
The OLD BOY



NEWSLETTER 31.12. 2006

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, MT. LAVINIA
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION, FOUNDED 1886

I RAN for my LIFE.... and WON!

On a quiet Sunday afternoon we met Revd. Denlie Peiris in his quaint home in Moratuwa. Seated on a reclining chair the Revd. re-lived his days at the School by the Sea, days in the thirties and the forties. It was a beautiful story to listen to. He had walked into the portals of S. Thomas', in the year 1926 into Form 1B where Mrs. Vanculenbergh was his class teacher. They didn't come packed like sardines in school vans or whiz in cars. That's how we did it in the 80's and the 90's. In those days, going to school was an adventure. A whole gang of Moratuwa Thomians would gather at the Moratuwa Railway station and catch a train to Mount. From the station, the group of boys would pick their way through coconut plantations and reach College. Those were good days and the College was still trying to establish itself at Mount.

For those of us of the later years, the College without the Chapel is unimaginable. For Revd. Peiris, his College, was, at least for sometime, without the Chapel! He said, "Near the present main gate there was nothing but a big hole. On that Warden McPherson started building the Chapel, the Chapel of the Transfiguration. It took four years to build and I saw it being built as a school boy". Having witnessed the construction of the edifice as a school boy, Revd. Peiris was elated to be invited as a Preacher at the Chapel of the Transfiguration in the year 1999.

Talking of his days at the College, the Revd. said "I must admit that I hated sports! Nevertheless, the master in charge of Sports insisted that I took part in Cross Country running for the College. I had never run in my life and shivered at the thought of it. On the day of the race, the presence of the master in charge with his glaring eyes made me run for my life in fear and it turned out that I came first in the event."

Many things have changed with time, but some things will always be the same. One of those that has been passed down through the generations is the art of attributing nick names to teachers. Revd. Peiris, being polite as he is, refers to them as 'loving' nicknames! He recalls of a master called 'Keyhole'. He earned this title for he used the keyholes to spy on the boys. Obviously he was a Boarding Master.

Then talking of the Royal Thomian encounter, Revd. Peiris recounts the practice where ingenious schemes were hatched to get more than one boy into the grounds with just one ticket. It seems only the price of the ticket has changed today.

Days of Revd. Peiris and the days that followed were crucial for the College. The Second World War had its impact on College life in the 1940's. There was a shortage of writing paper and building material. The College Magazine that was printed every term published only one edition during the war years.

On the 4th of April 1942, a military officer called at the bungalow of Warden de Saram and requested "vacant possession within 24 hours" of the College. That same evening, it is recorded that a small detachment of the Ceylon Light Infantry took over the College telephone for military use.

It was on the next day, the 5th of April 1942, that the now famous Easter Sunday raid of the Japanese unfolded in the skies over Ceylon. This was also the day on which a Japanese aeroplane crashed onto the edge of the Big Club grounds, narrowly missing the Chapel and giving rise to the legend of the Japanese ghosts in the Big Club which haunted the Winchester boys for generations afterwards!



Revd. Peiris keeps in touch with the 'Old Boy'.

It was also in the forties that the Gurutalawa branch of the College was opened. In 1942 the State Council decided to close all schools in Colombo. The Warden at that time, Warden de Saram, did not want to close S. Thomas'. Therefore he started exploring the possibilities of opening branches to house the school boys. Fortunately for the Thomians, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie de Saram gifted their farm in Gurutalawa.

There were many who came forward to assist the College, during the war years. Kingswood College, Kandy rendered the College a great service by putting her buildings and her playground at the disposal of the College. Mr. Ivor de Saram (son of the financial secretary of STC Mr. R.O. de Saram and at that time Police Magistrate of Kandy) who lived next door to Kingswood gave a part of his house for the College office. Mr. Lloyd Daniels gave the College a house rent free, at Peradeniya. Another blessing that came from the war was the opening of the Preparatory School at Bandarawela by one of the best teachers S. Thomas' had ever had, Mr. W.T. Keble.

The era of military occupation of the College ended in January 1946 and the College returned to Mount Lavinia. In the same year, S. Thomas' was blessed with the appointment of Revd. Roy H. Bowyer Yin as Acting Chaplain and he served the College till 1962. Father Yin as he was fondly known served as a mathematics teacher of the College Forms and Chaplain during his tenure at College. He adopted a very unique style in setting his term exam papers where the students were encouraged to "Try all the questions" which meant that one could answer all the 9 questions set and not "answer 7 out of the 9 questions". This did not mean that Revd. Bowyer Yin expected one to answer all nine questions but to try as many questions as he could and to assess a student on the basis of how well the paper was answered. It was he who introduced the "Service of Nine Lessons and Carols" which was a King's College Cambridge tradition.

This format of service has been maintained by our school to date and has become an event which is much looked forward to during Yuletide. In fact the same format of service has now spread to other Churches, schools and universities in Sri Lanka.

Revd. Denlie Peiris is to one of the few remaining Thomians of his era. Even after many years of leaving the College, he still remains grateful to the College for giving him a good education and equipping him to face the challenges that lay ahead in his life. This remains the same whether it be in the forties, fifties or the nineties.

Time Travellers.

Editors' Note: The Editors thank Revd. Denlie Peiris for granting this interview and sharing his days at the School by the Sea. We wish him long life and good health. Esto Perpetua.

A Tribute to a Great Warden



The Centenary Group paid tribute to one of the Greatest Wardens of S. Thomas', Canon R.S. De Saram, in unveiling a bust statue of the Warden.

The unveiling took place at the Annual General Meeting of the OBA held on the 10th of February 2006, at the College. The statue was unveiled by the Warden Dr. David A. Ponniah and the President of the Centenary Group Mr. Lincoln Fernando.

Holmes and the mystery of the missing wine

(as narrated by a locksmith of notoriety)

“It was the normal practice in the Dormitory to collect funds during the last weekend of each year to have a Buriyani feed and this particular year we were allowed to consume a small quantity of Port Wine. The case started where Mr. George Ekanayake, a very popular sportsman was in the sick room and his lion share was locked up in a prefect's cupboard. Oscar Livera and another chap (whose name I cannot recollect) asked me if I could do something and pick the lock, as I was noted as a clever locksmith. I had no alternative but to show my guts, I made a small tool with a piece of wire and within a short time I showed my colours. Oscar and the other chap drank most of the wine leaving me a little to finish. Human biological process turned wine to 'water' and we emptied it into the bottle and brought it back to full level.

George Ekanayake came back from the sick room and the prefects smacking their lips opened the cork. The 'water' had fermented and the cork puffed up and behold they were pushed back with the pungent aroma. They became furious and went to Dr. Hayman's room and complained. Dr. Hayman came into the dormitory and pacing up and down he pondered on who would have opened the cupboard. He came to the conclusion that this must be the work of Donald as I was notorious for this type of work, especially opening locks. He sent for me and directly put the question to me, thus “Donald did you open the cupboard?” giving me no chance to deny and I had to admit. I told “Yes, Sir” and he asked me as to what I did with the wine. I said I drank the entire quantity. He was shocked and said “You drank all that wine!”. He took the cane and gave me six thundering cuts. Dr. Hayman also deduced that Oscar had a connection to Backus, the God of Wine and so he sent for him. I listened through the keyhole and he too got the same treatment along with the other accomplice.

London's Sherlock Holmes had his companion Dr. Watson, but despite the handicap, Dr. Hayman caught the culprits.”

Donald Gunasekera
1927-1940



A Scout's log

Remembering the 1940's at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, brings to mind an outstanding personality of that era - Wilson I. Muthiah. He was an excellent scoutmaster, a dedicated teacher and a fine gentleman with a quiet sense of humour. His life centred around his teaching, his scouting and the care of his elderly, sick mother; in the furtherance of these vocational tasks he remained a bachelor throughout. Wilson I. Muthiah (affectionately known as "WIM") was scoutmaster of the then 16th Colombo Scout Troop based at STC and he cared for and nurtured this troop with great skill and compassion. He left an indelible impression on every young scout who was fortunate to be a member of the 16th Colombo.

He built up their characters and imparted to them life-skills, self-confidence and the ability to communicate effectively. He achieved these ends both by routine scouting activities and also through the production of regular concerts and the publication of a troop magazine. The concerts were always a sell out, featuring humorous skits and lilted musicals, the scripts and scores which he wrote himself. With this background, former scouts went onto play lead roles in university dramatics and one became an acclaimed international entertainer. A patrol leader became Head Prefect and another became the Editor of the College Magazine. Former scouts have distinguished themselves in diverse fields as leaders in the medical profession, company directors, successful bankers and a variety of other roles. We all owe Wilson I. Muthiah a deep debt of gratitude.

A Scout.

'A Scout' is another distinguished pupil of Wilson I. Muthiah, becoming the Co-Editor of the College Magazine and leader of the College Quiz Kid team. He was also the President of the Royal College of Surgeons (U.K.)

The Rev. Canon Roy Bower Yin



In December 1946, a legend strode into the portals of S. Thomas' from King's College, Cambridge. He served the College for over a decade till he left the College in 1962. The Reverend Roy Bowyer Yin in a fruitful tenure at the College served as the Chaplain, Director of the Choir and taught Mathematics and Divinity to the College Formers. Now, 96 years old, he lives in Singapore.

Revd. Yin was the son of an English lady and a Singaporean surgeon. As a child he grew up with little contact with Chinese children. Rev. Yin was born and spent his early years at 11 Leonie Road, Singapore. When he was 9 years of age, in 1919, his mother packed up and took him and his brother to reside in England. Hence Revd. Yin was educated in England.

