



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

ISSUE

24

DECEMBER 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE // P61 // TRIBUTE TO CLIVE PANTIN // P63 // LIVING THE GREY SHIRT – 2015 HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT INDUCTEE, JOSEPH ESAU // P67 // IMAGES FROM FOOD FEST // P68 // THE FORM 6 EXPERIENCE AT ROBERT WICKHAM CONFERENCE // P69 // FOBA'S 2017, 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT // P610 // WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPORTS // P611 // UPCOMING EVENTS // P612 // FLASH BACK

Tribute to Clive Pantin, 1933-2017

BY GLEN ROACH

CLIVE PANTIN WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL WHO LEFT HIS MARK IN SOCIAL WORK, EDUCATION AND SPORT. HE WAS A CHARISMATIC, INSPIRATIONAL LEADER, HUMANITARIAN, A GREAT SPORTING ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATIVE YET REVOLUTIONARY IN HIS APPROACH TO EDUCATION, PATIENT BUT IMPATIENT WITH MEDIOCRITY AND BUREAUCRACY, ADEPT AT IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS WITH A WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOUR.

It was in 1972 that I first got to know Mr. Pantin. I learned that Fatima was looking for a Spanish Literature teacher and so I headed to the College to put in my application. Mr. Pantin was warm, helpful and welcoming. He made me feel totally at ease in his company. He engaged me in a discussion on my life, UWI and my reasons for wanting to come to Fatima. I returned a few weeks later with two recommendations. Mr. Pantin did some investigation into my background, realized that I did not have a police record and assured me that once I got my degree, he was taking me on staff.

In September 1972, I officially became a Fatima teacher. It was an exciting time for all of us with two very forceful and energetic individuals in Mr. Pantin and Fr. Farfan. They regaled me about their plans for education and the direction Fatima was heading. Mr. Pantin expressed his abhorrence for the system of streaming, the restricted Form 6 groupings and the over-emphasis on academics. He stressed the importance of well-rounded individuals.



He spoke to me about his plans to introduce free choice of subjects, making it possible for an individual to choose Maths, Physics and Spanish in Form 6. He was going to eliminate streaming immediately. Students needed a period after Common Entrance free from too much academic competition. He recoiled at the idea of a 2B and 3B class and the damaging effects of streaming in the lower forms.

He felt that education catered too much for those at the top. We were there to serve the majority of pupils.

Fatima underwent several changes in the 70s. The curriculum was diversified with the introduction of Art, Physical Education, Industrial Art, Technical Drawing, Principles of Accounts and Commerce. In 1975, the afternoon peri-



ods were dropped to accommodate a wide range of activities, including Auto Mechanics, AV Techniques, Music Appreciation, Cuisine, Dance, Drama, Welding, Woodwork, Printing, Photography, in addition to the usual sporting activities.

The Fatima Development Fund was launched and the AV Centre, Library and three Form 6 classes were constructed. Fatima contributed to the growth and development of the Audio Visual Industry of Trinidad and Tobago. This centre provided students with a range of career opportunities. He was indeed a visionary.

Mr. Pantin coined several phrases to motivate staff and pupils. These served to define his philosophy of education and his approach to life. He encouraged the Fatima Community to "aim at excellence". He emphasized "service before self" which was the hallmark of the Pantin clan. He constantly reminded staff that we were in the business of education "for the good of the boys".

Mr. Pantin was himself an outstanding sportsman who represented Trinidad at Football and Hockey. He also played Cricket for Fatima when the team comprised teachers and pupils. He was thus an integral part of the Fatima teachers' Cricket and Football teams. I remember a Football match against Belmont Secondary when they laughed as he and Mr. Moore made their way to the ground. "Old Man Team" they shouted. Well...old man Mr. Pantin proceeded to destroy them with four goals while they could not get past hard-tackling Mr. Moore. Fatima won that game 9-0.

Mr. Pantin was generally friendly and encouraging but he did not hesitate to correct you when you erred. I remember a Saturday when I came to school wearing a merino. I was at my



desk working when I heard a thundering voice "Young man, that's not the way you dress for work". I cheekily responded "but today is Saturday". He hit back "It does not matter". Mr. Moore came to me shortly after and advised me to apologize to Mr. Pantin and to leave the premises. I went to his office, apologized and headed home. I learnt a very valuable lesson that day. Once a teacher, always a teacher.

