



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

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Images from FOBA's 'School Daze Retro Party'

HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH ST. FRANCOIS GIRLS COLLEGE ALUMNAE AND HOLY NAME CONVENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION





Photos courtesy **Ken Sambury** and **Johann Olivieri**. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums.

Living The Grey Shirt – Fatima 2017 Hall of Achievement Inductee, Dr. Roderick James

THE TIME-WORN CLICHÉ ‘METEORIC RISE’ BECOMES A PERFECTLY PLAUSIBLE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION WHEN YOU APPLY IT TO THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RODERICK VIVIAN (BUFF) JAMES (CLASS OF 1966).

His trajectory began at Rosary Boys’, into Fatima in 1960, coursed through membership in the Dominic Savio Choir, representative College Cricket, member of Fatima’s history-making first-ever Inter-Col winning team, and Victor Ludorum for three consecutive years (whew!).

His academic journey was successful enough to have him step out of Sixth Form directly into Fatima’s Masters’ Room to teach for two years, before switching his direction to UWI, St. Augustine, for his Bachelor’s, then hurtling on to his Doctorate in Electrical Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. And here he was just getting started.

He signed up with Texaco in Houston, Texas, and spent 25 years continuing to voyage upwards. This meteor became a star in the global Science firmament: he oversaw the opening of a computer center in Moscow; he was part of the project that brought the first high-speed Vector Computing System to the Soviet capital, to achieve which he had to present Texaco’s case to the US Department of State, Defense and Commerce, thus securing the required licenses from the US and its NATO allies.

Eventual retirement from Texaco did not find him resting: he’s back to his first love of teaching, working at making a difference in young people’s lives through his sparkling lessons in Electronics, Calculus, Trigonometry and other Math courses.

Dr. James keeps the Fatima tradition by being a singing scientist, an athletic academic, and a milestone-setting meteor—but most of all, a meteor that helps others to rise.

Q Did the Texaco project in Moscow happen during the Cold War period? Describe that experience.

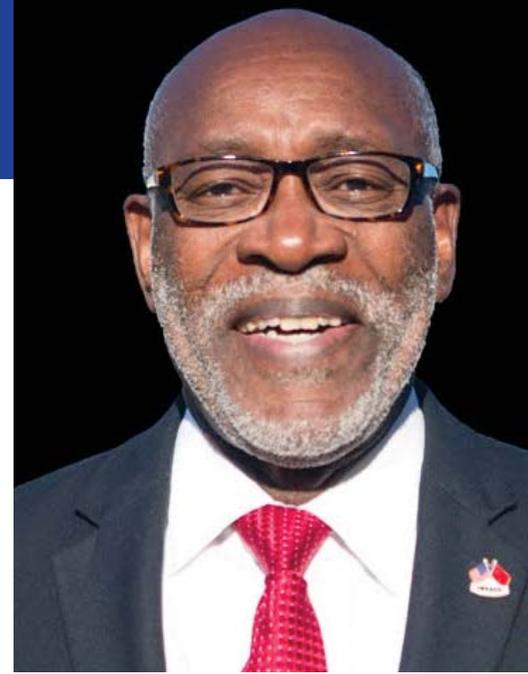
A Yes, the Texaco Moscow project happened during the Cold War (the Soviet Era). This was the most remarkable experience of my life. When I first arrived in Moscow, I was not impressed. The city was dirty, the cars were 25 years old, the people were sad. The only bright spot was the subway system. The stations were magnificent!

My first memorable experience was a visit to a Russian Orthodox church where a male choir was singing a cappella. The music was glorious. I remember thinking at the time that after 70 years the government could not kill the religion. Across the street was an orphanage. Our guide explained that “the orphanage was for children whose parents were enemies of the State”. These were the most chilling words I heard during my stay in Moscow.

