



# THE TERNION

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## EDITORIAL

The last few months have seen some astonishing things happen around the world: the financial crisis in America reaches massive proportions; Obama and McCain face off in what seems to be an ever-closer race; bomb blasts in India and Pakistan; meanwhile political and military manoeuvres continue apace back home.

At the same time we have also had some amazing performances by Thomians. The Rowing Crew has had a string of successes at the National Championship Regatta (pg. 4), and looks ready to banish the demons of last years drubbing and come out strong against the Royalists at the forthcoming regatta. The cricket team has had a good start to its season (pg. 5), and the Water Polo team is strengthened by the presence of three players who were recently selected to the national team (pg. 4). Meanwhile the English Debating Society continues its run of victories, with two of its senior members returning from representing Sri Lanka at an international tournament in Washington D.C., USA (pg. 5).

However, the lead article of this issue is dedicated to a group of performers who have performed magnificently at an international level: The Revelations. It consists of many who honed their singing talents while at S. Thomas', its victory in two categories at the World Choir Games in Graz, Austria, brought glory not only to Sri Lanka but also to its school. The Ternion had a talk with the group's conductor and leader, Mr. Sanjeev Jeyaratnam (pgs. 1-3).

Finally, there are loads of Royal-Thomian sporting encounters coming up and as many of these teams have been training throughout the year for them and need our support – let's make sure we are there cheering on the blue black and blue!

### An interview with Mr. Sanjeev Jeyaratnam of The Revelations

*The 'Revelations', a group largely comprising old Thomians, is by no means an unfamiliar name in the local music scene after making its mark at the Asian Choir Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia last year, and the World Choir Games held in Graz, Austria this July.*

*The Ternion sat down to talk to the conductor and leader of the Revelations, Mr. Sanjeev Jayaratnam, who told us about his experiences with the group.*

### **Tell us something about your time at College?**

I was in College from 1977 to 1990. I was involved a lot in theatre and drama, but not so much in sports. It was just before our time that the SCM singing group was started. In addition to this the Classical Music Association was revived during our time as well. I was a member of the SCM and choir and later on ended up being appointed choir leader, so I was quite involved in singing even back then.

### **How did "The Revelations" form?**

The Revelations formed quite by accident. We were just a group of friends who used to sing here and there until we

were seen by a popular group called "Purple Rain" when performing at a wedding. Some of the members of that group wanted us to sing backing vocals for one of their concerts. That was our first real concert performance. We didn't have a name till the moment just before the compeer introduced us, and we hurriedly came up with "Revelations" (the last book of the Bible) purely because there was another popular band named "Genesis" (the first book of the Bible) and the name stuck. In 1994 when we decided to have a concert of our own, the group consisted mainly of people who had just left school, though some of the members were still in school. We performed a wide range of music ranging from classical to pop to spiritual. The current ten group members are between the ages of 23 and 50, so it's quite a mixture of old boys.

**What are some of your greatest experiences with the group?**

The recent World Choir Games where we emerged champions in two categories were very special for me. In these events there can be multiple gold medalists but there can be only one champion per category. To think that we achieved that twice is truly amazing for me. It is only when a group emerges champions that the national flag is raised and national anthem is sung, and it truly was an emotional moment for me.

Prior to that in Jakarta at the Asian Choir Games we were crowned champions of the 'gospel and spiritual' category as well as the 'male vocal ensemble' category. This too was an amazing experience.

**Did you ever expect such success at this level?**

I never expected it. Even when we were going to Austria we didn't expect to win anything. We didn't really know what our standard was like compared to the rest of the world. Performing as a group in Sri Lanka, we didn't get any real constructive criticism. In addition to that people here aren't exposed to international choirs. We really didn't know what our standards were like and what our chances were in Austria, where we would be competing with choirs from all around the world.

Overall there were 93 participating countries, 441 choirs and over 20,000 participants competing in 28 categories so it was a very big event. I never thought we would do so well at a competition of this magnitude.

I consider this a significant achievement for College as well, because the entire group except for one sang in the College choir and was trained by Mr. Russell Bartholomeusz. Actually no other member of the Revelations apart from Rohan De Lanerolle have any professional qualifications in singing, so all that we do is from what we learned in school during our different times in the choir.

**All the members of the Revelations, you included, are very involved in your other careers. Have you ever considered going professional with the group?**

It is difficult for the members with their professional lives and we haven't given it any serious thought. We have dreams

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"Ability is of little account without opportunity."