Mr. Pantin was a man of action quick to translate ideas into reality. When cultural-minded advocates such as Fenrick De Silva, Clifford Roach and myself stressed the need for a leisure programme in the school, he called a staff meeting and the activity period was born, with Errol Camino as coordinator. When he learnt the Government's plan to introduce technical and vocational subjects in the schools, he contacted his friend Arthur Chin Lee and the Huggins Workshops were built. After our Intercol victories in 1979, I showed him a scrapbook with clippings from the newspapers. He immediately called his friend Ken Gordon and we organized to give each player an album with pictures from the papers.

He initiated the Mucurapo Community School Project; offered Fatima ground to his friend Leslie Ramdoo to start a St. James Football League; built a new cafeteria and additional classrooms; and, established a Language Laboratory thanks to the Kirpalani Group of Companies. Mr. Pantin was Project-oriented. He kept moving from one activity to the next.

During the late 70s, I began to detect a sense of frustration with the slow pace of bureaucracy and the failure of others higher up to understand his vision. The AV centre was a success with Bruce Paddington as leader

assisted by such stalwarts as Seedansingh, Crooks, Headley, Smart, Breteron and others. But the same could not be said for other activities. Projects suffered through his inability to source staff. The Language Lab needed a full-time technician. The Huggins Workshops suffered through the lack of personnel. Neal and Massy seconded one Mr. Haynes to assist with Auto Mechanics but when his time was up, his understudy left teaching and the project stalled. Mr. Pantin grew frustrated with the problems in his community and so he formed the Woodbrook Action Group.

It was no surprise when he decided to enter the political arena. He honestly believed that he was going to make a difference and to help create a better society. He gave up 20 years of service and all attendant financial benefits to serve the country. Unfortunately, he was thrice rejected. Nevertheless, he promptly decided to channel his spirit and work into FEEL (The Foundation for the Enhancement and Enrichment of Life), with the Fatima Class of '75 as members of his Board. It is through this organization that Mr. Pantin managed to live true to his philosophy of putting service before self. FEEL was and continues to be an outstanding tribute to his legacy. What a great man!



Living The Grey Shirt – 2015 Hall Of Achievement Inductee, Joseph Esau

INTERVIEWER: STEFAN ROACH

His more scholarly colleagues would happily say: Ecame, Esau, and Econquered...that being the most apt description of Joseph P. Esau.

Joe, as Fatima's version of Julius Caesar, battled his way from 'behind the Bridge' to London Bridge—East Dry River through Nelson Street Boys, to Rosary Boys, to Fatima College (1960-1964), then Pannell Fitzpatrick Chartered Accountants' offices in the British capital.

Back in Trinidad two years later, he handled a range of notable clients, served on public and private sector Boards, and made his especial mark with the groundbreaking Revitalization Plan which turned an ailing McEneaney Alstons Group into a still-continuing robust Ansa McAl Group.

Today, his own 'self-rescue' and relaxation range between family and fishing...as even Caesar deserves a rest.

Q Describe the population of the school in your time.

A To start with, Fatima was not the top choice. The top choices were Saint Mary's then QRC. We were a relatively smaller school aspiring to get up to the level of distinction in everything, including Cricket and Football. I think the population may have been 400. It was denominational and truly represented Trinidad and Tobago. Although it was Catholic, I remember there being a fair number of Muslims and Hindus.

Q Where did you grow up?

A East POS, Queen Street, now double-re-named after Queen Janelle Commissiong. I was born there and lived there for the first 18 years of my life. I just turned 71. Things were very different back then. It was a strong community, although poor to lower middle class, as people looked out for one another. I was disciplined many times by neighbours. I grew up humble but was never aware of lacking anything. We always had enough to be contented. My dad rode a bicycle and I remember when he got his first car, a second-hand one when I was about 6 years old. I remember getting our first 'fridge and years later getting our first television.

Q What extra-curricular activities did you participate in at Fatima?

A It was casual. I played a bit of Cricket and Football but never rose to represent the school teams.

Q Have you maintained your friendships from school?

