



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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Living the Grey Shirt – Jwala Rambarran

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, MR. JWALA RAMBARRAN – “MOVING FROM FATIMA BOY, TO THE MAN AT THE HELM OF THE CENTRAL BANK”

On Friday 13th July 2012 Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar announced Economist Jwala Rambarran as the new Central Bank Governor. Mr. Rambarran had worked at the Central Bank for 14 years, and during his tenure, he represented T&T as technical assistant in the office of the executive director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from April 2001 to March 2003. He left Central Bank in March 2004 to assume the position of chief economist at Caribbean Money Market Brokers (CMMB) before he embarked on his own business, Cap-M Research.

Mr. Rambarran left Fatima College (where he was known as Anston) in 1986 (Form 6) and attended the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine campus. He holds a Bachelor of Science (upper second class honours) degree in economics and mathematics from UWI and a Masters of Science (honours) degree in financial economics from the University of London. Most recently, Mr. Rambarran was recognised by UWI, St. Augustine campus, as one of the 50 distinguished alumnus as part of the campus' 50th anniversary celebrations.

Governor Rambarran, please accept our thanks in advance for taking the time from your busy schedule to meet with us.

Q What are your best and worst memories of Fatima?

A (A long, contemplative pause...) **BEST** - "It's hard to choose really. I remember Keith Scotland doing an open-book presentation for Science Class, spending over 15 minutes discussing the topic and then fielding answers. Afterwards, I asked him what he had written in his note book he keep referring to – it had nothing! He was actually ad-libbing the whole thing as he did not do his homework. Hence his current success as a lawyer I guess! (laughing) I learnt from that experience that when you're in the spotlight, you'd better be ready to dance.

WORST (An even longer, more contemplative pause...) "None of significance really. I suppose being asked to stop attending RI (Religious Instructions) Class in Form 3 because I was a Hindu, after topping the class in Forms 1 and 2.



Q Were school days (at Fatima) really the proverbial 'best days'?

A "I would say my best experiences were at UWI, but my Fatima experience though was what really prepared me for adult life in Trinidad. The diversity and mix of social and ethnic groups I experienced at the College laid the foundation for me to be able to manage diversity in life and the workplace. From my primary school I was the only person who chose to come to Fatima as their first choice (versus Presentation College); this decision I believe gave me an advantage through this lesson in diversity that I would not likely have had to learn as strongly in Presentation College."

Q How instrumental do you think Fatima was in creating the person you have become?

A "As noted in the previous answer, Fatima really created my foundation for dealing with diversity in life. Two other 'mantra's

that Fatima engrained in me are our motto, “Nitendo Vinces - By Striving we Shall Conquer”, and “Aim High”, from our first Principal Mr. Pantin. These, along with the quote, ‘with great power comes great responsibility’, made popular by the Spiderman character helped mould me into the man I am.”

Q Have you maintained your friendships from school?

A I have maintained many friendships, but honestly not many close friends. The distance from POS mainly contributed to this, as it made it hard to ‘lime’ with my peers from school during weekends etc..

Q How far was Fatima from home and what was the commute like in those days?

A I grew up in Lange Park, Chaguanas. Commuting to school was “an adventure,” as in those days they were now turning the Princes Margaret Highway (now the Uriah Butler Highway) into a dual lane. As such, you had to be there by 5 AM to handle the hour plus into POS. After school, I used to walk with some of the other boys to Independence Square to travel home.

Q Did you take part in any extracurricular activities?

A No, because of the travelling issues. Any rain or delays in leaving for home meant reaching home after 7 PM.

Q Did any teachers impact you in particular?

A Mr. Gonsalves, the one that taught Mathematics for a short period, really made me understand that subject; this formed the base of me moving on to me degree in Economics/ Mathematics. He was a Fatima Boy who taught for a year before furthering his studies I believe. Other teachers that really stood out were Ms. Hubbard, Mr. Sunderji, Ms. Wills, Mr. Charles and Ms. O’Brien.

Q Did you get a scholarship when you graduated from Fatima?

A No, I got one after completing first year of UWI.

Q Did anything you experience in Fatima influence your eventual path?

A My plan was originally to go into medicine. Because I strangely didn’t get an ‘A’ in Chemistry in my O’ Levels (even though I used to top the class), I could not get into the A’ Levels stream I wanted. As such, I switched path into

the Business Stream – an act of fate maybe? I went from planning to look after people, to looking after a country as a whole (laughing).

Q Make-up of family i.e. wife, kids etc.?

A I have a wife, a 14 year old daughter and an 8 year old son. We are a very close-knit family. We are the four Musketeers.

