

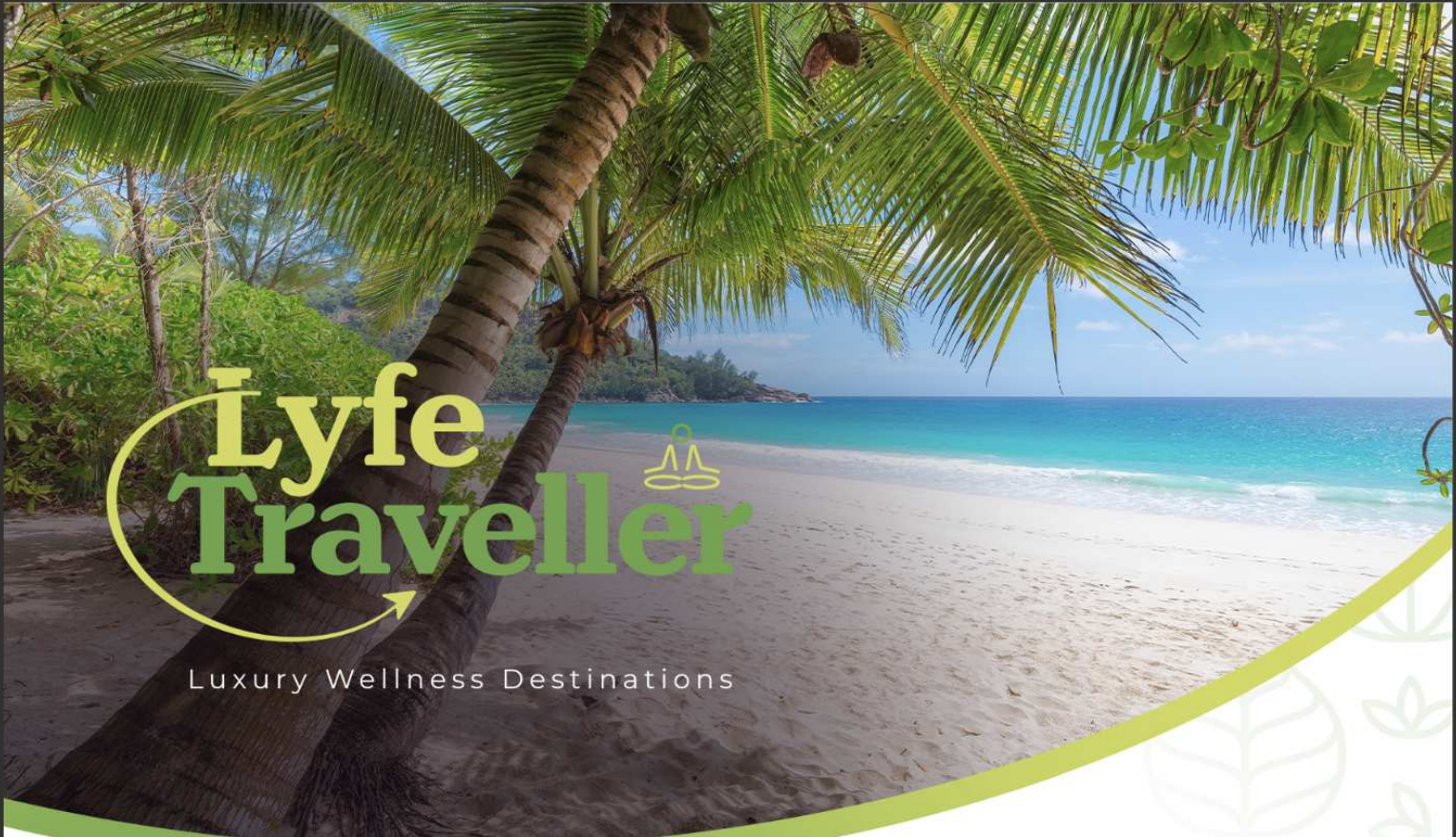


St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys' Association of USA

**Inaugural General Meeting
&**

**SACKOBA BALL
LAS VEGAS 2023**





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St. Anthony's College Kandy College Anthem

Rally round the banner of the College,
Rally round the Maroon, Double Blue,
Antonians young, Antonians old,
Your voices ring out "Lux de Coelo".....,
Matches may be won or lost,
Never mind defeat.....,
Should all our records be forgotten?,
No... no... no... no... no...,
Antonians will be there.....,
Antonians will be there!



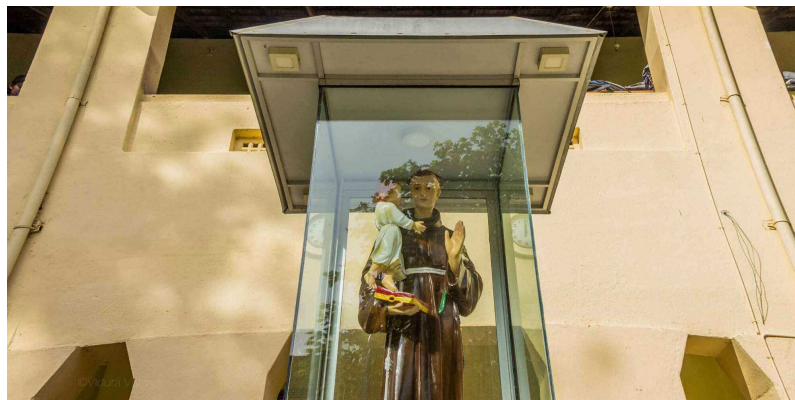
Hymn to St. Anthony

Maroon, light & dark blue banners
Are the standards we reserve
Loyal proud & brave Antonians,
Our dear alma mater serve.

Dear St. Anthony our patron,
Guide our steps & keep us free,
Lux de Coelo, Light from Heaven,
Is the gift we ask of thee.

Loss or victory notwithstanding,
We shall always be the same,
Striving earnestly to prosper
Our dear Alma Mater's name.

Anthony our powerful mentor,
Guide & our protector be,
'Lux de Coelo' Light from Heaven,
May this be our Victory.



Message from the Rev. Fr. Principal of St. Anthony's College Kandy



It is undeniably a pleasure, as the Rector of St. Anthony's College, Kandy to pen a few words to be published in the souvenir issued on the inaugural session of the SACKOBA-USA Branch.

I would be happy to congratulate heartily the old Antonians in the U.S.A. for taking the initiative to establish a branch of SACKOBA in the U.S. and continuing to be together as fellow Antonians while accomplishing opportunities to support in difficulties and appreciating the company of brotherhood.

SACKOBA has been persuasive in the process of preserving higher standards in almost every field of activity happened at college premises since its inception as a unit.

First and foremost, I feel fortunate to send my warm wishes to the organizers of the first ever Annual Dinner Dance in the U.S.A. for old Antonians and the newly appointed office bearers and committee members of SACKOBA U.S.A. branch.

I am delighted over the success and expansion of SACKOBA globally, forming opportunities for Antonians worldwide, supporting each other in both happiness and distress while relishing the memories you had as Antonians amidst the central hills of Kandy together.

I hope you would assist vastly to keep up the long-preserved traditions of the college and would be on par with the administration of the college in taking decisions by being devoted, truthful and responsible old Antonians, even though you are far away from your homeland and Alma Mater.

As the head of the institution, I am glad to see SACKOBA prosper day by day with affection and gratitude towards your Alma Mater, supplementing enormously to enhance better standards of the college. I pray that the members of the newly formed organization would be well-knit into partnerships to maintain a good rapport between yourselves, which in turn, would provide you healthy relationships to build sustainability as a group.

I ardently hope that the Inaugural Dinner Dance 2023 of SACKOBA U.S.A. branch will see its eventual success, meeting the anticipated goals and stay united in the coming years too. I wish you all the best...!

May the God Almighty sprinkle his choicest blessings over your success...!

Thank you.

Rev. Fr. Henry Bernard Wijerathne. (O.S.B.)

Principal,
St. Anthony's College,
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Message from the President of SACKOBA United States of America



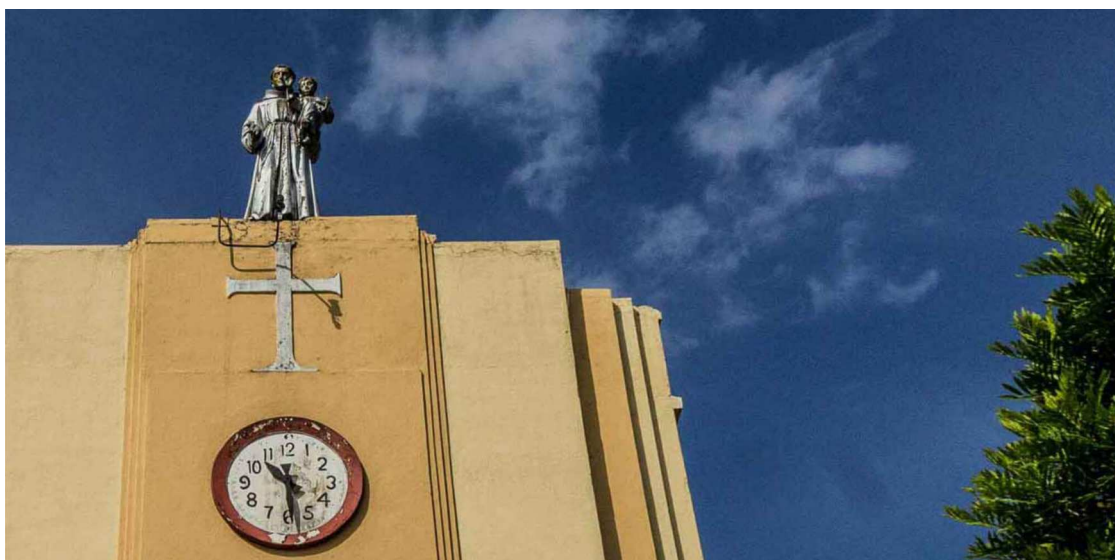
A message from a president is always a sincere expression towards the well being of an organization. My experience over the years as a convener, member, leader and president of an assortment of civic organizations strengthens the view that togetherness and collective responsibility encompassing solidarity and fraternity are key factors that govern the development and sustainability of any organization.

The dedicated and pioneering efforts of the founder members no doubt provide a salutary layer of a strong foundation. In this context I extend my very special thanks to the untiring efforts of our founder members for sacrificing their valuable time and resources and also who gathered at the inaugural general meeting at short notice. I am overwhelmed at the response from those who are "far and near" for the enthusiasm shown in respect of the dinner dance on this special day of December 3rd, 2023, in Las Vegas. I also take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for the trust placed on me to lead SACKOBA - USA as your inaugural president.

