



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

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Fatima College Hall of Achievement 2024

On Wednesday 4th December the 4th installation of The Fatima Hall of Achievement took place at the Government Campus Auditorium in Port of Spain. The occasion paid tribute to individuals who have shaped our college and continue to inspire future generations. This year seventeen individuals were honoured, including for the first time, two women who were the first ever female teachers at Fatima.

The honourees were categorised under the spheres of Education, Religion, Public Service, Business, Sport, Culture and Pioneers. Under the various categories they were:

Education - Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh, Mr. Anthony Garcia, Dr. Daphne Heywood, Dr. Bruce Paddington, Mrs. Jeannette Zakour-Elias

Religion - Fr. Gregory Augustine

Public Service - Mr. Roy Augustus

Business - Mr. Steve Bideshi

Sport - Mr. Anton Corneal

Culture - Mr. Robert Solomon and Mr. Peter Samuel

Pioneers - Dr. Nick Fuller, Dr. Kern Guppy, Dr. Colin Parris, Dr. Damani Piggott, Mr. Ronald Roberts, Mr. Geoff Seyon

Amongst the distinguished invitees included the President Her Excellency Christine Kangaloo and the first gentleman Mr. Kerwyn Garcia, along with members of the board of the Holy Ghost Fathers, Past FOBA Presidents, The 2024 Inductees and their Families.

President of Fatima Old Boys' Association, Christian Flemming, stated that the Hall of Achievement was not only a tribute, but a living testament to the boundless potential of a Fatima education. He also indicated the achievements of the honourees were not only a testament to their own perseverance but also the values instilled in them by Fatima College.

Board Member of the Holy Ghost Fathers Board of Management, Dwight Andrews, described the Fatima Hall of Achievement as a living archive of triumph, and a repository of inspiration for generations to come. He noted that the educational



institution's goal is more than just educating minds, but to ignite spirits and inspire purpose.

The feature address was delivered by Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Ayanna Gaspard-Clarke, on behalf of Dr. The Honorable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education. She emphasised the important role that a strong, stable community, through education, has on the development of young people in society and commended the tradition of Fatima College in being dedicated to honouring those who inspire generations.

>>> See full story on www.foba.fatima.edu.tt



Hall of Achievement

Inductees 2024



Fr Gregory Augustine



Roy Augustus



Prof. Sanjay Bahadoorsingh



Steve Bideshi



Anton Corneal



Dr. Nick Fuller



Anthony Garcia



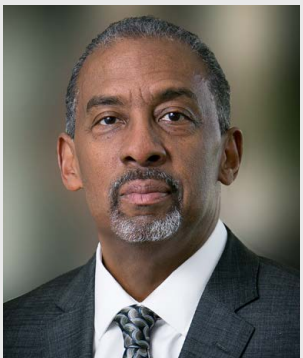
Dr. Kern H. Guppy



Dr Daphne Heywood



Dr. Bruce Paddington



Dr. Colin Parris



Dr. Damani Piggott



Ronald Roberts



Peter Samuel



Geoff Seyon



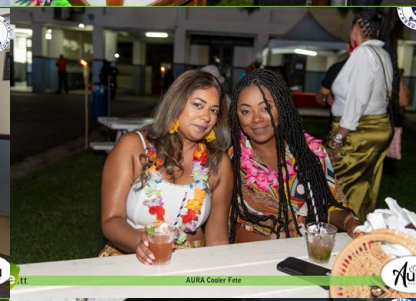
Robert Solomon



Jeannette Zakour-Elias

Images from Aura Cooler Party, held in collaboration with Farm House and St. François Girls' College Alumnae

on Saturday 13th July 2024





Photos courtesy Jael "Jay" Dirpaul, LimeTT. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums

Living the Grey Shirt – Shaun Escayg

Shaun Escayg (Class of 1994, Form 6) is a writer and director with an extensive background in visual effects and animation for film, music videos, and video games.

Shaun is best known for his work as:

- Animator on films such as *'Scott Pilgrim vs. The World'*, and *'Transformers: Dark of the Moon,'*
- Creative Director on video games *'Uncharted: The Lost Legacy'* and *'Marvel's Avengers'*
- Animation Director on the acclaimed video game *'The Last of Us.'* (The game has been adapted into a post-apocalyptic drama series, which premiered on HBO on January 15, 2023, to critical acclaim. Praised for its performances, writing, production design, and score, it has been considered by many as the best adaptation of a video game, winning several awards, including eight Primetime Emmy Awards out of 24 nominations. Season 2 is set to be released in early 2025.)