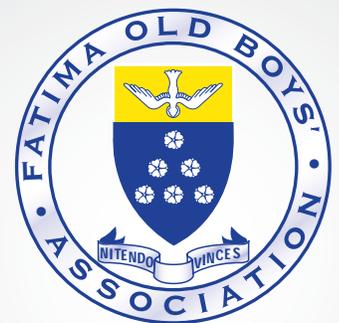
I visited the big shopping center, GOM, on the edge of Red Square during the Easter season in 1991. The sign across the main hallway read: “Christ is Risen in Moscow”! I was not expecting that.

Another memorable moment was my visit to a Russian Air Force museum. We were only able to visit the museum because our guide’s husband worked for the General in charge and the General wrote us a pass. Once inside, it was fascinating. The person signing the guest book before me was Casper Weinberger, President Reagan’s Defense Secretary. I saw the missile that brought down the Gary Powers U2 spy plane. I even got a picture holding part of the U2. I am an aircraft guy so I was in heaven! There were MIGs, the SU 27 (fastest aircraft in the world at the time). Badger and Bear bombers, the TU144 supersonic passenger aircraft (the Concorde) For permission to take the pictures, I paid the museum guide twenty bucks. My driver told me that the twenty bucks was more than a year’s salary in rubles.

By far the most chilling experience was the Gorbachev Coup. The plot was hatched about five miles away from our dacha, in a compound where my wife and daughter had spent two weeks a month earlier. As a precaution, I hid the vector processors in our computer and stored it in the dacha. To further complicate matters, I had two guys visiting a formally closed city. We tried to contact them by phone for two days without success. To pick up my guys I had to go to a domestic airport. That was an experience itself. Finally, after three agonizing hours, my guys showed up!



See the full interview at www.fatimaoldboys.com



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#FatimaFlashback

WHAT IS THE WORST PENANCE/PUNISHMENT YOU EVER RECEIVED FROM MR RAMDASS?

DANNY WALKER, CLASS OF 93

"De man put Dax (Dax Beckles) and I out of the class for the entire term! He used to walk in, and not say a word until we get up and stand by the door! On top of that after school we hadda do ten laps before even coming to football practice...AND we not allowed to smile..at all!!"

DEREK RANJITSINGH, CLASS OF 88

"Detention every day for 2 straight terms back in the 80s for not spending the required 3 hours on homework nightly - my parents were honest and always wrote 15 mins."

EDWARD KACAL, CLASS OF 84

"6 of the best with the leather strap. Form 1-3 detentions in 1 day. Hadn't yet perfected the art of early morning copying."

MARK LOE, CLASS OF 79

"The man send me in detention "every day until he say stop" and make me write 2 pages of the Bible everyday and get it signed by Aloysius in Form 1. Forget me there! I lost in detention until Form 2."

PABLO MARTINEZ, CLASS OF 98

"Losing a cricket match to Tranquillity Govt Sec and had to make 5 laps around Fatima grounds with all gears on."

RICHARD TEEMAL, CLASS OF 92/93

"Once you didn't make any spelling or grammatical errors you'd be safe. He was d original Grammar Nazi."

JUSTIN LEUNG, CLASS OF 2008 (FORM 6)

"Got 300 lines in the morning due for lunch time, gave it to him which he didn't even check it and quickly threw it in the bin. Happened in Form 1."

BURT BUSHELL, CLASS OF 94

"Saturday detention which I got for failing to attend a normal detention. Didn't attend the Saturday detention either. How it all panned out is a story for another day."

ADI DEV BARKARR, CLASS OF 2004

"Having to wait outside his office before for half hour for a week to hear the punishment and was told to come back each day for the entire week until the Friday when he said don't worry about it at 7:15."

RAMDIN DAMIAN, CLASS OF 95

"Man fail me for Form 3 English because he didn't like my handwriting cross over all my T's and give me magic 33%."

STEPHAN OTTLEY, CLASS OF 95

"Make a man stand up with the garbage cover on he head in the middle of the "quadrangle" second period in the morning hot sun for not doing Spanish homework in Form 2. He "inject so much needles" in the class...end or term exam... I get 92% and came 8th...it actually gave me strong foundation to get a distinction in CXC...and to better communicate with our female Spanish guests...long live Harry!"