Please count on my commitment to " the Antonians young and the Antonians old to rally round the banner of the College" to keep the " maroon double blue" flag flying high in the American soil with a vibrant organization built on strong values and traditions of our Alma Mater - St. Anthony's College Kandy.

LUX de COELO

Aruna Abeyakoon
President
SACKOBA USA



Sending our best wishes for the inaugural event of SACKOBA USA

Sajith and Maureen Fernando



Sajith is the most recent cricketer from SACK to earn the title of All Island School Boy Cricketer (1992).

Message from the Chief Guest of SACKOBA BALL - Las Vegas 2023



Dear Members of SACKOBA USA and Friends,

I am honored to express a few words on this significant day of the inauguration of SACKOBA USA. Over the 20-plus years of my frequent visits to North America, I have encountered many Antonians residing here. Despite their enthusiasm in forming a SACKOBA branch in the US soil, I learnt that it did not bear fruit due to many challenges.

In this context, it is my absolute pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Inaugural President Aruna Abeyakoon together with the Board Trustees and the entire Executive Committee for working hard to rally all the Antonians living in America and officially forming SACKOBA USA. May your efforts be met with great success in fulfilling your objectives, duties and responsibilities.

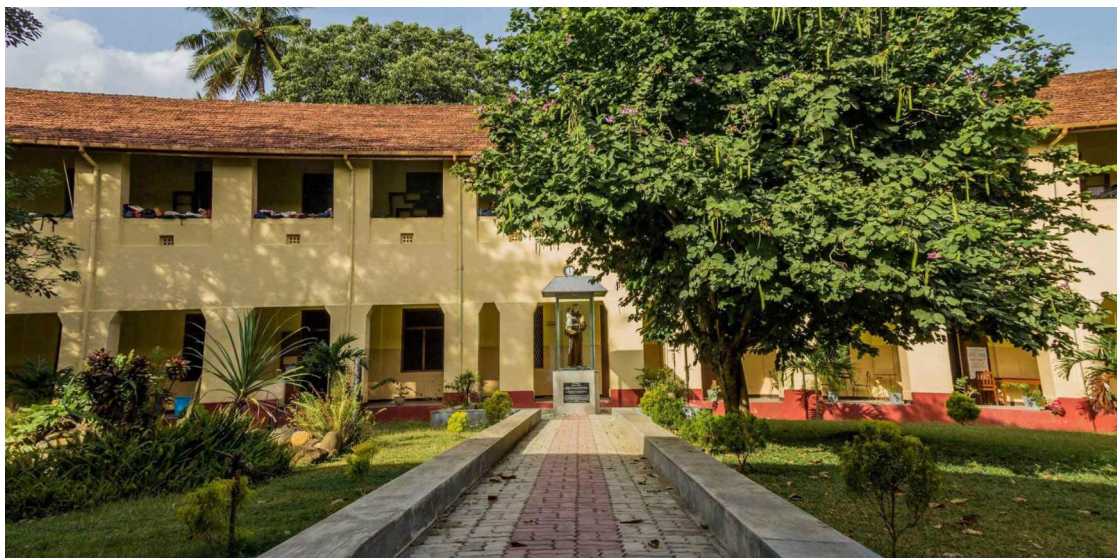
With SACKOBA gaining a strong foothold in America, coupled with the passion and commitment of its members is undoubtedly a predisposition of a bright future to our beloved Alma Mater St. Anthony's College Kandy and the Antonian fraternity.

Sincerely,

Dimuthu Tennakoon

SACK G91

Head of Worldwide Sales and Distribution - Sri Lankan Airlines





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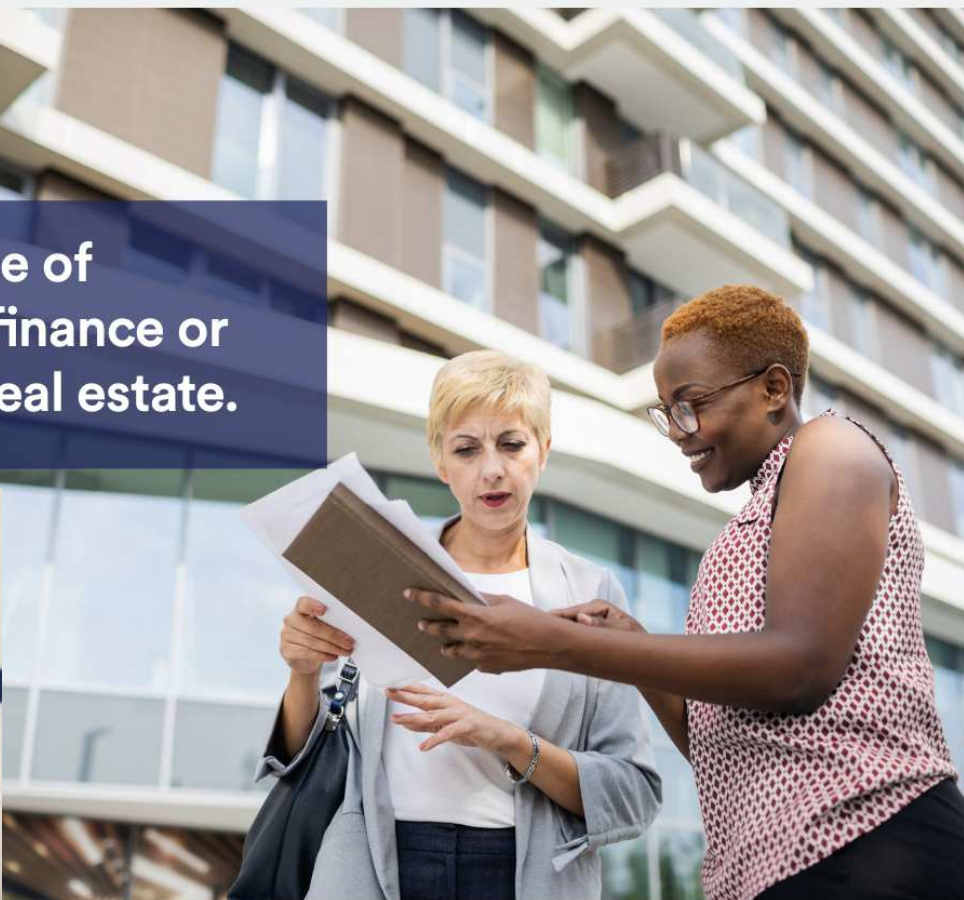
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*In loving memory of two
teaching greats who shaped
our lives:*

*George Macky
and
Edward Kasturiarachi.*

All the best to SACKOBA USA!

**BATHI & SHARON
KASTURIARACHI**

Message from Chief Judge Kalani Hoo (Justice of the Peace)



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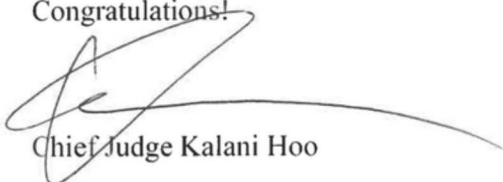
CHIEF JUDGE KALANI HOO
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

November 23, 2023

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys' Association of USA (SACKOBA USA). Established in 1854, St. Anthony's College Kandy, one of the most prestigious schools in Sri Lanka, has produced numerous scholars and athletes, who have made notable impacts around the world. While the original Old Boys Association was established in 1910, with many branches found globally, there was no local association for the many Antonians that reside in the United States—until now.

SACKOBA USA's founders, seeking to strengthen their Antonian bonds, forged SACKOBA USA to increase the brotherhood between Antonians; to support the St. Anthony's College; and to serve the Sri Lankan community, and the community as a whole. I have the utmost confidence that the members of SACKOBA USA will continue to surpass their goals, and continue to serve their community with grace, dignity, and honor.

Congratulations!



Chief Judge Kalani Hoo

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Message from the President of SACKOBA



Dear SACKOBA USA,

It is with immense pleasure and a sense of pride that I extend my warmest greetings to all the distinguished old boys gathered in the USA for the inaugural AGM and the inaugural Dinner Dance in Sin City, Las Vegas United States of America. As the President of SACKOBA, I am honored to address you on this special occasion that brings together the cherished alumni of our beloved alma mater.

Our ties to St. Anthony's College, Kandy, run deep, transcending time and distance. This gathering is not merely an event; it is a celebration of the shared memories, enduring friendships, and the collective spirit that defines our SACKOBA family. Tonight, as you gather in the USA to officially form the SACKOBA USA Branch I am reminded of the resilience and unity that characterizes the Antonian spirit.

Our alma mater has been a crucible of character, forging men of excellence, integrity, and compassion. It has shaped us into individuals who are not only adept in their respective fields but also committed to making a positive impact on society. The distance that separates us geographically is bridged by the common values and principles instilled in us during our formative years at St. Anthony's.

This Dinner Dance is a testament to the enduring strength of the SACKOBA community, spread far and wide. It serves as a reminder that, though oceans may separate us, the bonds we forged in the hallowed halls of St. Anthony's remain unbroken. As we gather to reminisce, let us also look forward with optimism and determination to contribute meaningfully to our communities and the world at large.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers headed by Aruna Abeykoon who have worked tirelessly to make this event a reality. Your commitment to fostering the SACKOBA spirit across borders is commendable, and I am confident that this gathering will be a memorable one, filled with camaraderie, laughter, and the rekindling of old friendships.

In conclusion, I urge each one of you to embrace the values that St. Anthony's has imparted to us and carry them forward in all your endeavors. Let us continue to be beacons of light, illuminating the path for future generations of Antonians.

May this Dinner Dance be a joyous occasion, filled with the warmth of friendship and the echoes of shared laughter. I look forward to hearing about the success of this event and eagerly anticipate the day when we can gather in person to celebrate our shared heritage.

Wishing you all a splendid evening and continued success in your personal and professional pursuits.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Stephen
President
SACKOBA



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Message from the President of SACKOBA Colombo



Greetings from Colombo, on the happy and momentous occasion of the Inaugural AGM and Dinner Dance of the Antonian fraternity in the USA.

It is indeed heartwarming to hear of this great initiative.

