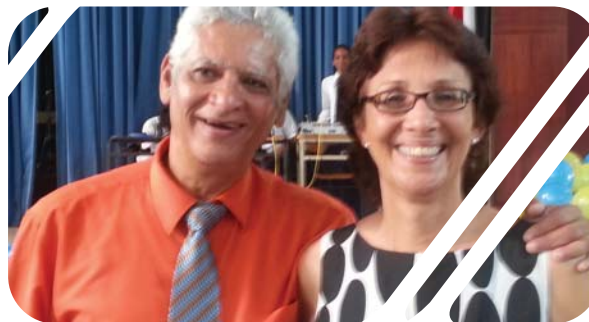


Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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ISSUE

12

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Living the Grey Shirt – Minister of Justice, Emmanuel George

INTERVIEWERS: STEFAN ROACH AND BURT BUSHELL

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HONOURABLE EMMANUEL GEORGE. AT THE TIME OF THIS INTERVIEW HE WAS THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, A POST HE HELD FROM MONDAY 22ND APRIL 2013. SHORTLY AFTER THIS INTERVIEW HE WAS REASSIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 5TH TO THE PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Q Do people have difficulty believing that their Minister is also DJ Hurricane George?

A People don't necessarily have difficulty believing it but they do marvel that I can be such a fun person to be a DJ and yet be somebody who can work well enough to be a Minister, and before that a Permanent Secretary, and before that Transport Commissioner and before that a Senior Public Servant. Generally most people feel that doing work is serious business and deejaying is fun business but I remember many years ago when I was Transport Commissioner a gentleman saw me in the road and said to me, "Mr. George, how could you be Transport Commissioner and also deejay, because I see you having fun in fete but when I see you down Licensing Office, your face serious as a judge?"...and that is exactly how it is. When I'm working, I'm working and when I'm having fun, I'm having fun. It's easy for me to separate the two.

Q How did you get the name Hurricane George?

A Actually, that was when I used to play a little football and I was quick and rough. The guys gave me the name 'hurricane' and it stuck with me. I simply transferred it to my DJ name.

Q Did Fatima contribute in any way to your interest in deejaying and entertainment?

A No, actually my interest in deejaying came as a result of me belonging to a group called the "Catholic Youth Organization". It was a group in San Juan and one of the many groups that comprised the "Catholic Youth Organization". There I had some friends, and in particular Albert Belle who was a DJ and we used to party a lot to his music. I followed him around for a while and when I decided to go to the University of the West Indies (UWI), I bought a little set. I bought speakers from Albert which he wanted to get rid of. I bought a little amplifier from Oswald Gabriel second hand and my mother had an old grundig gramophone at home and I took the turn-table out of it. Albert also carried me to Rhyner's Record



Shop on Prince Street, Port of Spain where I got my first records. That is how I started deejaying. I bought all these things around July 1969 and entered UWI in September. At UWI, a group of guys in second year wanted to have a party and I volunteered to play for them. You would marvel... those guys were Kenneth Valley, Neil Rolingson, Lennard Prescott and Maurice Moniquette. Those guys gave me my first fete in UWI and I became the house DJ in UWI for several years after that, even after I left. I remember the party house on Watt's Street. There are a number of bars in that area now. The students at UWI had a lot of fun to my music. I eventually played in a lot of their weddings, then even in their children's weddings later on. I'm very proud of the fact that I paid my way through University with my own money that I earned from deejaying. My daddy died when I was 18 and my mom was left with a large band of us. There were 11 of us children in the family so you could imagine it was quite a struggle. I

used to charge people \$12 and \$15 to play in a fete at that time. I'm really proud of the legacy I left there and most importantly, people had a lot of fun in my parties!

Q Was it challenging managing your public service career and your deejaying side by side?

A To put it very succinctly, I could do both of those things and have fun doing both. They never got in the way of each other. People would tell you that during Carnival time which is very hectic, I would play in a fete every night and Ash Wednesday morning, I will be the first person in the office. It never affected me. I remember one of the Ministers I worked for in the past asking me how did I manage the both things so well. I told him that I do it naturally. I think fundamental to it all was the fact that I enjoyed both of them. I think I danced more than anybody else in my own fetes. Now you don't see deejays dancing especially now with all the mixing.

Q What did you study in UWI?

A I have a Bachelor's in Economics.

Q You have served as Minister of Public Utilities, Minister of Works and Infrastructure and now as Minister of National Security. Which one has been the most challenging and which one the most rewarding?

