



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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Images from FOBA's Salt and Pepper XIV held on Saturday 11th October 2014



Photos courtesy Lime.tt. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for the full albums

Living the Grey Shirt – Roger-Mark De Souza

INTERVIEWER: STEFAN ROACH

FATIMA COLLEGE ALUMNUS, ROGER-MARK DE SOUZA, IS THE DIRECTOR OF POPULATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY, AND RESILIENCE AT THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER, WASHINGTON DC



He leads programs on climate change resilience, reproductive and maternal health, environmental security, and livelihoods, including the Center's Global Sustainability and Resilience Program, Environmental Change and Security Program, and Maternal Health Initiative. He is certainly an exemplar of the great ideals of Fatima College and we thank him for taking the time to share a bit on his life.



IN BANGLADESH HELPING TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE

Q What year did you leave Fatima?

A I left Fatima in 1986 after Form 6 (wow – it seems like just yesterday!)

Q Describe the culture of the school during your tenure.

A When I left Fatima it was a very exciting time. New and interesting talents had joined the teaching staff - Ms. Hubbard came when I was in Form 1 and Ms. Cumberbatch when I was in Form 3. I remember their first days very well! Clive Pantin had retired and came back on Saturdays to give extra instruction in French and Spanish. The last breed of the Irish priests, Father Brett – who would always produce a handkerchief from his sleeve during class and whose classes always ended with stories about Mary Queen of Scots – was winding down, and we had a new group of local priests joining the staff. Some of them had new and controversial approaches in the classroom (which I enjoyed). We had great teachers!

I served on the first Fatima yearbook

committee with Mr. Joseph and was a member of the first AV club (started by Mr. Roach and others). Brian Lara was in Form 1. Ms. Heywood was our first female 6th Form dean. I served as a prefect and had cafeteria duty – which meant that I got a free lunch! We had a relatively new 6th Form wing. My mother ran the punch board at the MayFair with Ms. Roberts and my family was very engaged in Fatima sports and extracurricular activities. I was also lucky to be part of what I feel was an extraordinary cohort of boys – smart, engaging, mischievous, service oriented – many of them are still friends today. When we left Fatima, we were hopeful and excited, on the cusp of our future, we were Fatima boys shoulder to shoulder ever marching on....

Q If you could go back in time, what would you change about your experience at Fatima?

A Two things: better accountability and real life applications of academics. First, I would have liked more accountability for those teachers who were not performing. I had some excellent teachers, but I also had bad ones. They were unprepared, uninterested in the students as learners, and inappropriate on many levels. These cases were widely known- and for whatever reason, were not acted upon. Their bad example taught me a lot about what to not aspire to, failures within a system, and the importance of appropriate oversight. Second, I would have wished for more experiential, real world, hands-on, educational approaches. There was a significant gap in this regard and a lot of rote learning. I would have also wished that learning was more applicable – in terms of how I might be able to use what I was learning in my life and for a career.

Q How has Fatima influenced your character and your career path?

A While I was at Fatima I participated in a program working at Princess Elizabeth home for the handicapped and another program whereby we were helping students at Mucurapo Senior Compre-

hensive School with homework assignments and those experiences left strong impressions on me. I was reminded that as a Fatima Boy, I was lucky. I had had opportunities – and that I had a responsibility. It made me want to do more to help, and learn from, others. So my career in international development work finds its roots in those early experiences inculcated at Fatima – and in knowing how to engage others, and learn from them.

Q Describe your work at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

A I direct the Woodrow Wilson Center's Global Sustainability and Resilience programs on Conflict Management and Mitigation; Population, Environment and Security; and Maternal Health. This entails administering programs in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America focusing on research, policy and communications, advising program managers, policymakers, researchers, and donors. The Center is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution and was established by the U.S. Congress to serve as a living memorial to President Wilson in support of his beliefs in the importance of analysis, public service, practical policy-making and engagement with the world.

Q "You can't build a peaceful world on an empty stomach." How credible is this statement?

A This is a quote from Norman Borlaug, the father of last century's Green Revolution. It was recently highlighted by the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at a high-level meeting on resilience and food security during the U.S.-Africa Summit in Washington D.C. I agree with this statement. It essentially emphasizes that you need a variety of approaches to meet people's basic needs and to ensure that they are able to provide for themselves. But progress won't be achieved through agricultural productivity and other supply-side gains alone.