After winning an U14 against St. Anthony's, the man made us do laps around the field because we didn't score as many goals as he felt we should have!"

RUTHVEN THOMPSON, CLASS OF 91



WHEN THE LUNCH BELL RANG, WERE YOU RUSHING THE CAFETERIA TO ORDER A RACK OF RIBS AND POTATO SALAD?? WHAT WAS LUNCHTIME FOOD LIKE IN YOUR TIME...BOX LUNCH, CAFETERIA, HOME-COOKED, WALK OUT THE ROAD?

DARRYL ROACH, CLASS OF 1998

I got home cooked. While I ate, three friends waited until I finished and they shared up the rest. Meals consisted of curry chicken or curry fish, pelau, pasta, stew and the random burger or sandwich. Used to sell my lunch sometimes and take the money to buy doubles opposite the school.

STERLING TIDD, CLASS OF 1998/2000

Doubles was the real deal outside school for lunch. Of course this was topped off with a cold drink from Reg.

SEAN NEWSAM, CLASS OF 1998/2000

Don't forget pie man. And like ya say dan a Reg Juice. That fruit punch was the bess.

FRANCIS MORALLES, CLASS OF 2000 (FORM 6)

I remember in 1993 rushing to the cafeteria to buy greasy cheesy pizza squares and aloo

pies from Ms. Val (remember the gold tooth?) through the cafeteria kitchen side window, which was a separate queue for Form 1's. You could cross the road and buy roti from the fella with the yellow Land Cruiser - \$2.50 for potato or \$3.00 for chicken or beef. I would sometimes buy two rotis and a 20oz Solo and could barely stay awake for the last two class periods after lunch. There was also the "pie man" across the road who sold cheese pies from a wicker basket - they were like a currants roll pastry except with a very pungent cheddar cheese filling. There was a guy who used to cater boxed lunches by order from the back of a station wagon at the Northern side of the cafeteria by the art room - I believe his name was Mr Ferreira. Most times though I brought my own lunch from home.

KEN MORTON VEERASAWMY, CLASS OF 1977

Buying doubles and singles outside gate by

toilets just before lunch break and 25 cents sweet biscuit with a mauby from Miss Campbell! Belly full by Chin & Mary shop on de Verteuil Street corner! Pelting doughnuts and bussing man head when them stones fall back down! Lol!

PETER PROSPERE, CLASS OF 1971

the lunchtime staple from Miss Campbell's cafe was potato pies and a Solo. Those were the days when there were "downs" trees galore behind the playing field and there were tales of sinister individuals habitating the area.

PETER ACHAM, CLASS OF 1972/74

Lunch time was a beef pie and a parlour juice from Ms. Campbell's cafeteria. In the later years in Form 5 and 6, it was a box lunch supplied by Mrs. Pantin (Clive Pantin's mom) in the College Hall.

FATIMA

World Cup Bar Tour 2018
15th June - 15th July

For more info visit our website:
www.fatimaskidboys.com

LOOK OPTICIANS
WE LINK SOLUTIONS

Portugal

vs

Spain

Friday 15th June, 2 PM
The Hog and Whistle Bar
Arapita Avenue, Port of Spain

World Cup Bar Tour

FOBA THANKS OUR SPONSORS AND THE BARS THAT HOSTED US DURING THE WORLD CUP BAR TOUR 2018 WHICH RAN FROM JUNE 15 TO JULY 15.

Sponsors: Look Opticians, Coors Light Trinidad & Tobago, We-Link Solutions

Most importantly we would like to thank you our PATRONS AND SUPPORTERS who came out to all the limes and made this the most enjoyable Bar Tour to date! Thanks to you all!

Bars: The Hog & Whistle, Pub House, La Cantina Pizzeria, Rum Jungle Bar & Lounge, M Bar, Woodford Cafe.