Since Rev. A.J Foster was unable to take 'home leave' during the war years, the Board of S. Thomas' decided to grant him extended leave of six months. To cover for his absence, the School needed a stand in for 6 months and Rev. Yin was approached. Because of his desire to come over to the East, he took up what was meant to be a six-month temporary posting.

When Rev. Foster returned from home leave, Dr. R.L Hayman who was Sub Warden at Mt. Lavinia, proposed that Gurutalawa should be made a branch. Very soon Dr. Hayman was appointed Headmaster of Gurutalawa and he requested that Rev. Foster should be posted as Chaplain at Gurutalawa. With that turn of events, there was a vacancy for the regular position as Chaplain at Mt. Lavinia and Rev. Yin chose to stay on.

As a teacher Revd. Yin touched and influenced the lives of all his students. He had a great love for rugby and it is said that a chorister would not be excused for missing choir practice and was severely castigated if one did so. However if it were for ruggar practices, the Reverend would excuse. He even went to the length of running along the sidelines in his cassock cheering the College team.

The choir under his care, was one of the best in the country. He could detect a false tone with uncanny precision and he knew exactly who hit the wrong note. He bequeathed to the College the Festival of Nine lessons and Carols, which was a King's College, Cambridge tradition. This year it would be the sixtieth uninterrupted annual College event, and eagerly looked forward to by the College.

His students recall with amazement his ability to ride on his Vespa scooter, with a lighted pipe in his mouth and a tape recorder balanced on his lap. Tape recorder of those days was not so small like those of today.

He composed the song 'the School by the Sea' and remains even at this age, a great pianist. He is also considered a world authority on J.S. Bach.

As a teacher, he had a unique way of examining students. His exam papers did not have 'Answer 7 out of 9 questions', but 'Attempt all questions'. It appears that with this approach he was able to assess the true standard of the student.

Reverend Yin has erected a memorial tablet for his two cats at the Thalassa. Some of his students in Singapore and others in transit visit him and he would get excited and wait for news of the 'old school'.

"You'll always remember, wherever you may be; the school of your boyhood, the school by the sea.

And you'll always remember the friendships fine and free, that you made at S. Thomas', the school by the sea."

We wish Reverend Roy Yin, the best of health in his retired life!

To felicitate a great teacher and chaplain of the college a special 'Rev. Roy Yin Scholarship Fund' has been set up and contributions would help support deserving students financially.

THE REVD. ROY YIN SCHOLARSHIP

The OBA has launched a drive to raise US\$ 10,000, to award scholarships to needy and deserving Thomians who are unable to pay their College fees.

A preliminary round of emails has received pledges up to Rs. 200,000/- from generous old boys.

This is a call to all old boys and branches overseas to pitch in this effort by making a contribution, however big or small.

Log onto **www.stcmloba.org** for further information and make your contribution on-line.

Come Join The Scrum!

The Old Thomians Rugby Football Union appeals to all Old Boys and OBA branches to contribute to the OTRFU Rugby Development Fund. The Fund was inaugurated on the 9th September 2006, at the Galle Face Hotel.

For further details visit **www.otrfu.org** or **www.otrfu.info**.

Old Thomians Rugby Football Union

TO SIRRS WITH LOVE.

Chris. J. Lawton, the late Edgar Jansz and I were together at S. Thomas' from 1942 to 1951 having been both at the Milagiriya branch and then at Mt. Lavinia. When we met in 2002 in Melbourne it was the 60th anniversary of our association. We missed Edgar in 2006 as he had passed away. Typically our conversation drifted to our days at S.T.C, the teachers and our colleagues and their nicknames.

It is with affection and respect that I recall some of these nicknames. We had our fair share of "war" heroes on our staff with likes of Churchill, Goering and even Tojo! There was Dry Bones with his persistence with the dry bones of history, Pol Tokka, more than one Bamboos, Black Tie, Rifle, Poeta and Badda. Pol was a common affix to many of them. Romeo, Pappa and Booruwa were just a fraction of the 'labels' that to this day Thomians of our era still reminisce about. I remember the exuberance of our Physics master in Coll. Sc who in his excitement told us that "Proly the mercury rose to bottom!"

There was the time I "cut" Saturday detention and on Monday morning I was summoned to Dr. R.L.Hayman's office, as he was then the acting Warden. Much to my surprise he straight away asked me what I knew about the Colombo Plan. I replied "not very much Sir". "Neither do I, so I would like you to write an article about it by Friday" was his comment. The task was arduously completed and I was thankful that I had got off so lightly. This punishment had a happy ending as when I sat for the SSC that year one of the topics for the English essay was the Colombo Plan.

Legends, stories and 'sixers' are all part of Thomian history. Subject to verification, apparently it was my uncle E.J.Sinnatamby, Victoria Gold medalist, who was responsible for Warden De Saram's nickname. When young De Saram, was admitted to S.Thomas', his mother had requested my uncle to look after him. Young De Saram, being small and slightly built, my uncle called him Kunju, a Tamil word of endearment. For an unknown reason the letter "U" was replaced with an "I", a name many generations remember with awe, respect and at times fear!

Another story is that of a 'student' who had come to see Warden De Saram and had taken his place behind those who had lined up to see the Warden. One by one, each boy went and received their due punishment, a caning, except for the last 'student'. Warden gave him his famous LOOK and asked "what are you waiting for, come in and take it like a man". The young man was so petrified that he went in and was duly caned for no apparent reason. He however did not leave the office and Warden who was visibly annoyed asked what he was waiting for and he sheepishly replied "Sir I have come for my leaving certificate". With that inimitable mischievous smile "Do not worry, you have made history by being the first old boy I have caned" was Warden's reaction.

From the days at Mutwal to Mount Lavinia, every generation, past, present and future will have their own unique stories and legends which have and will be woven into the tapestry of Thomian tradition and history.

ESTO PERPTUA.

Wimsy Sinnatamby
Canada

Athletics to take a High Jump!

In the recent past College has produced very few Athletes of distinction and in order to improve and develop the standard of Athletics at College, the Warden formed a Steering Committee headed by Mr. M. Balasubramaniam. A Co-ordinator has been employed along with two national coaches, one each for field and track. At the start there were only a few athletes in the pool, but now there are 30 to 40 athletes.

The Steering Committee approached some of the past athletes abroad and in the country for financial support and received a very good response. A High Jump mattress was purchased for Rs. 130,000 with the help of generous old boys. After many years the college won the Junior Tarbat Meet and R. Gunasinghe was named the Best Athlete in the Boys Championships. He also went on to win the 100 and 200 metres sprint at the All Island meet. In appreciation of his performance the Steering Committee presented a pair of running shoes and a trophy. Although a Junior athlete, he has met the colours criteria awarded at the 2006 colours night. We welcome old boys who wish to contribute towards promoting athletics at College. Please contact the Secretariat.

Athletics Steering Committee.

REMINISCENCES OF A JOURNEY TO THE OVAL FOR THE ROYAL THOMIAN

In the past the Royal Thomian cricket match was played for two days with six hours of play each day, starting at twelve noon on Friday and Saturday. We had School on Friday for three periods. School was officially closed at 10:05 but to my recollection that never happened. The bell was rung by old boys or for that matter even by present boys much earlier than the scheduled times. (That has been the tradition to facilitate the boys to take the train that left Mt. Lavinia station at 09:56 to Maradana, in the late forties when the match was played at the Oval.)

My first experience of going to the match as a student unaccompanied by my parents was in the mid fifties. That very first year, I was entrusted with the task or rather it was forced, on me, to ring the bell between 09:15 and 09:35 hours. On that day we had Physics theory in the Science Lab lecture theatre (Chemistry lab), Mr. D. Kumarasinghe was the Master. At about 09:10 I requested for permission to go to the toilet, which was vehemently turned down. The entire class knew what my task was, they all supported me when my request was turned down by crowding round Mr. Kumarasinghe in order to block his view. I quietly opened the door and found Mr. Jesudason standing right next to the door. I closed the door and had no other alternative but to jump out of the large fanlight window. Some of my classmates helped me jump out while the others covered Mr. Kumarasinghe.

I landed on the side benches, steadied myself, and ran to the belfry (originally the belfry was at the end of the Fives Court where the present Lower School Headmaster's office is. As I reached the belfry I pulled the bell string and released it, there were two ding dongs (that was an old contraption). Our old bellboy Martin was standing there wholly taken by surprise! The entire School came out of the class rooms shouting "Royal Parippu", "Thomian Victory" accompanied by sounds of crackers, rattles and Thomian flags. What a din that was!!

The boys going by train now gathered near the Sick Room (present kiddies park, southern gate). The College Formers and the Upper Six boys were in charge. We all walked upto the Railway Station. The train was there at the platform. We all got into the train. As the train started and as we passed the Warden's residence, the entire crowd sang the College song and waved the College flags. Warden de Saram and the cricketers were under the porch and they waved to us.

The train proceeded towards Colombo, past Dehiwela and at the Wellawatte station the seniors ordered all the boys to get down and started a sing song surrounding the station master. They all sang "For he's a jolly good fellow". In the commotion, someone took his whistle and blew it and as commanded by the whistle, the train started moving little by little! The crowd hurriedly got into the train bringing with them the station master. The boys crowded into the Guard van, most of them travelled on the footboards, but a few wedged themselves between carriages. As the train almost reached Bambalapitiya station, it came to a grinding halt with a few carriages still outside the platform. The engine driver and the railway authorities found that some School boys had pulled the emergency cord. In the melee the abducted Wellawatte station master managed to protrude himself from the window of the Guard van.