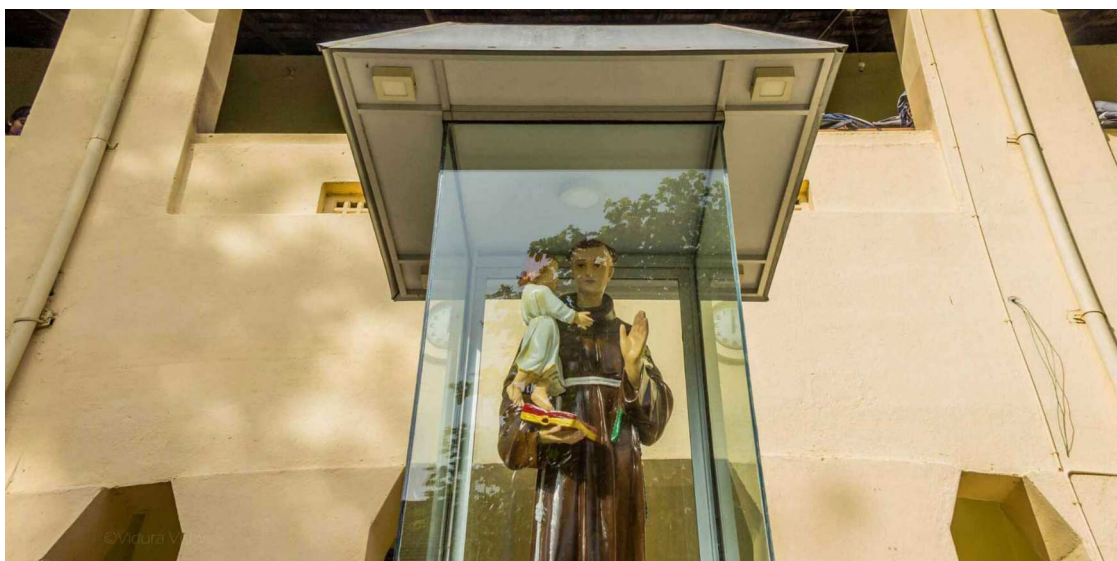
Given the vastness of the country and the fact that Antonians are spread across the country, it would be a herculean task to put together such an event and I salute the organizers for the courage and fortitude for taking on such a project.

I am sure all who participate will have a wonderful time and get the opportunity to reminisce about the halcyon days spent at the great school by the River Mahaweli in our beautiful Mother Lanka.

Whilst congratulating and wishing the organisers for a successful event I wish all a most enjoyable evening.

Compliments of the season

Rohan Wijesinghe
President
SACKOBA Colombo



Best compliments from



**St Anthony's College, Kandy,
Old Boys Association, UK
(SACKOBA UK)**

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Eagles Night 2023 Dinner Dance

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Message from the President of SACKOBA United Kingdom



Dear Fellow Antonians and Friends

Its with great pleasure and honour that I write this message of friendship to our brothers in USA who are organising and celebrating their inaugural sackoba dance in Vegas. Though the idea of being there for a few days with friends from school seem very inviting, we are unable to attend this prestige's event on this occasion. However, we wish to send our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a successful evening to the president Aruna Abeyakoon and his committee from everyone at SACKOBA UK.

We were all-fortunate to have been educated at St Anthony's Kandy. We made lifelong friendships, apart from education college has prepared us for life in different parts of the world and any gathering of Antonians in Vegas for a worthy cause needs to be supported and celebrated and SACKOBA UK will always 'rally around the banner' along side you, now and in future.

So On behalf of all the OBA members in the UK, we would like to wish everyone at SACKOBA USA a very successful and enjoyable evening and best wishes for all your efforts in helping our Beloved College in the process.

Enjoy your Night

Niroshan Perera

President

SACKOBA UK



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Message from the President of SACKOBA Australia



Greetings & best wishes from the old Antonians in Australia. It gives me immense pleasure and pride to send this message to the aspiring membership of the soon to be formed SACKOBA – USA on the occasion of the inaugural General meeting and the first ever Antonians Dinner Dance in USA “SACKOBA BALL USA 2023” to be held on the 03rd December 2023.

It is a momentous occasion for our brothers in USA to get together in the spirit of camaraderie to raise much needed funds for our beloved Alma Mater, the school by the river, St Anthony's College Kandy. Let this be an opportunity to bond, reminisce and make the most of it on a strong foundation of Antonian values and grit to be continued forever.

Our motherland continues to go through unprecedented times initially with the COVID pandemic and now with the unparalleled Social, Economic and Political crisis. There are many areas and issues deserving our attention pertinent to Sri Lanka's growth and prosperity in any way possible. For us in our own little way it is rewarding and beneficial to focus our energies right now to build a strong institution, in St Anthony's College Kandy which has given us so much over the last 169 years of its existence, continuously producing honorable citizens who excel in their chosen fields. In our quest to extend a helping hand to our school and the affiliated groups we in Australia have made contributions to support sporting activities and revived the much-cherished scholarship programme. We hope to further strengthen the support we can extend.

On our activities in Australia, we were able to execute the planned indoor and outdoor activity calendar with many newly arrived Antonians to Australia making their presence felt mainly in the sporting activities we take part in. The annual college day was celebrated honoring 3 old Antonian members who rendered yeomen services to the Antonian fraternity in Australia. The annual Dinner Dance is the biggest of them all, just concluded for 2023, drawing old Antonians from most states in Australia and now from different parts of the world, elevating it to a global Antonian event. For next year's event four OBA Presidents & their members have already booked 'tickets'. The Dinner Dance is an annual event we have conducted throughout our existence of 42 years until the pause for Covid and we celebrated the Ruby anniversary of 40 dances this year.

A leading educational institute in the country needs all the support for the students to shine in all activities that they take part. The unwavering support generated by the alumnus of college is laudable given the fact that the authorities have limitations and cannot do much in the given circumstances at present. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that we all “Rally round the banner of the college.....”.

I wish the new SACKOBA – USA Office bearers & the membership the very best in all their endeavors.

Lux De Coelo - May light from heaven fall upon all over the world.

Senaka Amerasinghe
President
SACKOBA Australia

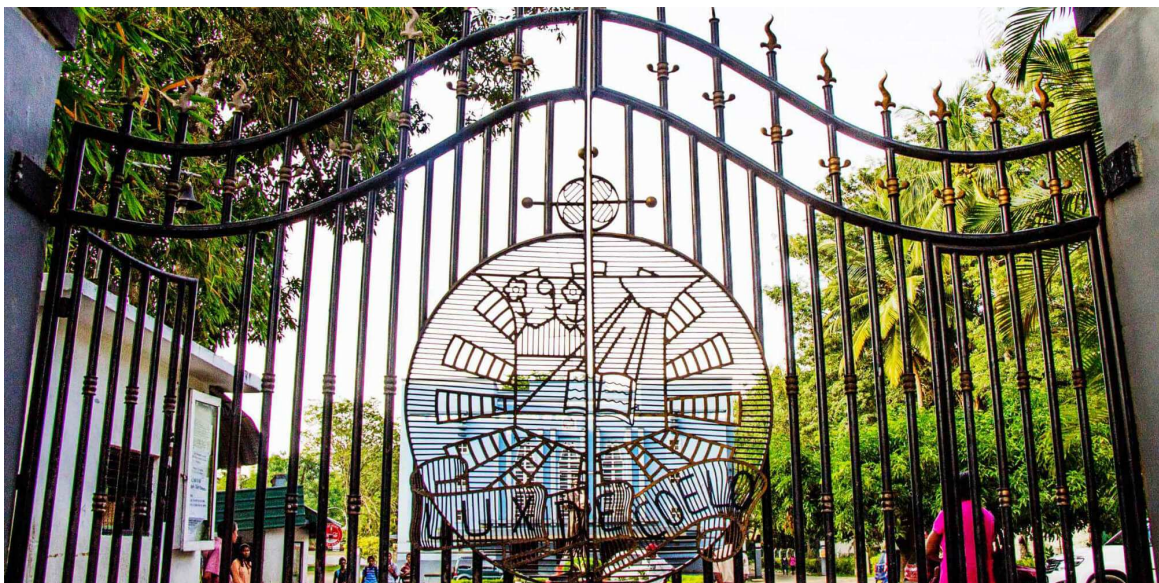
Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from

**SHEVON COORAY
(GROUP 2006)
& FAMILY**



Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from

**RANDIMA CHAVY
(GROUP 2006)
& FAMILY**



*Best
compliments from*



Message from the President of SACKOBA New Zealand



Kia Ora, from New Zealand

Dear Aruna Abeyakoon, President SACK OBA USA,

I extend warm greetings from SACK OBA NZ and heartfelt congratulations to each of you on the momentous occasion of the inaugural gathering of SACK OBA USA.

This significant milestone marks the genesis of a new chapter in our cherished SACK OBA community, a testament to our shared commitment and dedication to our Alma Mater's enduring legacy. I extend profound gratitude and recognition to every member who dedicated their time, effort, and enthusiasm to lay the foundation of SACK OBA USA.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge and express heartfelt gratitude to Nimalka Perera from SACK OBA NZ and yourself Aruna for the invaluable guidance and support significantly contributed to the formation and establishment of SACK OBA USA. Nimalka's unwavering commitment and efforts in providing guidance and assistance have been pivotal in formation of SACK OBA NZ and USA. Nimalka Perera's guidance has been a beacon of inspiration, steering us towards significant achievement.

The inception of SACK OBA USA represents not just a gathering but a platform for us to unify our efforts in support of our Alma Mater's continued progress. As you and the team embark on this journey, I invite each newly appointed committee member to join hands in fostering a spirit of camaraderie, collaboration, and shared purpose. Together, let us channel our collective energies toward initiatives that will uphold the values and traditions of our beloved Alma Mater.

Our Alma Mater has instilled in us values that transcend time and place, shaping us into the individuals we are today. It is now our responsibility to reciprocate this gift by nurturing and supporting the institution that has given us so much. Through collective efforts, let us aim to provide a strong foundation for the future generations of Antonians.

In conclusion, as you celebrate the inaugural gathering and embark on this promising journey, let us remember that our strength lies in unity and collective action. Together, let us script a future that not only honours our past but also ensures a legacy that future generations of Antonians can be proud of.

With deep gratitude and boundless optimism,

Roshan Perera (Group 97)

President
SACKOBA NZ

Group '80 Batch Trip to USA



Best Compliments from
NELANI & CHITRAL

Message from the President of SACKOBA United Arab Emirates



Greetings from SACKOBA UAE!!!

With immense pleasure, I pen these words on the occasion of the inaugural 'SACKOBA Ball USA 2023' of SACKOBA USA.

