

# Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER







www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

SSUE

32 EBRUARY 2024

INSIDETHIS ISSUE // PG1 // TRIBUTE TO RETIRED FATIMA COLLEGE PRINCIPAL, FR. GREGORY AUGUSTINE CSSP // PG2 // LIVING THE GREY SHIRT — ACTING FATIMA COLLEGE PRINCIPAL, RONALD COOPER // PG4 // IMAGES FROM THE FATIMA 2023 ALL-INCLUSIVE CARNIVAL FETE, "CATHARSIS" // PG6 // IMAGES FROM FOBA'S "AURA" COOLER FETE // PG7 // 2023 FOBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RECAP // UPCOMING CARNIVAL EVENTS // PG8 // IMAGES FROM FOBA'S 2022 WORLD CUP BAR TOUR // PG10 // IMAGES FROM FOBA'S "FATIMA FOOD FEST: OKTOBERFEST" // PG11 // FATIMA CLASS REUNIONS // PG12 // FATIMA COLLEGE SPORTS 2022 TO 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW // PG13 // #FATIMAFLASHBACK

# Tribute to Fr. Gregory Augustine CSSp

It is an honour to pay tribute to one of Fatima's beloved sons, Fr. Gregory Augustine, whose journey started with his days as a student, to becoming a priest and returning to the College in 1992 to become not only the School Manager and Teacher of Religion and History but eventually our Principal and Leader for 12 years.

Fr Gregory Augustine was born on Thursday 14th December 1961.

His early years of Primary education took place at Newtown Boys RC School and Diego Martin Government School.

He commenced Secondary School at Fatima College in 1974, and graduated in 1981 having completed his Cambridge Advanced Level studies.

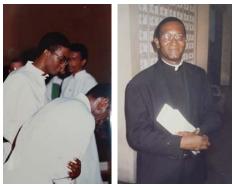


Fr Gregory always expressed the desire to be an educator, hence after leaving school he was hired by Sr Mary Eunan HFC (Holy Faith Sister) for a short stint as a teacher at St Monica's in 1981-1982 for 6 months.

He entered the Tisserant House in Arouca in 1982 where he deepened his discernment and formation in the Religious Life with the Holy Ghost Fathers. He also pursued his studies for the Priesthood which included a B.A in Theology from the University of the West Indies whose courses were delivered at the Seminary of St John Marie Vianney and the Uganda Martyrs.

Fr Gregory was ordained a Deacon in 1992 and was assigned to Fatima College as a teacher of Religion, History, and as School Manager. In the following year, on Sunday 25th April 1993, he was ordained a priest. He became Principal in 2009. It is in this one ministry that he spent over 30 years,







faithfully serving the Lord through the sacred work of education at his Alma Mater, and even after his retirement in 2021. Following his retirement, he spent a little over a year away from the College, returning in 2023, to resume being the Manager of Fatima College, and to be Chairman of the Board of Management, Holy Ghost Fathers.



During Fr. Gregory's tenure, he made tremendous progress in the upkeep and evolution of the infrastructure of the College, thus improving the lives of not only the faculty but the students.

# Among his most notable and memorable accomplishments:

School Hall Refurbishment School Library Refurbishment, with Form 6 Study Room School Pavilion and Gym renovated

New School Wing opened

2010

2016

**Project** 

2011

2012

2013

Smartboards installed

**Chapel** repoyated

Basketball Court

renovated

2016 20

2019

Overall impact: the upliftment of Fatima College – spiritually, physically, administratively, inspiringly, and steadfastly.









# Living the Grey Shirt – Acting Fatima College Principal, Ronald Cooper

Ronald Cooper (Class of 1983, Form 5 & 1985, Form 6) was welcomed as the Acting Principal of Fatima College on Monday 21st March 2022.

He was introduced and installed at a special assembly that morning with all Forms (1–6) present for the first time since the start of the Covid pandemic.

Mr Cooper joins the administration of the Mucurapo-based Catholic secondary school after Provincial Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers Fr Gregory Augustine CSSp officially retired as Principal in December 2021.

Mr Cooper is a former Dean and Biology teacher at St Francis Boys' College (formerly Belmont Boys'

Secondary School), and has been an educator for more than three decades.