Quarter-Finals
10:00 AM

Sweden vs England

2:00 PM

Russia vs Croatia

Saturday 7th July, 10 AM
Woodford Cafe
Moores Lane, Chaguanas

Quarter-finals

Belgium vs Brazil

Friday 6th July, 2 PM
M Bar (opposite Wendys)
Ariapita Avenue, Port of Spain

10:00 AM

France vs Argentina

2:00 PM

Uruguay vs Portugal

Saturday 30th June, 10 AM
M Bar (opposite Wendys)
Ariapita Avenue, Port of Spain

Brazil

vs

Serbia

Wednesday 27th June, 2 PM
Rum Jungle Bar & Lounge
Boundary Rd, San Juan, San Juan

Germany

vs

Sweden

Saturday 23rd June, 2 PM
La Cantina Pizzeria
Victoria Avenue, Port of Spain

11:00 AM

Germany vs Mexico

2:00 PM

Brazil vs Switzerland

Sunday 17th June, 11 AM
The Avenue Pub House
Ariapita Avenue, Port of Spain



World Cup 2018 FINALS

Lime & After Party

Sunday 15th July, 11 AM
La Cantina Pizzeria Bar
Victoria Avenue, Port of Spain

Admission

- Live DJ!
- Half Time Glacéwings!
- Pizza Buffet!
- Complimentary beer & coffees!
- Food and drinks specials!

LOOK OPTICIANS

Friday 15th June
Sunday 17th June
Saturday 23rd June
Wednesday 27th June
Saturday 30th June
Saturday 7th July
Sunday 15th July

Hog & Whistle
Pub House
La Cantina
Rum Jungle
Hutt Shirts
Woodford Cafe
La Cantina





Celebrating 25 Minus One!

ON MAY 5TH 2018, 40-ODD FATIMA OLD BOYS FROM THE CLASS OF 1994 DESCENDED ON THE COLLEGE'S PLAYING FIELD AT MUCURAPO ROAD FOR A LONG-AWAITED REUNION – THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND SINCE GRADUATION. THERE WAS NO LANDMARK ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE HERE AS IT WAS 24 YEARS SINCE PARTING WAYS. HOWEVER, THE CLASSMATES WERE NOT PREPARED TO WAIT ANY LONGER TO RECONVENE THIS DYNAMIC GROUP OF CHARACTERS.

Instigated primarily by Dingiswayo Smenkhara, the reunion vibes started through a series of smaller limes during the Christmas season of 2017/2018 and via a newly-formed WhatsApp group. The latter started with a dozen friends and quickly burgeoned into an interactive community of about 100 strong. The urge to do something on a larger scale grew stronger and stronger by the day, until an on-site barbeque and football lime were decided on. As plans were being made via social media, stories from the past were dug up – sometimes with slight exaggeration. The constant laughs and sharing of memories only built anticipation for the reunion day.

The main event came and completely lived up to all the hype as classmates tested their culinary skills led by Chief Chef and class comedian Marc Jardine. A range of meats

and drinks were enjoyed while friends reconnected and got up to speed with the goings-on with each other. In the intervening years some had changed in appearance to the point where national identification documents were requested to ensure that there was no random "storming" of the festivities. Of course, given that class of '94 possessed some world renowned "football peongs", a lime would not be complete without a small goal football encounter. Some wanted to prove that they had retained the football skills of their glory days at the college.

In the end, a great time was had by all with the pictures to prove it. Today, the banter, debates and occasional "cussouts" continue via WhatsApp with no decrease in enthusiasm.



It appears that it will not be too long before this group of concerned citizens, professionals, family men and brothers reconvene one more time.



Living The Grey Shirt – Fatima 2017 Hall of Achievement Inductee, Anthony Jules

WHILE SOME BOYS MAY BE BORN WITH A SPOON OF GOLD OR SILVER IN THEIR MOUTHS, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY ANTHONY JULES (CLASS OF 1984, FORM 5) WAS BORN WITH A COMPUTER MOUSE IN HIS HAND.