A Well, I've only been in National Security for three months and it is the most challenging in the sense that it is broader than the others. Of course because it is the Ministry that deals with crime, it is at the forefront of public discourse and the public is very demanding of the Minister who performs in this Ministry. People understandably guard their safety very jealously. Throughout my years, I've always taken ownership of the things I am responsible for. As a DJ I was always professional. I never reached late for a party. So too in my life as a public servant, I took ownership. For example, when I was Minister of Public Utilities, I had a responsibility for water and every single leak in the pipelines belonged to me. If I saw a leak, I would call it in to WASA. Anybody who wrote in the paper, called into the radio stations or called me about a leak, I took ownership of it. It was my leak to fix and so I would call it in to WASA. Likewise, when I was Minister of Works and Infrastructure, every pothole belonged to me. Whenever people complained and burnt tyres and blocked roads, it was my responsibility and I took it on and did something about it. Now, in the Ministry of National Security, every murder belongs to me. I have to take responsi-

bility for it. However, there is a lot more that the Ministry is responsible for, for example, immigration. Immigration issues are big issues in T&T. It has to do with deportation, provision of work permits, visa exemptions, passports being given to people. Security deals with a whole host of things, cadets, the defense force (army, coast guard, air guard), so there are a lot of things that National Security deals with but the people are not focused on the others. All they are concerned with is the number of murders. The Minister is judged by the number of murders. It doesn't matter how good he is in those other areas. If he doesn't bring down the number of murders to "acceptable" levels, he cannot be judged as a successful Minister in this Ministry. That is the difficulty. I'm very happy with the progress I made while in the Ministries of Public Utilities and Works and Infrastructure however. Thankfully the Prime Minister supported my initiatives and I can say that water as an everyday problem in Trinidad and Tobago is a thing of the past. There have also been many roadway developments throughout the country. The greatest challenge in Works was the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway to Pt. Fortin. In my view, there will always be protest, but in the long run the people of the country will solve those problems. The silent majority will exert pressure. This has happened before.

Q How has this highly scrutinized Ministerial role (National Security) impacted your family life?

A It has significantly impacted my life. All I do is go home, get some rest, get up in the morning at 3.30, try to get some exercise, go to the office at 6 and work till 8pm every day. There will be ceremonial functions etc. in between but all these things I consider them work. It leaves you no personal life. You are constantly working and sleeping. For example, people where I live accustomed seeing me cut my own lawn. Now it is extremely difficult to find a Saturday morning to cut my lawn. I tried help but they never do it properly so I stopped. If I don't do it myself it doesn't get cut. I used to do it religiously every Saturday. Now I can't. This position is a major sacrifice that people don't understand. You have to leave everything to become a Minister in service of the people. But I am enjoying it though, difficult as it is. It has been my modus operandi over my years of working to always enjoy what I do.

Q What is your vision towards seeing a turnaround in the fight against crime?

A The fight against crime has to be tackled from many fronts. The Ministry has the help of the police and army and so on. There are also many social programmes in place. We have to find a way though, to get the youths that are joining the gangs and dropping out of the school system to understand that the life of crime is a dead end and give them opportunities so that they would not go there. There's the issue of parenting. I believe that while the police can do what they will, the Ministry and the Minister, the community NGOs, the religious groups etc all have a role to play in the fight against crime. I have some ideas that I want to explore to see how we can attract the youths into other directions. Other countries have done it for example Chile, Colombia and in the US in New York. We want to use their experiences in getting their crime under control to tolerable levels. We can't eliminate it but at least to bring it to a manageable level in contrast to the runaway crime situation that currently exists. Securing the borders is also very important to prevent the guns and the drugs from coming in. They seem to be coming in faster than the police can get them off the street. Overall, my vision is a multi-faceted approach from policing to the social programmes and NGOs, religious groups playing a part and learning from the successful examples of foreign Governments.

Q How do you feel about the sentiment amongst some people that only the small fry are brought to justice and not the big fish?

A I think a major part of it is the issue of prosecutions. There have been a number of drug finds but we haven't been able to find the people actually bringing in the drugs. There is the issue of collection of evidence. Even if we were to catch these so called 'big fish', do we have enough evidence to convict them? The police may suspect who committed a murder but do not have enough evidence to convict them. Once you do not have evidence, you could suspect who you want, you cannot convict them. The prosecution and conviction rates have to go up to assist us in dealing with this situation.