His debut live-action short film *'Fish,'* won Best Short Film at the 2012 Belize International Film Festival and Best International Film at the 2012 Malibu International Film Festival. It was also nominated for Best Short Film at the Oscar-qualifying LA Shorts Film Festival. His latest film, the sci-fi thriller *'Ikarus,'* made its Trinidad and Tobago debut at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival in September 2021.

Additionally, he has collaborated with eight-time Grammy winner Stephen Marley, directing thought-provoking music videos such as *'Ghetto Boy,' 'Rockstone,'* and *'Scars on My Feet.'*

Shaun is currently a Creative Director/Writer at Naughty Dog, the developer of some of the most critically acclaimed and top-selling video games on PlayStation platforms.

Q Why did you select Fatima?

A I've always been a bit of a rebel. My dad and his brothers, all proud Saints alumni, expected me to follow in their footsteps, but I wanted to forge my own path. Getting into a prestigious school on my own merit was my goal. I still remember the day I got accepted—the confidence, the pride. That moment really set the stage for everything that came after.

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

A I was definitely a troublemaker. I remember pulling a fast one on the incredible Harry Ramdass. During PE, I found a stray kitten and, being a pet lover, I smuggled it into Math

class and hid it in my school bag. But this hungry kitten meowed loudly during class. Harry had a knack for using the reflection of his glasses to spot and call out any would-be 'mischief makers' while writing on the blackboard—a talent that left even the best of us bewildered. So, you can imagine his confusion when he couldn't locate the source of the meowing. He was staring directly at me, the source of the meowing, but my lips were sealed, save for an ear-to-ear grin. This haunted him so much that I remember having a beer with Harry in my twenties during last lap in front of the Oval. I finally confessed. We laughed our asses off.

Q Who was your favourite teacher(s) and which teacher(s) did you give the most trouble?

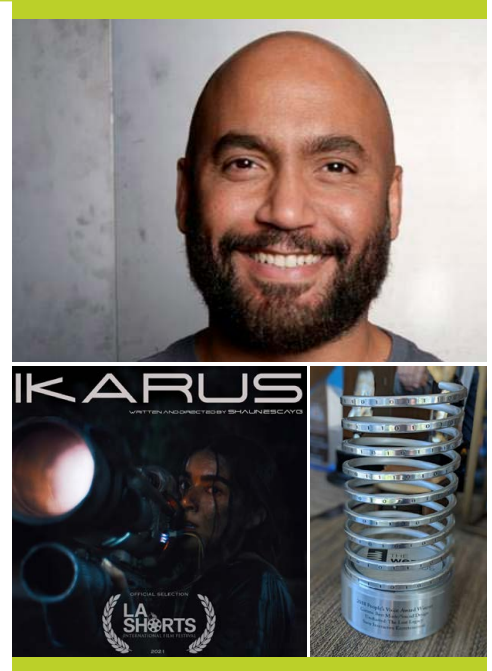
A I have many favorite teachers, each for different reasons. Harry Ramdass was a true educator who challenged us intellectually, drawing out our potential whether we wanted it or not. The loudest he ever raised his voice was to laugh. Mr. Lee Ha could solve any trigonometry problem faster than you could on your calculator. He once told me he'd never give me strokes again because it was ineffective. 'Wait! What? I wasn't even worth strokes?' That reverse psychology worked wonders. Mr. Joseph introduced me to John Keats, Lord Byron, and John Donne, and would often ask, 'Any questions?' And, when I'd raised my hand, he'd playfully add, 'Any SMART questions, Escayg?' Lastly, Ms. Allard, my art teacher, harnessed my creative talents. I gave them all trouble, but they never gave up on me, and for that, I'm indebted.

Q Did you play any sports or take part in any extracurricular activities at Fatima?

A Football was my sport, though I wasn't very good at it.

Q Have you been able to maintain friendships with your classmates since school? Any class reunions?

A The friendships I made in Fatima have stood the test of time. We don't have official "get togethers" per say... But when I'm home, nostalgic, or just need an ear...those are the friends I turn to. Some of my deepest bonds of friendship were forged in Fatima.



Q Tell us about your academic/career path post-Fatima.

A After Fatima, I joined the Roytec program and delved deep into computers and technology. Later I left for the US and pursued Fine Arts. Eventually, these two loves (computers/art) merged, and I began my career as a Computer Animator.