Before he could get to that computer, Anthony had to attend to the business of being an outstanding Fatima Boy, in studies and sport. Entering the College in 1979, he established a track-record that was more than just exemplary – it was exam-planty: his Form Five results showed nine '1's at CXC, and six 'A's at Cambridge, becoming one of the first students in the country to receive an 'A' in Computer Science O-Levels. Two years later, he earned an Additional Scholarship in 'A' Levels.

He stayed on at Fatima for two more years, assisting Fr. Reginald DeFour in the newborn Computer Department, undertaking activities inclusive of raising funds to get the Fatima Computer Programme fully off the ground.

Then came bigger, more global times for Anthony: he headed out to MIT to secure his BSc and MS in Computer Science; and subsequently pivoted from academia to a work career, joining world-class companies such as Google, Sapient, and Activision.

Today, Anthony lives with his wife and two children in Oakland, California...with the memories of being a Fatima Boy clear in his mind, and that computer mouse continuing to be close at hand.

Q At MIT, you worked in the Media Lab and the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, where you grew fascinated with projects to create intelligent machine assistants. Robotics eventually became your forte. Did you have that interest in Fatima College or did it develop while you were at MIT?

A Even at Fatima, I was interested in Artificial Intelligence and robotics. I first started programming computers when I was 11, just before I came to Fatima. I quickly became completely captivated by the idea that you could get a machine to do exactly what you desired if only you could express your instructions clearly and correctly. As part of my interest in programming, I read a textbook on Artificial Intelligence when I was 14, and it then became clear that I wanted to build intelligent machines later in my life. It was this goal that led me to-

ward MIT in the first place and has been in the background of much of my work, even when it isn't clear from the outside.

Q 2015 Hall of Achievement Inductee, Robert Wickham, was one year behind you in Fatima and attended MIT the same time as you. Were you guys close at MIT? Were there any other Trinis at MIT?

A Yes. Robert and I were close at MIT. We were also close with Graham Fernandes, another Fatima Boy and MIT alum. Graham, Robert and I played Squash for MIT's Varsity team for the whole time we were students there. At the US collegiate level Squash is played by a team of 9. For our years together, MIT's top 9 had 3 Trinis and 3 Fatima boys! We had great fun and great accomplishments together, on and off the court.

Q At one point in your life, among your dreams were: starting a family, inventing amazing robots, and maybe even communicating with dolphins. What are your current dreams?

A I have a family now. Dolphins are going to be REALLY hard to talk to... so my current dream is back to building intelligent machines. What is going on right now in Artificial Intelligence is one of the most exciting changes I have seen in my



career. In the last five years, a subfield of AI called "deep learning", has been making remarkable progress in solving many AI problems. In fact, I am taking the next year studying AI again, because what has happened in the last few years is so incredible. After this learning phase, I will likely start my next venture by combining the new things I have learned, with my prior history and experience.

See the full interview at www.fatimoldboys.com



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Fatima Class of 1986 Gives Back Again

THE CLASS OF 1986 HAD ITS 30TH REUNION IN DECEMBER 2016. BUILDING UPON THE TRADITION ESTABLISHED DURING THEIR 25TH REUNION IN 2011, THE CLASS ONCE AGAIN REACHED OUT TO FR GREGORY TO IDENTIFY A NEED THAT THEY COULD COLLECTIVELY UNDERTAKE AS A PROJECT IN ORDER TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR ALMA MATER.

The biology lab pictured below required an upgrade to address deficiencies and risks, and to create a better environment for the students to perform experiments.

The project took just under two years to come to realization, inclusive of the fundraising effort and the actual execution of the project which because of its nature, could only occur

over the July/August holidays. The design of the lab was done by architect Alison Grosberg of Designworks Ltd., who kindly donated her time and that of her team members to the project.

Funds were raised from generous contributions from the corporate community and the members of the Class of 1986 themselves.

The demolition of the old lab commenced the final week of May 2018, and the lab was handed over to the school on 30 August 2018.

In appreciation, Fr Gregory invited the steering committee to a brief celebration on the 30 August on the handing over of the Lab and further invited them to the assembly on the first day of school on 3rd September 2018.