A Some...not as closely as it could be but I still have kept a few. Friendships never die. I certainly have a lot of acquaintances that I meet, and we have camaraderie but few friendships, possibly because of how our personal lives and careers evolved. However, the feelings we have for one another are definitely Fatima-strong.

Q Who taught you accounts and business subjects?

A My activities in business as an academic pursuit really arose after school. In Fatima, we had a subject called Commerce, which was superficially done for one or two years before the Cambridge exam. After I left school I did a UWI extra-mural course in Economics for a while. Commerce may have sparked an interest. I then decided to try accounting, and landed a job as an audit trainee at Pannell Fitzpatrick, now EY, worked and studied, and qualified while I was seconded to the firm's London office.

Q What aspects of Fatima life best prepared you for the working world?

A The camaraderie, the grounding we got for a real-world experience, the values that we acquired, no matter your religion. The combination of lay-teachers and priests



created a favourable environment for development of good values for the student. Students represented every sector of Trinidad and Tobago and we mixed and shared everything. Night study was also a good experience. It was a disciplined environment where students came out to truly study, which helped a great deal. We had limes before and after night studies.

Q Is it true that the accountant is the backbone of any company?

A I wouldn't go so far. Instead of specifying one discipline, I would say it's the leadership and tone that is set from the top, which starts with the Chief Executive. What I can say is that an accounting career prepares one for higher levels of management if one is so inclined.

Q You are well known for turning around McAL in the late 80s. In a nutshell, describe your Revitalization Plan against the backdrop of the economy at the time.

A The economy was in more dire straits at that time, compared to now. We are probably now heading in that direction if corrective measures are not taken. We were in the heights of a depression, not recession...an eight to 10-year depression. But difficult times are also times of opportunity.

Get **25% OFF**
the purchase of a complete pair of
LIGHTEC frames with prescription lenses!

LOOK
OPTICIANS
love what you see

LT
lightec

Offer valid while stocks last.

f lookopticians look-opticians.com

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

Port of Spain • Woodbrook
St. Augustine • San Fernando

The plan was very basic. There were two failed takeover bids in 1986, one from the ABIL group, and the other from the Angostura group which was really a combined Angostura/Neal and Massy collaboration. McAl was in a state of collapse with its shares being traded at around sixty cents, where the receivers were already in the motor vehicle businesses; the assembly plant and car dealerships. The Group was about to be broken up and I saw that as an opportunity. As luck would have it, I was assisting at the New Life Ministries, a drug rehabilitation programme, where I met Conrad O'Brien who was the CEO of McAL at the time. During our chats, the opportunity arose to put together a plan, which I did. Fundamentally, the plan involved recapitalization which would put new money into the Group to strengthen it, rather than buying out existing shareholders which the failed bids involved. Interestingly, the McAL Board told me that they would pursue the plan if I came in as Finance Director. Also of interest is that before my plan was presented to and accepted by the ANSA Group, it was turned down by two other major businesses.

Once I started working with the group, within six months I became the CEO. The first step was recapitalization and the second step was to ensure the senior positions within the group were held by the right people. Special attention was given to the Carib Brewery (which was quickly losing its market leadership position to Stag), and to the vehicle assembly plant. The brewery was at negative cash flow and I ran it for about six months while also being Group CEO. One of the early actions was to reduce the price of beer. This resulted in an explosion in demand, turned around the business and brought Stag/National Brewing to the negotiating table.

I believe it was luck that led me to meet Roland Amar, whom I contracted to re-start the Union-blockaded vehicle assembly plant. This was essential as we had about \$100 million worth of vehicle CKD kits that we absolutely had to monetize for the Plan to work. The inherited McAl plan was to assemble the vehicles at the Neal & Massy plant at exorbitant assembly charges.

Q Briefly tell us about the situation leading up to the purchase of the National Brewing Company (Stag) by McAL.

A Carib was very badly managed. The traditional leadership was arrogant—they

thought that the brand was invincible. Dennis Ramdeen, a Fatima Old Boy and friend, was the head of marketing at Stag and was cutting our tail. Carib was close to losing majority market share, from a position of dominance a couple of years earlier.