We need management systems, good policies and good politicians. When national governance fails, as in Somalia,

recurrent food scarcity and famine can become part of a vicious cycle of instability. In Somalia, as in other countries, food insecurity both results from and contributes to repeated rounds of armed conflict. We also need to buttress the agricultural sector so that it can respond to short term shocks such as floods or price volatility while providing a basis for long-term stability and economic growth.

Q **There seems to be an indirect relationship between the rate of population growth within a region and the state of development in that region. How true is this and why is it so?**

A The relationship between population dynamics and development priorities such as environmental preservation or poverty alleviation is not a simple linear equation, but instead a complex system of interrelationships. For example, rapid population growth tends to affect local resource scarcity first (e.g. deforestation, water and land use, fisheries), while consumption is the driver of many other types of environmental issues. So both population, consumption and how exactly something is produced (is it produced ethically, locally, efficiently?) are all important. It is also important to remember that in the parts of the world that are still growing rapidly, people are generally more reliant on their local natural resources than elsewhere.

Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of the Middle East and South Asia, where population growth is rapid, are disproportionately reliant on subsistence farming, which requires land and water, resources that can be quickly depleted by population growth. This creates unique vulnerabilities and is an impetus for addressing population and environment issues together. The interaction between rapid population growth and climate change is also crucial. For example, as more people move to coastal cities—Africa is now urbanizing faster than nearly anywhere else and island coastlines typically have high population concentrations—that may create pockets of vulnerability to things like sea-level rise, storm surge and extreme weather events.

Q **What have been the greatest challenges posed to the commercialization of renewable energy?**

A Renewable energy commercialization is still challenged by how to replace a fossil-fuel-based supply chain with one driven by alternative energy forms themselves. It is also important for renewable energy options to be supplied quickly, in the volume needed, and at a

reasonable cost. We need a core set of early adopters to have enough market share to make it scalable.

Q **What is a 'sustainable city'?**

A Sustainable cities are urban centers that manage the social, economic and environmental dimensions of urban planning for the long-term while taking advantage of the economies of scale that come with having concentrations of people, businesses, services, information and culture in one area. Increasingly sustainable city planning includes climate change adaptation, crime prevention, the integration of new residents, and finding ways to capitalize on data collection and real-time monitoring in urban areas.

Q **Do you think that most of the criminal activity within Trinidad emerges from 'unsustainable cities'? If so, what practical steps can be taken to improve these communities?**

A I'm not sure that criminal activity in Trinidad emerges from an unsustainable city per se. But the factors that you would find in resilient cities – including working judicial systems, civic engagement and collective action – are key elements that would lessen criminality. We found that in our work in Mexico, a variety of approaches—combatting organized crime, promoting judicial reform and promoting constructive societal responses to crime and violence, repairing damage in affected communities, and building trust between officials and communities—is making progress in reducing criminality.

Q **Can you see yourself returning to Trinidad to live in the future?**

A It is possible. My navel string bury in Trinidad. At the same time, I am the husband to a French woman and father to Franco-Trini American sons who are global citizens. Our Trinidadian identity is strong, vibrant and prominent and we are always happy to be in Trinidad.

Q **What is your proudest moment in Fatima?**

A I think that my proudest moment was those examples of working with students and young people at the Princess Elizabeth Home – and going to Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive to work with students there. The most memorable moment for me at Fatima, though, was when the administration streamed us in Form 3 – they put the brightest students in one class – and the rest of us were grouped alphabetically. I was not part of that “bright” class - and I excelled. I went from third to last in Form 1 to placing first in my class in Form 3. It came at a pivotal moment. It solidified my determination of what I wanted to study, and fortified my

conviction that I could do it. It seems to me that the education system, just at an opportune moment, got it right for me. So I remember it not as a personal accomplishment, but as foresight and serendipity that brought these circumstances together for me at that moment in time.

Q **Your two sons obviously attended school in the US. Are there any valuable lessons that you learnt during your time at Fatima College which you think your boys may have missed out on?**

A Picking from teachers – and what it means. I remember once in my French class, Mr. Joseph asked a student what was French for rabbit, and the student replied, “Le Rabbit.” We were on the second floor on one of the classrooms near to the staff room. Mr. Joseph said to him, “You see that bannister – there, just go jump off it!” We all laughed, including the student, because we understood what he was saying: You need to take yourself seriously. We understood that. I sometimes wonder if in the United States, in a world of political correctness and over-litigation, whether we sometimes straightjacket young people out of human interactions that provide real moments of learning. My sons attended school in the US and in France, and as a father, I've passed this on to my boys as best as I can, but I would have valued an educational culture that reinforced this in memorable ways.