Q Do you consider yourself a politician or still a public servant?

A To be honest, I'm still learning to be a politician. Some of my colleagues are way more advanced in this regard. I still have so much to learn in that arena. Deep inside, I'm still a public servant but I have to learn how to throw off that mantle and become more of a politician. When people heard that I was going to

be a Minister, they wondered how I was going to do this, coming from a place where I had to be apolitical to now political. I think the experience I gained as a public servant is invaluable to me and for helping my colleagues deal with the issues they face in their Ministries.

Q What is a typical day like?

A I would get up at 3.30 a.m. and put in an hour's exercise. I'll be back home at about 5:00 a.m. and get to the office at 6:00 a.m. Sometimes I would start meetings at 6, 7 or 8 in the morning and work through the entire day. One of the challenges I face as Minister compared to when I was Permanent Secretary is that as PS I could have controlled my day. As a Minister you have very little control. On Mondays I have the Legislative Review Committee of Cabinet which meets at 9.30 a.m. That is followed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee which meets at 1.30 p.m. Both meetings could account for my entire morning and afternoon on Mondays. On Tuesday, we have Senate in the afternoon and invariably we will have things to prepare for the sitting from before. Sometimes the Senate will sit until very late as you know. Tuesday is gone. Wednesday I have a breather but sometimes we could have a caucus. Thursday is Cabinet so that day is gone. On Friday I would invariably have meetings also. So every day of the week is spoken for. You can't say that you not doing. You have no choice and you work from morning to night then you go home shower and sleep. There is no time for anything else with this job. It is extremely difficult. You sacrifice your health, family, friends and social life. But the driving force for me is that I'm making changes in people's lives.

Q How do you feel about the state of things in the ruling party given the results of the Tobago and Chaguanas elections?

A I think the ruling party has to sit up and take notice of both events and more particularly to that of the Chaguanas West event. We must make the necessary adjustments to ensure that it does not happen again in the upcoming local government elections and the general elections in 2015. The party has been jolted by the result but it has been jolted in its mid-term when governments are normally at their lowest popularity. The saving grace is that because it's mid-term, the government has time to fix the problems that the electorate has with it.

Q What years did you attend Fatima?

A I entered the college in January 1961 and left in June of 1966. I completed O

and A levels at Fatima. It was a wonderful period in my life and I have many stories that I can tell about my days at Fatima College. It was an experience that was second to none.

Q Can you mention a couple striking memories (positive or negative) from your days at Fatima?

A I remember playing an inter-class cricket game and was batting when my team had just a couple runs to make to win. The bowler bowled a long hop to me and I geared up to hit the ball way into the stratosphere but swung my bat way back and hit my stumps. It was mortifying to my partner and my colleagues. I also remember breaking biche to go to cricket. In my day we got half day when there were test and territorial matches in the oval. However, the games started at 10:30 AM and because I wanted to see the first ball bowled very often a colleague of mine, John Prescod, and myself would slip out at recess time (10:15 AM) and go up to the oval on the school boys mound. I am not ashamed to admit that I broke biche to see cricket – never to do anything else, but I just couldn't bear waiting till half day at 12:00 PM when practically the whole first session of play would have been finished. I hope John doesn't mind me saying it. I also remember Fatima winning the Intercol in 1965. It was such a euphoric time. After years of saying "well we go beat them next year" we were finally able to conquer. We won the game after much trauma having to come from behind to draw the game and then having to replay it before we won. The guys on the team: Everald Cummings, Roger Duprey, Watson & Earl Fough were really good – they were really first class footballers. At least for that one year we were particularly happy to be Fatima boys. However, after that year we went back to our old ways (Laughs)

Q Were there any teachers at Fatima who had a special impact on you?

A Yes Mr. Craigwell - he was a Jack-of-all-trades who could teach anything. He was a very respected teacher, so much so that you could get a C in your report book from any other teacher and argue with the dean against getting punished. However, if Mr. Craigwell gave you a C you would most certainly be punished. There was also Mr Barrett who was my English teacher, Mr Clive Pantin who taught me Spanish and the late Archbishop Anthony Pantin. The Pantins were a special crew because they would always start their classes with a joke. Whenever they walked in you looked forward to them cracking a joke –



Memorium for Fr. Andrew Cockburn

CSSP: 9TH OCTOBER 1926 TO 22ND FEBRUARY 2013.

