



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

ISSUE

20

MAY 2016

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Fatima 2016 All-Inclusive Carnival Fete, 'Come Celebrate With Us' held on Saturday 30th January



Photos courtesy Chocolate w/o Milk. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums

Living the Grey Shirt – Johann Chuckaree

INTERVIEWER: STEFAN ROACH



FATIMA COLLEGE ALUMNUS JOHANN CHUCKAREE IS HAILED AS ONE OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO'S FOREMOST PANNIST. HE IS A SECTION LEADER AND SENIOR MEMBER OF 7 TIME NATIONAL PANORAMA CHAMPIONS, PHASE II PAN GROOVE STEEL ORCHESTRA.

Johann has performed alongside the likes of Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, Ray Holman, David Rudder, Raymond Ramnarine, Machel Montano & Heather Headley just to name a few. In 2014, he won the National Youth Award for Arts and Culture.

During his tenure at Fatima College from 2001-2008, he was an outstanding contributor to the life and culture of the school and also served as Head Prefect.

Q How did you get into the music?

A Coming from a family with a very deep background in music, my parents encouraged me to start playing the piano at the age of 4. My two older sisters who were just beginning to play the steelpan at the time encouraged me to start playing the pan and the rest is history! Being a resident of Woodbrook, I began to play at the St. Theresa's R.C. Church every Saturday for mass, and eventually at the age of 12, I joined the Phase II Pan Groove Steel Orchestra. Along the way I was also encouraged to pursue formal music education and achieved Grade 5 passes with distinction in Music Theory and Practical Piano, and also a Grade 8 pass in Steelpan Performance.

Q What would you consider your most outstanding achievements as a musician?

A Over the last few years I was afforded opportunities to travel and represent the culture of Trinidad & Tobago on various world stages, including the USA, Europe and Asia.

Another outstanding moment for me as a musician was being able to share the stage with Trinidadian born and internationally renowned singer, Heather Headley when she performed in Trinidad in December 2011.

Q Do you think that your experience at Fatima had enhanced your development as a musician?

A I would definitely say that my time at Fatima has helped me. All my teachers and also the Principal, Mr. Garcia and

Vice-Principal, Mrs. Gomes-Phillips fostered my talent. I was a regular performer and sometimes organizer at school events such as the Opening Mass, Graduation Ceremonies and Carnival Events.

Q Was your pan schedule around Carnival time ever problematic for your school life?

A At some points there were conflicts, especially with late night rehearsals and performances. Sometimes it was difficult and I even ended up missing classes. However, with the support of my parents and teachers, I was generally able to strike a good balance between the two.

Q What subjects did you do at Form six and why?

A Physics, Computer Science and Pure Math along with the mandatory Communication and Caribbean Studies. I was preparing myself for a career in engineering, however things didn't work out that way in the end.

Q Is Music your main career at the moment?

A No. I would love it to become my full time career at some point though! After my stay at Fatima College, I went on to study Information Systems & Management. Soon after, I became involved in the ICT sector and went on to start my own company, JC Networking & Security Ltd. in 2013. I am also the co-founder of Indigisounds, a music software company.

Q Tell me more about Indigisounds.

A Indigisounds is a sound design and music technology company. We specialize in the sampling and digitization of acoustic instruments. Over the last few years we have been the first company in the world to have authentically sampled the entire range of the Steelpan family and most recently, we have done digital sampling of the Laventille Rhythm Section. Our products can be heard in many local and international music productions.

Q I've also heard your name associated with another invention, the PHI. What is the PHI and how did you contribute to its development?

A The PHI (Percussive Harmonic Instrument) is basically an electronic steelpan. It was 100% locally designed and built, a project of the University of the West Indies. I was involved in the initial design and beta testing of the unit as well as served as an international demonstrator of the product over the last few years.

Q Would you say that these products are successful on the international market?

A Up to this point, the PHI has not reached beyond prototype creation. However, Indigisounds has been gaining significant traction both locally and internationally. We currently have customers on every continent and have received endorsements from international recording artistes.

