



ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN COLLEGE PAST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2006

Message from the Principal

On July 4, 1774, US made a declaration of 3 basic commitments to all her people "Let all mankind enjoy: the right to life; the right to freedom of speech; the right to seek happiness." These are actually basic rights the Almighty God has given to everyone. Let us focus on the third right - *the right to seek happiness.*

We were supposed to have just enjoyed one of the best festivals of the year, Lunar New Year, when families gathered to exchange good wishes, went on holiday to unwind..... However, when one heart-wrenching disaster after another have been reported on news broadcasts, you may well ask - why all these tragedies? As a school principal, I have encountered numerous family tragedies. Each is a fresh wound in my heart. From my experience, no matter you are hurt directly or indirectly, you have to deal with your pain and injury *if you are serious about seeking happiness.*

I am very serious about seeking happiness because happiness is from God. God is happiness itself. Only He can give His happiness. We cannot stop tragedies from happening. Not even God can prevent tragedies as He has given man full freedom to live and to make choices. But remember: Despite the damaging choices made by human beings, God's love remains unchanged.

The secret I share with you in the new Year of the Dog is that you all can find happiness even though you have no idea when the next disaster may strike. Just adopt a positive attitude always and everywhere: *No matter what, I have to find happiness.* You can do this simply by always believing that God doesn't change. I only need to work with Him and I can turn sadness into joy, darkness into light and tragedies into hope and promise for a better future.

With this hope let us praise the Father of love and mercy.

Sr Bernadette

Notice of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of SMCC Past Students' Association

Date: 25 March 2006
Time: 5 pm
Venue: Staff Common Room, Main Building, SMCC

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting held on 19th Feb 2005
2. Chairman's Report
3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year
4. Adoption of the Revised Constitution
5. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
6. Any Other Business

Note: Proxy forms can be downloaded from www.smccpsa.org.

Notice regarding Revision of the Constitution of the SMCC Past Students' Association

Given that St. Mary's Canossian College and St. Mary's Canossian School (SMCS) share the same name, campus and school history, the Executive Committee proposes to revise the Constitution such that the Association would cover both SMCC and SMCS. This would facilitate the latter to adopt a new management structure that meets modern day needs, with the participation of past St. Marians. The draft Constitution, which will be discussed at the 2006 Annual General Meeting to be held on 25 March 2006, can be downloaded from www.smccpsa.org.

PSA News - SMCC 105th Anniversary Dinner

2005 marked the 105th anniversary of St Mary's. To commemorate this very special occasion, the school dedicated the year to be the "Homecoming Year", which signified her wish to reconnect with past St Marians from different times. The highlight of the year was the Anniversary Dinner organized by the Past Students' Association, which was held on 26 Nov 2005 at the Grand Rotunda of the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre.

The evening was a real "Homecoming" event, with some 800 St Marians, sisters and teachers filling up 63 tables that packed the Grand Rotunda. The Ombudsman, Ms Alice Tai (1968), was our Guest of Honour. Other special guests included Sr Theresa Chien (1958), Dr Louis Law & Mrs Fanny Law (1970), Mr Joseph Lee, Sr Ida, Sr Rosangela, Sr Virginia Wong, former teachers Mrs Winnie Hung (1960), Mrs Simmy Wong, Mrs Shirley Yip, Mrs Sylvia Cheung, Mr Henry Lo & Mr Siu Yuk-cheung. We also took the opportunity to express our gratitude to 10 long-service teachers & staff, who had served St Mary's for over 20 years.



The Ombudsman, Alice Tai (1968), was the Guest of Honour.



(back row left to right) Monica Wong (1975), Alice Tai (1968), Mrs Shirley Yip, Mrs Fanny Law (1970), Sr Bernadette, Mabel Leung (1958) (front row) Mrs Winnie Hung (1960), Sr Ida

The evening commenced with words of welcome and gratitude from PSA Chairman, Annie Choi (1979) and Sr Bernadette. Guest of Honour Alice Tai then shared with us her feelings and love for our Alma Mater. This was followed by a game "St Mary's Footprints Bingo", which challenged our memories of the school's details, like the location of the kennel, and whether there were 3 or 4 coconut trees near the bunker. After this brain-picking exercise, all sat back and enjoyed two singing performances, one of which was a scene from "Orpheus", a famous school play, performed by girls of the Classes of 1993, 1995 & 1996. And of course, there was the grand lucky draw.

Throughout the dinner, you could see girls running around saying Hello to each other and to sisters and teachers, and the two most frequently heard exclamations were "How come you look just the same!" and "You looked so different - I just can't recognize you!" Which did you hear more?