BY GLEN ROACH (RETIRED TEACHER 1972 – 2008)

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS GATHERED AT ST. THERESA'S CHURCH ON TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 2013 TO SAY GOODBYE TO FR. ANDREW COCKBURN WHO HAD DIED THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY AT THE HOUSE OF THE ETERNAL LIGHT MINISTRY. FR. ANDY WAS THE FIRST LAY TEACHER AT FATIMA COLLEGE.

With the support of Parish Priest, Fr. Francis Flavin, Fatima started in January, 1945 in temporary quarters in St. Theresa's. The College occupied a small two-bedroom building with a partition separating two classrooms of 30 pupils each. The then Mr. Andy Cockburn was asked to teach in the new school by Dr. Meenan, Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers and Principal of CIC. The pioneering members of staff were Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Michael Mc Carthy, Irish Holy Ghost Seminarian and Fr. Byrne. The latter concentrated on building the new school on Mucurapo Road, and took the last class of the day. Mr. Cockburn and Mr. Mc Carthy bore the brunt of the teaching.

His mission accomplished, Mr. Cockburn left for Canada to begin his studies. After three years, he returned home to teach at CIC as a Scholastic Prefect from 1948 to 1951. He was off again to Ireland where he studied Theology. Andy was ordained a Priest in July 1954. He was sent to Nigeria in 1955 where he was a very busy man as priest, teacher, principal, dean of discipline and games master. He started a secondary school, ran a parish, helped in neighbouring parishes and looked after prisons' ministry. Unfortunately, he contracted malaria twice. Life was very lonely for Fr. Cockburn. He had to cope with bad roads and the absence of electricity but Jesus was his constant companion.



Fr. Cockburn Ordination
July 1954



Fr Cockburn and close
friend Bishop Galt in
London

Fr. Cockburn was forced to return home in 1968 during the Biafran War. He worked in several parishes including Tunapuna, Erin, Arima, Mt. Lambert and New Grant. That is where I first met him where he was a popular priest, accessible to the villagers, firm and compassionate with a major emphasis on the sacraments and a deep spiritual life. However, he insisted on financial accountability and prompt payment of debts. At New Grant, he completed the new church and left the parish free of debts.

Fr. Andy retired from parish life in 1997 and joined the Fatima Community. He started celebrating midday mass from February 3rd and only stopped when his health began to fail him. He spent his time in his room in prayer with his rosary beads. He was also fond of doing word sleuths and dabbling in artistic creations. He made his own special calendars with bristol board.

I was a frequent visitor to Fr. Andy's room. He loved to talk about his family, his stint in Nigeria, his friendship with Bishop Galt and the support of Liz Pouchet, Allison Poon and Candy Churaman. My wife and I visited him in January one month before his death. Little did I know that this was our last encounter.

Farewell Fr. Andy and thanks for your prayers. ■

sometimes they were "stale" – but there would be peals of laughter before we settled down to work.

Q What were your extra-curricular activities while at Fatima?

A Other than playing cricket and football, I also played chess and was the school champion one year. I tried the choir but Fr. Cochrane told me I couldn't sing so I gave that up.

Q Have you maintained a strong relationship with Fatima alumni over the years?

A I made a whole lot of friends at Fatima and we still do meet from time to time. There is a group of us who entered in 1961 that meet ever so often at Kampo restaurant to have a beverage, talk, laugh and reminisce.

Q What is the make-up of your family (wife and kids)?

A I am not married but I have four children - two girls and two boys. My kids are doing reasonably well and I am very proud of them.

Q Outside of your professional life what are your interests and hobbies?

A Of course the music - and I miss not playing now. Music has certainly been the biggest of all my hobbies. But I am also very interested in sports and will sit to watch virtually any sport on TV whether it's tennis, golf, cricket, football or whatever. For music there is the term "Audiophile" to describe enthusiasts; if there is an equivalent term for a sports fan I will be called that. I love going to the oval to watch cricket and I take my sons with me all the time. There is a cultural thing with the cricket coming from my daddy to me and also from my mother who could tell you everything about Sobers, Weekes, Worrell and Walcott.

Q What qualities and values did you take from Fatima that helped you in your career?

A When you go to school you learn to be disciplined and to understand that

whatever you want to achieve in life you have to work for it. My parents would teach me this at home, but in school it was being fortified by the teachers. It was not so much the passes that you got but the understanding that to be successful at anything you have to work hard at it. Fatima and the University of the West Indies provided me a framework for thought, but the fact that you had to work hard to achieve was the thing that was really brought home to me. I tell my children don't worry about money, just try to be the best at what you do. If you are the best at what you do then the money and accolades would come later.