Q How did you gain your spirit of entrepreneurship?

A Since I was young, I always believed in creating something of my own. Starting my own businesses is something of a dream come true. My time at Fatima also helped me in fostering this spirit by allowing me to gain experience in planning, time management and moulding me into a responsible young adult.

Q Were you satisfied at the music programme at school? What more should be done?

A At Fatima, it felt like the music programme outside of choir was very minimal. However, I along with many students and teachers pushed a lot to acquire much of the instruments and sound equipment presently at the school. At this point, I'm happy to see the strides made in this area and the renewed emphasis being placed on students getting involved in music. The Gifts of Blue and Gold concert is a great example of this effort. In addition to the singers in the choir, a live student orchestra provided all the backup music.

Q You have been on many cultural missions, representing Trinidad and Tobago. What is your fondest memory from these experiences?

A I think the fondest memory I have is being part of the cultural contingent representing Trinidad & Tobago at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. It was an amazing experience to see the patriotism and the support shown to the Soca Warriors by all.

Q Considering the present dire state of the economy, what role can the creative industries play in pulling us out of this rut?

A I believe that the creative industries have a major role to play in the diversification of the economy of Trinidad & Tobago.

The creative spirit of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago is one of our best and most sustainable natural resources.

As a nation we are blessed with creativity, talent and a vision second to none. If more emphasis is placed on growing this sector, we will definitely see an improvement in our economic situation.

Q Any closing remarks?

A I believe that Fatima College has helped to mould me into who I am today. I am definitely indebted to all my teachers, especially those who took a special interest in me to ensure that I succeeded at every level. According to our past principal and the current Minister of Education, "Fatima Boys are Good Boys!" ■

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FOBA's Carnival Cruise, 'Splash 4 – The Cooler Cruise'

held in collaboration with Holy Name Convent Alumni Association and St. Francois Girls College Alumnae, on board the Harbour Master on Wednesday 3rd February.



Photos courtesy Chocolate w/o Milk. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums



Fatima at 70

BY GLEN ROACH (RETIRED TEACHER)

FATIMA COLLEGE IS INDEED A SUCCESS STORY PROVING THAT BY STRIVING YOU CAN CONQUER. THE EARLY YEARS PAINT A PICTURE OF QUIET STRUGGLE BUT A FIRM AND STURDY FOUNDATION WAS BEING ESTABLISHED.

It took Fatima almost thirty years to be regarded as a first choice school. Today, this great College is considered one of the leading educational institutions in the country. Several factors account for this achievement.

First and foremost, Fatima is a Catholic School, a fact emphasized by all the principals. The students are exposed to Catholic culture and traditions and partake in daily prayer, retreats, Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross and praying the Rosary. The Liturgical Calendar is rigorously observed in the school's activities. Monday Assembly is essentially a spiritual experience setting the right tone for the week.

Fatima has an excellent Religious Education programme tailored to suit the needs of each Form. This was once the domain of the priests but lay teachers got more involved in the eighties. Students leave Fatima with a solid grounding in the Catholic Faith and the Catholic perspective on major issues.

Fatima was designed to create a sense of community, cooperation and informality. The buildings surround an open space, which leads to easier interaction amongst the student body. The Old Boys Association has an office in the new wing, which is frequented by both parents and Old Boys,

especially during major fund-raising ventures. The layout of the College binds everybody together.

Fatima boys participate in a wide and varied range of activities, for we strongly believe that students must enjoy their school life. There is something for everyone – football, cricket, chess, scrabble, scouts, concerts, calypso competition, extempo, mas camp, AV club. Students are also prepared for a life of leisure.

Support groups are vital to the success of every school. The Parents Support Group plays an important role in the success of all activities. The Fatima Old Boys' Association is a dynamic, business-like, forward thinking organization. They have assumed responsibility for sporting and major capital projects in the school. Their contribution to the success of Fatima is staggering.