The authorities who were on the platform had seen him. The train was subsequently pulled onto the platform. In the meantime the Bambalapitiya station master had summoned the Police with the help of the Railway Security to take into custody all the students except the very small boys. We were marched into the station master's room. The Wellawatta station master who was abducted by us was now released, and was dispatched to his station by a down train which arrived at the platform. The Police ordered us to get into their black van, and we were driven to the Police station like 'Prisoners'. At the Police station the senior students quietly told us not to divulge our names but to give the names of the Masters at College. While we were at the Police station more students from Royal and S. Thomas' were brought in. The Chief Inspector then called the senior students to give their names, addresses and the class of each student to the Police officer in charge. The senior students then started giving their names which I overheard. The first boy said that his name was Reginald de Saram and the next C.R Wise, S.J Anandanayagam, C.S Weerasinghe, J.H.S Peiris, D.N Pereira, D.S Jayasekera, Jesudason and so on. The Chief Inspector mentioned in a very high tone "as you are School boys we cannot take any action but we will report this matter to your school authorities. We have already done this and a senior Master will be here soon".

A black Morris Minor then arrived at the Police station. A tall gentleman attired in a white shirt, khaki shorts and stockings entered the room. The Police officers all stood up, as they mistook him for a senior officer of the Police (the Police uniform was also of the same style). The gentleman introduced himself as Mr. Anandanayagam. The Police officer handed the list of names to him. In a loud voice he read out the name of the first boy Reginald de Saram and the second C.R Wise and before he read the third name he looked hard at the paper, then asked the Police officer as to who gave these names.

The officer replied that the senior boys had given all these names. He knew that the boys had pulled a fast one on the Police. He couldn't help but smile when he read his own name S.J Anandanayagam! He then instructed the two senior boys to take the names of all the students who were present. Once he got the list checked and found it correct, he instructed the boys to come to Warden's office on the next School day. Thereafter we were allowed to proceed to the match.

The next school day was a Monday. About twenty senior boys marched to the Warden's office by nine o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Prins who was near the door of the Warden's office with the list of names in his hand checked us in one by one and admitted us into Warden's room. The Warden in his nasal voice asked why we cut School on Friday. About eighteen of us admitted that we cut School, but two students said they had indigestion. Eighteen of us were given four cuts each and sent back to class. The Two students who claimed to have stomach ailments were asked to leave School!

Nimal and Lincoln
Centenary Group.

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

At first it seemed an ambitious project ever. The set, the atmosphere, the costumes, the script, how do we get about producing these? The task seemed daunting! More so, most people would have watched the movie! So how do we keep up to it!

The answer was simple. "Lets do it". The determined cast said it in unison. After all the Drama Society has existed for 135 years by experimenting with new genres and new ideas. This was no exception. Nothing was impossible with the Drama Society. Over the years S. Thomas' had experimented with new styles of production, which was a gamble.

Casting was done by means of a workshop, worked off by Suki Goonathilake and Delon Weerasingha. Approximately 120 students attended this. The theme of the workshop was "animalism", each boy taught to think out of the box with regard to acting a part, which was not human. Rehearsals with the main roles began there after.

Rehearsals began three months before the production: starting from word-bashes it gradually got down to the herculean task of directing the actors, who seemed to adapt rather quickly to the challenging roles. Directing the young actors proved to be quite frustrating, but after hours of hard work they eventually began to understand the intricacies of their character. If working with the main cast could be termed as challenging, working with the supporting cast coins no words! After the initial casting of the separate characters ranging from bees to the mythical centaur, under the direction of a senior, they were taught to act the role they were bestowed with.

Supervising and maintaining discipline of the supporting cast was a task endowed to the seniors in the Society.

Co-ordination was yet another gargantuan challenge faced by us. Getting the actors on stage at their specific time, co-ordinating all entrances and exits of the actors and maintaining discipline of all actors not on stage took up most of the rehearsals in the initial weeks.

The singers were trained by Mrs. Dilani Perera, a former singing teacher in the Lower School. We invited her because before she left we did a show in the Lower School in 1999 and those students have now grown up and were taking part in Narnia. Her professional touch was just right for the show.

The final rehearsal days were hectic and frustrating. Frustrating because of the technical issues not working out. Needless to say, after rehearsing for nearly 12 hours, we still did not seem to have the 'polished' performance as expected. Came the day before 'the day', the final practice which again went on till three in the morning and still it was an unfinished piece of work.

Three months of hard work, three months of sacrifice, three months of 'Narnia', paid off. For a school production they performed like professionals. S. Thomas' provides the best, and yes what better way to say it, they did their best. Excellent! This is what drama is all about at College. We take risks, we work with huge budgets (a million in this case) but at the end of the day we give of our best to the College.

Soc et tu em!

Drama Society

Extracts from the Warden's
PRIZE GIVING SPEECH
delivered on the 7th of July 2006

The Chief Guest for this year's prize giving was Professor Dayasiri Fernando. Professor Fernando having started at St. Sebastian's in Moratuwa, had his entire secondary education at S. Thomas' College Mt Lavinia. He had an excellent record in studies and extra-curricular activities. He was a School Prefect and House Captain and was a leading light of the Drama Society. He won the Illangakoon Oratory Prize in 1957 and 1958.

He entered the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ceylon in 1960, passing out with an MBBS with Honours in 1965. In the finals of the MBBS he was awarded the prestigious Garvin Gold Medal for Operative Surgery. Subsequent to graduation he obtained a postgraduate qualification from the University of London, and then awarded Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons of England and then by Edinburgh.

His achievements as a Medical Practitioner in Surgery and in the academic area of Medicine are unparalleled. Till recently Professor Fernando was the Dean and the Founder Professor of Surgery of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Jayewardenepura. He is also the Honorary Consultant, in charge of the Professional Surgical Unit of the Teaching Hospital in Colombo. He has been the personal physician to past Presidents and Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka. He is a pioneer in the speciality of gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy. He is also a Member of the Board of Governors of S. Thomas' College.

"The College has had another very good year and the sections of this report highlight the many achievements of the boys in academic, sports and other extra curricular activities. I must state that we have made and continue to make excellent progress.

Many of the challenges we faced in recent years are still with us and they are being faced with fortitude. Peace in the Nation has been at the forefront of our Prayers and Hopes and we follow the progress that is being made. Peace is still elusive but we live in expectation and eagerly look forward to a satisfactory resolution of the crisis. We notice a number of Thomians involved in various aspects of these endeavours and it must be said that Thomians are uniquely equipped to be a part of the reconciliation process.

The College is one of a handful of schools that are truly pluralistic in its make up. We have always, right through the history of the school, had Sinhalese and Tamils working and playing alongside each without problems. What a joy it is for us when we see this total integration as for example Sinhalese boys assisting at the Tamil Literary Day, or vice versa. This integration is simply not anecdotal but found to be true in some difficult locations such as Northern Ireland. Secular schools, i.e. non denominational, were found to be more effective in bridging the sectarian divide between the Catholics and Protestants students, than segregated schools. We look forward to better times. On academic matters, the debate on the third medium of English is largely over with a national consensus that English is essential for the development of our Nation.

In College we are striving to achieve even higher standards of English. We continue to make progress with the IT Infrastructure Project, and with the introduction of IT in the national curriculum, this project has gained greater significance. Our boys are extremely fortunate that we already have in position, staff and facilities second to none, such as 3 student computer laboratories, with another smaller laboratory reserved for all staff. I certainly do not apologise for having shot out of the blocks long before the starter's gun was fired.

We continue to pursue the ideal of Thomian education which is about the physical, the mental and the spiritual growth of the boys. The debates about education and required reforms abound and now the proposed curriculum changes are being implemented within the College. But the reforms should not simply be curriculum changes but a shift in the mind set requiring different ways of thinking, teaching and learning is my concern. I would like to elaborate a little.

Change is all around us and few would deny that the ability to deal with change is one of the premier requisites of the present and the future. Society expects its citizens, i.e. the children of today, to be capable of proactively dealing with changes throughout life both individually and in groups, also within a dynamically changing environment. The rate of this change is increasing at a frightening pace. For example what took 10 years to achieve technologically in the 1960's is now being achieved in 1 year.

The problem is that of introducing innovative educational reforms within a system that is fundamentally conservative in the methods of evaluation, the way the teachers are trained, from the way the schools are organized, in the way the hierarchy is structured and the way the system is treated by the political decision makers.

When the reforms are forced onto this conservative system the results are fear, defensiveness, superficiality and some limited success which is short lived.

While there is recognition that reforms are needed, what we have now are curriculum changes and this is really tinkering with education. It is certainly the clumsy way of mending something. We need a different formulation to get to the heart of the problem and more than reform we as educators require a new mind set.

The teachers' jobs are more complex and difficult and a new mind set is required to respond to the needs of a diverse and changing student population, a rapidly changing technology in the work place and demands for excellence from all segments of society.

Teacher education is the best solution to this and is the worst problem in education today. Reforming teacher training is fundamental to educational reforms. The schools themselves must become responsive renewing institutions and be able to respond to the teachers in them who are purposefully engaged in the renewal process.

To summarise, teachers or educators must become experts in the dynamics of change, become skilled change agents and this will result in producing students with greater capacity to cope with change.

These educators must be within a system capable of learning i.e. a learning organization and be expert at dealing with change as a normal part of its work.

The refurbishment of the buildings started about 5 years ago is continuing and we have achieved maybe 70% of what we originally intended. There is still more to be done. What is of great concern at the moment is the roof of the Chapel which is still untouched. This must be addressed within the next two years.

In conclusion what I report on is the result of contributions made by large numbers of people who must now be recognized. I gratefully acknowledge the help and support afforded to me by the Board of Governors, who are of course ultimately responsible for the good governance of the School.

I must thank the Sub Warden, Headmasters and all tutorial, administrative and minor staff who have unstintingly supported the College through some difficult periods of change. We are extremely fortunate to have such good staff. Through the hard work of the Old Boys, the College continues to benefit with resources of all sorts and we are grateful for this.