Q What is your greatest aspiration?

A My greatest aspiration is to see Trinidad & Tobago become a fine nation. I want to see our people develop a work ethic that makes Trinidad & Tobago become a great nation. In my view, our biggest problem as a country is that our work ethic is not good enough. If we had the work ethic of some other countries we would be difficult to beat.

Q What would you say to a young Fatima student to encourage them into public life/service?

A There is no higher calling than service to your fellow man. It is this service that brings the deepest sense of satisfaction. Your having all the money in the world doesn't make for satisfaction. Satisfaction comes from serving people and the pleasure that you bring to them is all that you could ever want. My life has been trying to make people's lives more enjoyable. As a DJ I wanted people to come to my fete and have a ball and in my life as a minister it is to make people's lives better. It is all the same thing in my view - bringing joy to people.

We wish Minister George all the best in his new responsibilities. ■



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Tribute to Marion Hubbard

BY GLEN ROACH

MARION HUBBARD FALLS INTO THAT CATEGORY OF SO MANY FATIMA TEACHERS WHO BELIEVE THAT THEIR DUTIES EXTEND WAY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

An excellent Geography teacher, a competent and creative dean, a highly efficient class teacher, Marion immersed herself in the life of Fatima. Mayfair, Salt n' Pepper Cook-Out, All Inclusive Fete, David Rudder Concert, Gifts of Blue and Gold, whatever the activity, she was involved. She developed a reputation for efficiency and reliability.

Like so many of Fatima's female staff, Marion attended Holy Name Convent. She taught at Mucurapo Girls' RC School for three years before leaving for UWI to study Geography. She graduated in 1978, taught for a year in Tranquility before coming to Fatima, her home until her retirement in 2013.

She always struck me as someone who loved and mastered her subject area. The students recognized her competence and many past pupils named her as one of their most influential teachers. The list includes the present Governor of the Central Bank, Jwala Rambarran, who cited her as one of the teachers who impacted upon his life. In 1996, the then Principal, Mervyn Moore appointed Marion as Form One dean. This gave her the opportunity to unleash her true potential. She set upon this task with tremendous enthusiasm and embarked upon a myriad of activities assisted by librarian, Yasmin Warrick and A.V. technician, Francis Songie.

The range of activities is staggering – Talent show, Spelling Bee, Lunchtime Concert, Kite Flying, Clean Class Competition, Voices of Tomorrow Newsletter, Inter Class Cricket and Football Competition, Visits to the Geriatric Home, Military Museum, Macqueripe, Lopinot, Maracas, Wednesday Rap Sessions with local personalities, Class Parties, Cake Sales and other Fund Raising ventures. I always considered the Wednesday Rap Sessions a brilliant idea comparable with the activity period that was introduced in 1976. Every Wednesday, a well-known personality came to Fatima to give a talk and answer questions from the boys. They listened to talks from Gary Cummings, Tony Prescott, Dave Lamy, Ian Bishop, Shaka Hislop, Luta, Black Sage, Ken Philmore, Freddie Kissoon, Brother Resistance, Dr. Janet Stanley-Marciano, Shurwayne Winchester, Los

Alumnos de San Juan, Miguel Browne, Errol Fabien, Nikki Crosby, Tony Harford and others.

These weekly talks benefitted the boys in so many ways. They met local personalities and listened to their life stories. Some learnt to introduce speakers and give thank you speeches. They heard about career choices, learnt about saving and investments from Unit Trust, the environment from EMA, got a lesson in fishing from Alloy Le Ha complete with fishing nets and caring for your animals by Veterinarian Dr Pidduck.

I spoke extensively with librarian, Yasmin Warrick, who worked closely with Marion on most of these projects. She joined Fatima's staff in 1996, the very year Marion became dean. She considers Marion her mentor, an open, honest, efficient person, at times very demanding. She admired her relationships with the non-teaching members of staff. Marion provided them with delicious banana bread. Many staff members benefitted from her superb baking skills. Unfortunately, I did not make the team.