# Why did you select Fatima after primary school?

During my formative years, I resided in North America, and it was only later that I had the opportunity to immerse myself in Caribbean education when I enrolled at Campion College in Jamaica. Despite my father's affiliation with St. Mary's College, my parents encouraged my brother and me to explore



both St. Mary's College and Fatima College before arriving at a decision. The institution's Catholic foundation together with the proximity of the field to the school, ultimately led to the straightforward choice of Fatima College.

O How was your experience at Fatima (pleasant and/or non-pleasant; worst mischief, etc).



Certainly, the initial period of adjustment at Fatima College, much like my experiences in previous schools abroad, posed its challenges. Navigating a new culture, forging new friendships, and acquainting myself with unfamiliar subjects were initial hurdles. However, the transition was notably eased by the warm reception extended by my classmates, teachers, and, notably, the then Principal Mr. Clive Pantin. Despite being a generally reserved student, I found the lively antics of some of my peers to never fail to add an element of entertainment to the school environment.

# O Did you participate in any sports in Fatima?

- During my time at Fatima College, I had the privilege of playing football for the school teams. Under the guidance of coaches Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ramdass at the under-14 level, and later with Mr. Murray for the under-16 team, I eventually progressed to the first team under the instructions of Mr. Roberts. While football became a central focus, I limited my involvement in cricket to classlevel participation. The formidable presence of a fast bowler named Peter Henry dissuaded me from considering cricket for the school.
- Who was your favourite teacher(s) and which teacher(s) did you give the most trouble?
- Certainly, my memories at Fatima College include encounters with teachers both strict and engaging who left a lasting impact on my educational journey. Mr. Singh, my Science teacher, was renowned for his no-nonsense approach. I distinctly recall feeling a sense of trepidation during his periods, as he employed oral questioning to ensure a thorough understanding of the subject matter. The challenging nature of his classes motivated me to exert extra effort in mastering the material.

Transitioning to Fatima College as the Acting Principal was remarkably smooth. Fatima College operates like a well-oiled machine, with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among the motivated and dedicated teaching staff.

On a more contrasting note, Mr. Clive Pantin, who also served as the school's Principal, took on the role of my French teacher. His French class presented a stark departure from the strict atmosphere of Mr. Singh's sessions. The French class was a source of enjoyment, providing a comfortable environment where students could anticipate interactive activities. Our visits to the hall, where we brought the stories of 'Le Petit Nicolas' to life, added a delightful and memorable dimension to the learning experience.

- Have you been able to maintain friendships with your classmates since school? Any class reunions?
- A Indeed, the convenience of staying connected with friends residing abroad has been greatly facilitated by the advent of social media. The ability to engage in easy and regular conversations has proven to be a valuable aspect of maintaining friendships over distances. It's always a pleasure when friends visit, providing opportunities to reminisce about the shared experiences and fond memories from our school days. Unfortunately, I have not attended any class reunions thus far.
- Tell us about your time at St. Francis, and the transition to Fatima College.
  - My teaching journey and administrative experience took root at St. Francis College, formerly known as Belmont Boy's RC Secondary School. There I spent a fulfilling 32 years, themajority of which were dedicated to the role of Dean. This period allowed me to hone my teaching skills and cultivate the necessary expertise to excel in a Dean's re-

sponsibilities. The environment at St. Francis demanded creativity to ensure the students' success, resulting in the development of teachers highly sought after for additional lessons by neighbouring schools.

Transitioning to Fatima College as the Acting Principal was remarkably smooth. Fatima College operates like a well-oiled machine, with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among the motivated and dedicated teaching staff. The institution boasts an abundance of teachers willing to go above and beyond, readily contributing their time for the students' participation in numerous co-curricular activities. This collective effort is efficiently orchestrated by an immensely organized and dedicated Vice Principal, Mrs. Ramdass.

One standout feature contributing to Fatima College's success is the unparalleled involvement of past students. Their commitment serves as a template for other schools striving for excellence. The Parent Support Group (PSG) at Fatima College is exceptional, understanding their role without overstepping boundaries. The synergy within the entire team at Fatima College, from faculty to parents, is truly incredible and plays a pivotal role in the school's success.