I must also thank the Parents, particularly the PTA, for assisting us in areas which add value to the basic education being provided at College and special mention is made of the Student Support Unit. What about our present boys? What about them you may very well ask! The boys would get involved in clubs and societies, sports and in anything that does not involve studies, and when they have to study they leave it till the last minute! I suppose they are no different to every generation of Thomians. The Thomian family is well (of course as in any family there are little tiffs) and working well. Thank you, the entire Thomian family.

CHOIRS MEET

Once a year the choirs of S. Thomas' College and Trinity College, Kandy join in the Sunday Eucharist Service on the Sunday following the cricket match between the two schools.

This year the Bishop of Kurunegala was present at the service on February 26th 2006 hosted by Trinity. Old Boys of both schools, parents and well wishers were present along with the Warden of S. Thomas' and the Principal of Trinity. The Sub Warden of the College was also present. I hope that S. Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia could have a combined choir with the branch School of Guruthalawa. This could help Guruthalawa build up a good Choir. The College could join up with Bandarawela and Prep. School as well.

Hubert Siri Perera

www.royalthomian.info

The Royal Thomian Joint Committee launched its official Web Site www.royalthomian.info on 23rd February this year.

Last year this site helped Royalists and Thomians to purchase tickets online. The scores were updated at the end of each over. It will continue to have these facilities for the benefit of Old Boys of both schools.

The site contains the past results, records, articles which appeared in both Royal and Thomian souvenirs, players' profile and other useful information.

College Events

The College had another successful year with success in both studies and sports. At the A/L examinations several students achieved note worthy results. A summary of the results are as follows: A. Anantharajah 2A+B, A.R. Fernando 3As, C.B. Wickremaratne 2A+B, S. Sri Sanjeevan 2A+B, D.P. Haputhanthri A+B+C, P. Pranavan A+2B, L.T. Haturusinghe 2A+C from the Science stream. C.K.Galagoda 3As, L.O.S. De Silva 3As, A.D. Pushparajah 3As, C.B. Warnakulasuriya 3As, P.S.R. De Silva 2 A+B, S.D. Wijewardena 2 A+B, T.A.M. Peiris A+B+C, L.T.D. Peiris 2 A+C from the Commerce and Arts stream. At the London A/L examinations the following students did well N.A Kalupathirana 3As, W.D.S. Soysa A+B+C from the Commerce stream, K. Jayarajah 2A+B, B.K. Wimalaratne 2A+B, A.V. Iddavela A+2B, B.V.G.D Beneragama A+B+C from the Science stream. Nine Students who obtained 8 A's at the O/L examination 2005 are S.R. De Alwis, V.L.B. Galpoththage, T.D. Hippola, K.V. Halangoda , S.C.K. Wanniachy, M.V Peiris, H.D.K. Silva, S.A. Wijesinha and D.S. Wickramasuriya.

Mr. A.E.N. Fernando is the Headmaster of the Lower School, Mr. Sarath Wickramaratne, is Headmaster of the Middle School, Mr. M.D. Maurice is Headmaster for the Upper School, Mr. Jayasena functions as the Headmaster for College Forms (Commerce and Arts). Mr. Keerithi Perera is Acting Head Master for the College Forms (Science) and Mr. K.V. Kuggatharan is Head for the London A/L section.

In sports the Thomians lost the 127th Battle of the Blues by 7 wickets and the Michael Guneratne Trophy 35 - nil. The Thomian cricketers did well however to win the Mustang's Trophy encounter. At the Royal Thomian Hockey encounter, Thomians won 2 goals to nil and the Basketball players followed the example and beat the Royalists 78 -56. Soccer was won by the Royalist 3 - nil. The Thomians could not regain the Dr.R.L. Hayman trophy for they lost 10-8 but the under 15 water polo team won the Mahinda Liyanage trophy with a superb performance in the pool. The Regatta was not rowed this year and the tennis duel with Royal is scheduled for January 2007.

The oarsmen were successful at the Calcutta International School Regatta held in April 2006, winning a bronze medal. A young Thomian E.M.K. Fernando has won the grueling 6 mile sea swim this year. The College badminton team were runners up at the National Schools Championship after many years. Yehan Ranasinghe was selected to the Sri Lanka National Badminton Team for the South Asian Games as first reserve. Thomian squash captain Eranga Alwis was included in the National Team and won a bronze medal for the country at the South Asian games.

The Student Support Unit was declared opened on the 29th June 2006, by First Lady, Mrs. Shiranthie Rajapakse. The Thomian Nostalgia Poster was also launched on this day to raise funds to support this unit. This colourful Poster is available for sale at the OBA Secretariat.

MD Gunasena Book Shop open a outlet at the College on the 16th November 2006. The Book Shop is located opposite the Swimming Pool and is open daily till 5.00 pm.

ALL THOMIAN CRICKET MATCH



The Thomian Society of Colombo will orgainse the "ALL THOMIAN CRICKET MATCH." The Match will be inaugurated on the 7th of January 2007 at 10.00 am at the College Grounds in Mount Lavinia and is open for Old Boys of the College and the three branch schools. Ice cream, yoghurt, soft drinks, sausages and beer will be available in the stalls. The 'paparay' band will be there to bring back memories of school days. Lunch too will be available.



Under 15 Water polo Team won the Mahinda Liyanage Trophy



Under 15 Rugby Team



The World Peace Day Celebrations



Road Race



Basketball Team



Remembrance Day



Road Race



Hockey Team

THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ

1. When was the first meeting of the Old Boys' Association of S. Thomas' held?
 - a. 21st December 1896.
 - b. 12th February 1886.
 - c. 21st December 1886.
 - d. 19th January 1888.
2. Who wrote the poem, 'the School by the Sea'?
 - a. Dr. R.L.Hayman.
 - b. Revd. Bowyer. H. Yin.
 - c. G.S. Schneider.
 - d. E.F.N.Gratien.
3. Under which statute has the Board of Governors of the College become incorporated?
 - a. S. Thomas' College Act No. 10 of 1951.
 - b. The Bishop of Colombo Ordinance No. 17 of 1900.
 - c. The College of the Apostle Ordinance No. 2 of 1898.
 - d. Saint Thomas' College Board of Governors Ordinance No. 7 of 1930.
4. Who was the first Chairman of the Board of Governors of the College?
 - a. Bishop Chapman.
 - b. Bishop Carpenter – Garnier.
 - c. Bishop Copleston.
 - d. Warden Miller.
5. In which year was the first Old Boys' Day held?
 - a. 1887.
 - b. 1886.
 - c. 1888.
 - d. 1889.
6. In which year was the first Royal Thomian Debate held?
 - a. 1966
 - b. 1976
 - c. 1926
 - d. 1912
7. In which year was the Micro Computer Centre of the College opened?
 - a. 1987.
 - b. 1988.
 - c. 1986.
 - d. 1999.
8. Who is the Royalist who holds the record for the longest serving member of the Board of Governors?
 - a. Mr. Alex Wijesinghe.
 - b. Mr.J.L.D. Peiris.
 - c. Mr. Douglas Jansz.
 - d. Mr. Frank Gunewardena.
9. In which year was the College Chapel consecrated?
 - a. 1937.
 - b. 1976.
 - c. 1925.
 - d. 1927.
10. Which day is called the 'the day of three Wardens' to mark the day on which three Wardens were present at the College Prize Giving?
 - a. 30th October 1969.
 - b. 15th October 1978.
 - c. 12th September 2001.
 - d. 15th August 2005.
11. Who was the Warden who succeeded Warden Illangakoon?
 - a. Warden Anandanayagam.
 - b. Warden Selvaratnam.
 - c. Warden de Alwis.
 - d. Warden de Saram.
12. Who said "Enduring works are often of humble beginnings"?
 - a. Bishop Chapman.
 - b. Warden Stone.
 - c. Warden de Alwis.
 - d. Warden Davidson.

Circle your answers and send this page with your contact details :-

Name :.....

Address :.....

Tel :.....

E-mail :.....

To :- Newsletter Quiz, OBA Secretariat
S. Thomas' College,
Mount Lavinia

Or e-mail your answers to nlquiz@stcmloba.org

Deadline for entries : **31st January 2007**

10 lucky winners will be entitled to College Souvenirs.

D.S.Jayaskera



S.Thomas' College has the distinction of having a galaxy of Sinhala Literary giants on its teaching staff, messrs C.S. Weerasinghe, Pinto Jayawardena, S. Coperahewa, Edwin Ranawaka, Arisen Ahubudu and D.S. Jayasekera. Each one of them had all the sterling qualities that an outstanding teacher must have and those of us who had the good fortune of learning under any one of them must indeed consider himself a privileged student. I consider myself privileged because I learnt under each of these illustrious teachers.

Mr. D.S. Jayasekera joined the College Staff in 1947, rose to the position of Head Master (Lower School) and retired in the year 1995 after serving the school with unflinching loyalty for a good 48 years.

My very first meeting with Mr. Jayasekera was pleasant and unforgettable. On the first day we had to stand up and state our names. When I did, he smiled, probably amused by the somewhat uncommon name, "Sri Sangabo". When the bell rang and when we were all on our way out Mr. Jayasekera called me up and asked whether I was from Chilaw, "Yes Sir" I replied and taking advantage of his friendly disposition added, "There is a popular saying that Chilaw is famous for 3 Cs, Coreas, Crabs and Coconuts" He laughed and as I took leave and was going out of the doorway I looked back and noticed that he was still laughing!

I got on famously with Mr Jayasekera who I firmly believe was one of the finest human beings I have met. He was an outstanding teacher and a gentleman par excellence! The more I came to know him the more I liked him and even after I left College we kept in touch.