The Grand Rotunda packed with 63 tables of excited St Marians, sisters and teachers.



"Cheers!" from Sr Bernadette, Alice Tai, Fanny Law, PSA Executive Committee & 105th Dinner Organising Committee.

(More photos of the SMCC 105th Anniversary Dinner can be seen at www.smccpsa.org.)

PSA News - Mentorship Programme



Wendy Pang (1977) led discussion on effective mentoring.

The Mentorship Programme is now in its second year of operation. This year, the programme was launched on 8 Oct 2005. Over 40 past St. Marians registered to be mentors, some of whom were doing it for the first time. Most of them attended the event. Also present were the F.6 mentees, Sr. Bernadette and some teachers.

Sr. Bernadette first revisited the characters that made St. Mary's & St. Marians so special. Our dedication to the school, our desire to contribute to society and to be upstanding individuals were some of the marks that our school left us with. She thanked the alumnae for taking the time to contribute to their Alma Mater.

As the programme enters its second year, we took the opportunity to review our efforts. A discussion on "Making Mentoring Work" was held where we all freely expressed our views on how to make it work. This session was led by an alumna, Wendy Pang (1977). We all gained insight into what the essence of the programme was and were energized to make it meaningful for the girls. Then the mentors met the 96 mentees to chat and make acquaintances. The animated chatter was a clear sign that there was no "generation gap" despite the fact that the mentors and mentees came from vastly different times in St Mary's. The ceremony ended on a high note and we all took a group photo.

What do the girls think?

"..... the programme is undoubtedly beneficial My mentor gave me much advice on choosing subjects at the university She even brought me to her hospital to observe when she was operating on her patient. This is a once in a lifetime experience standing in the operating-theatre I have benefited a lot"

"My mentor has provided me a lot of information like what university life is about and how I can prepare myself for university programme selection. Through the exchanges with my mentor, I got to know a lot more it's nice to have a role model we can ask questions anytime and she is always ready to answer."



Mentors met mentees for the first time.

Mentors and mentees posed for a large group photo.



Wish to Support the School or Charity Work?

You may consider contributing to the following:

- **St. Mary's Development Fund** - set up by St Marians to support projects and activities that are conducive to the further development of St. Mary's. Please send your cheque payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College" to the school office, and specify that it is for the Development Fund. Donations over \$100 are tax deductible.
- **Canossian Foundation** - to support the Canossian Mission's charity work throughout the world. Please send bank drafts payable to "Fondazione Canossiana per la Promozione e lo Sviluppo dei Popoli" to Curia Generalizia Figlie della Carita, Canossiane, Via della Stazione di Ottavia, 70-00135 Roma, Italy.

Alumnae News

Madam Cai Sui-an (蔡翠盎) (1939), daughter of Mr Cai Yuan-pei (蔡元培)

One of the earliest St. Marian that we can get in touch with is Madam Cai Sui-an, daughter of the late Mr Cai Yuan-pei, a renowned educator and reformer, and President of the Peking University during the May-Fourth Era. In 1937, because of the Japanese invasion, Mr Cai and his family left Shanghai for Kunming via Hong Kong. As Mr Cai fell ill, the family settled temporarily in Hong Kong and resided at 156 Austin Road. Mr Cai, who strongly believed in education for women, did not hesitate in sending Madam Cai to St. Mary's. Madam Cai left school two years later, when the family returned to the Mainland.



Madam Cai (1939) with current students (above) and past St Marians (below).

Madam Cai was a research scientist before she retired a few years ago. She now lives in Shanghai. Last year, she visited her Alma Mater and was warmly received by sisters, teachers, as well as past and present St. Marians. She spent the afternoon strolling around the campus, remembering her happy school days some 70 years ago.

"I had a happy time in St. Mary's. I still remember Miss Osmund, my class teacher, and Mother Agnes, the Principal." Madam Cai said. "The school has not changed much. The Main Building is the same as that in the 1930s. So is the grotto of Mary, the lovely trees and the playground. We had much fun and we enjoyed school life tremendously. You know what we did during our P.E. lessons? The whole class practised folk dance in the playground!"



Madam Cai (1939) happily strolling around the campus with teachers and students.

Wish to Visit your Alma Mater?

For security reasons, the school normally does not entertain visitors unless they have prior appointments. For past St. Marians who wish to visit the school, please contact Sr Theresa Chun or any of the sisters or teachers at 2724 2771, or by email to info@smcc-canossian.org a few days in advance. If you are a member of the Past Students' Association, please bring along your membership card when you visit the school.