Napoleon Bonaparte

of going professional, but it's a big risk because most of the members are in stable jobs and have families to support. With all this being so, it is very difficult to take the initial step. Now maybe we have some courage to take a few risks but prior to Austria, no.

**You were involved in directing “Rally Round the College Flag II”. Can you tell us about that experience?**

I was involved in helping Jith Peiris in the production of the first “Rally Round”, and the Revelations performed there as well. For “Rally Round the College Flag II”, Mr. Peiris fell ill, and the Sub-Warden asked me if I was willing to direct it. I asked Ishan De Lanerolle to help me out, and we directed the show together. It was a very enjoyable experience, working with so many people.

**What is the “Revelations Academy of Performing Arts”?**

This is a side project initiated by Ishan De Lanerolle, Srimanthaka Senanayake and me. The main goal of this Academy is to pass on to others the little we know. It's open to anyone and at present there are quite a few Thomians who are a part of the academy.

Apart from this Ishan and I are also involved in a programme called “Reading at the speed of thought” where we help students to double their reading speed, helping them to save valuable time.

**What are some of the future goals of the Revelations?**

We have quite a few events to perform at over the next couple of months. We are also hoping to compose some original music in the future, because what we are doing at present is mostly cover versions of popular songs.

We won't be taking part in any major competitions in the near future, but God willing, we maybe able to go on a tour or two.

**Do you have any advice for aspiring singers at College?**

Music is not just about the words or the notes. Anybody can sing a song. You need to have passion in what you do. Your audience must be moved by what you're singing. If you're singing a sad song they should cry, if it's a happy song they should laugh with you. You need to mean what you sing, and enjoy singing. That's what singing is all about; there is no point singing without passion.

*The Revalations consist of Sanjeev Jeyaratnam, Ishan De Lanerolle, Rohan de Lanerolle, Enaksha Fernando, Srimanthaka Senanayake, Mahen Pieris Charith Peris, Christopher Godridge, Willie Godridge and Asanka Perera. They are currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world in the male voice choirs' category and 47<sup>th</sup> in the world for all choirs. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and we are certain that they will continue to make their Alma Mater proud.*

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"Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

John Wooden

**Oarsmen slam nationals!**

The Thomian Rowing crew put on a phenomenal performance at the Sri Lankan National Championship Regatta which was held from the 14<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, raking in a total of eight gold medals, two silvers and two bronzes. Both the seniors and the juniors excelled in their respective categories, and left the opposition (in many cases the Royalists) far behind. The team emerged overall champions of the Junior and Intermediate categories and runner-up of the open category- results that bode well for the upcoming Royal Thomian Regatta.

The results are as follows:

**Under 16 Category**

Under 16 Pairs- 1<sup>st</sup> Runners up  
(*S. De Livera, T. Manatunga*)

Under 16 Fours- 1<sup>st</sup> Runners up  
School Boy Sculler- 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up- *S. De Livera*

**U- 16 Crew**

*S. De Livera, T. Manatunga, C. Jayanetti, S. De Livera, Y. Salgadoe*

**Under 19 Category-**

Single Sculls – Winners (*S. De Silva*)  
1<sup>st</sup> runners up

Double Sculls-  
Winners (*D.R. Hallock, S. De Silva*)  
2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

Under 19 Pairs- Winners  
2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

Under 19 Fours- Winners (*E.L. Gunawardene, D.R. Hallock, D. Jayanetti, R.J.W. Weerasinghe, P. Christy*)

2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

**Under 23 Category**

Single Sculls- Winners (*D. Jayanetti*)

Double Sculls- 1<sup>st</sup> runners up  
2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

Under 23 Pairs- 1<sup>st</sup> runners up

Under 23 Fours- Winners  
(*M. Salgadoe, B.U.L.W. Jayasinghe, J. Peiris, Y. Wijeratne, A. Wikrmanayake*)

**Open Category**

Single Sculls- 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

Double Sculls-  
Winners (*D.R. Hallock, S. De Silva*)  
Open Category Pairs- 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

Open Category Fours- Winners  
(*E.L. Gunawardene, D.R. Hallock, D. Jayanetti, R.J.W. Weerasinghe*)  
1<sup>st</sup> runners up

**Senior Crew**

*M. Salgadoe, D.R. Hallock, D. Jayanetti, E.L. Goonawardane, R.J.W. Weerasinghe, S. De Silva, B.U.L.W. Jayasinghe, J. Peiris, Y. Wijeratne, A. Wickremanayake, P. Christy.*

**Water Polo players in Hong Kong!**

Three of our players from the College Water Polo team *D.C. De Silva, B.A.C.A. Perera, A. De Alwis* were selected to represent Sri Lanka in the national Water Polo team at the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Water Polo Tournament, held in Hong Kong from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. Though Sri Lanka did not get far, the trio has brought back a wealth of experience that should come in useful at the upcoming Royal-Thomian.