I felt honoured when he visited me in my office to say that he was retiring. Although he was not an old boy of the College he loved STC with the same infinite fervour that every old boy of the school has in his system. He was immaculately dressed at all times and in any gathering he stood out with elegance.

When his family wanted to celebrate his 80th Birthday on a grand scale he had voiced his opinion that the celebration will not be complete if he did not have some of his handpicked students amongst the invitees. His son, Sriyan, telephoned me to say that his father would be delighted to see me at his estate bungalow in Horana. I was not going to miss it for anything in the world and inquired as to how I could get there. Approximately 25 kilometres from Colombo was Palugama Estate and when I arrived, there was a large crowd already present. Mr Jayasekera himself received me at the entrance with a warm greeting and conducted me to where David Peiris was.

One by one started trickling in Bernard Jayasekera, G.K. Mandawela, Cadet Master (who had 4 Army Generals in the Thomian Cadet Platoon including Sirilal Weerasooriya Army Commander and Diplomat) Ravi Jayawardena (Exporter of Wooden Toys), Sudath Jayasundera (Marketing Manager-ITN), Priyanka Perera (Senior Superintendent of Police), B.B. Jayasekera (Landed Proprietor who owned a herd of Elephants) and Gamini Fonseka (Mega Star and Film Director).

As we parted that evening we did so leaving behind an imprint that silently said: THANK YOU SIR, WITH LOVE!

Sri Sangabo Corea

“Make the College proud of numbering you amongst its sons”

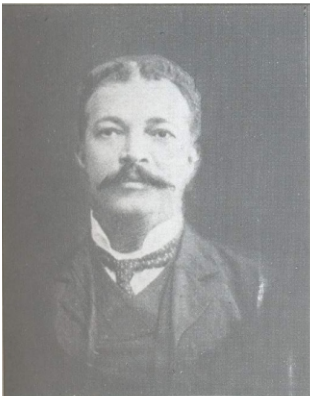
Warden Buck

"To rise to eminence and become an acknowledged leader in a great profession, is an honour and an achievement that falls to the lot of a very few"

**F.H.B. Koch K.C.,
District Judge of Colombo.**

A previous edition of the 'Old Boy' stated that A. d'A Seneveratne was instrumental in founding the Old Boys' Association of the College under the leadership of Warden Miller. Alexander de Alwis Seneveratne was the son of Simon de Alwis Seneveratne, the Titular Mohandirum of Kalutara. He practiced as an Advocate until 1902 and thereafter commenced a judicial career where he was the District Judge of Kurunegala, Colombo, Batticaloa and Negombo. He sacrificed his professional life for a political one and was elected as the member of the Sinhalese community in the Legislative Council. On his passing away, the Ceylon Law Recorder (1920 Vol. II p. xxxiii) it was recorded that, "Mr. A. de A. Seneviratne was a veteran...a prominent advocate in his day". It is also noteworthy that one of Mr. Seneveratne's juniours was Hector Jayawardena, who later became a giant in the legal profession.

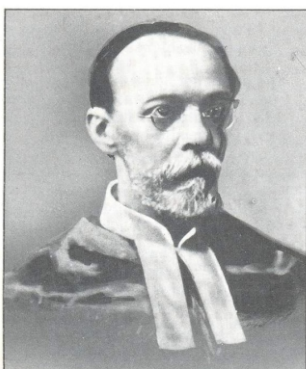
'A History of St. Thomas' College Colombo' by W.T. Keble records on page 75, "In February 1895, Mr. G.S. Schneider resigned his mastership. The thoroughness and care with which he taught became almost proverbial. He served the College for thirteen years before he took to the study of Law".



Gualterus Stewart Schneider, was the grandson of Captain G. Schneider, a military officer in the service of the Dutch East India Company and later the first Surveyor General under the British Administration. The student and teacher of S. Thomas' rose in later life to become a judge of the Supreme Court and Sir Stewart was the first of the Supreme Court to be knighted in the Supreme Court. He also served in the first Board of Governors of the College. He was honoured by the College in being invited as the Chief Guest at the Prize Giving of 1927. At the Ceremonial Sitting of the Supreme Court to refer to the passing away of Sir Stewart Schneider, Chief Justice Sir Sidney Abrahams, KC summed the life and work of Sir Stewart Schneider in the following terms;

"Sir Stewart's eventful and very successful professional career is a striking manifestation of what industry and intellect can do when allied to character. He was admitted to the Bar no later than the age of 34, but even though starting at least ten years later than usual in the profession, he became King's Counsel, Acting Solicitor General, Acting Attorney General, Acting Puisne Justice, Puisne Justice and Acting Chief Justice... The knighthood conferred on him was amply merited."

A' de A. Seneviratne and Sir Stewart Schneider are just two of the many Thomians who adorned the Bar and the Bench of this country, excelling as members of a noble profession and bringing pride to the College.



When His Lordship F.C. Moncreiff was elevated to the Senior Puisne Judge from Second Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court in 1901, his place was taken by Henry Lorentz Wendt. Wendt was a brilliant product of S. Thomas' and won the Gregory Scholarship from 1876. He was a member of the Ceylon Bar and a member of Gray's Inn. Wendt held the post of Solicitor General and Acting Attorney General. Governor Sir West Ridgeway nominated Wendt to serve on the Legislative Council representing the Burgher Community from 1895 to 1900. His portrait hangs amongst the 'immortals' at the Law Library at Hulftsdorp. The Lionel Wendt Centre is named after his son.

When Wendt retired, his place at the Bench was taken by Joseph Grenier. Grenier was a product of the Warden Bacon era and had taught at the College before he entered the legal profession. Like Wendt, he too was from Gray's Inn. He rose to be a Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court in 1910 and held the posts of District Judge of Colombo and even acted as the Solicitor General. Joseph Grenier was followed to the Bench by his nephew, Drieberg K.C. when the latter was appointed Supreme Court judge in 1927. Another product of S. Thomas', Drieberg had a lucrative practice in the Civil Bar and was elected to represent the Burgher Community in the Legislative Council. He served on the Bench from 1927 to 1935. His Lordship Maartensz was a fellow from the Middle Temple and served in the Attorney General's Department for several years. In 1910 he began his career in the Bench and retired as an Acting Puisne Justice in 1935. He was known for his kindness and courtesy to struggling juniors and was known to be 'very humane, the soul of courtesy, a great gentleman'. The then Attorney General E.A.L. Wijeyawardena KC describing Thomian L.M. Maartensz said, "an unrivalled knowledge of the administration of the law and the procedure in our Courts and with an intimate knowledge of the habits and customs and modes of thought of the various classes of litigants who come before our Courts".

Arthur Reginald Canekaratne KC had his early education at Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa and thereafter at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He passed the Bar Finals with a First Class and was enrolled as an Advocate of the Supreme Court in 1910. He was called to the English Bar by Lincoln's Inn. He was the son of another Barrister, Jacob Canekaratne. Canekaratne had a practice that was largely confined to work in chambers. He was appointed Puisne Justice on March 20th 1945 and retired on September 27th 1949. Justice Sinnetamby was also at S. Thomas' College and served as a Magistrate and Judge in many parts of the country including functioning as the Additional District Judge of Jaffna. Before his retirement he served for six years on the Bench of the Supreme Court.

Hector Deheragoda was born on December 27th, 1913 and received his education at S. Thomas' from 1918. Thereby he was one of the first group of students to march into Mount Lavinia. In 1947 he accepted an appointment in the Attorney General's Department and on the 16th of July 1970 was appointed Solicitor General. He acted as Attorney General for a short period and thereafter was appointed as the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and later to the Bench of the Supreme Court. Deheragoda also holds the distinction of being in the first Bench of the Constitutional Court of Sri Lanka. He retired as a Judge in 1976.

Vincent Thamotheram, the son of Mudaliyar N.N. Thamotheram, had his primary education at Central College Jaffna and his secondary education at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. At Ceylon Law College he excelled and won the prize for Evidence. He was called to the Bar in 1942 and in 1949 after having acted as a Crown Counsel he was appointed a Crown Counsel. He thereafter served as a Deputy Solicitor General and Acting Solicitor General. As a judge, His Lordship Thamotheram rose to become a Supreme Court Judge and retired in the year 1980. Like Thamotheram, H.D. Thambiah too had his education at Central College Jaffna and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. In the year 1950 he obtained a First class degree in philosophy from the University of Ceylon. He also passed his Bar Finals with First Class Honours. He was called to the Bar in 1954 and was elevated to the Bench of the Court of Appeal in 1978. In the year 1984 he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Dharmadasa Wimalaratne received his education at S. Thomas' from 1927 and 1939 and won several prizes at the Prize Giving. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of London and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the same University in 1949. He was called to the Bar in 1945 and practised in civil and criminal courts in Colombo and Kalutara. He began his judicial career in 1951 and was appointed as Acting Magistrate Colombo Fort, and had the distinction of being the first President of the Court of Appeal. He retired as Judge of the Supreme Court in 1985. He had also served for a short period as Acting Chief Justice. He was also the Chairman of the Visakha Vidyalaya Trust. C.V.Udalagama had his education at S. Thomas' and the University of London. He was called to the Bar in April 1944 and in 1974 was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court. At the Ceremonial Sitting of the Supreme Court to mark his demise, the then President of the Bar Association described him as having a had "rough exterior but mild interior".

Justice L.H. de Alwis, is a product of Mount and the Universities of Colombo and London. He was called to the Bar in 1949 and was appointed a Crown Counsel in 1954. He had a long and distinguished career and was appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court in 1984. His Lordship Justice G.P.S. de Silva, a distinguished Thomian, began his career at the Attorney General's Department and thereafter rose to become one of the most respected holders of the office of Chief Justice. He is remembered for many fine judgements and delivered the famous judgment in *Abeyasundera v. Abeyasundera* reported at [1998] 1 Sri.L.R. 185. He was the Chief Guest at the Prize Giving of the College in the year 1992.