A school needs teachers who love their profession and their place of work. Fatima teachers have always had a special love for Fatima. It is something that impacted upon me when I joined Fatima's staff. The teachers were always in Fatima at all hours and even on weekends. This trend has continued with the present crop of teachers.

The spirit of family is very powerful in Fatima. All functions involve the entire Fatima family of teachers, students, parents and past students – Mayfair, All Inclusive, Graduations, Prize-giving, Sports Days, Cook Out. There is always something to look forward to in Fatima.

It is hard to believe that members of St Theresa's Parish had to beg parents to send their children to Fatima in the early days. Seventy years later, Fatima can be considered an outstanding success, producing outstanding citizens in every field. Strive on Fatima Boys, Strive On!! ■

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Giving Back - Fatima Sea Scouts New Council

11th Trinidad, 1st Fatima Sea Scouts

2014 MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. GERVAIS GIROD'S BECOMING A PRIEST AND THIS WAS CELEBRATED BY A MASS AND A LUNCH AT THE SCHOOL.

It was attended by many of those whose life he affected or touched in a positive way. Most of the Alma Maters present were also past Fatima Sea Scouts, a group that Fr. Girod had pioneered and introduced to the school in his early years as a priest and

teacher. A great number of these former Fatima scouts have become industry leaders in their fields and have put into practice the numerous skills that they honed in scouting in their everyday lives.

Over the past 4 years, the Fatima Scout Troop struggled to maintain its momentum and previous level of activity since there was no longer an adult leader or Scout Master

that could represent the school at the Scout Association of Trinidad and Tobago. Planning meetings and taking the young men out of the school environment on hikes and camps



became impossible since this required adult supervision and scouting capabilities. Earlier in 2014, a plea was made by Fr. Gregory Augustine through FOBA for someone to take on the scout leadership reigns and it was answered by four Class of 1984 classmates.

After some planning, convincing and careful consideration, Gavin Chin Lee assumed the role of Fatima Group Scout Leader in July 2014 and was supported by fellow classmates Joseph Chin Cheong, Roger Navarro, and Stephen de Gannes. As a result of this new leadership team, Fatima Sea Scouts became cohesive and re-energized. They were able to have more structured Friday Scout meetings, Saturday morning swimming lessons and the troop was able to enjoy 2 hikes (one being a family day with the parents) and a Scotland Bay weekend camp in the December Term. These accomplishments within the first term resulted in the enrolling of a record number of recruits (approximately 22) when compared with recent years. It also influenced the return of several dormant members whose interest was now perked.

During the 2nd and 3rd school term in 2015, the scouts benefitted from 3 more hikes across the Northern Range and an overnight camp in Santa Cruz where bamboo became the main building material for their furniture. April 2015 also marked the first investiture ceremony for over 3 years. This event welcomed over 25 new scouts into the troop from recruit level. They ended the year with an "overseas" camp in Tobago, which was attended by both the boys in the troop and their parents.

Other accomplishments are the re-establishment, refurbishment, and expansion of the Scout Den under the Biology Lab, and the reclamation of the Boathouse in Ocean Avenue, Cocorite. The Scout Association of Trinidad and Tobago is looking on with great interest as Fatima Sea Scouts endeavours to regain its former glory as one of the best scout troops in Trinidad, made possible through the help of some fellow brothers from the Class of 1984, and more recently from Berkley Bharath (Class of 1989, Form 5) and Vanessa Karim (parent of Form 3 student). ■



Form 3 Career Day & Expo 2016



“THE WORLD IS ONE PLACE” WAS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR’S FORM 3 CAREER DAY AND EXPO WHICH WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 13TH.

