



Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

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A brief History of Fatima College

Continued from Issue 3 - Sept 09

Fr. Byrne was succeeded by an equally devoted and caring individual, Fr. James Ryan, who had joined the staff in 1949. In his first Prize Giving Function in 1955, Fr Ryan paid tribute to Fr. Byrne "In the short space of nine years, he accomplished more than many another man would do in 19 or 29 years".

Fr. Ryan guided Fatima's destiny throughout the fifties and sixties when the P.N.M came to power with revolutionary plans for education and sweeping changes took place not only in education but in the country as a whole.

The Concordat was signed between Church and State in 1960, Common Entrance introduced in 1961 with 80% of

the places chosen by the Ministry of Education. The Education Act was ratified in 1965, a Draft Plan for Education-Development, 1968-1983, was approved. The debate raged between religious or secular control of education. The Church was forced to re-examine its role in education. Fr. Ryan felt that the Catholic character of their schools would be lost in the proposed system. He now had to adjust to many changes, for example those regarding the recruiting of teachers, the filling of vacancies, the granting of holidays, entrance to Form Six and the role of corporal punishment.

When the Draft Education Plan was put out for public comment, he voiced his concern about the role of religion in the schools, the maintenance of academic standards and the general development of children both in and out of schools.

At Prize Giving in April 1966, Fr. Ryan spelt out the role of Fatima: "This is a Catholic School. That is its salient feature, its first and most obvious characteristic; the great majority of applicants here are children

whose parents have asked for this school especially because it is Catholic - or at least have deliberately asked for it in preference to other schools, while knowing it to be Catholic." Fr. Ryan brought in many innovations but he made sure the Catholic character of the school remained top priority.

What type of person was Fr. Ryan? He was simple, meticulous, kind-hearted and serious, the utmost-professional, who got things done in his own gentle, persuasive style. He organised staff training sessions which some teachers talk about up to this day. He believed that discipline did not represent mere ordered activity.

Look out for the continuation in Issue 5

Upcoming Events

*FOBA Annual General Meeting
May 2010
Exact date to be announced soon*



Beyond the Grey Shirt



The Exploits of Dragon Boat Team FOBiA, Race Day, Stardate - 30 August 2009

By Captain George Lee Shee (Class of '68)



Team FOBiA crew: Anthony Joseph, Anthony Mc Comie, Antonio Davila, Chase De Souza, Daryl Woo, David Borely, George Lee Shee (captain), Gregory Lindsay, Keith Chan, Larry Hospedales, Marlon Bourgeois, Patrick Drakes, Raymond Samms, Roger Navarro, Stephen Harris, Maurice Rawlins and Stefan Charles.

This is the story of the voyage of the Dragon Boat crew, Team FOBiA whose mission it was to seek out and crush all other boats who dared to compete against us, especially ones manned by one St. Mary's college's alumni. With an inexperienced crew with 5 hours of training, looking good in our "Team FOBiA" uniforms, trying all kinds of energy drinks, we gathered on that fateful morning of 30 August 2009 at the infamously dirty bay bordering the Anchorage. We imperiously surveyed the enemy and went over the over-riding strategy of "Whatever happens or no matter how tired you feel, DO NOT STOP PADDLING!"

About 1200 hours, twenty in-shape men (round is a shape) went to the starting hut, huddled with the helmsman, Julius and our drummer, Analisa, and belted out the Fatima Song. Man, you had to be there to experience the feeling of togetherness and excitement! All boarded the boat except Captain Kirk who declined because of his advanced age. With Team FOBiA's boat fully loaded, there was a space of about 5 inches between the gunwale and the water. That is what is called weight! The St. Mary's vessel was floating high in the

water since it was loaded with a bunch of midgets or teens with pimples and acne still on their faces. Standing on the shore, Captain Kirk groaned at the sight.

Whoosh, the starting flag was waved and the race began! During the first 150 metres, Team FOBiA was struggling, paddles splashing and showing hardly any of the smooth strokes that were practiced during the prior weeks. Then it happened! Our big guns, Chase De Souza and Stefan Charles dug in with all their might and the rest of the crew sensed their dogged determination and energy and by the 250 metre mark, Team FOBiA was alongside the Saints' boat. The smug looks on the Saints' crew vanished and panic set in. The spectators got involved and cheering was in the air. At the 300 metre mark, according to the race officials, both boats crossed the finish line in a dead heat. Never in the history of Dragon Boat racing in Trinidad and Tobago, was there ever a tie!

With the age differences between both crews, we know who won the race. Captain Kirk felt so proud of the accomplishment of what started off as an ad hoc bunch of guys and finished as a team with members fully understanding the importance of teamwork and inter-dependencies. It augurs well that this Team FOBiA has just started and will set sail on the low seas to continue our mission for yarons to come.



A Trini in Beijing, Part Two

By Ruthven Thompson, Class of '91 (continued from Issue 3 - Sept. 09)



Those next two hours after the semi-final seemed as if they were, as the old folks say, "wearing long pants". It just dragged on, and on, and on. I remember sitting in the stands, trying to find things to do to pass the time. Luckily for me the

concession stand attendants were operating on only two speeds, slow and slower, so an hour of my wait was consumed there! When I got back to my seat, there were so many contrasting emotions being exhibited by the people who had come to support him. My mom was the epitome of calmness, while my dad seemed a bit uneasy. I was happy to be somewhere in-between the two. As the time drew nigh, my dad, my uncle & I left our seats and went down to an area reserved for the media. Of course we weren't supposed to be let into that area, but after explaining to them who we were and the fact that we had the flag



to give to Richard after he medaled, (yes we were that confident he would), the attendant let us into that "restricted" area.

