, Alex Wallcot and Joseph Gill to cop the title, "Champion Secondary Chess School Team".

SCRABBLE

Fatima College copped the winning title at the BPTT National Secondary Schools Scrabble Championships, held in late 2011. Winning a prize of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and major bragging rights, we look forward to a clean sweep in all categories for 2012.

(Prepared by Wayne Blackman, extracted from Fatima College website, www.school.fatima.edu.tt, and Guardian newspaper articles.)



National Under - 14 Cricket Team



Cricket Under 14 Captain Haffiz Emamali

Flashback - Pictorial Review



Some of the guys from the winning Intercol team 1965
L to R: Earl Fough (Canada), Frank Mahabir (USA), Earl Jackson (USA), Roderick James (USA), Anthony Weekes (T&T).



1981 1st Eleven Hockey Team



Class of 1970 6SA & 6SB



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:
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