Q **Which one of your Fatima teachers deserves the most gratitude?**

A This was a group effort. They all have my gratitude – and for many reasons they deserve a lot of credit. Ms. Zakour created a lifelong love of French in Form 1 and Ms. Humphrey took it to another level in Form 6. Mr. Romero got me through math. Ms. Heywood brought literature to life in a way that made me think, reflect and develop perspective – she helped me to see the world differently. – with wit, class, and humor. I think that I did the most growing up in her class – and still remember those intense sessions in the parlor pouring over Shakespeare and Chaucer- and what it all meant.

Q **Describe, if possible, a time in life where one door closed and another opened to something better.**

A Several years ago I was one of four finalists for a Rhodes scholarship. I was on a scholarship in France at the time and returned to Barbados for the interview. This was the time of pre-internet and I had no idea what the Rhodes scholarship was about. No one told me and I was probably too engrossed in my life in

France to pay attention. I was totally unprepared for the interview, and I didn't get it. Later when I learned of the prestige of the scholarship, I kicked myself. After graduate study at UWI, I ended up in the States for more graduate studies – it was there where I came to appreciate what I think was a university culture different from the British system – an exceptional culture of learning, shared scholarship, and intellectual humility.

Most recently I helped hire a Rhodes Scholar for a position similar to mine, and it brought back the memory of this experience. I see that the pathway was different, but the destination the same. Once you have the conviction, perspective, sense of self, and respect for greater powers at play, you learn to appreciate that it all works out as it should. So I don't know that that door closing led to something better – but it led to something different. And that different thing was good and valuable. There are different paths to your destination – just find the one that works for you.

Q Is failure truly a stepping stone to success?

A I don't know if failure leads to success – but I think that perspective does. I always laugh. I try not to take myself too seriously. I learn from those around me. I hug my sons. I listen to my wife. I walk my dogs. I surround myself with those who want to be with me. I cherish those friends who really know me and continue to be my friends. I try to remove the clutter and don't listen to the noise around me. This helps me know my truth. So if I fail at something, I fail. I learn from it – that's life.

Q Is it challenging balancing your career and family life?

A Very early in my career I had a life defining experience. My first son passed away after open heart surgery - he died in my arms. So early on, this experience grounded me and gave me some real perspective on life. I decided that I must love my work and I must work with people who appreciate that I will spend time with my family. I am lucky. I love working internationally. It takes me away

from my family, but the best part is coming back to them. I enjoy my family. We laugh together. Every evening we eat dinner together. We like each other. So once you make this a priority and you enjoy it, you find ways to balance family and career.

Q What is your ultimate goal in life?

A That as adults, my sons look at their lives and upbringing and say that their mom and I did good. And that they pay it forward - that they become good husbands, fathers, and community members – that they are happy, productive, engaged and present in what's going on around them.

Q What's next on your bucket list?

A I'd love to go to India. And even though I don't have direct Indian lineage, growing up in Trinidad I have a strong Indian heritage. I'd like to visit this country that has had an influence on my identity and persona.

Q Any closing comments?