I had earlier hired Tim Nafziger, now deceased, to fast track the computerization of the McAl group, and decided against much resistance to appoint him as CEO of Carib. We engaged in some very dynamic marketing activities, some of which are not in the public domain. For example, we had a fabulous hospitality lounge facility that was used by executives to entertain their business associates and friends. I changed that dynamic and decided that there should be no more white-collar people there. Instead, we used it for internal activities, and had bar owners as our luncheon guests twice weekly, to rebuild lost partnership with these vital customers, and to gather market intelligence! So the marketing went far beyond just advertising and promotion, it got to the root and the guts of the customer base.

One strategy was to reduce the retail price of Carib to \$1.99. After you back out VAT, excise tax and the distributor's and retailer's margins along the chain, we were in fact selling a beer for around 70 cents. We were actually able to turn this into a profit because of the greatly expanded volumes. And production efficiencies improved dramatically.

We also had to change the culture of the Company. I remember calling an assembly of all the employees at the factory, and this was in fact the first time that most of them ever met the person running the Company. It was a session that lasted around three hours, but by the end of it, we had the commitment from the team for continuous feedback to help turn the Carib brand and company around.

Once we regained market share and restored profitability, it was critical to have only one local brewing company as the market was too small for two sustainable operators. I initiated discussions in Amsterdam with Heineken for the acquisition of National Brewing, and concluded an acquisition and partnership agreement in which Heineken owned 20% of the combined brewery.

Q Do you think that your "rootsy" upbringing helped with being able to relate with people at all levels of society?

Joe's Grandchildren



Joe Esau and wife

A I think that was critical in every aspect of my life. In fact, I credit everything positive in my life to my upbringing and early environment—the values acquired, and my ability to read people and situations. Call it street-smarts.

Q You contributed to the Victor E. Mountet Group in its acquisition of Prestige Holdings Ltd (PHL) in 1997 and led the Company to a successful public share offering in 1999. Today PHL's brands include KFC, Pizza Hut, TGI Fridays, Subway and Starbucks. Other brands you assisted another partnership in bringing to T&T include PriceSmart, Payless and Marriott. Against the backdrop of today's economy and with issues such as the shortage of USD, how does maintaining these multinational brands benefit our country?

A Let me use PriceSmart as an example. When it was brought to Trinidad, part of the initial financing came from the IFC. The basis on which the IFC provided financing for that project was their recognition that it would stimulate and improve the retail and distributive sectors' efficiency. That meant the improved efficiency would result in better value for the country, and living standards. PriceSmart does not import anything that otherwise would not be imported; they haven't put any local manufacturer out of business. It has created an extremely efficient mechanism for bringing value to the customer through quality products at reduced prices. They have forced margins and prices down and have caused competitors to improve their services to the customer.

The service in the Supermarket sector was something completely different before PriceSmart. The Supermarkets Association took an official stance opposing the entry of PriceSmart into the market, so much so that Victor E Mouttet Limited which was an initial investor, was being boycotted by supermarkets and eventually had to pull out as a partner in PriceSmart.

T&T-manufactured products are not only supplied to the four local stores, but are exported to other PriceSmart markets in the Caribbean and Latin America; and there is a new focus to support local industry.

The sustainability of PriceSmart is assured as long as they continue to bring value to their members. There are challenges with regards to the allocation of foreign exchange, but the reality is that the population is the consumer of that foreign exchange. If PriceSmart wasn't here, we would be consuming more foreign exchange for the same volume of goods. Therefore, the claim that these foreign entities are hurting the economy is a lot of nonsense. Look at the overall value and service they bring to the population. If you go to the thousands of small shops/parlours in Trinidad and Tobago, you would find that they are resellers of goods purchased from PriceSmart at lower prices. Unfortunately, nationalism is confused with self-interest.

With regard to the restaurant industry, let's use KFC as an example. Before I went in as Chairman of Prestige, the poultry processing industry was at the point of bankruptcy. The KFC management used to negotiate prices weekly with the local chicken processors. One of the first things we did was to negotiate with Arawak, a contract that would bring stability to their business. I say without reservation that

the poultry industry in Trinidad is strong today because of Prestige Holdings and KFC as the largest purchaser of chicken.