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

A During a parent-teacher meeting, my mother once asked Harry Ramdass for advice on how to get me more engaged at school. His reply was, 'She can't—Shaun can achieve anything, IF he wants it.' I've carried those words with me ever since, and they still hold true today: I can achieve anything.

Q "Ikarus" was shot on location in T&T and on the west coast of the United States during the Covid pandemic and tells the tale of brother and sister scavengers who pillage the cargo of the wealthy in search of valuable medical supplies on Earth in hope of buying access to a space colony. Tell us about the inspiration behind the film and the main challenges you encountered with Covid-restrictions.

Ikarus (Mr. Joseph, this one's for you) is inspired by the Greek myth 'The Flight of Icarus,' which tells of a father's daring plan to escape a labyrinth with his son, using wings fashioned from metal and feathers, held together with wax.

>>> See full interview on www.foba.fatima.edu.tt

Images from Fatima Food Fest – Savoury Sounds: A Jazz Feast, held on Saturday 12th October 2024

FATIMA FOOD FEST PRESENTS

Savoury Sounds!
A Jazz Feast

Sat 12th Oct

PRICE: \$500. Food & Drink Inclusive | Fatima College
Dinner: 7-9pm | Entertainment: 'till 11pm





Photos courtesy Jael "Jay" Dirpaul, LimeTT. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums

“Fatima and Friends” Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Fatima and Friends has evolved from being a Teachers’ team to one of Past Students and Friends. It started as Fatima Masters and played its first game against CIC in 1964. This game was organized by the Irish prefects, young men who spent some time in Fatima or CIC whilst preparing for the priesthood.



Francis John began teaching in Fatima in 1966 and his friend Earlwin Rahaman joined the team a year later. They both played for Notre Dame and there began an association with this sporting organization, one of many links over the years. Two individuals who played an important role on the team in the sixties were Clive Pantin and Father Farfan. Their many contacts ensured a busy schedule of games.

The team of the seventies was young and strong with players like Clive Pantin, Mervyn Moore, Mervyn Achille, John Braithwaite, Keith Jackman, Bobby Jadunath, Keith Thomas, Adrian King, Francis John, Francisco Garcia, Earlwin Rahaman, Bruce Paddington, Robert Charles with John Niles in goal.

Fatima dropped out of the Colleges League in 1974 and 1975. The teachers also started an evening school at Fatima and St. Anthony’s College. These events affected our schedule. Fatima ran an internal league involving teachers, pupils and Old Boys. The teachers participated in the league with the different houses, after whom the teams were named. The evening school initially ran from Monday to Friday. We then decided to lengthen the classes from Monday to Thursday to free Friday for our football games.

The boom years and poor salaries drove many teachers out of the profession. We lost not only many valued teachers but key members of our football team. We marched around the Red House and clamored for the formation of our one teachers’ Union. However, we could not field a team when the inaugural teachers’ league started. CIC faced the same problem. And so we decided to field a

joint Fatima and CIC team in the competition. Staff member Colin Murray coordinated our effort with Quincy Jones of CIC. This league was changed to a zonal format.

Several young teachers joined the staff in the early eighties, namely Ian Benjamin, Kieron James, Andy Alphonse, Christian Harragin and Brian Edwards. They all played football but we knew they would soon leave to further their studies. Richard Thompson also joined the staff and took over management of the team. He began inviting members of Diplomats of Diamond Vale to assist the team. We were joined by Robert Thompson, Trenton Govia, Michael Perrell, William De Souza and Roger Frankie Vierra.

To survive we teamed up with Amethyst Drive. 1984 was a critical year for Fatima Masters. We could not field a team for our opening game against Bel Boys. Only three teachers were available to play. We postponed the game to the following Friday. The situation did not improve. Francis John called a meeting of Richard Thompson, Frico Garcia and Glen Roach. We had to seek help to start the season. We extended invitations to all the coaches, friends and some Old Boys. Mervyn Moore invited the husbands of the female teachers. We issued an open invitation to Richard Thompson to recruit players from Diamond Vale, especially Amethyst Drive.

The team of the 80s was boosted by an influx of players, namely Ken Jaikaransingh, Bernard Pantin, Anthony and Louis Moore, Richard Clerk, Fulton De Four, Richard Hubbard, Hugh Grant, Glen Marin, Ricardo Williams, Chris Roach, Ronald Daniel and Kerry Gibbons.