- Coming back to the school as Principal what are the most stark differences between your time as a student and now?
- Absolutely, the transformation at Fatima College has been truly remarkable, characterized by four significant changes that have played a critical role in our renewed success:

Images from the Fatima 2023 All-Inclusive Carnival Fete, "Catharsis",

held on Saturday 11th February





Photos courtesy **Damian Luk Pat and Warren Parris**. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums



# The Fatima Old Boys' Association 2023 AGM was held on Tuesday 14th November.

Following the Principal's Report given by Acting Principal, Ronald Cooper, the President's Report by President Kevin Crosby and the Treasurer's Report by Ruthven Thompson, elections were held.

# The elected Officers to the Management Committee were:

- · President: Mr. Kevin Crosby
- · V.P. Finance: Mr. Graeme Ottley
- V.P. Strategic Operations: Mr. Keston Quow
- Ordinary Members: Mr. Jessel Evans, Mr. Kevin Finch, Mr. Garvin Warwick, Mr. Andre Weekes, Mr. Kamu Laird, Mr. Maurice Simpson, Mr. Jason Farrell, Mr. Rawle Annandsingh, Mr. Sean Inniss

# The elected sub-committee chairmen were:

- · Alumni: Mr. Kendall Teloka
- Events: Mr. Kelvin Polson
- Benefits and Recognition: Mr. Jelani Corbie
- · Sponsorship: Mr. Peter Corbie

Congratulations go out to all the returning officers and the newly elected members. And a vote of eternal thanks go out to those outgoing officers.

Front Row, L-R: Ronald Williams, Graeme Ottley, Christian Flemming, Kevin Crosby, Keston Quow, Marc Jardine Back Row, L-R: Kevin Finch, Kevin Wells, Carlos Cedeno, Kamu Laird, Jelani Corbie, Raymond Samms, Jessel Evans, Kelvin Polson, Maurice Simpson, Jason Aguiton, Peter Corbie, Andre Weekes, Rawle Annandsingh Missing: Akil Myers, Garvin Warwick, Jason Farrell, Kendall Teloka, Ruthven Thompson, Sean Inniss



**FOBA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2023-2024** 



Complete Single Vision Lenses with frames from

\$695

Complete Progressive Lenses with frames from

\$975

Complete Polarized Prescription

\$1600

**⊕** f 🖸

**TOLL** 866.LOOK (5665) FREE 800.LOOK (5665)

Port of Spain • Woodbrook St. Augustine • San Fernando

"While stocks lasts. Discount cannot be combined with any other offer. TTARP ID required. Redeemable at all LOOK Opticians branches. Some exceptions apply.

LOOK
OPTICIANS
love what you see





Advertise with us!!

contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt

# Images from the FOBA World Cup Bar Tour 2022

The Finals, held on Sunday 18th December at The Residence Restaurant and Bar, One Woodbrook Place

FOBA thanks our Sponsors and the bars that hosted us during the World Cup Bar Tour 2022 which ran from 24 November to 18 December.

### **Sponsors:**

- · IBTT Express Couriers
- · Trinidad Freight Solutions Limited
- SCRIP-J
- We-Link Solutions
- · DCS Technologies
- · Fatima Class of '86

### The bars for their excellent service and hospitality:

- The Residence Restaurant & Bar
- Pub House
- 63 Lounge
- · Tommy's Brewing Company
- London 868 Sports Bar & Lounge
- · Island Beer Chill & Grill
- Big Rolph & Soca365 Bar
- · All Out Sports Bar and Gourmet Grill

Special thanks to our friends the Ultimate Rejects

for coming to perform for us.

Most importantly, we would like to **THANK YOU**, **OUR SUPPORTERS, FRIENDS, AND WELL** WISHERS for coming out in your numbers and making this World Cup Bar Tour a SUCCESS! THANK YOU ALL!





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

# Images from FOBA's "Fatima Food Fest: Oktoberfest",

held on Saturday 14th October 2023



## Fatima Class Reunions

## Class of 1977 45-Year Reunion

On **August 20, 2022**, the Fatima College Class of 1977 celebrated its 45th Anniversary at the Cascadia Hotel in St Anns. The evening included a Holy Mass led by Fr. Robert Christo, cocelebrated by Fr. Gregory Augustine, Fr. John Theodore, and Deacon Hiliary Bengochea. The Tabaquite choir and drummers added a lively touch. Following the mass, attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour, dinner, and desserts,

all expertly provided by the Cascadia team. Entertainment featured Larry Edghill, DJ Rene Ortiz, and Gerry Prudent. The night concluded with pictures, singing the school song, and heartfelt camaraderie extending past midnight. The Class of 1977, under the late Mr. Clive Pantin's leadership, holds a reunion every five years, with special thanks to the organizing team for a remarkable event.