The five brands that Prestige Holdings operates have raised the standards of service and product quality in the restaurant industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

Marriott was the first decent hotel to be built in Trinidad since the Hilton about 40 years earlier, and at a time when the economy was moribund.

Payless Shoes brought style, variety and tremendous value to the local mass market, and I am convinced that more foreign exchange would be used had Payless not been here. People are not wearing more imported shoes because of Payless's presence.

Q Was your role as the executive chairman of BWIA your toughest State assignment?

A Yes. I've served on many State boards under several governments but BWIA was the only one where I had a substantive leadership role. The culture was extremely difficult. The most challenging part of this assignment was that BWIA had to be privatized or closed, as the losses were unsustainable. We had to get rid of around 800 jobs, and there was not a family without a close relative or friend that hadn't been touched by the BWIA crisis. But the Government had drawn the line as the country could no longer afford to carry the losses. During my time at BWIA, the Treasury couldn't provide any funding, and so all of the tough actions were taken out of absolute necessity.

I think that the State Enterprise sector is extremely unproductive, and costly to the population. Governments have no business in business.

Q Why, up to today, we still can't seem to profitably operate our airline?

A No State airline has ever operated profitably. This is a fact. Sometimes it might be profitable for a period, but never sustainably. It is a very capital intensive, efficient industry in which the operators are cut-throat competitors.

Q List three adjectives that best describe you in the boardroom.

A I try to be well-prepared and informed for deliberation. This one may be a weakness or a strength, but I am tenacious when I believe an action is required, and per-

haps a bit too determined to sell it to my colleagues; but at the same time I am open to challenge.

I think by nature, I am a contrarian...I tend to look at the alternative rather than the obvious.

Q If you were Finance Minister today, what would you emphasize for the recovery of our economy?

A That's difficult because I don't have the information that the Finance Minister has. I would suggest: doing a better job at selling to the population that it is not doom and gloom, but that serious adjustments are required for us to become competitive and self-sustaining.

I think we have wasted almost two years in making the hard decisions that are inevitable. There is no likelihood of things going back to where they were. Global oil and gas consumption would not increase much, given improved efficiency and renewables. The high gas prices from five years ago were mainly due to the nuclear meltdown in Japan and the resulting closure of nuclear facilities. That is all changed now.

I believe that with good leadership and management, we should be reasonably comfortable as a Nation going forward. Over the next two years, energy prices may recover somewhat, but they would not return to the highs of 2014. We should therefore reduce waste. We cannot continue with this recurrent deficit budget of \$10 billion, and the best time for action is while we have resources to manage the adjustment. We must become more efficient, which means seriously cutting unproductive State expenditures.

We also need to adjust the exchange rate to a level where there is closer balance in the supply/demand, and where it can be defended by the Central Bank. If you adjust the exchange rate to the required level, you do two things:

1. You would dampen consumption of imported goods, and demand for foreign exchange would fall
2. The black market would weaken as confidence in the Central Bank is restored. The reality is that the treasury and Central Bank are currently subsidizing the foreign exchange rate, and the average citizen knows it too well; many are queuing at the banks to purchase US dollars, as they know it will cost more in the near future.



Joe's wife and grand daughter

I also find it ridiculous that illegal immigrants are coming here and are in jobs that locals refuse to do. Imagine, we are in an economic crisis and there are restaurants operated by Prestige that cannot open on time, and which are operated at reduced staffing because of staff shortages and absenteeism. Part of the problem is the government 'make-work' programmes. People have become accustomed to being paid for doing less than a day's work. I'm not saying that there should not be social programmes for the needy, but there are too many people riding on the backs of the State who don't need it.

There are people who are drawing State pensions who wouldn't qualify under appropriate means tests. I built my home 42 years ago, and paid the same land and building taxes until 2009 when it was abolished!

We have been spoon-fed by successive governments over the past 25 years, and the reduction of subsidies and wasteful State programmes is an urgent imperative if we are to avoid a crisis that resembles that of the eighties.

Q Today we see how many traditional so-called 'prestigious' fields of study are now becoming overcrowded and lacking jobs, such as law, medicine and engineering. Do you think that Accounting will always be a safe career path?