Marion praised the camaraderie and commitment of Fatima's staff. The teachers were dedicated and always prepared to go the extra mile for the good of the boys. They genuinely loved Fatima. She is highly impressed with the enthusiasm of the young teachers and is convinced that Fatima's future is in good hands. She admires Father Gregory's emphasis upon the Catholic culture of the school. Obviously the high point of her career was her tenure as Form One Dean. Marion's departure signals the end of the Clive Pantin era in Fatima College. She and fellow retiree Francisco Garcia were the last two teachers hired by Clive Pantin to retire. Thank you Marion for your tremendous contribution to the total life of the great institution that is Fatima College. ■



Retirement of Marion Hubbard and Francisco Garcia

Family members and friends including former teachers filled the Fatima hall on Thursday 4th July, 2013 to celebrate the retirement of Marion Hubbard and Francisco Garcia. In a function chaired by Form Five dean, Stefan De Gale, several speakers paid tribute to their life of commitment to Fatima College. Speakers included present Principal, Fr. Gregory Augustine, former Principals, Mervyn Moore and Anthony Garcia. Francine Wilson and Marion's daughter, Samantha, spoke on behalf of Marion whilst Frico's daughters, Keisha and Petal and his boyhood friend, Ken Jaikaransingh, spoke on his behalf.

Former Principal, Mervyn Moore summed it up appropriately,

"Everyone who is favoured with a touch, a slice, a piece of this school seems forever bound by and bounded to it. Today I speak of two who have given their life's blood to Our Lady of Fatima College."

Congrats and best wishes to Marion and Frico in their retirement.

Tribute to Francisco Garcia

BY GLEN ROACH

FRANCISCO GARCIA, BETTER KNOWN AS FRICO, IS A MULTI-TALENTED INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS SERVED FATIMA WITH DISTINCTION IN MANY DIFFERENT AREAS.

He shone as a physics teacher in the classroom, propelling his students to academic excellence. Yet he engaged in other activities like coaching the Colts cricket and football teams, marking the field for sports, printing the jerseys for Intercol, manning the barbecue pits, reproducing the Fatima crest, coordinating Jubilee celebrations and the staff's contribution to the annual Salt n' Pepper cookout.

Frico was born into a very large close-knit family and spent his early years in upper St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain. St. Vincent Street was still residential, not yet cluttered with commercial enterprises and a tight community. His neighbor was his good friend, Glen Marin who was like a big brother to him. He actually helped Frico with mathematics, assistance which Frico acknowledged with great gratitude. Frico lived close to the savannah and Renegades panyard and like most boys of that era, he spent hours playing cricket and football. The bicycle was a popular

form of transport and he and his friend rode to Carenage to sea bathe.

He attended St. Mary's College and excelled in the sciences. He represented the school at the highest level in cricket. A fast bowler of no mean speed and a destructive batsman, he also played for Bell Boys and Maple. He briefly contemplated playing football in form six when he thought that goalkeeper, Trevor Leiba was not returning to school. However, this did not happen.

Having completed his studies at CIC, Frico was accepted to study Engineering at UWI. Some of his friends decided to take a year off to teach. Frico decided to follow suit, heard about a vacancy at Fatima College and was hired. This changed the course of his life. He had always loved teaching but events of 1972 cemented this love.

What was so special about 1972? Clive Pantin was appointed the first lay principal of Fatima College and local Holy Ghost Father, Gerald Farfan was appointed Vice Principal. Fatima still lagged behind the other established schools but these two individuals inspired and energized the staff to work towards raising Fatima's profile. The staff was an exciting array of



New School Wing Project

FOBA IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MUCH NEEDED NEW WING.

This wing will be a two storey structure occupying the space where the Art and TD rooms and half-court basketball court (previously hydroponics area) exist. The new wing will provide additional classroom space for Form 6 classes, as well as provide better facilities for Art, TD and Geography in addition to allowing for expansion of the curriculum.

Donations to this worthy project can be made via any of the following methods:

- Online via the eStore - www.foba.fatima.edu.tt/products-page
- Via cheque made out to FOBA. This can be delivered by mail or by hand to the office at Fatima Old Boys Association, Fatima College, Mucurapo Road, Woodbrook.
- By directly depositing to our bank account at Scotiabank, account number 1200454 (St. James branch).
- Outside of this please contact the FOBA Office at 628-4735.

A Deed of Covenant will allow corporations to obtain a 100% tax credit on the amount donated. Please visit the FOBA website for full details on the project.