Alumnae News

Mrs Hung, how are you?

We were all "infected" when we met Mrs Hung. "Girls, time flies, but it's never too old to learn." Mrs Hung is always filled with enthusiasm and encouraging words.



Mrs Winnie Hung (1960) - Always a St Marian.

"In my time, many girls from poor families could not receive education. But the Canossian sisters were keen to persuade parents to send their girls to school." In Mrs Hung's case, she almost had to curtail her education after P6, but Mother Virginia encouraged her to apply for scholarship. She did and could thus continue her education. Mother Virginia also gave her the name Winnie, after her Chinese name Wing-yan.

We smelled that Mrs Hung must be a bright student then, and we are right: She was the Headgirl, and is probably the only St Marian who had been Headgirl twice - the first time in 1961, and then again in 1962 when she repeated F7.



Mrs Hung in the 1970s.

"Repeated F7? Er " A moment of suspense hovered the dining table. "I first finished F7 in 1962. However, due to a fire at my house, which destroyed many of my documents, including those required for university admission, I repeated F.7 and entered HKU in 1963."

Mrs. Hung entered St Mary's kindergarten in 1946, finished her primary school (Chinese) in 1953, was transferred to P5 (English) and finished P6 in 1955. She belonged to the Class of 1960. So, apart from her pre-school, university and post-retirement years, Mrs Hung literally spent her whole life in St. Mary's - 17 years as a student and 35 years as a teacher.

Mrs. Hung has witnessed many changes in St. Mary's. She is happy to see that the school is improving every day. For teachers, there are now staff development plans. For students, there are many different activities to suit individual preference. And the best thing is that the school management is fully supportive of these developments. But to her, many good things remain as strong: the school culture is always there; St Marians are always well-mannered and smart.

Mrs. Hung still has strong connections with St. Mary's, while being so busy in her retired life - spending time with her family, mentoring students, attending functions of the school, past students & her schoolmates. Now, she has even more "dates" - with her baby grandson Emanuel and granddaughter Grace. Who could imagine that this grandma was once a kid that was too excited to wear cheongsam, found the 叉 so very interesting, jumped and ran around, and finally tore the 叉!



(left) Few people know that Mrs Hung is a comic artist. Here is a drawing of hers, which was published in the then St Marians Monthly Digest, of which she was one of the editors.

(right) Mrs Hung went on a tour with some of the teachers in the 1970s. How many teachers can you recognize?



School News

- English & Putonghua are the “official languages” of St. Mary’s. All students are required to speak in either language on campus.
- Two F.1 classes now have their Chinese lessons conducted in Putonghua. This will be extended gradually to other classes in the coming years.
- Of the 83 F.7 graduates in 2005, 34 were admitted to HKU, 16 to CUHK, 9 to HKUST, 7 to Poly U, 3 to City U, 9 to Baptist U, and 3 left for overseas studies.
- In the 2005 A-Level Exams, 84% of our girls scored Grades A to C in Use of English.
- In the 2005 HKCEE, 76% of our girls scored Grades A to C in English Language.
- Since September 2003, St. Mary’s Canossian School (SMCS, our primary school) has adopted whole-day schooling. Also, only four P.1 classes, each with 32-36 students, are admitted each year.
- St. Mary’s will form through-train arrangement with SMCS and Holy Angels Canossian School. By 2011, all P.6 girls of SMCS & Holy Angels will be admitted into F.1. A small number of F.1 places will be open for applicants from other primary schools.

External School Review for SMCS

St. Mary’s Canossian School, our primary school, had undergone the External School Review (校外評核) in October 2005. The Review Report highly commended the school management, teachers and students. The following are excerpts from the Review Report:

“學校具百年歷史，傳統優良，宗教氣氛濃厚……強調心靈教育……校風純樸……樹影婆娑，設備完善……為學生提供優質而愉快的學習環境……”

“校長在任七年，堅守關愛信念，重視學生增值……富理想，為人坦率敢言，能以「堅定信念、細心解說」的模式消弭教師的憂慮……又按步伐急緩，安排改革優次……成功啟動改革，亦得到教師認同。”

“教師普遍學歷高，達英文及普通話語文基準能力者眾……滿意工作安排，鮮有離職情況，隊伍穩定……願意承擔……努力求變，自強自省的意識高……教學態度佳，友善認真，富責任感……能營造和諧的學習氣氛……”

“學生熱愛學習，好學不倦……專注力強，思維敏銳……答問具深度和層次，有優秀的表達和組織能力……積極參與課堂的學習活動……自學精神……具良好的分析、欣賞與互學能力……語音基礎甚佳……表達能力出色……說話流暢，語意清晰，而且言之有物，組織力強……有優秀的書寫能力，能運用流暢及精簡的中、英語文……表達思想……喜愛閱讀……自發性高，自律性強。”