A No, I think it is cyclical but the cycles are not that dramatic. One good thing about Accounting is that one does not have to stay in Accounting. There are options for branching out, for example into Marketing and other business disciplines. There are lots of CEOs today who are accountants. It depends on the individual's personality and inclination.

Q In today's economy, is it better to be a 'Jack of all trades' or a 'Master of one'?

A Certainly not a 'Master of one' but you must be a master of many. We are in the era of the technology revolution, and the days of a single career are over.

Q Briefly tell us about your family.

A I have 4 grandchildren...3 from my son and 1 from my stepson. I get to see them regularly and I would say we have a very happy family life.

Q Having served, on numerous State Boards, how were you able to steer clear of the political bacchanal?

A I wouldn't say I was necessarily able to steer clear of it. My tenures on the Boards of TELCO and BWIA were during very difficult economic and controversial periods, and the tough actions were frequently in the press; there was even a calypso titled "TELCO POOPS". I was able to steer clear of being tarnished because I always had a clear sense of what was the right thing and stuck with it, and that gives you protection. If you stick with what is the right position, then you cannot be harmed. It will be an embarrassment to a politician to go after you if you stick to the right course. They can only go after you if you are off the rails.

Q How are you spending your retirement?

A Still not fully retired...I spend a couple hours a day working at home from where I have operated for the last twenty plus years. Usually, my wife and I would have breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner together, so we are very close. And I travel for about eight Board meetings annually.

Q What stands today on the National landscape as your proudest legacy?

A I am proud of being one of the founding Directors of Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, at present the only surviving one! The strength and success of McAL today also; due largely to the plan which I developed and executed in the late 80's for its survival and growth.

Q What did it mean to you being inducted into the Fatima Hall of Achievement?

A That was a crowning achievement. I consider it really an honour.

Q What can we do differently in schools such as Fatima College to ensure that the country's next generation of leaders are better than today's?

A I am not aware of the curriculum but it must be designed and executed for the new economy. Good values should be emphasized as that is our single biggest challenge in all sectors and institutions in the country. We should also become very strong in sensitizing the youngsters and developing their ability to grasp opportunities in the world of technology, which is now in another revolutionary state.

Q "Do what you love and never work a day in your life." Is this statement true?

A No...do what you love certainly, but it should also give you mental stimulation, otherwise it could become boring. I think the statement is right in that doing what

you love is not drudgery, however it is work. Certainly don't do it if you don't love it.

Q Students at a Form 3 level are often confused as to what subjects to choose. What would be your advice to these young students in making these early decisions meant to influence their future career path?

A I would look into the subjects that fit their intended career-stream. Look into what Universities require, particularly in the sciences. I also believe the days of one career are gone. Technology must be part of what you are doing, so you should certainly ensure that there is opportunity for working with technology, regardless of the intended career-path.

Q Any closing remarks.

A I want to continue to be proud of the products that Fatima churns out for this country and beyond. I've always noticed distinction from Fatima graduates in my world, and I would like to see that continue to prosper.

TSZ The Security Zone

HOTTEST GIFTS

32"-55" Smart TV's

Amazon Kindle Fire

Amazon FireStick

Amazon Echo Dot

Action Cameras

Apple iPad Mini

HIK VISION 6 Camera Kit

Ready Finance

28 Mooneram Street, St. James | Phone: 628-7259

f (The Security Zone) i (tszretailstore) W (www.thesecurityzone.net)

Images from Food Fest

held Saturday 9th October 2017



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

The Form 6 experience at Robert Wickham Conference

OUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CONFERENCE "SOAR ABOVE THE RECESSION" WAS ONE THAT GAVE A STIMULATING 'CLOSE ENCOUNTER' WITH STRATEGIES FOR INNOVATION, GROWTH AND EXPANSION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S ECONOMY. THE SPEAKERS EACH GAVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON HOW BUSINESSES COULD SUCCEED IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND BEYOND.

Kristine Gibbon-Thompson gave an inspiring account of her experience in bringing Chuck E. Cheese's Restaurants to Trinidad. For us, it provided a motivating example of how a local entrepreneur engaged an international franchise to start a business in Trinidad. She related how her business model stood out from other entertainment options, and how she saw the opportunity to start her business.