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academics, sportsmen and musicians. They worked very hard, spent long hours at Fatima, went to lunch every day at Johnson's restaurant in Maraval Rd., had a monthly soiree, played football matches against other schools, fielded a very strong cricket team, partied regularly, went to Panorama and bought season tickets to cricket at the Oval. It was a dream start to the career of any young teacher. The Fatima Old Boys produced a brochure entitled 'Fatima on the Move' which focused on plans to construct the Audio Visual Centre. Frico resolved to obtain his degree and returned to Fatima. He did return in 1976 despite receiving many lucrative offers.

Frico performed many functions in Fatima but it was his job of printing exams that reaped the highest rewards. The secretary Kathy Ann King was a frequent visitor to the printing room as part of her responsibilities. Soon, Frico was printing invitations to their wedding that took place in 1977. They are now the proud parents of three children, Keisha, Petal and Newton. They also have an adorable granddaughter, Emma.

Frico and his family moved to Santa Rosa in 1980. They were happy to have their own home, but this curtailed his ability to continue coaching football and cricket. However, nothing would stop him from giving up his Friday evening football activity with Fatima and Friends.

Frico helped nurture a culture of excellence in Fatima. He pushed his students to achieve the highest possible standards. Soon Fatima was winning scholarships, President's Medals to Kieron James and Kyle Rudden. Ravi Tewarie won Fatima's first Open Science Scholarship in 1988. What was remarkable about Frico's tenure was his ability to drive not only excellent pupils but also intermediate ones to win scholarships. His pupils decided to reward him in a tangible way. In 1999 a few of his ex-students gave him an all-expenses paid visit to M.I.T. for a week long Science and Engineering Symposium for Middle and High School teachers in June. He was one of three, non-Americans to attend the course. Graham Fernandes, M.I.T. alumni who wanted to recognize Frico's massive contribution to so many pupils, inspired the offer. Two years later, another group offered the same package. These trips allowed him to establish valuable relationships with M.I.T. to the benefit of many Fatima boys. He is now a member of NEST (New England Science Teachers Association), just reward for putting all his eggs in one basket.

Frico was a no-nonsense disciplinarian and at times he personally sought out pupils who flouted the rules of the school. He was uncompromising in matters of discipline and demanded the highest standards. His methods were not always conventional and students who challenged his authority sometimes got more than what they

bargained for. Frico's colleagues think highly about him. He is depicted as being firm, committed, reliable, versatile, a man of immense talent, competent in the delivery of the curriculum, down-to-earth, witty with a straight face, encouraging, hot-tempered but only for a while, a great friend, mischievous, creative, supportive, a Fatima loyalist and influential way beyond the classroom.

Frico thoroughly enjoyed his years at Fatima College especially the camaraderie of the staff and the wide range of social activities. It was his privilege to follow the career of maestro, Brian Lara, with whom he developed a close relationship. He loved the geographic layout of Fatima College, designed to create a sense of community. It was he who suggested the erection of the Fatima Crest atop the Science Wing. He made the suggestion to President of the Fatima Old Boys Association, Ian Benjamin, who acted swiftly on the idea. For the fiftieth and sixtieth anniversary celebrations, he coordinated a Historical Retrospective of Fatima through the years. These ventures bore his customary stamp of perfection and excellence.

It was a privilege to work with Frico and I count him as one of my closest friends. Thank you to your vast contribution to Fatima and the education landscape. God's choicest blessings to you and your family in your well-deserved retirement. ■

What's happening in Sports

SWIMMING

Fatima College had won the last 5 years of the National Secondary School Swim Competition. However, in November 2012 and February 2013, St Mary's College beat us into second place. Fatima attained 10 gold medals, 7 silver and 5 bronze in their effort – a total of 265 points, just behind CIC who accumulated 278.5 points.

The coach has been paying special attention to the Form 1 and 2 students in an effort to rebuild the college's swim team. Last year the swim team said goodbye to Dillon Carter, Blaine Sobrain and will lose Joshua Romany this year. However Fatima's new young stars are Daniel West, Dominic Smart, Rhajeev Ramdeen and Keanu Otero along with our Swim Team captain Joshua Baptiste. They would be ready for November 2013's Competition.

FATIMA COLLEGE WINS ALL 4 CATEGORIES IN THE FIRST CITIZENS NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL WATER POLO LEAGUE 2013

Fatima College won all 4 categories in the water polo season which was held from January to March 2013. This will be in the history books. Since the league started in 2006, no other college has won all categories in the same season and with one Head Coach, John G. Ferreira. Hats off to the teams and to the Head Coach. They also won all First Citizen's M.V.P. players in each category, including: Kristoff West (Form 1), Daniel West (Under 14), Kiev Alleyne (Under 16), Russell Ferreira (Open).