## Class of 1980 40-Year Reunion

The Fatima Class of 1980 celebrated their 43 year reunion the weekend of **Nov 17th-19th**. Alumnae were welcomed from the USA, Canada, and as far as Australia. Special invitees were some old teachers, Harry Ramdas and his wife, Fatima Vice-Principal Gillian, Brendon Kuei Tung, Patrick Solomon, Glen Roach, and Fr. Gregory Augustine.

Next reunion in 2025, somebody say Tobago??



## Class of 1983 40-Year Reunion

The Fatima Class of 1983 celebrated their 40 year reunion with a pool lime on **7th October 2023** 



## Class of 1982 40-Year Reunion

The Fatima College Class of 1982 celebrated their 40-year reunion in April 2023, a year later than initially planned because of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2022. Despite the delay, the reunion was a resounding success, featuring a week-long series of events. The festivities kicked off with a Meet n' Greet at the Fatima Pavilion on Friday, April 21, followed by a glamorous Gala Event at Luna Restaurant on Saturday, April 22. The celebration continued with an Eco Bar B Que at La Vega Estate on Sunday, April 23, a Breakfast with Holy Ghost Fathers on Monday, April 24, and a Down D Islands Lime on Tuesday, April 25. The week concluded with a Potluck gathering at Federation Park on Thursday, April 27. The extended festivities provided ample opportunities for classmates to reconnect, reminisce, and create lasting memories.





## Class of 1995 25-Year Reunion

On **25th March 2023**, the Class of 1995 gathered at Tyrico Bay beach to commemorate a 25-year anniversary, 3 years late because of Covid-19, under the theme 'Celebrating Life'.

26 colleagues gathered beach side to enjoy a wide array of drinks, barbecue chicken, barbecue and geera pork, cow heel soup and saltfish accra while taking in Mayfair tunes from the 90s. This reunion was also held in tribute to alumni Keston Sealy and Rhian Sun Joseph from this class who have passed away.

Big thanks to everyone that turned out, and looking forward to the 30 year reunion on time.

# Fatima College Sports 2022 to 2023 Year in Review

#### **FOOTBALL**

The Fatima College senior squad clinched the **North Zone Intercol Final** with a 5-0 victory over Queen's Royal College.

They then clinched the **National Intercol title** with a 1-0 victory over St. Benedict's College. This was their 4th National Intercol title.

The **Under-16** football team won the North Zone Cup, beating St. Anthony's College 2-0 in the Finals! The **Under-14** team were crowned North Zone champions after beating QRC 3-2.

Fatima also became the **Form 1** North Zone champions, beating CIC 2-0.

- Fatima College players comprised about a third
  of the longlist of Men's National Under-17 Team
  players, with 12 of our Fatima boys making the
  cut: Jaden Ottley, Michiah Leach, Kade Collier,
  Jaheam Bailey, Logan Maingot, Jaden Williams,
  Michael Chaves, Luke Correia, Thomas Decle,
  Seth Hadeed, Yohance Atherton and Darius
  Jordan.
- Fatima students Jaden Ottley, Jaden Williams, Michael Chaves and Seth Hadeed represented T&T in the Under-17 Football World Cup Qualifying Tournament, which was held in Guatemala from 3-26 February 2023.

### WATER POLO

Fatima clinched all three Boys' Division titles in the National Secondary Schools Water Polo League — Form 1, Under-16 and Open Categories.

## **TRIATHLON**

Fatima students **James Castagne-Hay** and **Liam D'Abadie** both competed in the Barbados National Triathlon. James finished 2nd overall in the Sprint distance and Liam finished 2nd overall in the Super Sprint distance.

**Tristan Scott, James Castagne-Hay** (team captain) and **Liam D'Abadie** represented T&T at the CARIFTA Triathlon, Aquathlon and Mixed Relay Championships in November 2022. Castagne-Hay placed 7th (16-19 age group), while in the 13-15 age group, D'Abadie placed 9th and Scott 15th.

James Castagne-Hay of Form 5 represented T&T in Triathlon at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games in Tobago in August 2023.

#### **SQUASH**

**Nicholas Lequay, Sanjiv Mungal and Ross D'Juran**, represented T&T in the Junior Caribbean
Area Squash Association (CASA) Championships in
St. Vincent and the Grenadines in July 2023.