Gervase Warner also gave a very pertinent presentation for those concerned about the development of the Trinidad and Tobago economy. As the President and Group CEO of Massy, one of the largest conglomerates in T&T, he was able to share his hands-on knowledge of the workings of the economy. He was honest about the challenges that he faced, among them the foreign exchange shortage, but was also optimistic that his Company could find innovative ways to address them.

Robert Wickham, a Fatima Old Boy, focused his presentation on how technology will impact the way business is done in the 21st century. He discussed the Fourth Industrial Revolution which has resulted in the linking of technologies to provide an easier and more

convenient experience. Robert emphasised that firms should focus more on their customers and the customer-experience. He also provided an instructive analysis of how data can be better used to this end.

Having acquired a better understanding of how innovation and growth can be achieved, we hope to contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's development as the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for the experience and guidance.
Jelani Corbie, Kaser Peyreau, Jeremiah McComie, Nathan Boynes

SOAR ABOVE THE RECESSION
A BUSINESS LEADERS CONFERENCE

Join a panel of successful business leaders for inspiring insight into strategies for innovation, growth and expansion.

Tuesday 12th September, 2017
Begin 8.00 a.m. Breakfast served from 7.00 a.m.
1 HWY 7 (Pegasus Mall, Wightman Road, Port of Spain)
TTS 2000 + VAT. Discounts for table of 10

TO REGISTER
ask@imaginemediatt.com 1-868-475-7160 www.imaginemediatt.com

PLATINUM SPONSOR
Republic Bank

imagine media THE USA WICKHAM HARRISMAN JONES

10% DISCOUNT to FOBA Members OFFER ENDS Aug 21, 2017



FOBA's 2017, 7-A-Side Football Tournament

FOBA HELD ITS ANNUAL FOOTBALL 7'S TOURNAMENT ON SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER ON FATIMA GROUNDS.

The past two years since The Return of The Annual Football 7's Tournament, we have had great turnout by the Old Boys. This year, we changed the format and invited the other Old Boys Associations. Response wasn't what we expected, but St. Anthony's made the commitment and came with two teams: an Under-40 team and Over-40 team, thereby allowing us to have a full tournament, with 16 teams total.

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'

Unruly F.C.
St. Anthony's U40
Stickerz
Skunks F.C.
Soca Squad

Under-40 Group 'B'

O Four United
Round 4
Sweaterans F.C.
More Drinks than Goals
Amitaf F.C.

Over-40

Not so Young Ole Boys
Young Ole Boys
Fatima and Friends
S.S.K.G.V.
Expendables Over 40
St. Anthony's Over 40

Camaraderie on the day was high as all teams were in the Pavilion and you know how picong flies 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 and Blue Waters.

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 the occasion memorable. Looking forward to 2018.



EVENT RESULTS

Under-40

Winner ~ St. Anthony's Under-40
2nd Place ~ Unruly F.C.
3rd Place ~ Skunkz
Best Camaraderie ~ Not so Young Old Boys

Over-40

Winner ~ Fatima n Friends
2nd Place ~ Not so Young Old Boys
3rd Place ~ St. Anthony's Over-40
Most Goals ~ Expendables



GUITARIST STEFAN ROACH AND LOS GITANOS

Specialising in Flamenco, Bossa Nova, Latin and popular music from all over the world

EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC. PERFECT FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENTS, DINNERS, COCKTAILS AND FUNCTIONS



ssrguitar@outlook.com | 487 - 1360 | www.ssrguitar.com

Photos courtesy Roger Smith. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums

What's happening in Sports

SCRABBLE

Congratulations to Fatima's **Daniel Henriques** who, in August, represented Trinidad & Tobago at the Junior World Scrabble Championships in Nottingham, England, and placed 3rd. Of the 24 matches, Henriques won 16 and lost 8. This is the highest any T&T Scrabble player has ever placed at the World Tournament. Henriques placed 12th last year.