Main Lab Area

Main Lab Area

Lab Assistant Room

Rear area out of Main Classroom

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		Massy Stores Ltd.	Silver		

AFTER



Main Lab Area



Rear Student Work Area



Back Room Storage



Hand Over and Celebratory Gathering



Core Team in Lab after Assembly on first day of school



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FOBA'S 2018 7-A-Side Football Tournament

FOBA held it's Annual Football 7's Tournament on Sunday 26th August on Fatima Grounds.

This year wasn't an exception to the previous installments for this event as turnout was exemplary from the Old Boys. We had registration in Under 40 & Over 40, thereby allowing us to have a full tournament, with 12 teams.

As per the norm, there were two team categories: Under-40 and Over 40. Teams who competed in the Under-40 were divided into two groups, and the Over-40 in one group.

Under 40 Group 'A'
O Four, Stickerz, F.C. 6%, Sweatarans F.C.

Under 40 Group 'B'
Round 4, Bosen, Skunkinz, More Drinks than Goals

Over 40
Young Ole Boys, Fatima and Friends, D'Educators, 89'ers

Camaraderie on the day was high as all teams were situated in the Pavilion – and you know how picong rises when team rivalry is on the spot. Reminiscent of Intercol games of yesteryear and also for the love of football, a great time was had by all. We even had a cook-off between a few of the teams to see who could 'Bubble ah pot'

Special Thanks to our sponsors: Carib, Blue Waters, Bermudez & All Sport Promotion. Special mention of Inskip Carrington of All Sport Promotion who ran the entire event with his referees, and to Eugene Antoine for the preparation of fields for play.

Kudos to the Events Committee Team for making this occasion memorable. Looking forward to 2019.

Over 40
Winner ~ Young Ole Boys
2nd Place ~ D'Educators
3rd Place ~ Fatima and Friends
Most Goals ~ D'Educators



Team - Fatima and Friends



Team - Young Ole Boys



Team - O Four

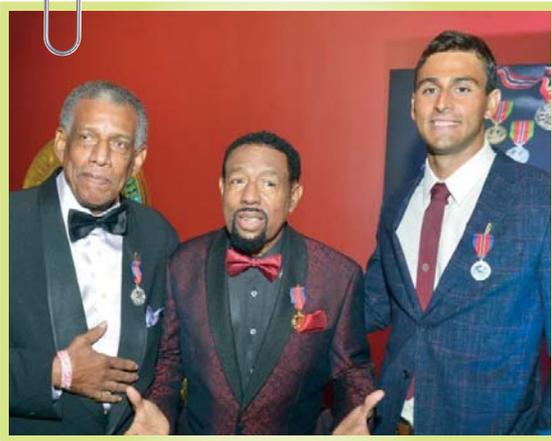


Team - Round 4



Team - Stickerz

EVENT RESULTS
Under 40
Winner ~ O Four
2nd Place ~ Round 5
3rd Place ~ Stickerz
Most Goals ~ Round 5

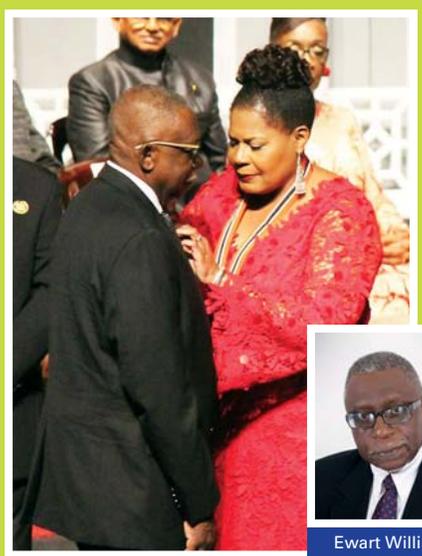


National Awards

CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO THE FOLLOWING FATIMA ALUMNI WHO WERE RECIPIENTS OF 2018 NATIONAL AWARDS:

1. Ewart Williams (Class of 1962) – The former Central Bank Governor received The Chaconia Gold Medal for Public Service. He was inducted into the College's 2015 Hall of Achievement, <https://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt/hoa/2015-hoa/>.
2. Dylan Carter (Class of 2012) - The country's top swimmer, winner at national and international competitions, was awarded the Humming Bird Medal Silver for excellence in sports.
3. Dr. Rasheed Usman Adam (Class of 1961) - One of the country's top neuro surgeons was awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit for excellence in medicine.