SACKOBA Ball USA is the latest addition to the multiple Antonian Dinner Dances taking place around the work & it's great to see SACKOBA USA taking such a giant step. Organizing an event of this nature isn't an easy task and I'm sure a tremendous amount of work has been put into organizing an evening full of music, dance & entertainment for Old Antonians, their families & friends to relive memories & strengthen friendships.

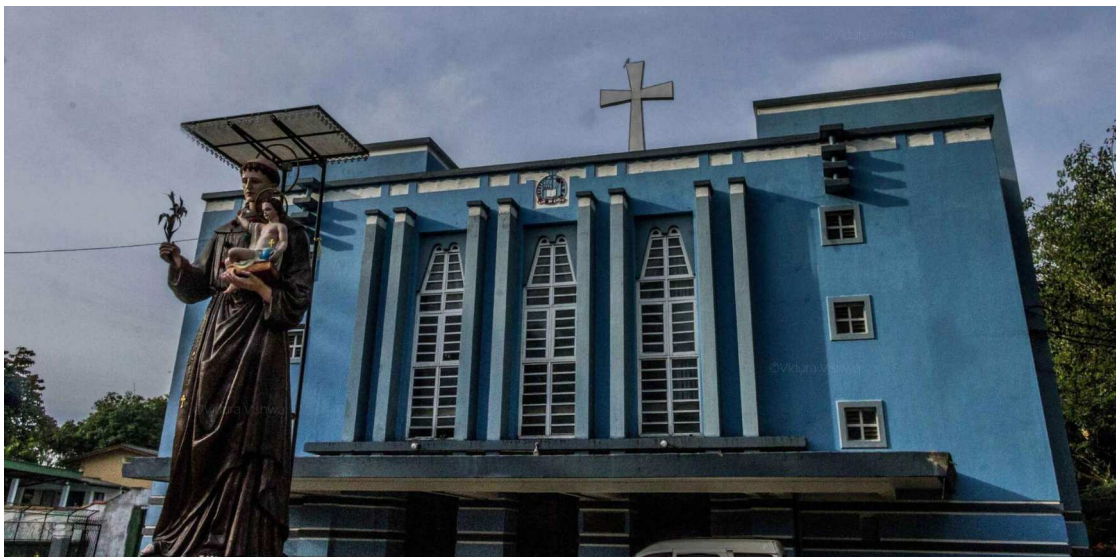
We thank you for the opportunity given to pen these words for the event, and we look forward to strengthening the camaraderie between SACKOBA UAE & USA in the years to come.

I take this opportunity to wish the President, the Dance Committee & SACKOBA USA all the very best for a successful 'SACKOBA Ball USA 2023'!

Lux De Coelo!

Have a wonderful evening & May God Bless You!

Dileepa Peiris
President
SACKOBA UAE



TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN MUCH IS REQUIRED

- John F. Kennedy

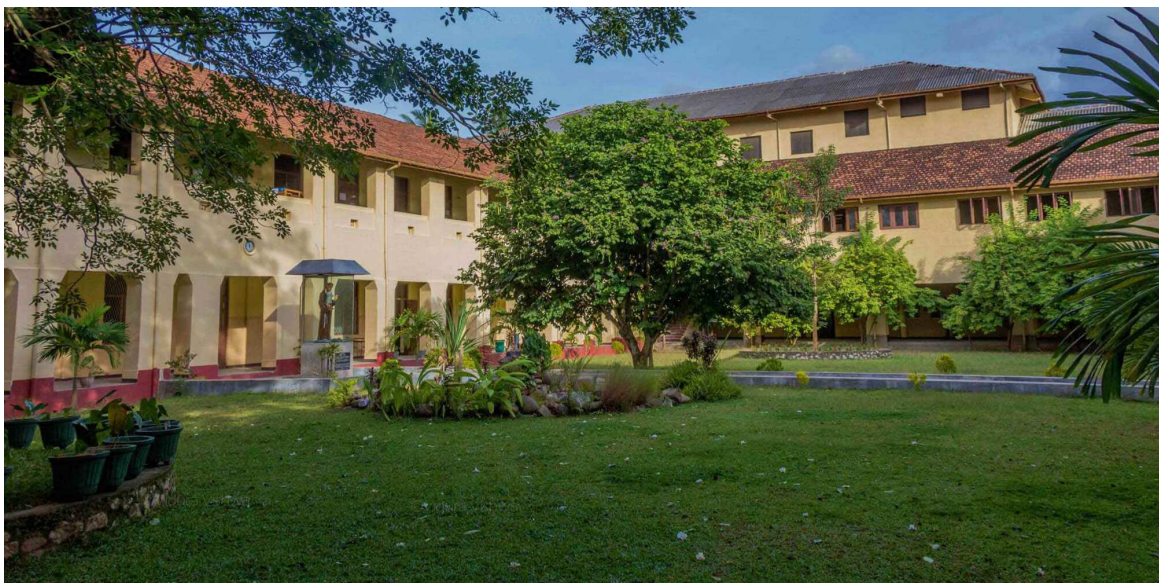
*Let's Give Back To This Great
School By The Mahaweli That
Gave Us So Much...!*

Best compliments from

**DR. LAKSHMAN DENEPITIYA
& SHANTHI DENEPITIYA**

Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from

**MR. & MRS.
SANJEEWA NARANPANAWE
(GROUP 90)**





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Message from the Secretary (Working Committee) of SACKOBA Canada

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate the founding members of SACKOBA USA at their inauguration. We are thrilled to see SACKOBA being established in the USA and "SACKOBA Ball 2023" is a great way to kick things off. This is a proud moment for Anotnians around the world.

We would like to wish the organizing committee all the best on this special occasion. While thanking SACKOBA USA for extending their warm welcome all the way to Canada, we're extremely happy that some of the Canadian members are attending this event.

We wish you success in the years to come. May you go from strength to strength!

Lux de Coelo!

Milinda Ranaweera
Secretary (Working Committee)
SACKOBA Canada



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SACKOBA United States of America Executive Committee

St. Anthony's College Kandy OBA USA Branch

Virtual Inaugural General Meeting held on 15th November 2023.

> President	: Aruna Abeyakoon
> Vice President	: Jude Jayatilake
> Secretary	: Randima Chavy
> Assistant Secretary	: Mohamed Mustaq
> Treasurer	: Dinusha heenkenda
> Assistant Treasurer	: Basker Ganesan

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> Fundraising Chair	: Susantha Jayamaha
> Media & Publicity Chair	: Saliya Yapabandara
> Membership Development Chair	: Vasabha Senerath
> Academic Outreach Chair	: Bathi Kasturiarachi
> Mentorship Board Chair	: Lakshman Denipitiya
> Entertainment and recreation Chair	: Channa Monnekulama

Congratulations to Sajith Fernando for your new role in USA Cricket



USA Cricket has appointed former Sri Lanka First Class Cricketer and the old Antonian Sajith Fernando as one of the members of the Men's Youth Cricket selection panel.

Apart from the Youth Men's Cricket selection duties, Sajith will contribute to West Zonal selection duties too.

Sajith was the last all-island schoolboy cricketer to be produced by St. Anthony's College Kandy in 1992.

Sajith has played 193 First Class matches in Sri Lanka and held the duties as a Sri Lanka Men's National selection committee member. In 2018, he was appointed as the Tournament Director for the 2018 SLC T20 League. Apart from the selection duties, he was a reputed coach as well.

Message from the Board of Trustees of SACKOBA USA

This year we mark a remarkable milestone for all Antonians living in the United States of America. With the establishment of SACKOBA USA as a non-profit organization, the inaugural General Meeting, and SACKOBA Ball USA 2023 in Las Vegas, it is a moment to reflect on the accomplished time period that led us here. This is an opportunity to gather our talents to work hard to shape the future of St. Anthony's College, Kandy.

Outlined in the Constitution of our esteemed organization are details of how we can effectively plan growth and sustain innovation in the next decade and beyond. Our strategic planning will be developed in close consultation with the administration of the college, other SACKOBA's around the globe, and sponsors across the United States. Our plan will be a roadmap that will guide us through the coming years as we meet the challenges of an evolving educational system, new vectors of an emerging economy, and unique opportunities that constantly arise. It is our goal to ensure that Antonian graduates will enter the world prepared to thrive and blossom.

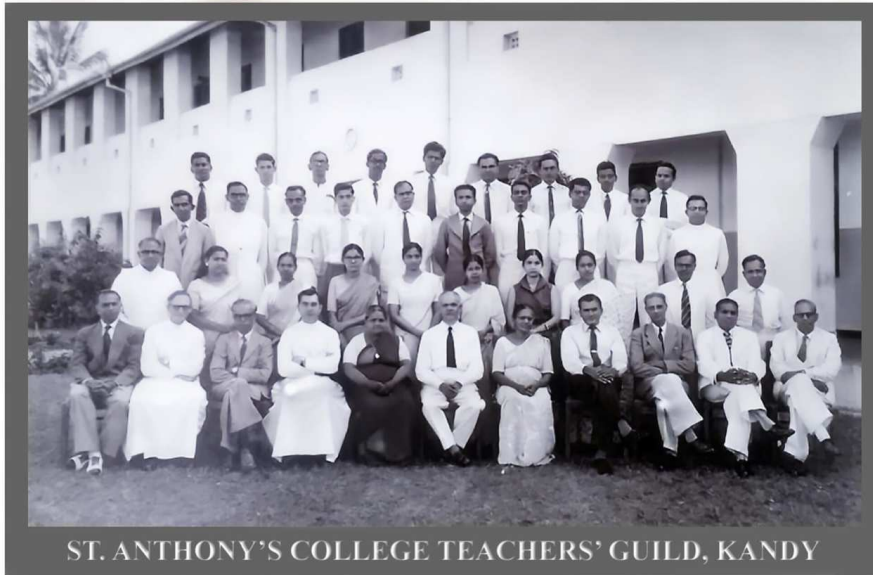
As the Board of Trustees of SACKOBA USA, we are honored to serve alongside each one of you. We are indeed our brother's keeper. As Alice Walker once said-- "We are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For." With the establishment of SACKOBA USA, we aim to further strengthen the global Antonian network as our alma mater takes flight, like a majestic eagle to even greater heights, ever inspired by the spirit of our proud motto: Lux de Coelo.