A Thank you for these excellent questions! ■

Teacher Profile - Bahadur Sunderji

BY BAHADUR SUNDERJI

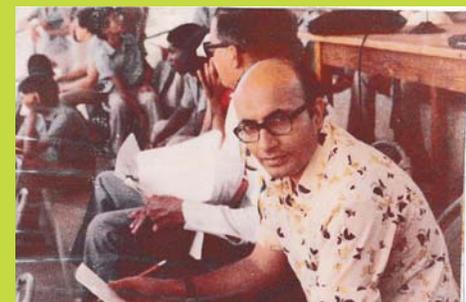
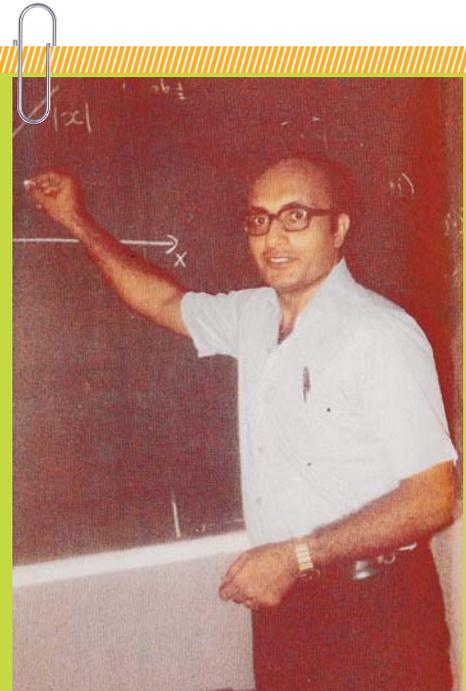
BAHADUR SUNDERJI CAME TO FATIMA IN 1971 AND WAS MADE HEAD OF THE MATHS DEPARTMENT. HE LEFT FATIMA IN 1972 TO TAKE UP A POST AT UWI, ST. AUGUSTINE AND WAS REINSTATED AS THE HEAD OF THE MATHS DEPARTMENT WHEN HE RETURNED TO FATIMA IN 1975.

He was Dean of Forms One and Two from 1980 to 1982 and the Dean of Form 6 for the two years before that. He also served as Vice-Principal from 1983 to 1988. He taught Mathematics at 'O' Level and at 'A' Level he taught Additional Mathematics, Further Mathematics and at times, Advanced Level Physics.

October 1971: on my first day at Fatima College, during a class with Sixth Form mathematicians, we heard a screeching of tyres and revs of an engine. Being concerned, I was ready to run out to see what had happened. The students laughingly stopped me and informed that it was only Father Ryan driving back from his Parish duties. You could not make it up-it happened!

So it started with me being the Head of Mathematics and the Senior Physics Teacher. I enjoyed the year in the company of disciplined, helpful and keen-to-learn students and the wonderfully friendly and hard working staff under the efficient, firm, no nonsense but kind leadership of Mr. Clive Pantin. During that year an offer from the U.W.I. St. Augustine to lecture in Mathematics proved too tempting to turn down and I went on to achieve my ambition of lecturing at a university and of being involved in research.

After almost four years, a short talk with Mr. Pantin following one of his many Public Lectures on evolving educational trends and systems in Trinidad and Tobago, I was lured back to being a part of exciting developments envisaged at Fatima College and of steering the Maths Dept. to aim for the highest honours of obtaining the National Scholarships. Thus started the period of our students winning a fair proportion of the annual Mathematics, Science and Additional Scholarships. Of course, the credit is shared by the dedicated staff who gave of their time and knowledge freely to all students day in and day out.



But not all was work: I remember the staff vs. students Wind ball Cricket matches which the staff frequently lost even though we had the dynamic Captain in Mr. Ramdass, our fast bowlers Mr. Achille and Mr. Garcia, our excellent fielders Mrs. Clerk, Mrs. Jenkins and sometimes Mrs. Humphrey, the steady batsmen Mr. C. John, Mr. Roach, Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. Sunderji (cyar leave mehself nah!). I am sure my record of bowling out Brian Lara twice in a match still stands.

Time passed and eventually Mr. Moore became the Principal and I was appointed the Vice Principal. The college continued to enhance its facilities: the new Library and Science building soon after the D.T. and Art block, the most appreciated Cafeteria annex and the Computing Faculty all came into being through the generosity of donors and the fund raising efforts of the students and the staff.

I remember, with undiminished pride, the Prize Giving Days—the tremendous energy displayed by Mr. Romero in helping me, the Sports Days (every year Mr. Pouchet would pin me down as a scorer), The Parang afternoon around Christmas with Ms.

Hubbard at one end of the Staff group, the Calypso Competitions with the contributions from Mr. G. Roach of hilarious staff-mocking themes. The Community Service events organised by the senior students, the unique joint last day activities for sixth formers of Fatima College and Holy Name Convent School — no trouble, no complaints from the public and admirable co operation between the staff and students from both the schools with Mr. H. Newallo as our liaising member. I sincerely hope these traditions and innovating spirit continue!

How can I forget the day when a student jumped the full ten metres from the top of the retaining wall into the dry ravine behind the library or the time I promised a student to cancel his lunch time detention as soon as he finished rearranging the scrambled Rubik Cube I gave him; taking it from me and holding it behind his back while looking amusingly at me he presented the fully solved cube to me in under a minute! To this day, I often lie awake at night trying to figure out how he did that.