We decided to change the name of the team. After flirting with names like Fatima Plus, Fatima Stars, Fatima Family, we settled on Fatima and Friends. Ken Jaikaransingh took on the sponsorship of the team. Fatima and Friends soared in popularity to become one of the most sought-after teams in the country.

The nineties can be described as a very busy period for Fatima and Friends. We gained several



new players in Nigel and Ronald Cooper, Wayne Henry, Allan Lum York, Richard and Gregory De Souza, Jason and Nathan Baptiste, Kirk and Chad De Freitas, Ricardo Waithe, Leslie Callender, Learie Parris, Russel Bowen, Reginald Dumas, Lester O’Souna, Arthur Jap Brown.

We played every Friday and weekend. We made trips to Cedros and Mayaro. We had out of season activities like a hike to Maracas Waterfalls, an outing to La Vega and a day with the parish of Maracas, St Joseph.

We started a windball cricket team with assistance from Jokers Sports Club of Boissiere Village and Rhand Credit Union. We played games against QRC, CIC, Massy, Atlantic, British Gas, IBM, Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive, Trinity College and Blue Boys band from San Fernando. As far as possible, we looked for new teams that were not part of our football schedule. We also took part in Harvard’s Windball Cricket Competition.

Our Principal Mervyn Moore retired in December 1999 after serving for more than 40 years. He played in the very first game for Fatima Masters. He was a committed member who hardly missed a game. Football was very important for him but even



more so was the socialization after every game. He once played competitive football for Notre Dame with Francis John, Earlwin Rahaman and Roderick Buff James of the victorious 1965 InterCol team. He brought this competitive spirit to Fatima and Friends and disliked the tactics of modern-day players using their hands and pulling jerseys. He reacted very angrily to these tactics. Kirk Waithe rechristened him 'Yatax'.

Anthony Garcia replaced Mervyn Moore as Principal. We then had a new Football committee and football coaching staff. Traditionally no practice took place on Fridays, the new committee deciding to start practice sessions on Fridays. We were informed that the ground was now unavailable to Fatima and Friends. We were prepared for this change and became a touring team. Various individuals offered us their grounds. We pay tribute to the late Peter Nunez who negotiated with the Principal of St George's College for the use of their ground. Our Diego Martin friends also offered us Diego Martin Secondary field whenever it was available. We also played against many schools which themselves had playing facilities.

In 2004, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a grand Dinner and Dance at Kapok Hotel. This function was organized and financed by our sponsor Ken Jaikaransingh of Lexicon Trinidad Ltd. Kapok Ballroom was bedecked with a glittering array of trophies and medals. Representatives of other teams were invited and everyone in attendance received a memento. The function was attended by our new Principal Mr. Anthony Garcia with wife Mrs. Beulah Garcia. He was extremely impressed with the function and began referring to Fatima and Friends as "one of the support groups in the school".

With the retirement of teachers and the influx of Old Boys, we realized we had to make drastic changes. The team was managed by teachers, and this could not continue. To ensure the future of Fatima and Friends we decided to hand over the team to past students who were members of the team, not the official Fatima Old Boys Association (FOBA).

And so we approached Geoffrey Lewis to become our new manager. Dexter "Chucky" John took



charge of fixtures and Skipper Francis John chose Dwight Andrews to be his understudy. TCM became our new sponsor. Later QM Caribbean took over, to be replaced by TSZ (The Security Zone).

The team was traumatized by the sudden and shocking death of our skipper Francis John. He was part of the team from 1966. He was a quiet individual but very stern on the football field, utterly loyal and committed to Fatima College. Dwight Andrews now took over as captain. Under the new management, the team made three trips to Tobago—but "what happens in Tobago stays in Tobago".

As a tribute to our fallen skipper, we started a **Francis John Memorial** which ran for three years. His wife Helen was presented a gift from the proceeds of the tournament.

From 2007 to 2010 we gained a few new members in Roger Johnston, Kurtis Rudd, Dexter Khan, Roberto Chiddick, Dave Hamilton, Louis and Leigh Thomas, Laurence Mc Master, Lester Winter, Stephen Christopher and Nigel Clement.

The team started a pre-season 'sweat', from the Friday after Easter to the end of August. This attracted many participants. Many used this opportunity to prepare for the Queens Park Football Tournament which took place during September and October. The team was also invited to numerous tournaments.

Fatima and Friends can now be considered a support group within Fatima. Members of the team now form part of FOBA. They are on the committees

organizing the Cook Out and the All Inclusive Fete. They assist the school in many other areas, some lending their professional skills. Our skipper Dwight Andrews went on to become the President of FOBA, and his company TSZ is a major sponsor within Fatima.

