



# **St. Mary's Past Students' Association**

## **Chairman's Report for the year 2007-2008**

### **I. Duration**

This Chairman's Report covers the period from 17 March 2007 to 28 March 2008.

### **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 five 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 28 March 2008, the membership of the PSA stood at 4868. Compared with the membership of 4628 in March 2007, there was an increase of 240 members (5.2 %).
- Of the 240 new members, 228 are F.5 graduates from SMCC. The other 12 are mostly St Marians that graduated before the 1990s.
- The Membership Secretary, Dr Monica Wong, continued to contact members to update their contact details. Email addresses are available for 3160 members (65%).
- The Chairman, Ms Justina Law, introduced the PSA and its activities to F.5 graduates on 9 July 2007.

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

- The 2006/07 cycle of Mentorship Programme was completed by summer of 2007. Results were encouraging and feedback was gauged for programme improvement.
- The cycle for the academic year 2007/08 has begun. 39 mentors were recruited this year, matched against 96 F.6 mentees. The ratio is improved compared to last year's 33 mentors and 95 mentees.
- The composition of the Programme Committee is as follows:

Coordinators	:	Ms Jasbir Pannu and Ms Jody Sin
School Adviser	:	Ms Amelia Tsang
Members	:	Ms Eva Chan, Ms Mabel Leung, Ms Ellie Wong
- The Programme Committee is planning a Careers Development Seminar & Professional Sharing Session within the academic year, as well as organizing mock interviews for the students.



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### (3) Organizing the Mai Po Trip

- We organized a trip to WWF Mai Po Reserve on 1 December 2007, during which over 50 past students and family shared a relaxing afternoon in nature observing wildlife such as endangered bird species, and plants like mangroves and lilies.

### (4) Organizing the Alumnae Day Bowling Party

- We organized the Alumnae Day Bowling Party at the Hong Kong Bowling City at EMAX Kowloon Bay on 8 March 2008. Around 100 past students, family and friends, together with over 20 current students and teachers shared a happy afternoon hitting the pins and shooting turkeys.
- We were joined by special guest Ms Katherine Hauw, Chairman of the St. Mary's Canossian College Past Students' Association (Toronto), who was in town at the time.

### (5) Publication of Newsletters

- We published two 8-page newsletters during the Report period – one in October 2007 and another in February 2008.
- 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 also mailed to members with the help from current SMCC students.

### (6) Maintaining the PSA Website

- During the Report period, the website [www.stmaryspsa.org](http://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.



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### (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.
- As at 28 March 2008, we sold 808 albums and 540 pieces of miniatures.
- The net proceeds arising from the sale of the souvenirs goes to the St. Mary's Development Fund.

### (8) Donating Scholarship to SMCC

- For the academic year 2006-2007, the SMPSA Scholarship of HK\$1,000 for Outstanding Performance and Active Promotion in Drama and Speech was awarded to Joyce Wong of F.6A.

### (9) Actions Against Proliferation of Bars Outside the School

- During the year, we continued our objection towards the establishment of bars near the school. Unfortunately, the ruling by the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) to limit the operating hours and number of customers in respect of one of the liquor licence applications was revoked by the Municipal Services Appeal Board.
- To ensure that these establishments would not create nuisance to teachers and students, the School Management has sought police assistance to step up patrol in the vicinity, and will continue to lodge their objection towards liquor license applications from similar establishments in the future.

### (10) Assisting the Setup of 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.



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- The first drama production arising from this arrangement would be “The Disenchanted Fairy” to be performed in April 2008. The play is written and directed by Mr Oliver, with music composed by students.

### (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.
- The Committee was initially formed to manage the Fund after the disbandment of the Fund Raising Committee in 2004. Together with Ms Annie Choi, the School is currently reviewing the Committee's composition, terms of reference and modus operandi.

### (12) School History Archive

- We continued to work closely with SMCC in improving the School History Archive, which is located on Level 4 of the Magdalene Building.
- One member of the Executive Committee, Ms Annie Choi, and another alumna, Ms Rebecca Cheung (1992), were advisers on the plan to improve the School History Archive. Eight alumnae – Ms Wendy Pang (1977), Ms Maria Lee (1984), Ms Celia Ho (2001), Ms Queena Chow (2004), Ms Karen Tse (2004), Ms Muriel Cheng (2004), Ms Winnie Chan (2004) and Ms Vien Tsang (2004) participated in the research work. Mr Daniel Suen (PTA) and Ms Rebecca Cheung advised on the layout of the presentation.
- The research aimed to incorporate our school history with that of the Canossian Missions, the development of the education system and major milestones in the history of Hong Kong. Appeals were also made to alumnae for donation or loan of artifacts to enrich the Archive.
- The School History Archive will be open to visitors during the celebration of the Canossian Missions' 200th Anniversary in May 2008.



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### (13) 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, and attended three committee meetings 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 28 March 2008, two School Management Committee meetings had been held, during which major policy decisions regarding management of the School were made.

### (14) 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.
- 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.



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### (15) Raising Funds for the Restoration of the Sacred Heart Chapel

- We assisted the Canossian Missions to raise funds for the restoration of the Sacred Heart Chapel on Caine Road. With a total of HK\$10 million raised, the restoration work was completed by September 2007, with St. Marians being one of the largest source of donors.

### (16) Supporting the Canossian Global Youth Conference 2007

- The PSA made a donation of HK\$20,000 in support of the Canossian Global Youth Conference held in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Institute of Education in July 2007. Co-organized by the students from St. Mary's Canossian College and Sacred Heart Canossian College, the conference engaged 67 delegates from Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Italy, Sudan, Tanzania, the United States and Hong Kong to discuss issues of global concern.
- Executive Committee members Ms Justina Law and Ms Angela Liu attended the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Dinner on 16 July 2007; Ms Rosa Yeung attended the Cultural Night on 20 July, and Ms Annie Choi attended the Closing Ceremony on 22 July 2007.

### (17) Other Liaison Work

- We maintained informal contact with alumnae groups, including the Loveweavers, Marian in Action, the Alumnae Orchestra and the Alumnae Chinese Orchestra.
- 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 Dr Monica Wong attended the Annual Dinner of SFCC PSA in April 2007 at the Hong Kong Police Officers' Club; while Ms Justina Law and Ms Annie Choi attended the SHCC AA Annual Dinner in November 2007 at the Hong Kong Football Club.



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- Overseas, we also maintained liaison with the SMCC Past Students' Association (Toronto) and the Canossian Colleges Association in Vancouver. In March 2008, we were visited by Ms Katherine Hauw, Chairman of the SMCC PSA (Toronto), who was visiting Hong Kong.

### (18) Remembering our Good Partner, Mrs Karen Lui

- In January 2008, we were deeply saddened by the sudden demise of our dear friend Mrs Karen Lui of the School Office. Karen's help to the PSA had been indispensable over the past years. On behalf of all alumnae, we sent our heartfelt condolences to Karen's family. We shall always miss her.

## **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, more frequent 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.