“學生談吐大方，應對得體，具良好的社交能力……表現認真投入……熱心參與學校委派的工作和服務，表現盡責……成績整體表現優異，其中以英文科的表现最優秀……參與的課外活動類型豐富，範圍廣闊……且獲得不少全港性及地區性的獎項……其中音樂及體育的表現更見突出……聰慧勤奮，組織力與語文能力優良……發展平均，校內校外成績都超卓，屢獲嘉許。”



Bright and cheerful young St Marians enjoying all sorts of activities at St Mary's.

School News -- Annual School Musical Nefertiti

This year, there will be six performances of a musical play specially written by Mr Geoffrey Oliver.

The play deals with the life of one of the world's most beautiful women, Queen Nefertiti, the wife of one of ancient Egypt's most interesting and brilliant pharaohs, Akhenaten (reigned 1350-1334 B.C.). Akhenaten changed the religion of Egypt from worshipping many gods to worshipping just one and had a profound effect on the future course of religious thought. He also influenced art by ordering artists to paint what they actually saw rather than what they thought viewers wanted to see.

The play has a cast of over 50 actors/dancers and a production team of 160, all of whom are currently busily engaged in rehearsing or scene construction, painting, props making, planning make-up or video recording. Others are learning the lighting, sound & stage management skills required to give as near professional performance as we in St. Mary's are famed for. The songs are being recorded and a CD will be on sale during performance week. All music has been composed by the students. A DVD of the play will be available by the end of the school year.

Another feature of this year's play is that all aspects of the production (acting, costume, make-up, stage management, sound, lighting, props, etc) will be assessed by UK's Trinity-Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Do come to enjoy what will be Mr Oliver's 21st and final show in St. Mary's!



PSA Shop - Limited Edition Mementos



Miniature of the Main Building (HK\$140) - This architectural gem, weighing 0.9kg and filled with fond memories, is made in 1:400 scale with polyresin. A perfect fusion of modern precision engineering & traditional craftsmanship. The whole piece is handpainted by master artists, following the colour scheme of the Main Building.

"Under the Banner" Photo Album (HK\$320) - Capturing a century of devotion, love & laughter, this 30cmx30cm 278-pg 2kg album features over 100 pgs of old photos, handwritten school record & artifacts from the Archive, and also some 130 photos of modern day St. Mary's taken by one of the top photographers in town. More than just another album



- Miniature & Photo Album set - bargain price of HK\$400 per set
- You can buy the items from the school (contact Mrs Karen Lui at 2724 2771) or via email at shop@smccpsa.org.
- For overseas orders, the postage would be around HK\$200/set (air) or HK\$120/set (surface). Actual cost will depend on volume and destination. Will need to discuss with the purchaser separately.
- For local purchase of more than 5 sets per order, we may arrange delivery to one location.
- Cheques/bank drafts should be made payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College Past Students' Association".
- All net proceeds will go to the "St Mary's Development Fund".

Class News

(Class Year denotes the year of F5 graduation)

The **Class of 1961** will hold its 45th reunion from 12 to 16 Aug 2006 in Denver, Colorado, USA. Please contact Theresa Shum at 1-770-642-8806 or tcheungsss@yahoo.com.

The **Class of 1976** will hold its 30th reunion in July 2006 (tentative date: 7 July) in Hong Kong. Please contact Anissa Liu at 9211-6347 or anissawongsy@hotmail.com.



The reunion of the **Class of 1975** was held on 13 Jan 06. The 19 girls were joined by Mr Siu Yuk-cheung, Mr Lee Siu-tat & Mrs Winnie Hung.



The **Class of 1970** held its 35th reunion on 12 Nov 2005. 33 girls, including 3 from the US, spent an unforgettable evening chatting and reconnecting with one another.

The **Class of 1980** held a two-part 25th reunion in 2005. Part I was held on 18 June in HK. Some 60 girls & 14 teachers attended the dinner. Part II was held in San Francisco on 7 Sept. 12 girls participated.



History Archive of SMCC & History Lane of SMCS

When you visit your Alma Mater, we strongly recommend you visit the **History Archive** and the **History Lane** of SMCC and SMCS respectively. The former is located on Level 4 of the Magdalene Building and the latter at the ground floor of the Bakhita Building. The short walk through the Archive and the Lane will bring you back to the early years of St. Mary's, with old photos and artifacts depicting school life and school development in the past century.