Listed hereunder are our achievements in the categories.



Form 1 category

Fatima won this category for the second year. Our boys were the only unbeaten team going into the knock-out stage. In the finals against St Anthony's College our boys did not let us down and won gold, defeating St. Anthony's 6-3.

TEAM: Alex Abdulla (Capt.), Elisha Taylor (Vice Capt.), Darian Hutchison, Lleyton Auguste, Rhajeev Ramdeen, Tyler Dillon, Kristof West, Alexander Western, Jonathan Tyner, Stefan Bipet, Lincoln John, Zacary Riley. COACH: John G. Ferreira. ASST. COACHES: Kyle Ferreira and Sebastian Van Rechan. FIRST CITIZEN'S MVP PLAYER: Kristoff West

Under 14 Category

Most of our players from this category were on the Form 1 team last year. But there was a small problem...we had no goal keeper. So special thanks to Abdulla and Western who learned to save in the coaches house pool days before the start the opening game, and to the team for great defense. Our boys were the only unbeaten team going into the knock-out stage. In the finals against St. Mary's College our boys did not let us down in winning the Gold. Final score was Fatima 16 vs. St. Mary's 13

TEAM: Daniel West (Capt), Kegan Ford (Vice Capt), Jamali Lewis, Alex Abdulla, Alexander Western, Jordan De Freitas, Tyler Dillon, Yohsan Whitehead, Luke Arjoon, Brandon LeePak, Darian Hutchison, Rhajeen Ramdeen. COACH: John G. Ferreira. ASST. COACHES: Kyle Ferreira and Sebastian Van Rechan. FIRST CITIZEN'S MVP PLAYER: Daniel West

Under 16 Category

This Fatima team surprised everyone by beating St Mary's in the finals. Our boys lost

to St. Mary's team twice before the finals. Captain Justin Bhola lead his team to gold. Hats off to Kiev Alleyne for his great saves in goal. Fatima's players were young and the majority would be in the same category next year. The final score was Fatima 15 vs. St.Mary's 8.

TEAM: Justin Bhola (Capt), Daniel West (Vice Capt), Joseph Herrera, Rovaldo Prince, Kiev Alleyne, Yohsan Whitehead, Rhajeen Ramdeen, Jamali Lewis, Kegan Ford, Jordan De Freitas, Adam Alexis, Kryztien Sharpe, Darian Hutchison, Tyler Dillon. COACH: John G. Ferreira ASST. COACHES: Kyle Ferreira and Sebastian Van Rechan. FIRST CITIZEN'S MVP PLAYER: Kiev Alleyne

Open Category

Fatima Open team has won this division for the last 3 years and had to say goodbye to 3 starters from last year's team: Ryan West, Daniel Tardieu and Marc Stauble. Fatima boys were the only unbeaten team going into the knock-out stage. Captain Russell Ferreira and Vice Captain Andrew Too-A-Foo lead their team to the finals against St

Mary's College and won Gold for the 4th year running. A special tribute to our goalie Sebastian Van Rechan for his superb goalie skills. The final score - Fatima 16 vs. St. Mary's 11.

TEAM: Russell Ferreira (Capt), Andrew Too-A-Foo (Vice Capt), Sebastian Van Reeken, Giovanni Newallo, Justin Bhola, Joseph Herrera, Gregorio Felician, Kryztien Sharpe, Daniel West, Jordan De Freitas, Kyle Ferreira, Kegan Ford, Adam Alexis. COACH: John G. Ferreira. FIRST CITIZEN'S MVP PLAYER: Russell Ferreira

Head coach John Ferreira would like to say a special thanks to all Fatima swimmers and water polo students all for their dedication, hard work and support. Their discipline did not go unnoticed, all of the above contributed to a very successful year. He also thanks Father Gregory for all the encouragement and support, Mr. White, all the teachers who helped, the parents and the Fatima Old Boys who also financially supported the Fatima Aquatics Team. ■

Flashback - Pictorial Review



Editor's note on The infamous North Zone Final of 1979 piece in Newsletter #11. This article was originally composed by Fatima Alumnus Veersen Bhoelai.

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

Can you identify anyone in these old photos?

Email your answer and any old photos you have from school to:
contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt

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