Best Wishes,

Chitral Amerasiri (Group 80)
Dr. Laxman Denipitiya (Group 69)
Dr. Bathi Kasturiarachi (Group 80)
Dr. Priyantha Perera (Group 74)

The Great Generation: Highlights from the 70's Decade

Compiled with information provided by Dr. David Ginger (Group 78')



ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE TEACHERS' GUILD, KANDY

The 1970's was a decade to remember! It was a period in which St. Anthony's College embarked on a path to continue excellence in academics and sports. It was an era that produced the greatest number of resilient young men who went on to do epic things.

The Teachers

A sample list of great teachers from this decade must include the following.

Mr. George Macky, Fr. Aiden de Silva, Mr & Mrs Arasanayagam, Mr & Mrs BL Fernando, Mr Willy Fernando, Mr. MS Mendis, Mr. Edward Kasturiarachi, Fr. Columban Macky Major Weerasinghe, Mr. Sampson Premaratne, Mr. Angelo Peiris, Mr. Thangiah, Mr. Chinappa, Mr. RNA de Silva, Mr. Dhanapala, Mr. Chandana Seneviratne, Mr. Galahitiyawa, Mr. Cyril Brown, Mr. Stanley Peiris, Mr. Sellapperuma, Mr. Wijesinghe, Miss Drucilla Brown, Miss Shrima Singharachi, Mrs. Attanayake, Mr. Ranjith Perera, ...

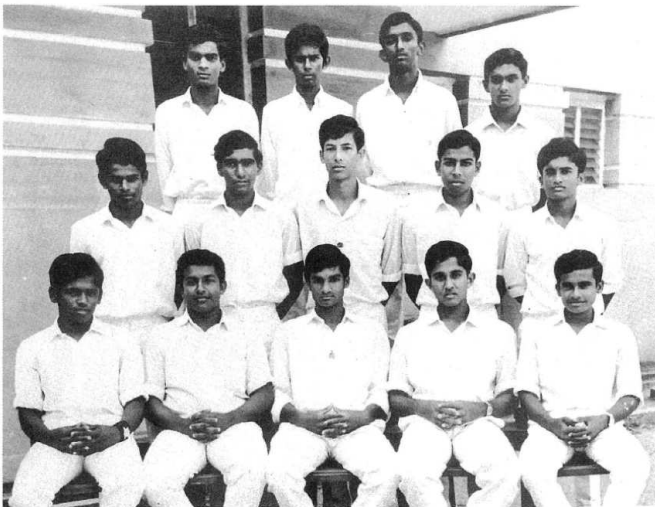


THE MASTER TAKES THEM OFF THE TANGLE OF THE
HYPERBOLOID AND THE RIOT OF POLYHEDRA.

Cricket

Our cricket teams during this decade won many more games. The stalwart cricketers during this era include Merri Gunaratne, Mahesh Goonatilleke, Premalal de Silva, Bernard Perera, Bede Perera, Jayantha Monnekulame, Shane Baltazar, Kevin Baltazar, Rienze Martinez, Ranjith Pieris, Thaiyar Mohamed, Hiran Jayasundara, Adrian Muller, Mohan Ratnakumar, Russell De La Motte, David Ginger, and many more ...

1971 squad



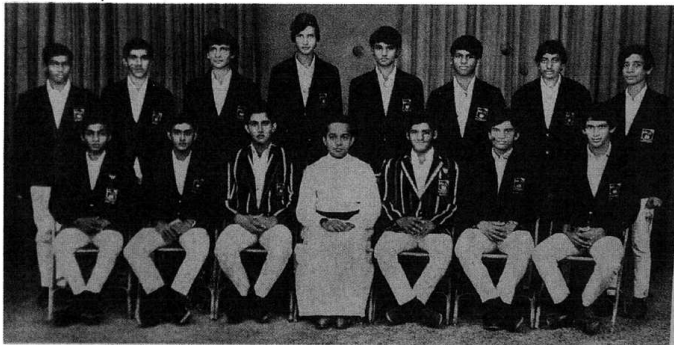
Back Row L-R: Greg Perera, Benedict Wickremnayake, Trevor Fernando and Bernard Ranasinghe.
Middle Row L-R: Dunstan Gunatilleke, CPP Raj, Pat Taylor, Sunil Fernando and Suresh Gunathilleke.
Seated L-R: Merryl Dunuville, Shanthilal De Zilwa, Mahes Gunathilleke, Premalal De Silva and Jayantha Monnekulama

1972 squad



Seated L-R: Suresh Gunathilleke, Merryl Dunuville, Premalal De Silva (v capt), Jayantha Moonekulama (capt), CPP Raj and Bernard Ranasinghe.
Standing L-R: Angelo Peris (MIC), Shane Balthazaar, Mohamed Rizvi, Charlie Paul, Frederick Martin, Benedict Wickremnayake, Anton Perera and TMA Cooray (coach).
Front most L-R: Sunil Alwis and Bede Perera.

1973 squad



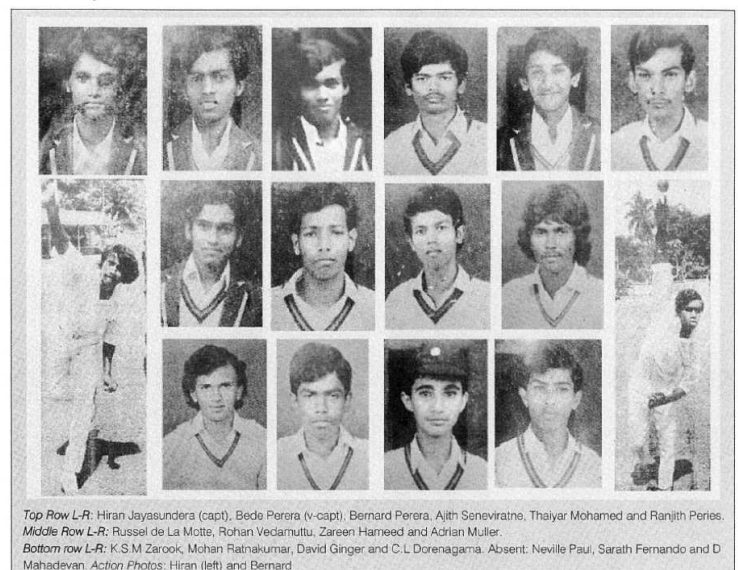
Standing L-R: Bernard Perera, Nimal Malagamuwa, Shane Balthazar, Charlie Paul, Hiran Jayasundara, Sarath Fernando, Mohamed Haris and Kevin Balthazar.
Seated L-R: Bede Perera, Bernard Ranasinghe, Premalal de Silva (capt), Rev. Fr. Aeldred Samarakoon, Merryl Dunuville, Suresh Gunathilleke and Rizvi Hassandeen.

1974 squad



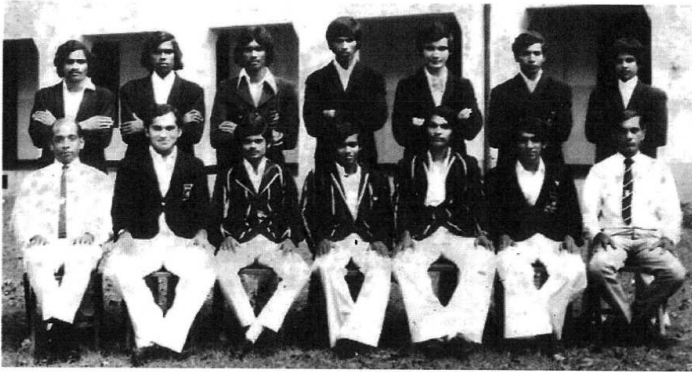
Standing L-R: Mi Willie Fernando, Hiran Jayasundara, Zareen Hameed, Rodney Fernando, Russel De La Motte, Ranjith Pieris, Deva Mahadevan, Ajith Seneviratne, KSM Zarook, Thaiyar Mohammed, Mr P Rajendran POG.
Seated L-R: Charly Paul, Bernard Perera, Suresh Gunathilleke (capt), Mr HM Muthalib (Coach), Shane Balthazaar (v-capt), Bede Perera and Kevin Balthazar.

1975 squad



Top Row L-R: Hiran Jayasundara (capt), Bede Perera (v-capt), Bernard Perera, Ajith Seneviratne, Thaiyar Mohamed and Ranjith Pieris.
Middle Row L-R: Russel de La Motte, Rohan Vedamuttu, Zareen Hameed and Adrian Muller.
Bottom row L-R: K.S.M Zarook, Mohan Ratnakumar, David Ginger and C.L Dorenagama. Absent: Neville Paul, Sarath Fernando and D Mahadevan. Action Photos: Hiran (left) and Bernard.

1976 squad



Standing L-R: S Sivaraj, Mohan Ratnakumar, Adrian Muller, Prasad Fernando, David Ginger, Rohan Vedomuttu and Sriyantha Perera.
Seated L-R: Mr V Rajendran (POG), Russel de la Motte, Ajith Seneviratne, Bernard Perera (capt), Ranjith Peris, Thayar Mohamed and Samson Premaratne (Master in Charge). *Absent:* KSM Zarook, Zareen Hameed, CL Doranegama and Glen Seneviratne.

1978 squad



Standing L-R: Mr Rajendran (POG), Anura Dunuwille, Christopher Buultjens, Sarath Senanayake, Rohan Jacolyn Seneviratne, Laksman Ekanayake, Mohamed Imthiaz (MHM), Fazeel Sherifdeen, Shammi Karunaratne, Angelo Leanage, Prasanna Goonethilake and Mr Samson Premaratne (Master in charge). *Absent:* Fazal Majeed
Seated L-R: Rienzie Martinesz, Mohan Ratnakumar, Russel De La Motte (capt), H.M.Muthalib (coach), David Ginger (v Capt), Rohan Vedomuttu and Pradeep Fernando

1977 squad



Top Row L-R: Thayar Mohamed (capt), Ranjith Peris (v-capt), Adrian Muller, Russel de La Motte and Rohan Vedomuttu.
Middle Row L-R: David Ginger, K.S.M Zarook, Mohan Ratnakumar, Rienzie Martinesz and Pradeep Fernando
Bottom row L-R: s.Sivaraj, Neville Paul, Percy Cooray, Anul Mendis, Prasad Fernando and Rohan Ranasinghe
Absent: Ravindra Alahakoon

1979 squad

Mohan Ratnakumar (capt), Angelo Leanage (v capt), Fazeel Sherifdeen, Fazal Majeed, Pradeep Fernando, Anul Mendis, Anura Dunuwille, Laxman Ekanayake, Sarath Senanayake, Marion Von Hagt, Christopher Buultjens, Shammi Karunaratne, Prasanna Gunathilake, Merrill David and Patrick Fernando



Rugby

The following names were synonymous with college rugby during this decade. Tuan Dole, JM Waidyratne, Rajaguru brothers, Kalu Perera, Adrian Muller, Viper Gunaratne, Mohamed Ali, LV Ekanayake, Baratha Seneviratne, Selvin Bulathsinhala, Susantha Wijesiri, Hubert Harley, and many more ...