I left Fatima College to live in England in 1988. Below is a photo for anyone who wants to walk down the memory lane.

One thing must be mentioned: I was the first ever (Ismaili) Muslim to be appointed in a Catholic institution in an administrative position. I enjoyed the respect and friendship of the priests and the lay staff and always reciprocated the same reverence. Attending Church Services with students never raised a second thought in my mind; God was (and will be) first in all our plans. The various paths we follow to reach the same goal never were a cause for confrontation at Fatima College. Humility, the spirit of universal brotherhood, generosity and integrity prevailed. How I wish and pray that the turmoil of the present subsides to produce a peaceful life for thousands suffering from ignorant fanaticism of a devious minority who have no just cause to drag in their evil machinations the just and graceful nature of our religions.

To all my past students and colleagues I send my best wishes for unity, trust and understanding in your lives. and extend an open invitation to contact and visit me if ever you pass this way—just give me a call on +44 0208 890 7936.

Bahadur Sunderji. ■



STAFF (1985/1986)

BACK ROW (left to right): MR. L. RODRIGUEZ; MR. E. ANDREWS; MR. E. POUCHET; MR. A.B. JOSEPH; MR. J. NILES; MR. F. GARCIA; MR. H. NEWALLO; MR. F. DE SILVA; MR. M. ACHILLE; MS. B. DE FOUR; MS. J. LENDORE; FR. L. MC PHILLIP; MS. J. DOW; FR. R. DE FOUR; MR. I. DES VIGNES.

THIRD ROW (left to right): MS. A. CAMPS; MS. J. STEPHENS; MS. C. AHWAI; MS. S. HUMPHREY; MS. B. JENKINS; MS. W. MARIN; MS. G. LALCHAN; MS. P. CLERK; MS. M. ALLARD; MR. R. WOOD; FR. L. O'DWYER.

SECOND ROW (left to right): MS. K. GARCIA; MR. R. THOMPSON; MR. A. YOUNG; MR. B. EDWARDS; MR. M. BRASH; MR. K. CHARLES; MR. F. JOHN; MS. M. HUBBARD; MS. G. CRICHTON.

FRONT ROW (left to right): MR. J. ROMERO; FR. G. GIROD; MS. D. HEYWOOD; MR. B. SUNDERJI; MR. M. MOORE; FR. K. POWER; MR. A. LEE HA; MR. R. HOLMAN; MR. C. JOHN.

(V. Pr.)

(Pr.)

FOBA'S 2014 7-A-Side Football Tournament

BY GLEN ROACH

AFTER A 2 YEAR HIATUS, FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION HELD ITS FOOTBALL 7'S TOURNAMENT ON SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER AT FATIMA COLLEGE SPORTS GROUNDS.

There were 2 team categories: Under 40 and Over 40. Teams competing in the Under 40 were Fatima F.C., O-Four, Stickerz, Scrape-Up, YOBS, D Expendables and an invitational team National Petroleum. Whilst in the Over 40 were Fatima Hockey Vets, Nice_n_Easy and Fatima & Friends.

Alumni such as Sean Ramdoo, Colin Zamore, Ryan Stollmeyer, Roger Koo, Christian Flemming, Lyle Beckles, Maurice Simpson, Shiraz Ali, Keron Kong and Steffan Monteil were names reminiscent of the years gone by. With the camaraderie and love of football, a great time was had by all.

Special Thanks to our sponsors: Carib Beer, Lucozade, Powerade, Dasani, Xtra Foods, Angostura, HowZzat and Lime.tt.

Special mention to Richard Piper of All Sport Promotion who managed the games with his referees.

Kudos to FOBA's Events Committee for making this event memorable! ■



Event Results:

Under 40

- 1st ~ National Petroleum
- 2nd ~ Stickerz
- 3rd ~ Young Old Boys
- MVP ~ Richard Ayers (National Petroleum)
- Most Goals Scored ~ Young Old Boys
- Most Goals Conceded ~ Fatima F.C.

Over 40

- 1st ~ Nice n Easy
- 2nd ~ Fatima Hockey Vets
- 3rd ~ Fatima and Friends
- MVP ~ Roger Macedo (Fatima Hockey Vets)
- Most Goals Scored ~ Nice n Easy
- Most Goals Conceded ~ Fatima and Friends



Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for the full albums



THE CLASS OF 1984

Class of 1984 30 Year Reunion

THE FATIMA CLASS OF 1984 GOT TOGETHER FOR THEIR 30 YEAR REUNION ON THE WEEKEND OF 28 NOVEMBER 2014.