**Juniors swimmers impress**

The College Under-12 Swimmers impressed at the National Age Group Swimming Meet held at the Sugathadasa Swimming Pool from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. In the Under 12 Age Group M.A. Induruwa won the 50m Breast stroke event establishing a new

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"As simple as it sounds, we all must try to be the best person we can: by making the best choices, by making the most of the talents we've been given."

Mary Lou Retton

Sri Lankan record of 39.8 seconds. He also was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50m Butterfly stroke and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50m back stroke event and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m Individual medley. S. Jayatilleke won the U-12 50m freestyle event and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50m backstroke and breast stroke events. Apart from this, Swimming Captain E. M. K. Fernando won his three events in the Men's Open Category. S. Thomas' College was placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall at the meet. Congratulations to the swimmers for continuing their stunning performance!

### **First XI Cricketers off to a good start**

The First XI cricket team opened the Under 19 inter-school season with an innings and one run win over Dharmaraja College. Batting first, Dharmaraja was wrecked by left arm leggie C. Fonseka who took 6 for 27, demolishing the opposition for 119 runs. The Thomians, having made 74 for 3 on the first day went on to make 171 for 9 - thanks to a knock of 64 (including five boundaries) from M.F. Saleem- and decided to declare. Dharmaraja, now trailing by 52 runs, collapsed for 51 thanks to the efforts of H. Ariyaratne and C. Pathirana. Keep it up!

### **Scouting news**

The Colombo District Scout Camporee was held at the Vihara Maha Devi Park from the 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> of August. The Thomian Scout Troop participated and won the Colombo District Flag for the Best Scout Troop (2007). Moreover, J.D.E. Ranasinghe, R.A.I. De Fonseka and S. De Silva were awarded the President's Badge at this Camporee.

## **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

### **Music Of The Night**

The Western Music Band held its first concert, 'Music of the Night' on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at the Quadrangle. The band, which practised hard for the event, put on a creditable performance, while variety and colour were added to the show by guest performances by the Thomian Chamber Orchestra, and the Western Music Bands of Bishop's College, St. Peter's College and Musaeus College.

### **The Kala Ulela**

The Kala Ulela (cultural festival) organized by the Sinhala Literary Society was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at the College Hall from 2.00pm to 6.00pm. The theme this year was "Prabashwara" while the chief guest was Mr Rodney Warnakula. While several schools attended the event, Royal College and Girl's High School Mount Lavinia enacted a drama and performed a dance respectively. The society meanwhile organised a senior and junior drama and provided the audience with an afternoon of entertainment and enjoyment. Kudos to all those involved!

### **Debaters go international!**

P.R. Saldin and D.S. Rajasingham of the Thomian English Debating "A" team represented Sri Lanka at the World Schools Debating Championships held at Washington D.C. from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Sri Lanka was ranked 18<sup>th</sup> out of 39 countries (ahead of the USA and India), while the two Thomians were ranked 51<sup>st</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> on the speaker tab.

Meanwhile, S. Thomas' performed well at the Lilian Nixon Challenge Shield

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"The test of character is having the ability to meet challenges." Walter Annenberg

Debating Tournament organised by Ladies College on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The “B” team which consisted of R.R.J. Perera (captain), S.J. Dias and J.P. Kulasingham reached the quarterfinals of the tournament. The “A” team -which consisted of P.R. Saldin (captain), D.S. Rajasingham (vice-captain) and V.R. Ladduwahetty- beat schools such as Ananda College, St. Bridget’s Convent and Wesley College on its way to the finals. At the finals, S. Thomas’ proposed the topic “This house would make friends with the Dragon” against Colombo International School and emerged victorious after an exemplary debate.

The following Sunday, the Thomian “A” (P.R. Saldin, D.S. Rajasingham, R.J.W. Weerasinghe and V.R. Ladduwahetty) and “B” (R.R.J. Perera, S.J. Dias and J.P. Kulasingham) teams reached the semi-finals of the Musaeus Interschool Impromptu Debating Tournament, beating teams such as Colombo International School, St. Joseph’s College and Visakha Vidyalaya. In an exciting debate, the “B” team overcame the “A” team in the semis to go through to the finals which are to be against St. Joseph’s College at a later date.