The three of us wriggled our way into the crowded media area, decked out in

our Torpedo Thompson T-shirts, my dad with the National flag in his hand; me with mine draped around me like a cape... anxiously awaiting the start of the event. At first the media personnel didn't seem to like the intrusion, but as the minutes ticked by, they warmed to our Trini personalities and were soon wishing us the best.

Looking at Richard as he went thru his paces in the warm up, he was a picture of relaxation: smiling, laughing and just enjoying the moment. My dad said to my uncle and I "if I know my son, see how relaxed he looking? We in for something special tonight!". We watched Richard settle into the blocks, after doing his Machel "Jumbie" dance while pointing to the "Trinidad & Tobago" emblazoned on his track suit when his name called. "Easy as she goes", I muttered under my breath... no longer sitting, such was my excitement!

Well, it turns out that apparently my father knew his son!! LOL.

Look out for the 3rd and final part in the next issue



After graduating from Fatima College in 1984, Simon began his career in the Advertising Industry with a two year apprenticeship in Graphic Design, Darkroom techniques and Lithographic Printing with Creative Advertising Ltd. He next took up the position of Assistant Production Manager and Graphic Artist with Horshams Printing Products. After 14 years working in the printing industry, which included four years as the Senior Graphic Artist at T&T Printing Works Ltd., Simon moved into the Advertising arena.

He held the position of Senior Graphic Artist at The Edge Advertising Ltd., where he won two Gold Addy awards in 2001 for best press campaign in the Automotive and Alcohol Retail categories. In 2002 he was offered the position as Head of the Quality Assurance Department at Lonsdale Satchi and Satchi Advertising Ltd. And then the position of Manager of the Pre-Press Department at Caribbean Paper and Printed Products (1993) Ltd. In 2008 Simon resigned his position as the Promotions and Creative Design Coordinator at Value Optical Ltd. to start his own home based Graphic Design business.

He was an avid fisherman, and the family teased him by saying that the biggest thing he ever caught was himself! Besides fishing, he loved surfing, camping, snorkelling, spear-fishing, scuba-diving, sailing, boating, hiking, listening to Rock & Reggae music and camping. In fact, he used to camp in Paria, with his family, from as early as ten years old.

Simon was one of the first to answer the call when FOBA decided to publish a newsletter. He was enthusiastic on the aspect of giving back to his Alma Mater, and although he was busy starting his home based business, he selflessly gave his time and talent to this project, and as was responsible for the design and layout of the present FOBA Newsletter as well as the design of the present FOBA logo. As from our college song, within each of these newsletters, his spirit shall strive on, Simon, strive on.

Simon was not financially wealthy, but he was rich in spirit – he had fortitude. He was charitable & affable. He loved his family very much and lived his life focussed on trying to take care of them and be there for them no matter what the circumstance. He left to mourn his daughter Celine, his mother Irene, his father Haydn, his wife Alena, and his sister Andrea and of course all of his friends. He was laid to rest in a private burial at sea at the mouth of the first bocas near to the “tooth”, “down-the-islands”, one of his many favourite fishing spots, where he absolutely loved to be. May his soul now rest in peace!



What's happening in SPORTS

On Saturday 6th September 2009, FOBA held a Seven-A-Side football tournament which was open to all Fatima past students. There were 3 age groups: Under-30 (in which 4 teams competed), 30-45 (in which 12 teams competed), and Over-45 (in which 4 teams competed).

RESULTS:

Under 30yrs

- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| 1st | Challengers |
| 2nd | Soca Worriers |
| 3rd | Solo Team X |

30 – 45 yrs:

- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 1st | Sagikor Strykers |
| 2nd | Flavorite |
| 3rd | RAS Young Old Boys |

Over 45yrs:

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1st | Fatima Coaches |
| 2nd | Fatima Hockey Club |
| 3rd | Q.M. Caribbean
Fatima and Friends |

Most Disciplined Team: Solo Team X

Oldest Player: Earlyn Rambaran 65yrs – Fatima & Friends

Special thanks to all our sponsors;

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
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| T.C.M | |

Special thanks to:

- All Sport Promotions
Premier Party Rentals

Trophies awarded

- J.H. Ryan Trophy - Over 45 year group
Freddie Alban Trophy - 30-45 year group
Francis John Trophy – Under 30 year group



30-45 Group Winners - Sagikor Strykers





Beyond the Grey Shirt



Flashback - Pictorial Review



1st Fatima Sea Scout - 1953



Sea Scouts 1984-85



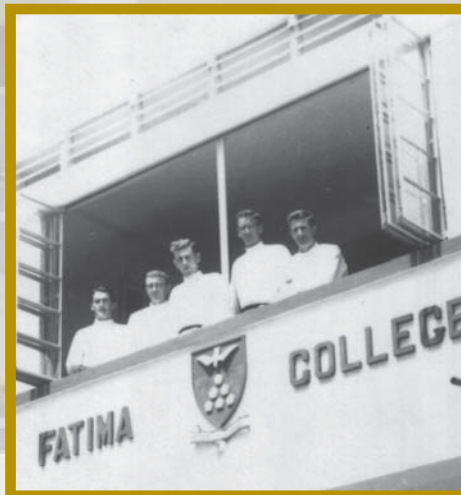
Football Team - 1953



Clive Pantin in language lab

Letters to the Editor

Anyone wishing to send letters to the editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt" can e-mail their contributions to:
contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt



Mr. Glen Roach back in the day.



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