## **CRICKET**

Fatima College's Cricket Team made the PowerGen SSCL T20 finals on April 25, but lost to Presentation College San Fernando in the Final. Three members of the Fatima College cricket team achieved national status in the 2023 season.

- Under-19 Captain Joshua Davis (who led Fatima to Intercol finals, the Under-19 zonal title, and 3rd place in the SSCL) was selected to captain the T&T National Under-19 team in a regional series played in July 2023. He is the second Fatima College student to captain T&T in cricket, after Brian Lara.
- Zachary Siewah was selected as a reserve to the T&T National Under-19 team. He was Vice Captain of the College's senior team.
- Niall Maingot was selected to the T&T Under-17 team as the team's wicket keeper/batsman.
   He was also selected to represent T&T at the West Indies Under-17 Rising Stars 2023 Championship.

#### **HOCKEY**

Trinidad & Tobago Hockey Board (TTHB) National Indoor Schools Competition Results - Nov 2022

Under-13 - 1st & 3rd place Under-16 - 1st & 2nd place Under-19 - 3rd place

#### **SWIMMING**

Form 5 student **Nikoli Blackman** was honoured with the Youth Sportsman of the Year Award for Excellence in Swimming 2022

#### **BASKETBALL**

Fatima captured its first ever National Basketball Championship silverware in the 2023 edition.

**Under-15** - Undefeated for the entire season and crowned National Under-15 Champions.

**Under-17** - Undefeated for the season and were crowned National Champions.

Under-20 - 3rd place.

### **RUGBY**

Both **Under-14 Rugby Team** and **Under-19 Rugby Teams** were crowned District League Champs in Port of Spain and Environs, and National Knockout Champions.

The **Under-14** team were also crowned Rugby 7's Champions.

#### **MISC**

- Fatima College String Ensemble performed Tchaikovsky's "Elegie" — their winning piece for the 2023 National String Festival, at the Naparima Bowl in San Fernando. The eightmember ensemble was led by musical director and Fatima College music teacher, Mr. Akil Patrick.
- Fatima College gave an excellent showing in the University of the West Indies' 2023 Math
   Fair's Math Modelling Contest, with Mr. Nina securing 1st Place in the Teacher Level of the Poster category. Several students also placed in the Top 10 in the Intermediate category, including Shane McPhee (1st), Luke Persad (2nd), Aaron Nahous (3rd), and Jayden Rajkumar (5th). Well done, boys!
- WizdomCRM Caribbean Ltd., an edu-tech company, recently introduced its Caribbean Sustainable Virtual Stock Market game platform to secondary school students in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean, with the aim of teaching them financial literacy and ESG investing at an early age, through gamification learning and artificial intelligence (Al).

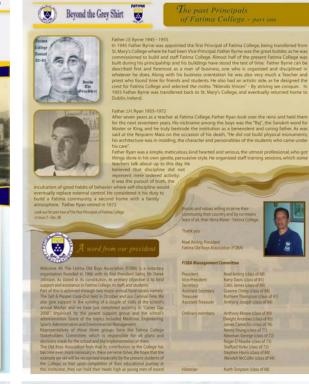
Forty-nine Fatima students placed in the top 150. The top five Fatima boys were:

Aidan Simon, Luke Halfhide, Alex Sharma, Tristan Scott and Preston Watkins.

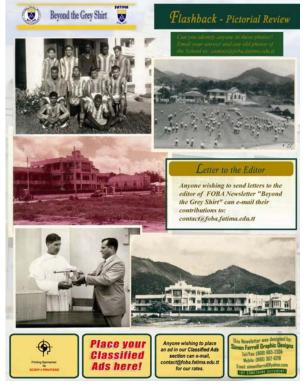
 Ben Mahon took part in the 2022 FIA Caribbean Junior Karting Championship in Barbados, placing 4th overall.

# #FatimaFlashback We revisit Issue #1 of Beyond the Grey Shirt from September 2008









## 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 We invite all Fatima Alumni to register on our database and be part of our ever growing membership and to join any of our 4 sub-committees (Sponsorship, Events, Benefits and Recognition, Alumni)

Visit https://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt/about/sub-committees/) to learn about the sub-committees. To register and/or join a sub-committee, visit https://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt/alumni/registration/ for details.