A Thomian lawyer of great eminence was S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, who distinguished himself at S. Thomas', at Oxford and later as the Prime Minister of Ceylon. S.J.V. Chelvanayagam QC was a contemporary of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike at Mount and began his practice in Colombo and steadily built a practice all over the island. He was conferred the dignity of silk in 1947. He was a Member of Parliament and fought for the rights of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka.

A contemporary of S.W.R.D. was E.B. Wikremanayake, KC, who had a distinguished career at the Bar and at the Ceremonial sitting to make reference to his death, the then Attorney General remarked, "Only a few great men have left their indelible mark in as many wide and varied spheres....Mr. E.B. Wikremanayake was certainly one of them". His son E.D. also took to law and was a legend in his own right. E.B.'s brother Guy Wikremanayake or 'EG' was a giant at the bar and was conferred silk in 1950. E.D.'s son and E.B.'s grand son, Arittha, is the precedent partner at Nithya Partners. Thus the Wikremanayake's constitute a unique Thomian family of lawyers. Another Thomian family of lawyers are the Marapone's. Both brothers Gamini and Thilak were conferred silk and the latter held the high office of Attorney General and was even a member of the Cabinet holding the key portfolio of Defence. Gamini Marapone P.C. was the Head Prefect of 1961 and even served on the Board of Governors.

A Thomian, Editor of the College Magazine from 1962 to 1964 and winner of the Peiris Siriwardena Gold Medal, to excel at Oxford is Professor G.L. Peiris. Professor Peiris rose to unprecedented heights as an academic at the University of Colombo, Faculty of Laws and was also the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo. He has written extensively and is internationally renowned. His three volumes on the Law of Property and his books on Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Criminal Law and on the Principles of Criminal Liability are the basic texts for studies in those subjects. His articles on Administrative Law have been cited in 'the Bible' of Administrative Law written by Professor H.W.R. Wade. Professor Peiris served on the Board of Governors and was invited by the College to deliver the Jubilee Oration to mark '75 years at Mount'. He held several portfolios in the Cabinet and was the Chief Negotiator for the Government of Sri Lanka during peace talks with the LTTE. Vernon Jonklaas QC, K. N. Choksy PC, L.C. Seneviratne PC, R.I. Obeyasekera PC and P.A.D. Amerasekera PC are Thomians who have achieved eminence in the recent years. The former Warden the Late Neville de Alwis was himself a lawyer and served in the Legal Draftsman's Department before answering the call of his Alma Mater.

The Thomian saga continues today. The leader of the Bar, the Hon. Attorney General, Mr. K.C. Kamalasinghe, PC, is a staunch and true Thomian. The Law firms, Julius and Creasy, F.J. and G. de Saram, D.L and F. de Saram, Nithya Partners, de Livera Associates and Paul Ratnayake Associates, have, Thomians at their helm. Dr. Rohan Perera P.C., the legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry had his education at S. Thomas'. His wife, Therese Perera was also conferred the dignity of silk and they make the first pair of husband and wife to adorn the inner bar. The current head of the Peace Secretariat, Dr. Palitha Kohona, is a Thomian and a lawyer by profession. He was formerly the head of the treaty section of the United Nations legal arm.

From Mutuwal and Mount, they began their journey. They reached great heights and earned for themselves a place in history, what more they made the College proud. These are the tales of the Thomian legal eagles, who soared high in the legal sky.

Thomian Litigant

Education and Faculty Development Report

The Committee identified several areas of activity with a view to enhancing the teaching at College. Some of the programmes conducted are given below.

Staff Training and Development Programme;

The purpose of this training workshop was to develop the capabilities of the Sectional Heads and others with leadership potential within the tutorial staff. The resource person was Mr. Kushan Dharmawardena who is a corporate trainer with wide experience in conducting such programmes in the business sector.

The workshop itself was a very interactive training course with lectures, group work, presentations and outdoor activities. The topics that were covered included leadership, motivation, communication and creative problem solving. The training provided the teachers with an opportunity to appreciate the significant role of managing people and resources within a school environment. Our thanks go out to the S.T.C. O.B.A. United Kingdom branch for sponsoring the workshop, Mr. Kushan Dharmawardena for providing his services free of charge and the management of Hotel Blue Water, Wadduwa for offering us the facilities.

Workshop on adolescent health for advanced level students;

Dr. Hemantha Wickramathilake, who is the Medical Director of the Family Planning Association. Several topics dealing with human sexuality and sexually transmittable diseases were covered at this workshop. The boys no doubt benefitted from this program which was well received by the senior students.

Rev. Roy Yin memorial scholarship

This is also an initiative of the Education and Faculty Development Committee which has been covered more exhaustively in an article specially dedicated in this Newsletter.

Education and Faculty Development Committee 2006/07

OBA Celebration Events

All Old Boys wishing to participate in the following sports should contact the under mentioned coordinators.

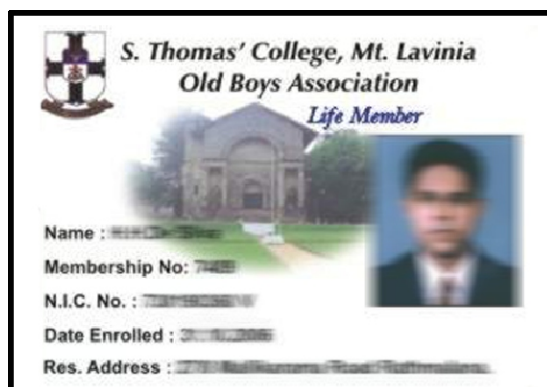
Event	Date	Time	Contact Person	Contact Number
Hockey	Feb 7 th Wednesday	5.00 p.m.	Dinesh Wickramasinghe	071-4353160
Basket Ball	Feb 8 th Thursday	5.00 p.m.	Sanjeewa Hewagamage	077-7587548
Water Polo	Feb 8 th Thursday	8.00 p.m.	Jeewaka Perera	077-3600710
Cricket	Feb 9 th , Sat 10 th	9.00 a.m.	Gihan Fernando	077-7699892/ 5377080-3

The OBA AGM is on Friday 09th February 2007 at 6.30 p.m. at the College Hall. OBA Lunch is on Saturday 10th February at 12.30 p.m

A Special Service for Old Boys will be held at the College Chapel on Sunday 11th February at 7.30 a.m. which will be followed by fellowship breakfast in the College Hall at 9 a.m.

Senaka de Fonseka

Secretary STC OBA ML 2006/07



The OBA is implementing a new plastic OBA membership card with a photograph of the member. Current members can obtain the new card by surrendering their old membership card and for a payment of Rs. 200/-. Contact the Administrative Secretary for more details on 4955047 or 4944530.

Web Site Committee Report

www.stcmloba.org

The Old Boys' Website - Keeps Thomian's in Touch

www.stcmloba.org continues to pass the details of the College and the OBA activities to Thomians here and abroad. These are as follows.

Royal-Thomian Cricket	Rugby matches
Staff Training programme	Inter House Road Race
Esto Perpetua Economic Forum	OTRFU Dinner Dance
Royal-Thomian Hockey	Royal-Thomian Water polo
Thomian Night 2006	Royal-Thomian Basketball
Annual Remembrance Day	Colours Night

The pictures and the results of the Rugby matches were available to the world within an hour.

The Web Site's online payment facility has helped many Old Boys to do their transaction from any part of the world. This system enables Thomians to pay their OBA membership fee, purchase souvenirs and make donations. An OBA membership application form too can be down loaded from the Site.

Old Boys can download the College Ringing tone. The web directory helps to search the contact details of our Old Boys. The articles, Newsletters, Ternions, big match souvenirs and the picture gallery make one feel that he is still in and around school.

The Web Committee 2006/07
webmaster@stcmloba.org

Finance Committee Report

The Committee continued to submit the monthly statement of accounts at the ExCo meeting. Ex Co reimbursed Rs. 100,000 to the College for the staff incentives. Further Rs. 5,000 was paid to all College students who represented Sri Lanka in sports and other activities for overseas travel.

The OBA manage the funds collection and paid Rs. 900,000 to Mr. Bartholomeusz through the College in order to meet all the medical expenses incurred for his surgery and the Committee is happy to inform that it was a complete success.

Finance Committee 2006/07

Sports Committee Report

BADMINTON: The committee held a special meeting at the College Hall on Saturday, 3rd June 2006 with students, parents, steering committee members and coaches to discuss matters of concern. Mr. Priyantha Wijesekera, steering committee Chairman, spoke at length on how to improve the game and also highlighted certain issues that needed to be addressed.

BASKETBALL : The committee is pleased to confirm that the College has received a sum of Rs. 348,000 towards fixing of the floodlights for the basketball court. Since the lighting equipments have gone up in price, fresh quotations are called. The re-laying of the tarmac will be done by the Colombo Municipal Council.

CADETING: The Committee organized camp visits to the Kothalawala Defence Academy and the Armoured Corps for senior cadets. For the residential training camp which was conducted on the 3rd and 4th of July, the committee was able to get a drill instructor and an officer for a leadership lecture from the Kotalawala Defence Academy.

RUGBY FOOTBALL: The junior Rugby Carnival, which was organized by the ORTFU, was held on the 8th of April 2006. The committee was also able to raise a sum of Rs 150,000 through the Class of '79, '94 and '97 to cover the expenses of the Ruger Coach, Mr. Jivan Goonethilleke's, trip to New Zealand to attend a coaching camp.

