



# St. Mary's Past Students' Association

## Chairman's Report for the year 2008-2009

### I. Duration

This Chairman's Report covers the period from 29 March 2008 to 6 March 2009.

### II. Executive Committee

The current Executive Committee was elected at the 2007 Annual General Meeting held on 17 March 2007.

During the Report period, the Executive Committee held six meetings.

### III. Composition

The composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

Chairman	:	Ms Justina Law
Vice-Chairman	:	Ms Annie Choi Ms Jasbir Pannu
Secretary	:	Ms Ellie Wong
Treasurer	:	Ms Rosa Yeung
Legal Secretary	:	Ms Jody Sin
Membership Secretary	:	Dr Monica Wong
Social Convenor	:	Ms Juliana Wong
Publication Secretaries	:	Ms Celia Ho Ms Angela Liu
Committee Members :		Ms Barbara Chu Ms Susanna Chung Ms Mabel Leung Ms Katherine Mak Ms Irene Young

During the Report period, one sub-committee was formed - the Mentorship Programme Committee.



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## IV. Tasks Carried Out During the Report Period

### (1) Continuing the Membership Drive

- As at 6 March 2009, the membership of the PSA stood at 5,091. Compared with the membership of 4868 in March 2008, there was an increase of 223 members (4.6%).
- Of the 223 new members, 207 are F.5 graduates from SMCC. The other 16 are mostly St. Marians that graduated before 1990.
- The Membership Secretary, Dr Monica Wong, continued to contact members to update their contact details. Email addresses are available for 3,832 members (75%).
- The Chairman, Ms Justina Law, introduced the PSA and its activities to F.5 graduates on 7 July 2008.

### (2) Supporting the School's Mentorship Programme

- The composition of the Programme Committee is as follows:
  - Coordinators : Ms Jasbir Pannu and Ms Jody Sin
  - School Adviser : Ms Amelia Tsang
- The 2007/08 Mentorship Programme was successfully completed in the summer of 2008. Results were positive and feedback was gauged for programme improvement.
- The 2008/09 cycle has begun with a new programme structure. Mentors and mentees were organized into larger groups so that students could learn more from a few mentors who would, in turn, be able to shoulder amongst themselves the responsibility of taking care of the mentees throughout the year.
- Mentees were grouped in accordance with their indication of interests in a specific sector/industry. The 8 sector/industry groups formed this year are:
  1. Art, Culture & Media
  2. Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities, IT & Internet
  3. Finance, Banking, Insurance
  4. Legal



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5. Management & Human Resources
6. Marketing, Advertising, PR
7. Medical, Health, Nursing
8. Professional Services, Education, Government & NGO

- 92 mentors were recruited this year, against 96 F.6 mentees. The ratio had greatly improved compared to last year's 39 mentors and 96 mentees.
- The first mentor-mentee gathering took place on 21 February 2009 (Sat) during which over 60 mentors mingled with each other, met with their mentees, and arranged further meeting times. The School has also set aside 3 April 2009 (Fri) to hold Careers Development Seminars for F6 students.

### (3) Supporting the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canossian Daughters of Charity

- On 8 May 2008, members of the Executive Committee attended the celebration mass at the Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.
- On 10 October 2008, a roundtable sharing was also organized by Sr. Cynthia Chan. Representatives from various Canossian school past student groups attended to review actions taken to share the news to past students. Ms. Justina Law attended the meeting on behalf of the PSA and shared our related work on the PSA website and the newsletter.

### (4) Fine-tuning the Procedural Guidelines for Alumnae Visits to Campus

- While the School welcomes visits from past students, we realized that some alumnae had experienced difficulty when attempting to visit the school campus. Ms. Justina Law therefore had discussions with the principals of SMCC and SMCS to fine-tune the procedural guidelines governing visits to the school campus, facilitating administration and minimizing misunderstandings.
- The guidelines were subsequently uploaded to the PSA website, as well as published in the October 2008 issue of our newsletter for members' reference.



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### (5) Publication of Newsletters

- We published two 8-page newsletters during the Report period – one in October 2008 and another in February 2009.
- The newsletters were also uploaded onto the PSA website. Emails were sent to inform members of the release of the latest newsletter.
- Hard copies were mailed to members with the help from current SMCC students. As a means to save paper and to reduce postage cost, the PSA continuously encourages members to opt out of receiving the hard copy and read the newsletter online.

### (6) Maintaining the PSA Website

- During the Report period, the website *www.stmaryspsa.org* was updated by our webmaster, Ms Justina Law. The website continued to serve as the link between our Alma Mater and past St. Marians near and far.

### (7) Sale of Mementos

- We continued to sell the two limited edition souvenirs – the miniature of the Main Building and the photo album of the school.
- Sales were being made on the SMCS P.1 Orientation Day in June, the SMCC F.1 Registration Day in July, the SMCC F.1 Orientation Day in August and during alumnae visits.
- In January 2009, 1,100 pieces of miniature were purchased by an anonymous past St. Marian who donated those pieces as souvenirs for 500 SMCS students from P.1 to P.4 and 600 SMCC students of F.1, F.5 and F.7.
- As at 6 March 2009, 165 albums and 287 pieces of miniature remained in stock.
- The net profit from the sale of the souvenirs goes to the St. Mary's Development Fund.