T&T NATIONAL SCRABBLE COMPETITION—11TH NOVEMBER 2017:

Daniel Henriques: 1st Prize

- Senior; Highest Score in a single play

Christopher Joseph: 1st Prize

- Junior

FATIMA COLLEGE NORTH ZONE AND SENIOR CHAMPIONS

Team members:

Brenden Persad
Dominic Creese
Syon Prospere
Amir Gopaul
Richard Kerr
Antonio Martinez



From left: Daniel Hendriques, Amir Gopaul, Syon Prospere, Brenden Persad, Christopher Joseph, Dominic Creese

FOOTBALL



U13 League Champions

FOOTBALL RESULTS

as of 27 November 2017

U13:

- North Zone League Champions
- North Zone Knockout Champions

U14:

- North Zone League Champions
- National Champions

U16:

- North Zone League Champions
- National Champions

U20:

- 5th place in the league
- Intercol semifinalist



U14 National Champions

SEABOARD

TRINIDAD

THE LEADER IN OCEAN TRANSPORTATION

www.seaboardmarine.com



U16 National Champions

HOCKEY



U20 National Indoor Hockey Champions

NATIONAL DUTY

Michael Gonsalves and Geddes Phillip represented T&T at the Under-18 qualifiers for the Rugby Americas North.

Zachary Siewah went to England with the Secondary Schools Cricket League team in August.

Chaedon Raymond was selected on the T&T National Under-15 cricket team.

Michael Ambard and Giovanni Letren were selected on the T&T National Under-17 cricket team.

Luke Ferreira, Darrian Nimblett and Logan Raymond represented T&T at the inaugural CARIFTA Triathlon and Aquathlon Championships held in Barbados in October.

Luke copped the Gold Medal in the Triathlon (Age 11-12), and Darrian captured the Silver Medal in the Triathlon (Age 13-15).



Trinidad and Tobago National Carifta Team.

Luke Ferreira: 1st row, extreme left
Darrian Nimblett: 2nd row, 2nd from left
Logan Raymond: 2nd row, 3rd from left

Central American and Caribbean Amateur Swimming Confederation (CCCCAN) - Dylan Carter, Jabari Baptiste, Kegan Ford, Joshua Romany.



Upcoming Events

Jus Bring It Cooler Fete (with Kairi People)
WED 3RD JANUARY 2018

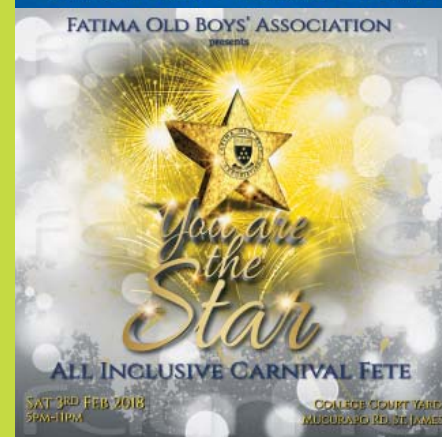
<https://www.facebook.com/events/154663355143616/>

All-Inclusive Carnival Fete
SAT 3RD FEBRUARY 2018

<https://www.facebook.com/events/202777883627119/>

Splash Cooler Cruise (with Holy Name Convent Alumni Association & St. Francois Girls College Alumnae)
WED 7TH FEBRUARY 2018

<https://www.facebook.com/events/193522317876095/>



Are They Ready for CAPE and CSEC?

“I need extra lessons for my child”

The answer is Flow Study.
Give your child Flow Study for:

- Online courses
- Exam strategies
- Study tips
- Past papers
- Virtual labs



visit flowstudy.co



Access via your smartphone, tablet or computer.
For all your CAPE and CSEC questions, Flow Study is the right answer.

FLOWstudy

Flash Back

If you have any old school photos that you would like to share, please submit them to: contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt



Audio Visual Room



Clive Pantin in Language Lab



Intercol 1965 - Some of the members of the winning Intercol Team from 1965: L to R: Earl Fough, Frank Mahabir, Earl Jackson, Roderick James, Anthony Weekes

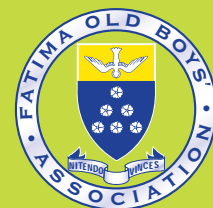


Letters to the Editor

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

Be a part of FOBA and join one of our sub-committees...

Sponsorship, Events, Recognition & Benefits and Alumni. Visit www.foba.fatima.edu.tt/about/sub-committees for details on the sub-committees



YouTube

LinkedIn