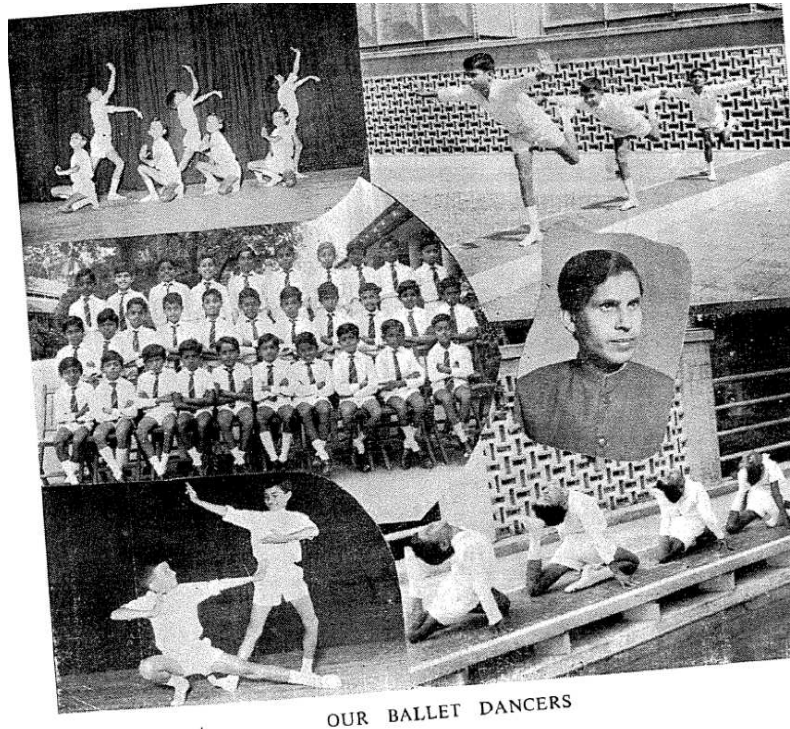


RUGBY XV — 1972

Music and the Arts

The talented Stanley Peiris catalyzed the musical scene during his time as a teacher at St. Anthony's College. What followed, especially the career of Rookantha Gunatilake, was simply magical.

The 1970s decade was rich in art activities. Ballet with Mr. Sayeed, Choir with Mr. Brown, and English Drama productions (late 1970's) with Jean Arasanayagam.



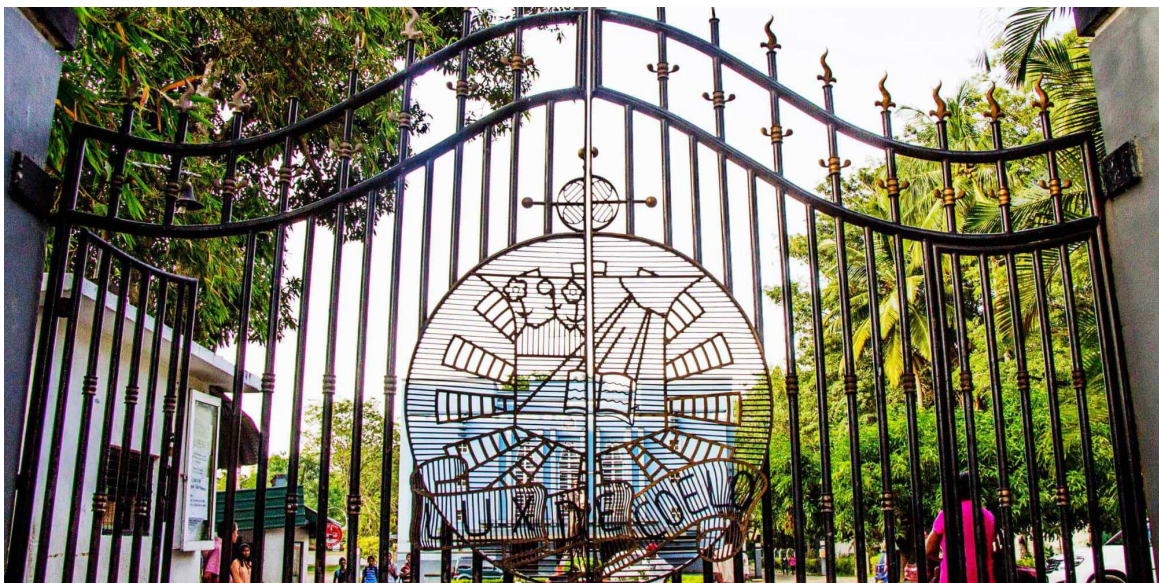
OUR BALLET DANCERS



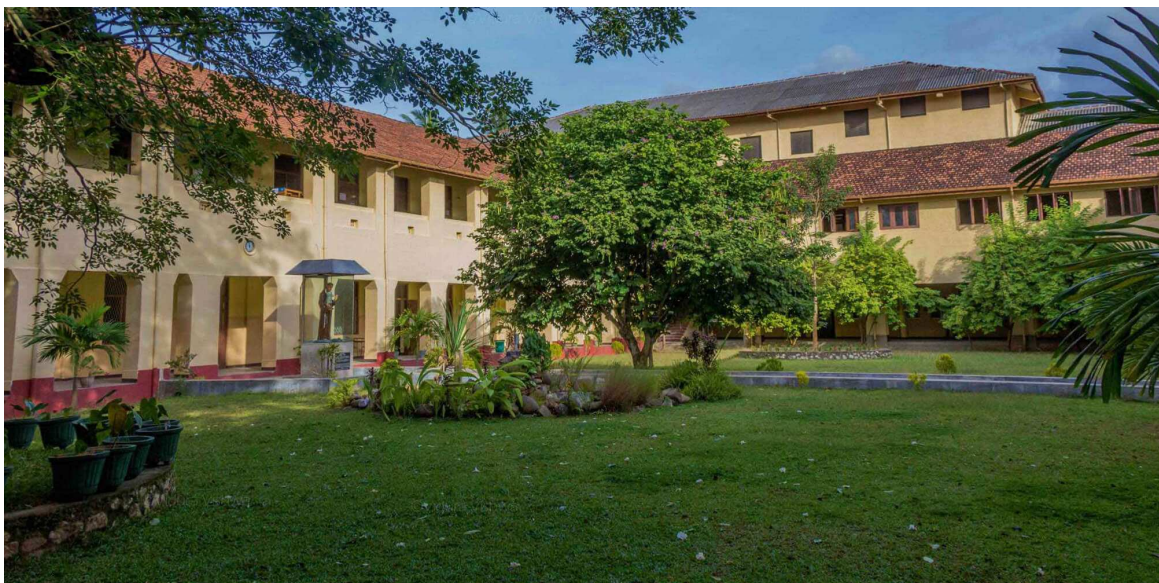
Jean Arasanayagam receiving the award from Gratiaen Trust Chairperson Walter Perera at the BMICH event held to announce the winner on May 26. Pic by Indika Handuwala



Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from
GROUP 96



Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from
MR. JEEWA JAYASIRI

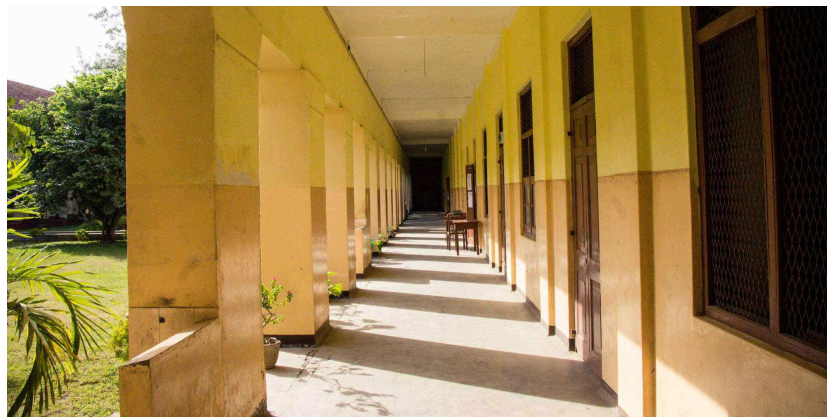


They Pass on The Torch of Life: Reflections from the 80's Decade

By Dr. Bathi Kasturiarachi (Group 80')

The Latin phrase *Vitai Lampada* has been chiseled into my brain, perhaps by my father's insistence that I memorize the famous poem written in 1892 by Henry Newbolt. The title phrase means "They Pass On The Torch of Life." Indeed, for those of us who intersected and exited college in the 80's decade, it felt like we were passing the Torch of Life to others who followed us. The first and last verses of the poem fittingly describe the exciting settings of the 80's at St. Anthony's College, Kandy. Whether we agree or not, the game of Cricket has always been the great unifier for all Antonians. Thus, the reference in the poem to the game is indeed poignant.

There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night --
 Ten to make and the match to win --
 A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
 An hour to play and the last man in.
 And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,
 Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,
 But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote --
 'Play up! play up! and play the game!'
 :
 This is the word that year by year,
 While in her place the School is set,
 Every one of her sons must hear,
 And none that hears it dare forget.
 This they all with a joyful mind
 Bear through life like a torch in flame,
 And falling fling to the host behind --
 'Play up! play up! and play the game!'



The title of this essay is called *They Pass on The Torch of Life* because for several years lines of this poem have reverberated in my inner ear as if they were surgically implanted there by places and events I recall. The bumping pitch, a blinding light, it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat, nor the selfish hope of a season's fame, bear through life like a torch in flame, are phrases that can recreate images from a time when the evening glow was a hazy maroon, the bright sky during day was light blue, and the night was always dark blue.

I don't recall exactly when the event that I want to describe happened, perhaps in the late 1970's. Jean Arasanayagam was our English Literature teacher. One day she dismissed class early and asked us to gather at the hall in Villa where all the senior students were expected to hear from the person who was soon to be groomed as the new principal of college. Her words were: "You ought to hear this man." As we silently took our seats in the room, there stood Fr. Stephen Abraham, confident and ready to talk to all of us, as if it were a pep rally, without the glitter and the pomp and circumstance. His booming voice indeed brought a breathless hush into the dimly lit room where even the sunlight had to struggle to pierce through.

