

**FATIMA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JUNE 2, 2011**

The Old Boys Association continues to grow and to make a significant impact on Fatima College. And it is my honour to share with you the developments and activities within the Association over the past year.

Contributions to Fatima College

I would like to first start with the support we provided to the College, and provide we did, engaging amongst other things in a MAJOR project during the year. This project was the building of the mezzanine floor you see behind you here in the Hall.

For years, the student population was too large to have any school assemblies here, with all assemblies therefore being held in the quadrangle, becoming victim to the weather conditions.

The solution to this problem, and the desire of the College, was to build a mezzanine floor within the hall, and the Old Boys took it up as a project over the August holidays last year

We ensured that the floor met the highest standards, including safety standards, we provided the financial assistance to get it done, and we project managed the construction. Our committee's own Trevor De Landro took full responsibility for the completion, and committed a lot of time and effort to ensuring a job well done. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to Trevor for this. Thanks, Trevor.

Gladly, the weekly and all other school assemblies are now held in the hall.

This was our major investment, however, we still contributed financially in another major way, and that is that we continued to be fully supportive of the College's sporting programs.

Our Association paid the stipend for coaches for the football, cricket and athletics programs. In addition, we provide assistance to a

number of the other programs, including rugby, basketball, hockey and the swimming and water polo teams.

Actually, we recently supported the first Fatima athletics team to attend the Penn State relays, where we took part in the 4x400 and the 4x100 races, performing creditably.

If you have followed some of the secondary school's sporting events, you may have noticed that Fatima's sports programs have generally been very successful. Some examples include:

- Fatima emerged as the champion team at the National Secondary Schools Relay Festival in the under-20 4x400m and U-15 4x100m races.
- In cricket, we are the dominant school in the North Zone (by a long way). Our U14 are the national cricket champions, winning the championship this year for the 3rd time in the past 4 years. Our U16s are North Zone champs. The U19 team is one of the top teams in the country. And the U15 and U17 are in the final of the North Zone knock out.
- Our U14 football team won the North Zone title, and lost in the national final on penalties to St Augustine.
- We won the U14 and U17 titles in the 2010 Digicel School Rugby competition
- Champion Secondary School Chess Team
- Secondary Schools Swim Champions
- Water polo open champions

Very impressive, indeed.

We want to assist in making the sports program even more successful. This requires the Association's continued support (financial and otherwise) but we have a very important role to play going forward in assisting in strategy development and implementation within each of the programs, ensuring that we remain

at the top, if we are already there, and that we get to the top, if we are not. FOBA must help ensure that Fatima provides full support for all talented and aspiring sportsmen to develop and maximize their potential.

As we speak, we are in the process of installing a state of the art security system for the College. There will be 16 cameras placed strategically around the school with monitors available for the principal and the security guards. Dwight Andrews will provide further information after the President's Report.

The next major project that the Association is undertaking has already been identified. This is the extension and refurbishment of the Library, which is being planned for the upcoming vacation.

The library is exactly as it was 30 years ago. An upgrade is essential and has been one of the desires of Fr. Gregory for some time. We are excited by this project and have been providing our services in this regard. Two of our committee members, Derek De Gannes and Dwight Andrews are important members of the Library Committee.

Events Hosted By FOBA

For two major reasons, FOBA hosts a number of events during the year. One reason is obviously to raise funds, but also we host events to provide an opportunity for the Old Boys to get together to catch up.

Our biggest event and fund-raiser by far is the annual all-inclusive carnival fete....this year we had our 8th fete and its theme was "Shine....for all to see." And once again we had a very successful event. The fete continues to be a sell out, and the feedback we got about it this year was generally VERY positive.

We do understand how important this fete is to us, and I can assure you that we take PAINSTAKING care to review all feedback and all areas for improvement so that we can come better next time. It is one of THE bigger fetes on the carnival calendar and we intend to keep it that way!