Q Favorite way to spend spare time (assuming that you have spare time)?

A My spare time has always been for family. Watching movies with my daughter, playing board games or bike riding with my son.

Q Has your new job started to affect your family life?

A Surprisingly it has not negatively affected it, but has actually helped me add some structure, as it is my first “8-4” type job for quite a while (not that I actually work 8-4).

Q What time do you get to the office, and what time do you leave?

A I normally arrive around 8.30 AM and leave about 6 PM.

Q What’s a typical day like?

A A mix of meetings with staff, both structured and ad-hoc, decision making, reading and planning, strategy formation and looking at external issues.

Q What is your greatest hope and greatest fear?

A Hmmm. Greatest hope – to leave a positive legacy as a Central Bank Governor and to move the bank to being closer to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Greatest fear – One of my kids dying.

Q Do you have any items yet unfulfilled on your ‘bucket list’ (that you are willing to share)?

A Surprisingly no. This post is where my sights were set. It is what I aspired to. I haven’t begun to think past the next 5 years (i.e. my term in office) as yet.

Q Has it been hard adjusting to your new role?

A No, I hit the ground running.

Q How has your response been in your new office?

A I have been a bit surprised by the negative public attention. In my office itself, the reception has been very

warm; I have a lot of support and a team of professional and committed staff. We share similar objectives.

Q There has been some controversy about your appointment – is Fatima motto an inspiration?

A I have not paid attention to the negative noises – I am focused at the job at hand.

Q Would you like to share your thoughts/ feelings on the controversy?

A No, I will leave that for my memoirs! (laughing)

Q What’s your vision for how you can make positive change in our beloved country?

A My vision is:

- The Central Bank providing the economic stability needed.
- Demystifying the workings of the Bank – helping people understand how it operates and why.
- Moving the Bank away from being seen as an Ivory Tower – moving it closer to the people.

Q What is your take on the state of the economy currently?

A I think it is ‘turning the corner’ as they say. It has proven to be resilient against external influences. The Central Bank now has to provide the confidence to support the turnaround.

I don’t subscribe to ‘recession thinking’. The economy may be a bit fragile, but it’s definitely not on the ground.

Q Any closing comments?

A Fatima is the only local College to have produced two Central Bank Governors; this is something to be proud of.

In fact, there are many Old Boys’ at high levels in the financial sector. I remember going to an IMF World Bank meeting where every person seated around the table turned out to be an ex Fatima student from differing generations; every one. We had never met each other before.

Fatima has a lot to be proud of. I hope it continues molding young men into loyal, patriotic citizens. I hope it continues to ‘Aim High’!

Governor, thank you for your hospitality and for the opportunity to have met with you. Good luck in your new position from FOBA and I am sure from all Fatima Boys’. ■

The Perfect Coach

BY MARCUS JOSEPH (CLASS OF 2006)

ALOYSIUS BERNARD JOSEPH WAS HIS FORMAL NAME, HE WAS COMMONLY KNOWN TO US AS "SIR". I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE LIFE OF THIS WONDERFUL MAN. THERE IS SO MUCH I CAN SAY BECAUSE TO ME HE BECAME MUCH MORE THAN A COACH. I PRAY THAT GOD GIVES ME THE WORDS AS I WRITE TO DO JUSTICE TO THIS WONDERFUL SOUL.

His legacy began long before I arrived and I was simply privileged to become a part of it. When I arrived at Fatima in the year 2000 there existed a rich chess tradition. Initially I did not play chess but what started as a simple challenge eventually became a love and it is at the chess club that I became acquainted with this "giant of a man". My notable contemporaries included Michael Hargreaves, Sean Perryman, Travis Hoskins, Aaron Browne, Allan Munro, Imran Hosein, Antonio Gellineau, Joseph Gill and more but I truly cannot list all. This list represents an interesting spread across generations, I fell in the middle. This was one of the great qualities of A.B Joseph, consistently reproducing teams. He did it generations before and simply continued. I am sure that my chess peers both in my generation and those before me will share similar sentiments concerning A.B. Joseph.

"Sir" had such an aura about him, when he entered the room there would be hushed silence, he was truly respected and in that almost hallowed place we called the chess room he was a colossal figure. I believe that he was more than a teacher by profession. I believe that it was by divine design. A coach at the end of the day is also a teacher for he instructs and this he certainly did; with such passion and sincerity in a way that only he could. A.B Joseph was a simple man! This was evident in his instructions and in almost all he did. I can recount the great sayings that have survived the ages and will continue to do so, "there is nothing better than a rook on the seventh". "what is better than a rook on the seventh? Two!". "The man who controls the centre controls the game". and my personal favourite, "Marcus you will not last as long as the red house fire!" to which I would respond, "I do not know anything about the red house fire, I cannot remember that". A.B Joseph, "My point exactly!"