The day's proceedings were opened with a prayer and introduction by Father Gregory, followed by addresses from the school's representatives (Mr. Romany - the School Guidance Counsellor and Mr. Seaton (who spoke on behalf of Mr. Cooper, Form 3 Dean). The key note address was done by Mr. Nicholas Gomez (owner/founder of "Lightbulb" and a Fatima old boy), the MC, Patrick "The Hype Man" Alexis (another Fatima old boy and radio personality) and five (5) feature speakers enlightened the boys in the areas of:

- Technology (Roger Navarro)
- Business (Peter Ghany)
- Corporate Behaviour & Business Etiquette (Lisa Ghany)
- Sports, Sports Health & Sport Related Careers (Dr. Anyl Gopeesingh)
- Architecture, Project Management, Construction & Interior Design (John Yearwood)

After lunch, the boys visited expo booths, beautifully set up in the Hall, and were able to ask questions and gain knowledge on the various career fields and the necessary entry requirements for these careers. There were 24 interactive booths including advertising/public relations, aviation (a flight simulator was on hand), architecture and project management (TT Institute of Architects), construction/engineering,

culinary arts (Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute), engineering – state enterprise (T&TEC), energy sector (Atlantic LNG, Petrotrin), entrepreneurial/skilled vocations, music/entertainment (they were live on Hott 93), IT/animation/graphics (Eye Scream), law, finance (Pricewaterhouse Coopers), medical (T&T Medical Association), optometrist/optomologist (Look Opticians), photography, religious vocations (Fr. Matthew Ragbir), sports and sport medicine, tertiary education (UWI, UTT).....the list goes on...

The feedback received from the boys so far has been very positive and we trust that they enjoyed the day and that the information gathered would be useful in helping them choose their subjects. ■



What's happening in Sports

FATIMA COLLEGE CLAIMS SSCL TITLE

Congrats to the Fatima College cricket team for winning the PowerGen Secondary Schools Cricket League (SSCL) Premier Division title!

The team maintained its unbeaten run this season with an easy eight-wicket win over Vishnu Boys Hindu College in the final round of competition. Amir Jangoo led the team with a top score of 112 hitting seven 4s and ten 6s to bring up his century in the 13th over.

Congrats to the boys, the coaches and teachers and all who worked so very hard to ensure this success. **Strive on Fatima Boys! Strive On!**

Read more about the win online:

Trinidad Express online:

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/20160308/sports/jangoo-leads-fatima-to-sscl-title>

Newsday:

<http://newsday.co.tt/sport/0,225080.html>

SSCL Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sscricketleague/posts/429237977274438>



2016 NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' RELAY FESTIVAL

FATIMA COLLEGE OVERALL CHAMPION, UNDER 21 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RELAY TEAM

4 x 100 Jordan Moses, Xavier Mulugata, Kevin Campbell, Bevon Gordon 42.57
4 x 200 Graeme Felix, Jordan Moses, Kevin Campbell, Xavier Mulugata 1:31.83
4 x 400 Bevon Gordon, Myles Jackson, Kion Benjamin, Andrii Campbell 3:33.03

FATIMA COLLEGE - CHAMPION UNDER 16 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, 4 x 200 AND 4 x 400 RELAY TEAM

4 x 200 Daniel Qiu, Ethan Forde, Daniel Constantine, Che Nanton 1:39.53
4 x 400 Daniel Constantine, Ethan Forde, Andwele Welch, Jonathan Creese 3:43.43

FATIMA COLLEGE - CHAMPION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, 4 x 800 RELAY TEAM

Myles Jackson, Andwele Welch, Jonathan Creese, Andrii Campbell 8:46.02
Full results at
http://www.ttnaaa.org/results/2016/relay_fest/

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Flashback - Pictorial Review



▲ 1953 1st Fatima Sea Scout,



◀ 1984 - 1985
1st Fatima Seas Scouts



Can you identify anyone in these old photos?

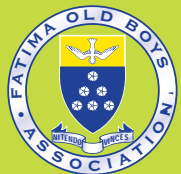
Email your answer and any old photos you have from school to:
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Letters to the Editor

Anyone wishing to send letters to the editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt" can email their contributions to:
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