We congratulate the debaters on their excellent performances and hope they continue in the same vein at the upcoming prepared debating tournaments.

### Inter School Music Quiz

The quiz organized by the Classical Music Association was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September at the College Hall. A total of seventeen schools were present at this event. After scintillating rounds of questions, the victors were announced, and those in first place presented with a ‘PSR E403’ organ sponsored by Yamaha:

Winners - Bishops’ College

1<sup>st</sup> Runners Up - Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya

2<sup>nd</sup> Runners Up- Musaeus College

### AGMs

The **Classical Music Association** held its annual general meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September at the Middle school music room. The following were appointed as office bearers,

President- D.D. John

Vice President- S.A. Abeynaike

Secretary- S. Fernando

Treasurer- E.M. Shadrach

The annual general meeting of the **Aeronautic Society** was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

The office bearers are as follows-

President- W.E.U. De Alwis

Vice President- K.S. De Silva

Secretary- E.M. Shadrach

Asst Secretary-C.J.D. Fernando

Treasurer- M.K. Edippily

Students from all forms are invited to join, especially those of the Middle and Upper Sixth Forms.

### Notices

- The Royal Thomian Regatta will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October at the Colombo Rowing Club.
- The Royal Thomian Water-Polo encounter will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October at the Sugathadasa Stadium.
- The Royal Thomian Football Encounter will take place at CR&FC on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October

“We don’t know who we are until we see what we can do.”

Martha Grimes

**Interact. A journey for you.**

Curiosity doesn't always kill the cat. In fact, in this story, curiosity led to a great many positive things, though to a boy from the Lower 6<sup>th</sup> Form, not to a cat. It was in 2003 that I attended my first Interact Club meeting, curious as to what it was; curious about what distinguished this Club from the others and why I had heard the word "Interact" more often than not.

My journey through Interact would take a few Ternions to be fully written out. Therefore I will briefly run through some life changing experiences I've had thanks to this wonderful movement. Before that a brief introduction may be necessary: Interact is derived from the words International Action. It is divided into 4 avenues of service namely Club Service, Community Service, International Understanding and Finance. Interact at S.Thomas' was founded in 1983 and is one of the foremost Clubs in the Interact District Island-wide because of its high caliber of service to the movement and high standards of discipline.

How did Interact change my life? Well, in pretty much everything I would answer. It was through Interact that I learnt the basic rules and procedures of College. It was through Interact that I learned to write any kind of letter, from those addressed to the Warden to those to His Lordship the mayor! It was through Interact that I became a better public speaker, a more sociable and versatile person. I could even say that second to S. Thomas' College, the Interact movement made me who I am today.

And the experiences! The hours of tireless Community work ranging from places like Vavuniya to Baddulla, and even one occasion where we had to

bathe in the icy road taps in Mahiyanganaya will never fade. These experiences taught me to care for society. They taught me more about Sri Lanka and our duty towards society. They also made me an independent person.

The concerts and events organized! From the sourcing of Performers, Printers, Quotations, Sponsors to the meticulous planning of every minute detail- all of this was through Interact. Countless nights slapping posters on walls, squabbling with performers on their contracts, waiting anxiously for a late band to arrive for its performance; I would say multi tasking, planning and event management were all skills I gained because of Interact.

All the fun projects we've attended! Meeting people from all over the country- never did I think that I would have friends from schools from Kandy, Beruwala and Tricomalee- not forgetting all the friends I made from the other schools in Colombo, of course. Quiz programs, adventure courses, camping, various tournaments- words cannot express the greatness of this movement and the fun and joy it brings. I must mention our life time opportunity in Japan where we got the chance to spend a week going from Disneyland to Mount Fuji and much more, all because of Interact (and of course the kind hearted Japanese Rotarians.)

However, Interact is also tough. It's not always fun. On the contrary it could trouble you a great deal and push you to the limit but it will also take you a step higher as it has for countless others. It's a passion where only the toughest survive and thrive. A movement with the strength to transform you. A movement to inspire you toward great heights. Make it yours.

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"Ability will never catch up with the demand for it."

Confucius



### Editors

D.S. Rajasingham, A.P.S. Dias, V.R. Ladduwahetty, Mrs. T. Bartlett