As I write, it is with great sadness but with joy. I am saddened by a great loss but joyous to have shared in the life of such a wonderful soul. I am positive when I say that many of the joys I felt have been shared by many across the years. Father Gregory and Ms. Joyce would remember having to open the back exit for us many a late hours after chess

duels, this was not uncommon such was the love of chess. There are so many fond memories, so many great stories; too little space to tell them all. His methods were simple, the results astounding. A.B understood the hearts of students and as most great teachers do, he knew how to reach them. Chocolate was one of his favourite motivational tools. I can remember many chess sessions where the winner of the exercise would receive a chocolate; the famed chocolate! We played through many grandmaster games and had to find the best plans and continuations. Points were awarded based on the accuracy of responses. What was noteworthy in these sessions is that although he came prepared and had selected moves and points in mind he was open to new suggestions and would assess them on its merit. I believe this was another mark of a great teacher, the ability to assess independently and not always just stick to the notes.

What is the greatest quality of any teacher? To teach till his students surpass his level. In this regard A.B Joseph has no equal. One time after I had beaten him in a game he lamented, "This always happens; I teach them till I cannot beat them". He genuinely gave of all that he could most selflessly. He was always full of advice and support, not just a talker but his actions supported. I know of no other coach to have singlehandedly produce so many champions as A.B Joseph has done over such a period. To me, A.B Joseph, "Joe", "Sir" is the greatest, while I in no way take away from all who have contributed to the game and continue to do so, A.B Joseph as a man, a teacher and a coach in Trinidad and Tobago had and has no equal.

I no longer have space to tell more stories but anytime we meet, if you want to know about A.B Joseph as a chess coach, ask me. We will talk about it over tea, or more appropriately over a game of chess. Right now I simply wish to say thank you Aloysius Bernard Joseph for contributing to my life and the lives of so many others. To Peter Soverall, Mark Pattik, Gregory Boyce, Marcus Cobham, Allan Munroe and so many others, let us continue the legacy of the one and only A.B Joseph! ■



A Tribute to Mr. Aloysius Bernard Joseph

GREAT SADNESS AND SHOCK ENGULFED THE FATIMA COLLEGE COMMUNITY AS THE NEWS OF MR. JOSEPH'S DEATH ON THE 27TH JUNE, 2012 SPREAD.

Was this the same strong, giant Aloysius Bernard Joseph, Dean of Form five? How could this be? The thought of life at the college without him was overwhelming.

Whether you remember him as a teacher, dean, chess coach or as simply the scary teacher with the loud footsteps in the hallway, his overall demeanor was one of a true professional. He was Mr. Regular and Mr. Punctual. Mr. Joseph was a pillar of Fatima College, not just a teacher here but part of the school's physical structure. He spent six days a week here, Saturdays included for conducting his lessons class, along with supervising Saturday detention when it existed.

Mr. Aloysius Joseph was a Fatima Old Boy who joined the staff as a teacher in 1972. From 1980 – 1983, he pursued a degree at the University of the West Indies, where he graduated with honours with a major in English and a minor in Spanish. He immediately returned to teaching and later served as the Head of the English Department from



A Tribute to Mr. Aloysius Bernard Joseph (Continued)

1994 – 2002 and as the Dean of Form Five from 1995 till his passing. He ran the Chess Club which produced many grandmasters. He assumed lead roles in producing the College annuals, running the Fatima Summer lessons' programmes and producing the school's exams.

Though Mr. Joseph wore a stern face most of the time, he was a very warm person, full of personality, with a fantastic sense of humour. His wittiness and exceptional command of the English language contributed to very captivating speeches at school functions such as the Form Five graduation ceremony. One can't imagine a Form Five grad without him.

I salute Mr. Aloysius Bernard Joseph, a great man that has positively impacted my life and the lives of thousands. His level of professionalism, dedication, humility and excellence serves as a benchmark for any teacher. The corridors of Fatima will surely feel empty without this giant of a man. ■



Facebook Reunion... Class of 2006 Alumni Group

BY STEFAN ROACH

How early was too early for a reunion? I've read about many reunions from classes from the 80's and of course, who doesn't know about the Class of '75? Just Google them and you will see, "Class of 1984 - 20 Year Reunion", "Class of 1986 - 25 Year Reunion" and if you search hard enough, you may stumble upon "Class of 1975 held their 35 year reunion". Thirty-five years! Wow, it hasn't even been a full 6 years since I left Fatima and I yearned for my year group to reunite. This article, however, is not aimed at debating when is most appropriate for a class reunion, but rather, presenting the actual success of reuniting the Class of '06 using social networking, specifically Facebook.