Nintendo Vinces.



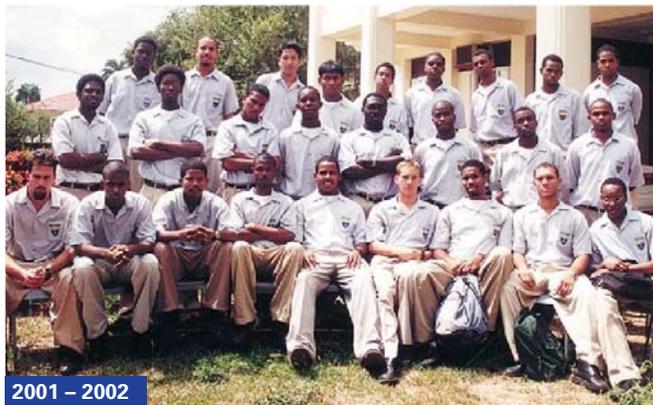
Ewart Williams

Flashback – Fatima Prefects



2012 – 2013

Back Row (L-R): E. James, J. Hendrickson, B. Hatch, J. Roberts, M. Camacho, R. Emmanuel, L. Mahadeo, N. Rullow, M. Paul, D. Smith, D. Letren, C. Young, N. Pollard, D. Roper, P. Henderson **Middle Row (L-R):** D. Riley, S. Roget, B. Graham, S. Hernandez, C. O'Brien, A. Fadahunsi, J. Barkley, J. Forde, K. Matthews, C. Joseph, H. Rodney, K. Sharpe, D. Riley, T. Scott, A. Ramkissoon, K. Kissoon **Front Row (L-R):** C. Barcant, J. Ellis, V. Bhairosingh, L. Scott, J. Deveaux, R. Navarro, S. Yearwood, O. Castillo, J. Phillip, K. Hosam, A. Phillips, L. Graham, A. Olliverie



2001 – 2002

Back Row (L-R): Kevon Swift, Nicholas Dopwell, Nicholas Quong Sing, Vindra Khanai, Nicholai Khan, Joel Gill, Kwasi Noel, Hasani Holder, Osaze Romany. **Middle Row (L-R):** Maurice Rawlins, Richard De Silva, Wynn Richards, Walyon Joseph, Andrew Pierre, Sean Peters, Kenroy Adams, Stephan Stewart. **Front Row (L-R):** Edward Scott, Adrian Sooon, Kevon Johnson, René Sealy, Aaron Boissiere, Alexander Paddington, André Augustine, Chase De Souza, Varian Bailey. **Missing:** Derry Sandy, Darren Dolly.



1983 – 1984

SCHOOL PREFECTS 1984

BACK ROW (left to right) Roger PIERRE, Jose JIMENEZ-PEREZ, Richard VIEIRA, Nigel GRIMES, Nicholas GODDARD, Roger PORTHER, Neil FRASER.

THIRD ROW (left to right) Ravi RAMSEWAK, Wendell WILLIS, Dexter ST. LOUIS, Nigel SIU TOUNG, Marlon RAGOONANAN, Anthony ALEXIS, Wendell WALKER.

SECOND ROW (left to right) David VINCENT, Robert LUM KANG, Darren SOLOZANO, Paul HEE HOUNG (*Head Prefect*), Brent LUCAS, Curtis MENDES, Brian TANGWELL, Denzil ROBERTSON.

FRONT ROW (left to right) Tilson TANG, Leonard BUTTS, Robert SOVERALL, Simon AQUI, Kumar Ravi PERSAD, Havden DU PONT.

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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