SCOUTING: 16th Colombo Scout Troop were winners of the C. P. Jayawardena Memorial shield for Seniors and the Mayor's Flag for Juniors this year. This is the first time in the history of scouting at STC that our boys have won the senior and junior categories in the same year. This achievement wouldn't have been possible if not for the dedicated service by the Old Boys who are serving as Instructors. In recognition of this great achievement of the scouts, a group of Old Boys representing the group committee took the two winning teams and the Instructors for a two-day holiday camp in Bentota.

SWIMMING AND DIVING: The committee was able to start diving classes for beginners after a lapse of many years. Brigadier B.Munasighe volunteered to conduct training classes on every Saturday and Sunday without any remuneration. The committee would like to record their appreciation for the donation made by Mr F.N. Gunawardena towards swimmers' breakfast and Captain Lalith Gunawardena for organising a boat for the two mile sea swim.

Sports Committee 2006/07

Membership Development Report

The committee identified certain key issues with regard to the membership of the OBA. Firstly that there were several Thomians who had not obtained membership of the OBA, Thomians should be given membership at the time of leaving the College and within a short period of time and finally there is a need to mobilise the class groups in an organised manner to benefit the College and foster fellowship amongst the different groups.

In response to the issues stated above the committee devised an action plan. It was decided to launch a Membership Drive with a simplified procedure to bring in as many new members. It was also decided to issue the membership forms to the College Form E students on a date in January every year and for the perfected forms to be collected on the same day. After the student leaves the College, steps would be taken to grant him the membership of the OBA. This system would also give the Secretariat a good database of the Thomians leaving the College. It was also decided that all class groups should be requested to register themselves with the OBA Secretariat. With regard to giving membership forms to the Coll. Form E students, the committee thanks the Warden for supporting the proposal agreeing to put in place a suitable system to deduct the membership fee from the refundable deposit with the College after obtaining required consent from the parents.

The membership development committee has successfully launched a very attractive plastic OBA membership card. The plastic card will be issued to all new members. The present members are strongly encouraged to obtain the new plastic card. With regard to registering the class groups, the committee requested members of the various classes presently serving the Ex Co to assist the committee to register their class with the OBA Secretariat.

The committee is also taking steps to compile a separate database of Old Boy parents. It was also decided that the Sampath Bank affinity credit card should be aggressively marketed to these members. The committee was also very successful in re-negotiating the Sampath Bank OBA affinity card programme and at the present rates the College receives an additional income of Rs. 50,000. Sampath Bank has also offered a 0% installment payment scheme for school fees for parents. This scheme once evaluated and approved by College will enable parents to pay school fees up front using the Sampath Bank credit card with absolutely no interest cost for one year. Furthermore, such payment will not be held against the credit limit of the card holder.

Action is being taken to mail OBA membership forms to all students who have left College during the past ten years. This is to encourage those who have still not obtained OBA membership to join the OBA. The membership development committee thanks the Warden, Hony. Secretary, the Administrative Secretary of the OBA Secretariat and all others who supported the initiatives taken by the committee.

Membership Development Committee 2006/07

Membership Application forms can be downloaded at the OBA website www.stcmloba.org and for all membership queries please contact the Secretariat on 4955047 or 4944530.

LAID TO REST

D. Kuttapitiya
Chandi Asiriwatham
Edwin Dias Bandaranayake
Leonard Gunawardena
Ajith Saravanamuthu
Dayanthamal Goonewardena

Christopher George Ondaatje
Zacky Deen
Rtd. Col. Richard F.C. DeLivera
Ketheshwaran Loganathan
Panduka Rambukwella
Lyn De Alwis

Ranjith Ramanayake
Shelton Gunawardena
Eksath Liyanage
Indrajith Sarvanandhan
Nihal Gunawardena



REMEMBERING MONTY

Monty Gopallawa whose name was recorded in the College Register as **Moithra Cudabanda Gopallawa** though two years older than I, has been a dear friend from the time we both travelled together from our residences at Ward Place and Albert Crescent respectively in a van that took us, among others, to Mt. Lavinia and back to spend our days of learning within the portals of S. Thomas' College. For some reason, he always chose to sit at the back of the van, probably, because he tended to occupy the space of two! His heart was as big as his body and allowed kindness to overflow towards all who knew him. On the one hand he evinced a bashful countenance while on the other hand he was full of fun and laughter. Monty was an extraordinary character who will always be missed.



He was Governor of the Central Province from 2001 until his demise. He was a Member of the Sri Lankan Delegation led by the late Prime Minister, Hon. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to the UN Plenary Sessions in 1971. He attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union Conference in 1976 in New Delhi and in 1995 in Canberra. In 1999 he participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference in Berlin. During the State Visit of Zhu Ronji of the People's Republic of China to Sri Lanka in 2001, he was a Member of the Delegation and the Minister in Attendance. In the same year he made official visits as Minister of Cultural Affairs to the People's Republic of China, Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He attended the Asia-Pacific Scout Jamboree in Kanchanaburi, Thailand in the year 2004 as Chief Guest. He was conferred the Honorary Title of Keerthi Sri Dharmapriya Sasanabandu by the Karaka Palaka Sangha Sabhawa of the Ramana Maha Nikaya.

My wife, Ranjini enjoyed the friendship of Monty's wife, Nimal and the companionship of her sister, Varini who was her classmate at Ladies' College. My son, Viran spent his entire school career and his subsequent legal/ (higher) education with Monty's son, Mahen who was not only his classmate but also a very close friend who, consequently, ended up being his groomsman at his wedding. The values I have witnessed in Monty and Nimal's children, Mahen and Shanika, are yet another tribute that must be paid to Monty, because children of politicians today can only turn out that way, if they have a father of a calibre that impresses the importance of integrity, honesty and true human goodness through true personal example in both public and private life.

Monty remained devoted and loyal to STC to the end. I recall how during a College Fair, while being the Minister of Cultural Affairs, he sponsored the performance of a Cultural Troupe on the open-air stage; not everyone knew that he silently bore the expenses of that show and he sought no publicity for himself. He loved his *alma mater*. He never forgot his friends and no matter to what heights he rose, he always had his feet on the ground. He walked with Kings but never lost the common touch. The environs of his house and nature were no different before and during his tenure in public life and remained unchanged and unassuming. No one would say his personal residence in Nawala belonged to a Cabinet Minister or a Governor of a Province of Sri Lanka, because it was completely devoid of bodyguards and conspicuous vehicles with tinted glasses. Despite Matale being one of the "bloodiest" districts at election time and despite former President, H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's personal appeal to him in the circumstances to take the (sensible) precaution of being accompanied by bodyguards at least while on the campaign trail, given the very real dangers involved, he vehemently refused to do so. This was, perhaps, in a commitment to refuse to engage in the violent power plays that have sadly become almost an apparent necessary evil in most present day election scenarios. With all of this, he emerged unscathed albeit not without hurdles from lesser opponents. He emerged victorious several times by only the sheer force of clean popularity, despite the fact that his traditional electorate was proportionately a smaller one in the large Matale District.

Monty, the grand old Thomian, is no more. He passed away on 26th September, 2005. Needless to say, he will be ever missed by one and all.

Vijaya Corea

What is unique about Thomian Fairs?



The late Rt. Rev Harold de Soysa, Bishop of Colombo, stated in 'Our Fair' Magazine in 1968, "Today when vital importance of education for the future development and prosperity of our nation is being urgently felt and the opportunity for the best education is being made available for all, it would be good for us to remember how much we owe to Schools such as S. Thomas' which were the pioneers of modern education in our land. It was these Schools which first stressed the importance of education itself, an importance not realised then, but acknowledged; which stressed, secondly, the need for true education to be the education of the whole man and result in the formation of a good and upright character and not one which merely imparts knowledge; and thirdly, which in them helped our boys and girls to live and work and play together, regardless of racial and religious differences and thus has helped more perhaps than any other single factor in the growth of the unity of the nation. This College has always striven to uphold these aims and ideals".

Our family has had long connections with S. Thomas'. My husband's grandmother who lived in Mutuwal at that time when the College was founded in 1851, found this site (Mount Lavinia) for the move from Mutuwal to Mt. Lavinia. She helped to get the land, and the excess of it she herself purchased next door. In order to build the Chapel and the three buildings that are around the quadrangle and the small club grounds, she had several bullock carts stationed in her premises at Colombo, to ply up and down the Galle Road which was very narrow then, to carry the earth, which today we see in our premises, sand covered with cabook soil.

Her son Sir J.P. Obeysekere, my Father in Law who was a student at Mutuwal was the owner of the next door property and he made it available for the use of the College, throughout the war years, and afterwards too, building class rooms and tennis courts for the students. I am happy that my husband, as a Christian, insisted on making this property available for the Middle School and the Warden's Bungalow. It was Sir James who encouraged and helped me at every turn to organize the first two Thomian Fairs. He was a member of the Board of Governors from its inception till his death, and his concern and care for S. Thomas' College was a wish that he conveyed always to us to carry forward.

It brings back happy memories that I have been able to help S. Thomas' College wherever it stood as I was associated in organizing events for S. Thomas' College, to raise funds for Mt. Lavinia, Colpetty and Gurutalawa as well.

Having organised the first Thomian Fair in 1962 which was to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Old Boys' Association during the time of Warden C.H Davidson, funds were needed to establish a second Science Block which was then a pressing need.

For this purpose we had to raise six lakhs, and we achieved more! It was a memorable fair of fellowship and friendship.

The next Fair I helped to organise was in 1968 during the time of Warden A.J.C. Selvaratnam. This was held on the grounds of the Race Course, Colombo, to raise funds for both Mt. Lavinia and Gurutalawa.