Our annual Cook Out (Salt and Pepper) was held in October. From a fund-raising perspective, this event has not really grown over the last few years, though it does get an excellent review in terms of the

quality of the food that is served, the atmosphere, and from the socialising and liming perspective

For all of you who contribute to this event, especially those of you who proffer a meal, I would like to say a special thank you

We will be looking at ways to improve the fund-raising aspect of it, but we also keep in mind that this event provides a great opportunity for Old Boys to fraternize; therefore serving two important purposes.

At the last AGM, I mentioned that we had just held our first Jazz concert titled Musical Blends. As it was held during this past financial year, I would like to briefly mention it again. The concert was held in May and as with our other events was well-received. As it was our first concert, we were hoping to break even and did slightly better than that. The plan was to build on it this year, but due to reasons unexpected, specifically our headline act became unavailable, we decided to cancel it. You can definitely look forward to it next year though.

The 7 a side football tournament, hosted to build Old Boys camaraderie, was held for the second year in succession. A good time was had by all though, due to the timing as we had to have it in August and not in September, the participation was a little lower than the previous year.

We had planned a 65th Anniversary Celebration at the Anchorage in December, but unfortunately had to cancel due to the poor response for tickets. To cancel was a last minute decision which was not made easily due to the time and effort that had gone into planning it.

Based on the events that we already had, the timing of the celebration (being close to Christmas) and the general response that we see at other past pupil dinners, the poor response was not, in the end, a great surprise. Something we have taken note of for future celebrations.

One other fund-raiser that we have grown to depend on is our wall signs on the field. This contributes as much as \$200,000 in a year and assists us in meeting our sporting obligations for the school.

Keeping Old Boys Informed

One of our other objectives is to keep Old Boys informed of what is happening with the Association. Our Alumni Committee has maintained its efforts in this regard:

During the past year, this sub-committee has (1) grown our database of past students (now more than 600), (2) launched a Fatima portal from which all other sites on the school's domain can be assessed, (3) further developed our website, and (4) grown the Facebook page.

In addition, two of our newsletters, called 'Beyond the Grey Shirt', were published with the most recent edition available for you here today

And currently in the advanced stages of development are (1) a FOBA e-store, (2) the ability to register, and also make donations via Paypal on-line; and (3) the integration of our website and Facebook page. So please look out for the launch of these initiatives.

The next major focus of this sub-committee will be on building and linking our social networking profile.

Special thanks to the Alumni Committee (headed by Stephen Harris and Raymond Samms) for making all this happen for the Old Boys Association.

Thanks to the Committee and Others

I am sure that you will agree that the FOBA committee has a lot on its plate. Being a member of the committee takes a lot of time and some sacrifice. I would therefore like to pay tribute to all the committee members; you have worked tirelessly to ensure that our events, projects and initiatives are of the quality and standard that live up to the Fatima name. It is not easy but the devotion of the members to the cause is amazing. I want to personally thank you for your sterling contributions over the past year.

As a committee we know that we cannot achieve what we set out to do without the assistance of so many non-committee members: From the extended fete committee (i.e. those who help in the build up and those who help on the day itself);

- To the cooks at the Cookout,
- To those who donate financially and otherwise;
- To the Principal and staff of the College;
- To Karen and her team of ladies who we totally stress out during our events; and
- To the companies that consistently support us when we come begging;

a very, very special thanks and appreciation go out to you.

Conclusion

To conclude, we as Old Boys need to continue to grow and develop...both the Association and the College. We can take a large step forward by instilling better discipline and strategy within FOBA's and the College's systems and processes, and this should be the focus of our attention during the upcoming year.

Fatima College must aim to and can be the best secondary school in the country. Our Association can be the best past pupils' body in the country. To do this, everyone's contribution is necessary. Your involvement has been great; and your continued help and guidance will ensure that the Association and the College can take that significant leap ahead.

Nintendo Vines

Thank You