His first words were “Et tu, Brute?” He went on to explain that his first words were indeed the last words of Julius Caesar, as written by William Shakespeare, comparing and referencing the betrayal that was directed towards his predecessor, Fr. Aiden de Silva. Without skipping a beat, he went back to the story and reminded us that what followed was the successful reign of Augustus Ceasar, who brought prosperity and growth to the Roman Empire. The implication and the connection that Fr. Stephen Abraham made was clear—he was a new leader who would uplift St. Anthony’s College to greater heights. History has judged that his vision and actions reached the target and even exceed expectations by a country mile.

Hard beginnings lead to good endings. Thus, began the story of 80’s decade.

I want to begin with my own class, Group 80’, the one I am most familiar with. What an incredible group! Collectively we are entrepreneurs, business leaders, bankers, leaders in international organizations, academics, engineers, philanthropists, airline executives, lawyers, IT experts, decorated military officers, you name it, and we got it covered. I am certain that every group in this decade has a similar story to tell.

What was the secret sauce to our success? What made us turn out the way we did? Then again, how else could we have turned out? With the collection of great teachers we had, the path forward was paved for success. Here is a partial list of teachers who taught us from middle to higher grades. You will recognize many in the list who made epic contributions in their field after they left college:

Stanley Peiris (art), Fr. Aiden de Silva (science), Fr. Lanfranc Amerasinghe (math), Drucilla Brown (bamboo craft—yes that was an actual subject!), Bianca Motha (English), Jean Arasanayagam (English Lit and Drama), RNA de Silva (math and badminton), Ranjith Perera (physics), Major Weerasinghe (math), Mr. Vandakone (biology), Ananda Rajendran (physics), Piyasena (ground boy—oh the life lessons he taught us!), Jinasena (office gopher), Francis (bio lab), Edmond (physics lab), and many more. The boarders will recall Ranasinghe (cook), Peterson (cobbler), matrons Griffs, Dharmaratne, Oliver, Bird and others I may not remember.

Reflecting further on Group 80’, we had so much talent to be proud of. Collectively we had two cricket captains— Fazal Majid and Angelo Liyanage, vice-captain Shammi Karunaratne; two Rugby captains— Baratha Seneviratne and LV Ekanayake, one Rugby 2nd XV unbeaten team captain Chitral Amerasiri; badminton greats such as Senaka Monnekulame, Murali Prakash, Jagath Liyanage, Romesh Candappa, and not to mention the Table Tennis star Gerard Amerasinghe. In track-and-field we produced three Eagle winners! LV Ekanayake for establishing the all-island Javelin record, Baratha Seneviratne for his performance in the Pentathlon, and myself as a member of the record-breaking relay team. Academics were equally good with several of us ending up with careers in higher education, most notably Dr. Jude Fernando, writer and socio-economist (Clarke University in Boston).

If Group 80’ was solid as granite, then the groups that followed were tough as diamond. These are the ones to whom the Torch of Life was passed, the ones who then showed up to “play up, play up, and play the game.” It is difficult to produce an accurate count of the great Antonians who dominated the landscape in the years that followed. I lack the knowledge and capacity to document that colorful history. But one should at least attempt. Below is a partial list of stars that illuminated the night sky of our brotherhood.

In rugby, Priyantha Ekanayake, unique among the giants of the game, LV Ekanayake, Jude Pillai, and Leroy Fonseka.

In Cricket, Marlon von Hart, Ruwan Kalpage, Piyal Wijetunga, and best of all, Muttiah Muralidharan who was waiting in the wings to shine through like a torch in flame.

In law and order, honorable Sarath Jayamanne and Dappula De Livera.

In medicine, Drs. Kuda Banda Galketiya, Senarath Dayananda, and Uday de Silva.

In theatre, Manzoor Magid and Senerath Leeniyagolla (a gentleman politician!).

In business, management, and entrepreneurship-- Rohan Pallewatte, a leading exporter of automotive sensors around the world; Access Group quatro, Ranjan Gomez, Theo Fernando, Christopher Joshua, and George Lopez; and Murali Prakash, CEO of multiple companies.

In the security forces we had many Antonians from the 70s and 80s who served in the top echelon. In the army-- Lalith Daulagala, K M U Wijeratne, Kavinda Gunawardena, Maithri Dias, the late Fazly Lafir, and the late Priyantha Jayasundera (my former relay buddy and Eagle winner). In the navy, Rear Admiral Kassapa Paul. In the air force, Janaka Amerasinghe and Leonard Rodrigo . In the Police and STF-- Nuwan Wedasinghe, Sylvester Wijesinghe, and Athula Daulagala.

The 80's decade was different because the operational rules had changed. Yet the Antonian spirit remained strong and resolute. The promise that Fr. Stephen Abraham made on that memorable morning, his vision that accompanied that pledge, and the resulting successes memorialized in the annals of our hallways, is a gentle reminder that something magical happens when a great leader guides us to unimaginable possibilities.

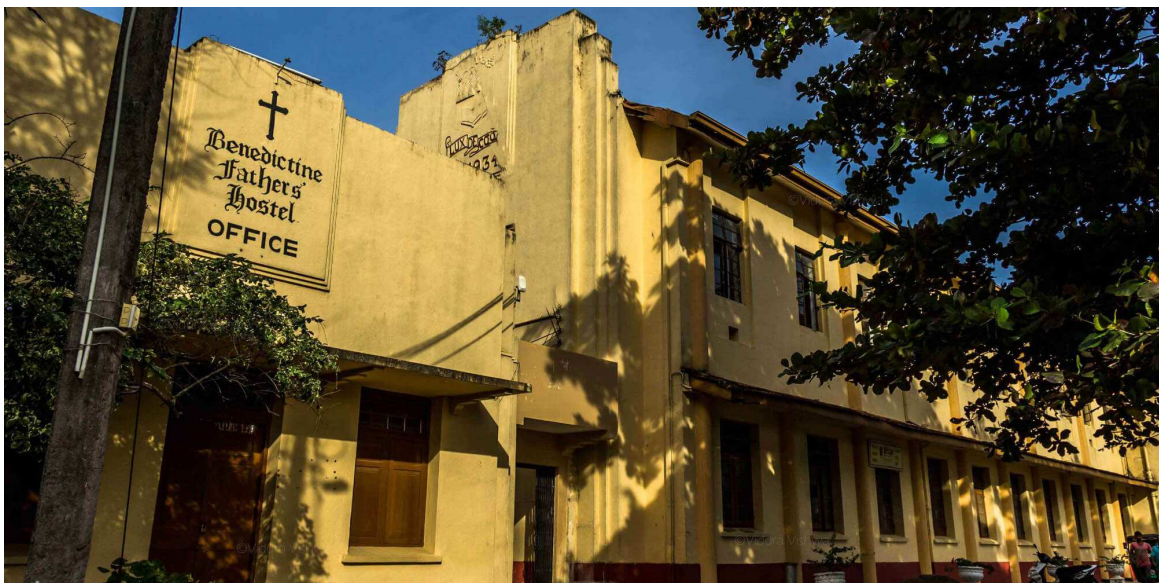
I want to end this note where I began. With Group 80'. The friendships that we have developed over these years have flourished and the bonds between us have ever strengthened. The projects we have undertaken, under the able manager of our group, Rahal de Silva, have been impactful. There is a memorable line in Bob Dylan's song Bob Dylan's Dream.

Ten thousand dollars at the drop of a hat
I'd give it all gladly if our lives could be like that

Given half a chance, I am sure many in our group would do just that. When that happens then something else will also happen. The space we will occupy will be suffused with dreams, hope, and a desire to make change.

Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from

DINUSHA HEENKENDA
(GROUP 96)



The decade 1990-2000 was phenomenal, bequeathing a legacy for generations of Antonians to remember and celebrate our Alma Mater.

by Jude Jayatilleke - Class of '91



1991 Cricket Team



SPORTS

College enjoyed success in Cricket, Rugby, Badminton, Table tennis in the late 80's and the 90's.

The World's Best Off-Spin Bowler, Muthiah Muralidaran, became the highest wicket taker in One Day International Cricket and in Test Cricket by breaking Shane Warne's world record of 708 wickets. He was the first Sri Lankan to be inducted into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame. He claimed 800 Test wickets and 534 international victims, more than any other bowler in either format, in an international career that spanned 19 years. It is a moment of great pride and honor to the College. 800, an Indian Tamil language biographical sports film based on his life and career was released in October 2023.

The early and mid-nineties were some of the best years. The Cricketers won three major awards at the Island/ Pure Beverages, and six major awards at the Bata/ Observer, All- Island competitions. In 1990, Muthiah Muralidaran was Best Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year and Best Bowler. Nuwan Kalpage, Best Captain and Sajith Fernando Best Batsman. Sajith Fernando was also selected the Best All- Rounder at the Bata / Observer ratings in 1991. The greatest moment was in 1993, when 3 Antonians Ruwan Kalpage, Muthiah Muralidaran and Piyal Wijetunga were selected to play for Sri Lanka in the first Test match against South Africa. Thereafter, Muralidaran's rise to fame and international acclaim is phenomenal. The Paddlers spearheaded by Christopher Arnolda and Umesh de Alwis brought pride to the College. Arnolda was seeded No. 1 and Alwis No. 5 at National level. Both were selected to represent Sri Lanka in later years. The Shuttlers dominated the local schools Badminton tournaments through most of the last decade of the century with many Antonians winning National titles. The Ruggerites continued to hold their own against top Rugby schools and many competent Ruggerites joined the local club teams in Kandy and Colombo. Some represented the country.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In 1982, the Colombo Branch of the OBA, undertook a gigantic task of developing an Indoor Sports and Pavilion Complex at the Katugastota Grounds. The project, Bishop Leo Nanayakkara Sports and Pavilion Complex was planned in 3 stages. The first consisting of a gymnasium, badminton and table tennis courts was completed in 1991. In March 1992, the complex was officially opened by Mr. K. D. M. C. Bandara, the then Minister of Power and Energy, an old boy of SACK. The second stage of the project which consisted of accommodation for visiting teams, a sports pavilion, and public stands, was named Jack Anderson Pavilion after the legendary Antonians Cricketer. Fund raising was spearheaded by Rev. Fr. Stephen Abraham, Principal and Mr. K. D. M. C. Bandara. A total of Rupees four million was raised with the help of old boys, well-wishers, and fundraising events. The project was completed in a record period of 4 months and the building was opened by Fr. Stephen Abraham in March 1993 to commemorate the 75th year of Jack Anderson's unbroken record of 291 runs in a school Cricket match against St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. Since then, it has been used as its main pavilion. Work on the third and final stage commenced in 1994 which was completed in the year 2000. The Badminton Court within the Complex was upgraded with air-cushioned flooring in 1999, to accommodate National Tournaments.