Class of '06 refers to those who left Form six in 2006 and left Form five in 2004. Social networking is defined by Google as "The use of a dedicated Web site to communicate informally with other members of the site, by posting messages, photographs, etc." Some popular social networks include Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Flickr and Youtube. Considering the popularity of Facebook, it was the obvious choice for creating this Fatima College Class of '06 Alumni Group and the timing felt right. In early March, 2012, the group was created. The response was tremendous. I added past classmates that were on my "friend's list" who added classmates on their "friend's list" who added classmates on...well you get the idea. Within less than a week, the group consisted of 130 Fatima Old Boys, all from the same year group. Literally one or two classmates were excluded due to not being members on Facebook.

The fellas openly expressed their gratitude and satisfaction that finally the initiative was taken. After leaving school, you generally maintained a core group of friends which excluded the vast majority of the year group. Friendships were immediately rekindled. I discovered that some friends, who disappeared under a rock, were now lawyers. Some, who previously seemed off the radar were literally so, in foreign countries furthering their studies. What a pleasure it was to discover the admirable career paths taken by previous classmates, once considered to be so miserable and "all-wrong", now settled and mature.

We use the group now, not only to chat and reminisce, but more importantly, to look out for one another and tackle life as a team. We keep an eye open for those looking for jobs and share relevant contacts and information. Those qualified and gaining experience in the financial sector regularly share financial advice and tips on investing. We also promote our side projects and businesses amongst one another, referring clientele whenever the opportunity arises.

I advise all Fatima College alumni, if feasible, take full advantage of the social networks to reconnect with one another. To the recent graduates, I don't think it is ever too early to reunite. We face a tough world and are certainly better equipped as a team. The Fatima College Class of '06 Facebook group was very successful and with this solid platform set, a reunion was inevitable. In fact, our first reunion was a memorial sport's lime (reviewed in another article) to commemorate the lives of Ryan Maingot and Markus Smith, two brothers gone too soon. ■



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Markus Smith and Ryan Maingot Memorial Sports Lime

(CLASS OF 2004/2006 REUNION) BY AIDAN MOHAMMED

NOSTALGIA FILLED THE AIR ON THE 8TH OF JULY, 2012 AS THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2004/2006 GATHERED, FOR AN EVENING OF SPORTS, DRINKS AND LAUGHTER AT THE FATIMA COLLEGE GROUNDS.

A reunion of some sort was always one of the main objectives when Stefan Roach created the Alumni page on the popular social networking site, Facebook. The idea for a "sports lime" was posted in the group by myself and received a very positive response. A survey was done to see when most guys would be available and so the date was chosen. Akil Myers contacted the principal, Father Gregory for the use of Fatima Ground, and then the plan was ready for action.

We decided to dedicate the sports lime to our lost classmates and brothers, Ryan Maingot and Markus Smith and it came to be known as the "Markus Smith and Ryan Maingot Memorial Sports Lime". Ryan died in a tragic car accident in 2007 and Markus drowned while trying to save his girlfriend, on a hike in 2008. .

One by one the guys gathered at the grounds from around 3:30pm. We parked in the college and walked to the field. For some this was the first time stepping foot on the compound since 2004 and the feeling was something special, as this was the place we had spent 5-7yrs of our life.

The guys spent the first hour or two catching up with one another while sipping on some cold beverages, then after

exchanging pleasantries it was time to play some football. Games were running both on the grass and on the famous tennis court. One could observe that we were not the young energetic boys we used to be; most were blowing heavily after running for just 3 minutes! The games ended at around 6:15pm and we sat around enjoying the remainder of the refreshments.

In trying to keep with the theme of the event, we formed a circle and Jamal Smart began the brief ceremony, where we reminisced about some great moments with our brothers, Markus and Ryan. One could not help but get a little teary eyed. Markus' younger sister, Monique, was also present. The ceremony ended with the famous chant, "Fatima Boys are Good Boys" and we then sang the college song.

Father Gregory later visited and spent some time chatting as the great evening came to an end. The night was going so well that some took the lime to Movie Towne while others went to the Avenue.

The lime was truly a success and it promises to be the first of many. We encourage all graduating classes to keep in contact with one another after you leave the College and maintain the great brotherhood of Fatima Boys. ■



Ryan Maingot



Markus Smith

FOBA Job Links Page

FOBA is always searching for new ways to support Fatima College and its past and present students.