What does the future hold for Fatima and Friends? Sadly, we have witnessed the demise of many longstanding clubs. We have to ensure that we enjoy our present status, but we must always look to the future. Every year we seek out new players, especially from Fatima Old Boys.

We must keep on inviting players who understand our mission.

Our recent recruits include Gilbert John (nephew of our skipper for life, Francis John), Luke Ramdeen (of the popular Ramdeen family from St James), Paul Jones, David George, Joseph Taylor and Dwain Allahar.

Fatima and Friends is a delightful blend of Football, Food, Fun, Friendships and Fatigue. Put your hand up!

We promote the Fatima brand throughout the country, forging friendships with schools, companies, villages, clubs, ministries and popular organizations.

We aim to promote a healthy, positive image of Fatima...as we use our network to assist our beloved College.



The Fatima Old Boys' Association 2024 AGM

was held on Wednesday 26 June.

Following the Principal's Report given by Acting Principal, Ronald Cooper, the President's Report by President Christian Flemming and the Treasurer's Report by Marc Jardine, elections were held.

The elected Officers to the Management Committee were:

- President** – Mr. Christian Flemming
- Senior Vice President** – Mr. Graeme Ottley
- V.P. Finance** – Mr. Marc Jardine
- V.P. Sports and Culture** – Mr. Ronald Williams
- Secretary** – Mr. Andre Weekes
- Ordinary Members** – Mr. Raymond Samms, Mr. Carlos Cedeno, Mr. Jason Aguiton, Mr. Akil Myers, Mr. Maurice Simpson, Mr. Miguel Cielto, Mr. Adrian Jordan, Mr. Marc Campbell, Mr. Lendel Bethelmy

The elected sub-committee chairmen were:

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

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



Front Row (L to R) – Marc Jardine (VP Finance), Peter Corbie (Chairman Sponsorship Committee), Kevin Wells (Teacher Liaison), Ronald Williams (VP Sports & Extra Curricular Activities), Christian Flemming (President), Graeme Ottley (Senior VP), Andre Weekes (Secretary), Keston Quow (VP Strategic Operations)
Back Row (L to R) – Kevin Finch, Kendall Teloka (Chairman Alumni Committee), Jessel Evans, Kelvin Polson (Chairman Events Committee), Garvin Warwick, Jelani Corbie (Chairman Recognition and Benefits Committee), Sean Inniss, Akil Myers, Jason Aguiton, Miguel Cielto, Raymond Samms, Marc Campbell, Adrian Jordan
Missing – Carlos Cedeno, Jason Farrell, Kamu Laird, Lendel Bethelmy, Maurice Simpson

Fatima Class Reunions

Class of 1979 45-Year Reunion

The Fatima Class of 1979 celebrated their 45-year reunion the weekend of **July 12, 2024**. The weekend events included a lime at the Queen's Park Oval on Friday night and a mass at the Fatima Chapel on Saturday followed by a dinner/lime at China Palace.



Class of 1984 40-Year Reunion

The Fatima Class of 1984 celebrated their 40-year reunion the weekend of **June 28 2024**. All weekend events took place at the residence of classmate Gavin Chin Lee: a boys lime on Friday night and a Mass on Saturday night followed by a lime to which teachers and significant others were invited.



Class of 1982 Legacy Donation

The Fatima College Old Boys Class of '82 has the privilege of announcing the donation of 2 scholarships out of 100 in partnership with the SURE Foundation.

The foundation is committed to supporting children in vulnerable and at-risk communities and regularly supports children in children's residences and government schools who are underprivileged. Their ethos is embedded in the belief that investing the development of our nations human capital is a key driver of economic transformation. As such, the legacy donation from the class of '82 will seek to support this initiative which will cover costs of schoolbooks for children in need. For the 2024/2025 academic year this initiative has helped to support 100 children helping to build a brighter future for them and the nation.



OUR BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE SURE FOUNDATION WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY

Thank you!

For your kind support in our effort to bring relief to 100 needy children!

"The future of our nation lies in the school bags of our children"
- Dr. Eric Williams



Form 1 Orientation 2024/25

The Fatima Old Boys' Association was once again proud to participate in the Form 1 Orientation for the new group of students coming in for the 2024/25 academic year.

We had a chance to connect with the families and the students, some of whose fathers were Old Boys themselves. We are always happy to give back and inspire the new generations to walk through our alma mater's hallowed halls.