A boys lime was on Friday night and on Saturday was a dinner function with specially invited guests FOBA President Dwight Andrews, and former Fatima teachers. For the teachers it was a mini reunion as all of them had either left or retired from teaching so they had not been together as a group in quite some time.



THE TEACHERS HAD A REUNION OF THEIR OWN



Fatima Class of 1975 Host Inaugural Clive Pantin Charity Golf Tournament

BY GLEN ROACH

The teams of Ulric McNicol and Trent Noel of Lennox Petroleum, and Rasheed and Janet Ali won the inaugural Clive Pantin Challenge Trophy held Sunday 7th September 2014 at Moka Golf Club, Maraval.

Pantin, a former Minister of Education and the first lay principal of Fatima College, was present at the prize giving ceremony held right after the day's play.

The tournament was a two man scramble and 36 teams teed off.

Tournament organiser Raul Poon Kong speaking at the

ceremony said, "With such a game format and the shotgun start we were able to get players to spend more time on the 19th hole (beverages and food).

"In fact, our special competition for a hole in one on the 19th hole, where golfers pitched from a specially constructed area in the club house, was won by Andy Gomez-Burke who with the one shot afforded each player, claimed the \$19,019 cash prize sponsored by Maritime and 1919 Rum."

We are very grateful for the support our first tournament has received, both

from individuals and from corporate T&T, especially Angostura 1919 who came on board as our title sponsor." Poon Kong added, "having our principal Clive Pantin there was special for us and an opportunity to acknowledge the huge role he has played in each of our lives and in Fatima's development".

Proceeds from the event, which will be held annually, allowed the Class of 1975 to present a cheque to FOBA to help pay off the remaining loan on the new school wing that was constructed last year. ■



Hosts of the Tournament, Fatima Class of 1975

Winning pair Trent Noel and Ulric McNicol, left, along with Janet Ali (winner), Clive Pantin, Rasheed Ali (winner) and current Fatima College principal, Father Gregory Augustine, pose with the namesake Clive Pantin Trophy, at the award function.

Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for the full albums

What's happening in Sports

SWIMMER DYLAN CARTER MEDALS AT YOUTH OLYMPICS



Fatima Alumnus Dylan (featured in Newsletter Issue #14) was selected to perform the honour of carrying the Trinidad and Tobago flag at the opening ceremony of the second Summer Youth Olympics held in Nanjing, China in August. He was among a field of 11 Trinidad and Tobago participants at the Olympics. An estimated 4,000 athletes from 204 countries had converged in the southern Chinese city for the second edition of the 15-day quadrennial Games, whose inaugural event was in Singapore in 2010.

Dylan represented the country in the 50 metre freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke. His stellar efforts saw him earn a bronze medal in the men's 50m freestyle and then a silver medal in the men's 50m butterfly.

FOOTBALL SEASON RECAP

In an effort to create a more competitive opportunity for the nation's schools, this season saw the introduction of a 14-team Premier Division, made up of the top teams from the North, East, South and Central Zones. St. Anthony's College, St. Mary's



NEW CRICKET NETS INSTALLED

Works on the new nets began in January and were completed in July 2014.



College, Trinity College East, Fatima College and East Mucurapo Secondary were representing from the North Zone. The other teams were Presentation College, Shiva Boys Hindu School, St Benedict's College, Naparima College, Chaguanas North Secondary, Carapichaima East Secondary, St Augustine Secondary, Arima North Secondary and San Juan North Secondary

Each team played one round of 13 matches and Naparima College emerged champions with St. Anthony's finishing 2nd and San Juan North 3rd. The top three Trinidad-based schools in the Premier League then went into a Big Four, along with the Tobago winner. Fatima ended 9th in the final table standings and the bottom 3 teams were relegated to the Championship Division. In the North Zone Inter-Col competition, Fatima lost 3-1 to Trinity College in the quarter-finals.

HOCKEY SEASON RECAP

Fatima's Under 15 hockey team were crowned champions.



Fatima's Under 20 hockey team placed 2nd in the national indoor championship.



MVP - Tariq Marcano U20; Most goals - Teague Marcano U15 & U20. Tariq Marcano is a senior national player who played with the Trinidad and Tobago National Team in the CAC games where TnT captured silver. ■

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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