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### (8) Donations to SMCC

- For the academic year 2007-2008, the SMPSA Scholarship of HK\$1,000 for Outstanding Performance and Active Promotion in Drama and Speech was awarded to Winky Lee Wing Ki of F.3C.
- A donation of HK\$1,000 worth book coupons was made to the Magdalen of Canossa Club as a support to their Christmas celebration in December 2008.

### (9) Assisting the Setup of the Heritage Alley to Supplement the School History Archive

- To prepare for her 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration next year, the School is having plans to revamp the long corridor outside the Main Building into a 'Heritage Alley' to supplement the School History Archive currently inconveniently situated on the 4/F of the Magdalen Building. Alternative sites are also being explored.
- One member of the Executive Committee, Ms. Annie Choi, attended the first meeting held on 26 February 2009 for initial discussion of the issue with responsible teachers.

### (10) Assisting the Setup of the St. Mary's Annual Drama Production

- One member of the Executive Committee, Ms Annie Choi, and another alumna, Ms Temmy Chan (1992), assisted the School in making arrangements for the annual drama production and related workshops held by Mr Geoff Oliver, who had earlier retired and returned to England.
- The first drama production arising from this arrangement, "The Disenchanted Fairy", was completed in April 2008. The play was written and directed by Mr. Oliver, with music composed by students.
- The second drama production under this arrangement, "The Other Side", also an original play written by Mr. Oliver, will be performed during the Drama Week in April 2009.



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### (11) Monitoring the St. Mary's Development Fund

- Two members of the Executive Committee, Ms Annie Choi and Ms Susanna Chung, continued to sit on the St. Mary's Development Fund Management Committee in their capacity as former Fundraising Committee members.
- In accordance with the membership composition set out by the Fund, Dr. Monica Wong was elected to serve on the Committee as representative of the PSA Executive Committee.

### (12) Participating in School Policy Advisory Committees

- We worked closely with SMCC and SMCS, as well as the two Parent-Teacher Associations, on school policy, planning and development issues.
- One member of the Executive Committee, Ms Justina Law, continued to sit on SMCS School Policy Advisory Committee. Two committee meetings were held during the Report period.
- Another member of the Executive Committee, Ms Annie Choi, was appointed to be a School Manager (representing the PSA) for two years with effect from October 2007. As at 6 March 2009, five School Management Committee meetings had been held, during which major policy decisions regarding management of the School were made.

### (13) Participating in the SMCC-SMCS-HACS Through-Train Steering Committee

- SMCC will form through-train arrangements with SMCS and Holy Angels Canossian School (HACS). By 2011, all P.6 students of SMCS and HACS will be admitted to SMCC.
- To ensure that the girls at both SMCS and HACS will be fully prepared for secondary school education at SMCC, a Steering Committee, comprising the management of all three schools, parent and alumnae representatives, has been formed.



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- Three members of the Executive Committee, Ms. Barbara Chu, Ms. Susanna Chung and Ms. Jody Sin, and another PSA member, Ms. Karina Ng (1979), continued to serve as alumnae representatives on the Steering Committee.

### (14) Organizing the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner for St. Mary's

- The Executive Committee and both the principals of SMCS and SMCC had tentatively agreed the date for the anniversary dinner to be 13 November 2010 (Sat).
- Past students had been informed of the November 2010 timing (date unspecific though) via the newsletter and the website. They will be kept updated as more information is available.

### (15) Supporting the Canossian Global Youth Conference 2009

- The Canossian Global Youth Conference, a biennial event, will be held from 16-22 July 2009 in Hong Kong, with SMCC being the host.
- Through the newsletter, the PSA helped to appeal to past students for donations to cover the event's expenses, estimated to be around HK\$450,000.

### (16) Other Liaison Work

- We maintained informal contact with alumnae groups, including the Loveweavers, the Alumnae Orchestra and the Alumnae Chinese Orchestra.
- We assisted the alumnae group Marian In Action to recruit two past students in professional fields to act as guest speakers during their summer workshop to discuss poverty issues in Hong Kong with fifteen F.5 and F.7 students.
- We maintained close liaison with the St. Francis Canossian College Past Students' Association and the Sacred Heart Canossian College Alumni Association. Ms. Justina Law and Ms. Annie Choi attended the Annual Dinner of SFCC PSA in April 2008 at the Hong Kong Police Officers' Club; while Ms. Justina Law and Ms. Angela Liu attended the SHCC AA Annual Dinner in November 2008 at Hunan Garden, Exchange Square.



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- Overseas, we also maintained liaison with the SMCC Past Students' Association (Toronto) and the Canossian Colleges Association in Vancouver.

### **V. Focus of Work in the Coming Year**

In the coming year, we will continue our work on various fronts.

As an alumnae body, our focus is naturally past St Marians. We will continue to reconnect with St. Marians through direct contacts, visits, the PSA website, newsletters and social activities.

Another focus is our Alma Mater. We will continue to work closely with the school management and Parent-Teacher Associations of SMCC and SMCS on all matters that will benefit the schools, the teachers and the students.