The Fair was opened by his Excellency William Gopallawa on the 1st Day and on the other two days by past Thomians, Mr. Dudley Senanayake who was the Prime Minister and Sir J.P. Obeysekere. This was a grand Fair and a memorable one. Thomians from both Schools worked very hard, with joy, to make it a success.

The next Fair we organised was in 1976 during the time of Warden Anandanayagam, to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of S. Thomas' College. Funds were required to help build an indoor stadium and a gymnasium. This was held in the grounds at Mt. Lavinia and was an unqualified success.

After some time, I was once again invited by acting Warden Pakianathan and the Old Boys' Association to organize the 2001 Fair to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of S. Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia. Mr. Lakshman Fernando who was my co-organiser ably assisted me in raising Rs. 14 million for the School. It was here that we first met the current Warden Dr. David Ponniah who took over the helm of S. Thomas' College and happily assisted the team. We all recognise the tremendous contribution Dr. Ponniah made to the whole Thomian Family and community.

I am happy to see the Old Boys' Secretariat and the Archives of S. Thomas' College which is the result of one of the events organised in the year 2001, the "Walk" which gave the funds to put up the building for the Old Boys' Association to have their own Secretariat.

The year 2005, I was delighted when Mr. Dulip Kumar and Mr. Lakshman Fernando, Chairman of the Organising Committee requested for my advice and help with the Fair arrangements.

Mr. Lakshman Fernando in his efficient and quiet manner has been able to collect for the fair millions of rupees from his colleagues and friends, assisted by Mr. Chandra Schafter. It is a great pleasure and joy working with the Thomians who always volunteer to throw in their full weight to carry out their responsibilities to help in the organisation.

In my young days I was living in Mt. Lavinia and my uncles and cousins were all Thomians or had connections with College. They were all wonderful and enjoyable people not only in their studies, but especially in sports. Coming to the Royal Thomian Matches, we waited eagerly to receive pocket money from these elders, to enjoy at the Match.

Those were good old days. Yet, with all these Thomians around me, I ended in marrying a Royalist! I must say that he and his family with their true Christian spirit encouraged me to assist our Christian Schools, which we believe carry the torch of our Anglican Faith throughout the Country. This is the Victory of our Faith.

I have spent many years of my life organising Fairs and other events for both S. Thomas' and Ladies' College, my old School. God has given me the gift of being able to work with People and bring happiness to People through enjoyable events, such as these Thomian Fairs.

Thomians are very loyal to their *alma mater* and we know they are keen on coming together from wherever they are for the Thomian Fairs and they are eager to uphold the lofty ideals for which Thomians have been nurtured for generations.

Mrs. Siva Obeysekere

STC SOUVENIRS

Hats	: Rs. 400/=	Thomian Nostalgia Poster	: Rs. 500/=
T Shirts	: Rs. 250/= & 500/=	Royal-Thomian Tie	: Rs. 250/=
Vehicle Badge (Gold/Silver/Bronze)	: Rs. 400/=	Tea Mugs	: Rs. 150/=
Pendent / Pin	: Rs. 200/=	Beer Mugs	: Rs. 200/=
Stickers	: Rs. 50/= to 200/=	Royal - Thomian History Book	: Rs. 750/=
Key Chains	: Rs. 300/=	Thomian Pictorial Book	: Rs. 100/=

**Contact the OBA Secretariat for purchases
Contact # - 4955047, 4944530**



**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, MOUNT LAVINIA
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 121ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 9TH 2007 AT 6.30 PM AT THE COLLEGE HALL,
S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, MOUNT LAVINIA.**

PROPOSED AGENDA

01. MEETING OF THE 121ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.
02. READ THE NOTICE CONVENING THE 121ST AGM, IF NOT TAKEN AS READ.
03. OBITUARIES - OBSERVANCE OF TWO MINUTES SILENCE IN THEIR MEMORY (SEE REPORT).
04. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 120TH AGM HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006.
05. BUSINESS OR MATTERS ARISING OUT OF AGENDA ITEM 04 ABOVE.
06. ADDRESS BY DR. DAVID PONNIAH, PRESIDENT, STCML OBA.
07. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE 2006/2007 ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL REPORT.
08. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE 2006/2007 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BALANCE SHEET.
09. MOTION(S) OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (If received - See Annex II of Annual Report).
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.
12. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2007/2008.
 - I. President of the Association / Ex. Officio Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.
 - II. FIRST Vice President / Ex-Officio, Sub Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.
 - III. SECOND Vice President.
 - IV. Honorary Secretary.
 - V. Assistant Secretary (Nominated by the Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia).
 - VI. Honorary Treasurer.
 - VII. Honorary Assistant Treasurer.
 - VIII. Honorary Auditor.
 - IX. Honorary Assistant Auditor.
 - X. FORTY (40) MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS FOLLOWS:
 - a. TEN (10) MEMBERS UNDER THIRTY (30) YEARS.
 - b. TEN (10) MEMBERS BETWEEN THIRTY (30) AND FORTY (40) YEARS.
 - c. TEN (10) MEMBERS BETWEEN FORTY (40) AND FIFTY (50) YEARS.
 - d. TEN (10) MEMBERS OVER FIFTY (50) YEARS OF AGE.
13. ADJOURNMENT.

NOTICE OF AGENDA ITEM 12 ABOVE:

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND THOSE REPRESENTING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS PRESCRIBED IN ITEM 12 ABOVE SHALL BE RECEIVED AT THE STCML OBA SECRETARIAT, S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, MOUNT LAVINIA, NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS AT 1700 HRS, THURSDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2007, HAVING GIVEN FOURTEEN (14) CLEAR DAYS NOTICE BEFORE THE SCHEDULED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. NOMINATION FORM MUST BE DULY PROPOSED AND SECONDED BY TWO (2) SEPARATE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, TOGETHER WITH THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE MEMBER SO NOMINATED. NO MEMBER WHO HAS SERVED THE STCML OBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FIVE (5) SUCCESSIVE OR CONSECUTIVE (UNINTERRUPTED) YEARS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION, UNTIL A LAPSE OF TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE YEARS HAS OCCURRED.

NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE SELF-PREPARED BY HAVING THE NAME OF PROPOSER, SECONDER, THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND THE CONSENT OF THE NOMINEE WITH HIS ATTESTATION AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. THE ABSENCE OF THE STATED INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE NOMINATIONS, REJECTED NOMINATIONS CANNOT BE RECONSIDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE 2006/2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STCML OBA SECRETARIAT,
S. THOMAS' COLLEGE,
DE SARAM ROAD, MOUNT LAVINIA.
Tel : 4955047, 4944530

Sgd:
Senaka de Fonseka

1st December 2006

E P I L O G U E

It's with great pleasure that the Newsletter Committee brings out another edition of the 'Old Boy'. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this edition as much, if not more than you enjoyed it the last year. Last years 'Warden de Saram, 50's era' focus, received a truly inspiring response from the old boys of the 50's era who trod Thomian soil under the stewardship of the great Thomian Warden. This year we focus on the 40's and continue our journey through the ages collecting 'Thomian stories'. Compiling this edition was particularly enjoyable for the Committee for we were able to meet, talk and compare notes with those who have had the Thomian experience generations before us. In our discussions and interviews we realised that the 'cutting edge' that STC had over all other schools was that education at STC was relevant and current, in terms of achieving success in the life after leaving school. The old boys of the 40's spoke of times where the mere fact that one was a Thomian was good enough to secure good jobs.

At the same time, we meet the Thomian fathers of the 'new millennium'. Fathers who are asking the same question that their fathers had asked, "which school should my son attend?" Unfortunately, despite some of them boasting 'Third generation' Thomian pedigrees, some Thomian fathers of the present generation, are inclined to think that S. Thomas' isn't good enough for their sons. This appears to be based on a misconception that S. Thomas' is losing its relevance. Its obvious that things have changed and that children of today and of the future need to be prepared to compete with the rest of the world in the field called 'the global village'. International Schools that have mushroomed appear to equip children better to face the challenges that lie ahead. However we the old boys, the products of this institution know that the lessons that we learnt at the School by the Sea have held us through out the years and enabled us to be "men and gentlemen always".

A diagnosis would reveal that it is not a case of S. Thomas' being defective but that it needs to rise to the occasion. In this regard we note the efforts of our Warden who has brought to S. Thomas' a wealth of knowledge, skill and experience to ensure that S. Thomas' goes on and continues to be the premier institution for education of boys. We also note the ambitious IT project of the Class of '87. This happens to be the best example of old boys coming forward to help the College and its help and vision in the right direction. We hope other old boys would also do likewise and support the effects of the Warden to improve the facilities and standards at College.

We, the Editors are sure that the children of today would rethink of their goals in the context of challenges. As old boys and Thomian Fathers, let us stress the fact that the important thing is not the acquisition of more and more knowledge or brilliant performances at public examinations, but help the new generation to acquire correct attitudes, values and ideas that were given by our forefathers in this great institution.

Whatever adversities we face, the standards at S.T.C. must remain unchanged. In this new age, we should all try to live up to the best in the past heritage and traditions of the school. A glorious past will always inspire a bright future and traditions will bind countless generations of Thomians. Our hope is that every Thomian would be intensely conscious of the Thomian traditions in their lives.

Answering our call for contributions and feed back from the membership, we have received very encouraging replies and articles for publication. We thank all those who sent their views, comments and articles. Please keep writing in. In conclusion we thank the Warden, the Sub Warden, the Secretary of the OBA and all those who helped in the publication of this Newsletter.

Esto Perpetua.

Dilshan Boteju - Co - Chairman
Hejaaz Omer Hizbullah

Prajeeth Balasubramaniam Co-Chairman
Rukshan Perera

Mangala Gunasekera
Dulip Soysa

e-mail : newsletter@stcmloba.org