MILESTONES

A hundred years of continuous service of Benedictine monks as Principals of the College (1892-1992) was marked with a Celebration, when portraits of all the past Principals were unveiled in the Main Hall by distinguished personalities. The Department of Education in recognition of the high standards achieved by the College under Fr. Stephen Abraham as Principal, approved the construction of a new three-storey building at a cost of 8 million rupees in 1994. The second longest serving Principal, Fr. Stephen Abraham (1979-1994), retired after 16 years of service. His commitment to excellence, discipline, integrity, and a strong work ethic contributed to setting up high standards, in upholding an all-inclusive educational environment for the students. He displayed his strength, standing up for the principles he believed in and advocated, during the Insurrection of 1988/1989. St. Anthony's College was the only government school that did not walk out and take to the streets, responding to revolutionary demands. The OBA Parent Body and the Colombo Branch jointly organized a Gala Dinner at Hotel Suisse, Kandy to bid farewell to Fr. Stephen Abraham and welcome the new Principal, Fr. Hilarion Fernando, who walks in the footsteps of his predecessors. A decade to remember and celebrate. A decade that set up high standards for future generations to emulate and reach greater heights.

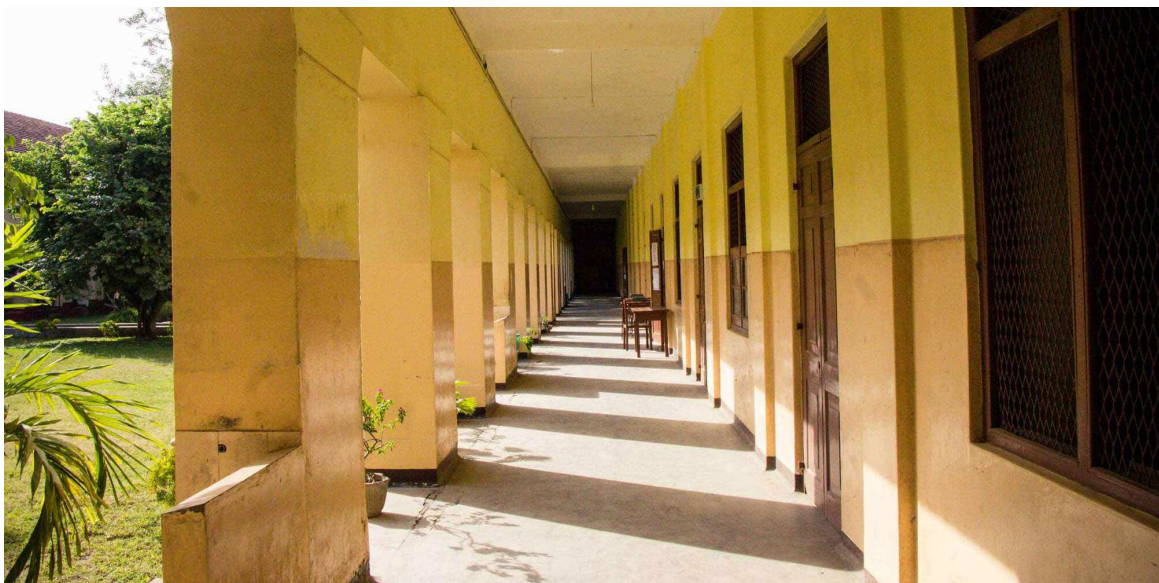
Long live our Alma Mater.

Lux de coelo

Jude Jayatilleke

Class of '91

Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from
GROUP 80



Messages from Old Antonians in USA

Lux De Coelo Maroon Double Blue Forever!

Benedict Wikramanayake

I am so honored and privileged to be a part of the St Anthony's college old boys association of the USA. I could proudly say what I am today, the molding, discipline and the sportsmanship I obtained from my college peers and from this great school.

Thomas Susantha Jayamaha

Wishing well for everyone who's attending the inaugural OBA dance

Sajith Fernando

I Have been looking for Antonians in the US for more than a decade. Glad that my search has ended. Thank you, Organizers!

Conrad Silva

Dear Tonian Brothers, I am so glad to have joined SACKOBA USA. It took a 40-year journey Stateside to reach it. Left College after AL's in 1974. Fr. Aiden was the principal, even he called me "LAP". Very much looking forward to meeting all of you in December. The very best to you all.

(LAP) Priyantha Perera

Dear Fellow St. Anthony's College Kandy Alumni, I am thrilled and grateful that we have the opportunity to come together once again, as proud representatives of our beloved alma mater, St. Anthony's College Kandy. The anticipation of our upcoming general meeting and dinner dance in Las Vegas fills me with happiness and excitement. This gathering isn't just about reliving cherished memories; it's a chance to strengthen the bonds we formed in the halls of our school and to spread love and camaraderie in a new world. Our journey from school to this moment has been remarkable, and I can't wait to celebrate our successes and create new memories together. Let's make this event a special one filled with laughter, nostalgia, and the enduring spirit of St. Anthony's. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Saliya Yapa Bandara

Thank you for the organizing committee for organizing this get together

Basker Ganesan

I am very excited and honored to be part of this forum, as we form the first SACKOBA in the US. I hope that this will be a great beginning that will enable us to reconnect and reminisce about the good times, while giving back to our beloved Alma Mater.

Naroda Perera

Messages from Old Antonians in USA

Whenever, wherever Brothers forever
Antonions... Go together

Kanishka Dassanayake

I am very happy to see a new generation organizing a SACK OBA in the USA. Be assured that you will receive my full corporation. Congratulations and all the best.

Lakshman Denepitiya

We are excited about the prospect of the USA branch and would like to express our sincere gratitude to Aruna and the team. This will be an excellent platform for fostering these conversations and ultimately supporting our beloved Alma mater.

Chitral Amarasiri

Zora Hurston's dazzling novel 'Their eyes were watching god' begins with the lines "Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board. For some they come in with the tide. For others they sail forever on the horizon ..." When I think of our class of 1980/81, I look back and know that each of our dreams and wishes were formed and shaped in college, rising and ebbing with life's tides, and off we sailed forever on the horizon. Every single one from our class has reached a pinnacle in their chosen line of work. As our friendships have grown and blossomed over several decades- gladly will I drop any amount of riches to be among their presence.

Bathi Kasturiarachi

Messages from Old Antonians in USA

Best of luck for the gathering. Hope everyone will have a great time and look forward to meeting you all soon.

Ishara Silva

Wishing all the very best for the inaugural AGM USA branch. Proud Antonian of batch 91'

Jude Jayatilleke

This is an absolutely great initiative, and I am truly excited to be a part of this inaugural General Meeting. I would greatly appreciate the effort of the organizers.

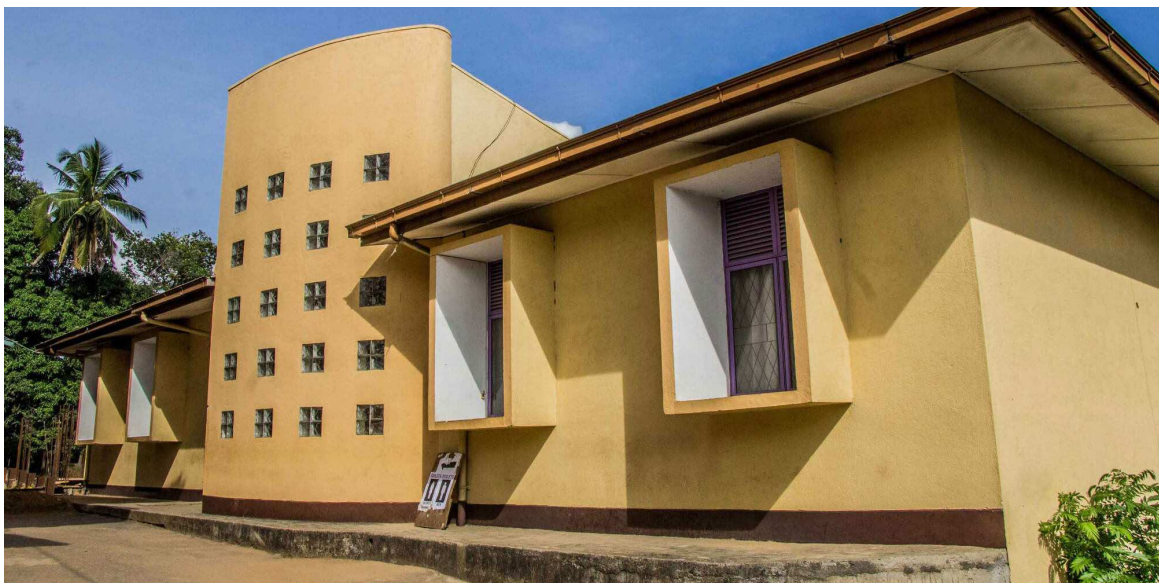
Dilshan Beligala

It's my longtime dream to have an OBA in the USA, and eventually my dream will come true soon.

Musthaq Nayeem



Best wishes to
SACKOBA USA
from
GROUP 91



Appreciate your Donations to make this event successful

- > Tissa Subasinghe
- > Dhakshan Potuhera
- > Ishara Silva
- > Vasabha Senarath
- > Channa Monnekulame
- > Basker Ganeshan
- > Priyantha Perera
- > Navoda Perera
- > Ben Wikramanayake
- > Chandana Karunathilake
- > Nihmathullah Jemshed
- > Richard Moore



- Acknowledgment - We are Grateful for your support given to make this Historical event Successful

- > Mr. Abdul Mujeeb – IT Secretary SACKOBA Parent body
 - > Mr. Nimalka Perera – SACKOBA NZ
 - > Mr. Douglas Perera
 - > Mr. Chamil Fernando
 - > Chef. Pavi Manamperi of Pavi's Catering
 - > Mr. Dilantha Gamage
 - > Mr. Rakitha Perera
- > Mr. Vidura Vishwa - Photographs of College Premises



SACKOBA BALL 2023

SACKOBA USA



SACKOBA BALL 2023
DIGITAL SOUVENIR