Introducing "Job Links". This latest initiative provides an online forum for you to advertise vacancies within your business or organization specifically to other Fatima Old Boys.

Look for the "Job Links" tab on the FOBA website, www.foba.fatima.edu.tt. Please contact the administrator at contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt if interested in posting a vacancy. Let's support this initiative and support our brothers battling on the Job Market.

We are also very open to suggestions on ways this idea can be developed and improved.



Giving back – where your money has gone when you supported us

SCHOOL PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

FOBA recently funded the design and deployment of a Wireless Network to support the Government's eLearning initiative. Additionally, they recently completed the renovation of the Pavilion on the school sports ground (lighting, painting, plumbing). It now has 2 dressing rooms for the home and visiting teams, as well as a brand new room for officials. This project also included the outfitting of a Fitness Centre, a fully functional gym facility. Look for pictures on the website and facebook page. ■



////// Air-conditioning of the school hall



////// Mezzanine floor in school hall hereby increasing capacity by 400 people

What's happening in Sports

HOCKEY

Fatima College captured the T&T Hockey Board Under-15 Tournament title when the series was contested at the National Hockey Centre, Tacarigua, on June 7. Fatima, led by its captain Marcus Pascall who was voted as the "Most Valuable Player," played unbeaten against Queen's Royal College (QRC) and Northgate College in their three-team two-round round-robin series. The Mucurapo Road school blanked Northgate 2-0 and drew with QRC 1-1 while in the second round it thrashed Northgate 4-0 and QRC 3-0 to end with ten points from a possible 12. Northgate which whipped QRC 3-1 and 4-1 in its other matches took second spot with seven points while the Royalians, as QRC are known, ended with a meagre point.

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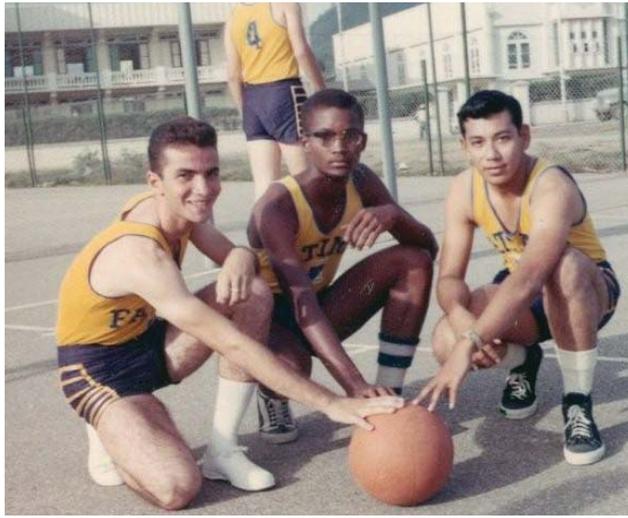


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Flashback - Pictorial Review



Joseph DeSilva, Anthony Smart, Conrad Aleong



23 + 24th APRIL 1975 - FATIMA COMPLETE 'INTER-COL' CRICKET DOUBLE

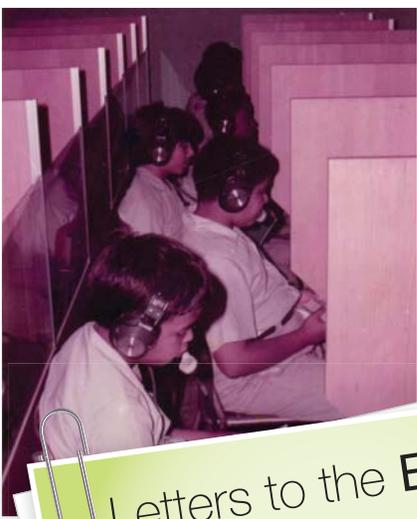
FATIMA COLLEGE have defeated the same Naparima team in the Knockout final for the Cadbury-Fry Cup. They beat Naparima by three wickets in the league final for the season.

Scores: NAPARIMA 227 vs FATIMA 328 for 7 (M. Roberts 95, J. Guillen 63, B. Gittens 36, A. Nivet 33, V. Julien 19, M. Charles 16, M. Khan 2).

Fatima team: STANDING (from left)—A. Nivet, G. Roberts, C. Seedansingh, J. Gomes, J. Charles, I. Sagar, P. de Gannes. FRONT ROW: B. Gittens, M. Roberts (capt), V. Julien, M. Khan, J. Guillen, A. Nivet.

Photo by Herb Jones

1975 Fatima Cricket Champions



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

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 Email your answer and any old photos you have from school to:
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