

ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN COLLEGE PAST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005



Message from the President

Opportunities are everywhere, but are we ready for them?

I woke up this morning to one of the most welcoming news for decades: *the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has just ordered its militants to lay down their arms and adopt peaceful means to end British rule in Northern Ireland* – a historic move after more than 30 years of conflict.

Even though it may still be a long way off before Ireland is to restore local government in the province, this is unthinkable to me and to many of my friends who are patriots living in or away from their Motherland. How I wish to see a peaceful and united Ireland would contribute to the harmony, peace, prosperity and beauty of our planet earth. This is something so unbelievable until yesterday, but with God, we know, everything is possible.



Looking back to our own situation in Hong Kong since the years of the Asian Financial Crisis in 1998, how dismal has been the morale of our people! It has gone down to a level which I can hardly recognise them as the Hongkongers who were the products of this used to be, vibrant and proud City in Asia. To me, Hong Kong has no reason to shrink back or lose confidence as a world-class city because in the Asian Financial Crisis, Hong Kong was one of the best performing cities which could handle well such a massive scale of turbulence and made its comeback sooner than many other places.

It was true, however, that a score of changes, far too much in volume and in pace, sparked off without warning in recent years. At hindsight now, we see the good intention of all parties concerned, be they the government or its opposition, all certainly have abilities that the world all over envy. How efficient and orderly a City we remain to be, after having survived world and domestic crises of magnitude, one after another: the SARS, Bird Flu, Asian Tsunami, Asian Financial Crash, 911 and worldwide terrorism, Article 23 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR, universal suffrage for law-makers and the Chief Executive's election, education reform vs. the shrinking populace, resignation of the First Chief Executive...etc. All these contain in themselves both a challenge and an opportunity. It all depends on the quality of person that our citizens are endowed with or equipped of.

Dear St. Marians, past and present, one and all, let us all strive together and let us all give a helping hand to making Hong Kong the City which we call Home feel that it is different because of its citizens. And after all, we need to take the proud slogan we always uphold at its face value: *"Once a St. Marian, forever a St. Marian!"*

Sister Bernadette Au
28 July 2005



Message from the Chairman

Hello St. Marians,

Let me start by introducing to you the new Executive Committee of the Past Students' Association, which took office some six months ago. This is a very energetic, cooperative, talkative and cheerful group, comprising St. Marians from the 1950s to the 1990s. We have one common vision – to bring together St. Marians and foster close cooperation with the School.

We are focusing on several major tasks – updating our membership database; expanding our membership; establishing overseas chapters and the year representative system; continuing the mentorship programme; improving the new PSA website; revamping the PSA Constitution; liaising with alumni interest groups like the Alumni Orchestra, Alumni Chinese Orchestra and Marian in Action, etc.

2005 also marks the 105th Anniversary of St. Mary's, and the School has designated this year as the "Homecoming Year". Various events have already been held, like the Open Day on 24 May and the Opus 105 Concert on 27 June. The talents of St. Marians really make all alumnae feel so proud of our Alma Mater.

The highlight of the 105th Anniversary would be the Anniversary Dinner to be held on 26 November 2005 at the Hongkong International Trade & Exhibition Centre. Do come and meet old friends, teachers and peers. More information on the dinner and other programmes can be found in this newsletter.

Hope you would enjoy this newsletter, which is the first one prepared by the new Executive Committee. And don't forget to check out the latest news of the School and the PSA on our websites: www.smcc-canossian.org or www.smccpsa.org.

Yours in Christ,
Annie

Executive Committee 2005-2007

The Executive Committee of the Past Students' Association for the period from 2005 to 2007 was elected on 26 February 2005. The committee members are:



Chairman –
Annie Choi
198X (F.7)

Job: Environment, Transport
and Works Bureau
Interests: Golfing, Cooking



Vice Chairman –
Justina Law
198X (F.7)

Job: Advertising
Interests: Movies, Karaoke,
Catching up with
old friends



Vice Chairman –
Jasbir Pannu
197X (F.5)

Job: Human Resources
Interests: Reading, Golfing



Honorary Legal Advisor –
Jody Sin
198X (F.7)

Job: Solicitor
Interests: Karaoke, Cooking



Treasurer –
Rosa Yeung
197X (F.5)

Job: Accountant (part-time)
Interests: Golfing, Gossiping



Secretary –
Ellie Wong
197X (F.7)

Job: Executive
Interests: Music, Badminton,
Reading, Travelling



Membership Secretary –
Monica Wong
197X (F.7)

Job: Principal Medical and
Health Officer,
Department of Health
Interests: Maintaining
membership database
by phone calls,
Cross-stitching



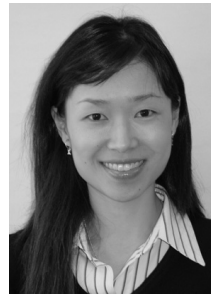
Social Convenor –
Susanna Chung
198X (F.5)

Job: Mother of 2 and charity
volunteer
Interests: Yoga, Travelling



Publication Secretary –
Katherine Mak
199X (F.7)

Job: Lawyer
Interests: Travelling, Reading,
Music



Publication Secretary –
Celia Ho
199X (F.7)

Job: Lawyer
Interests: Bodycombat



Committee Member -
Barbara Chu
198X (F.7)

Job: Senior Executive
Officer, Water
Supplies Department
Interests: Reading, Music,
Tennis



Committee Member –
Janny Leung
197X (F.7)

Job: Professor, The Chinese
University of Hong
Kong
Interests: Travelling, Hiking



Committee Member -
Mabel Leung
196X (F.7)

Job: Home maker
Interests: Swimming, Yoga,
Ikebana



Committee Member -
Irene Young
198X (F.7)

Job: Education & Manpower
Bureau
Interests: Reading, Movies



Committee Member -
Bonita Law
198X (F.5)

Job: Breast Surgeon
Interests: Shopping



School Liaison Officer –
Amy Chan
199X (F.7)

Job: Teacher at SMCC
Interests: Watching movies,
Hiking



School Liaison Officer –
Rowena Tang
199X (F.5)

Job: Teacher at SMCC
Interests: Swimming



School Liaison Officer –
Queenie Lam
199X (F.7)

Job: Teacher at SMCC
Interests: Badminton, Travelling

St. Mary's Updates

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The SMCC Mentorship Program was launched on 27 November 2004 with the aim to provide a channel for our current F.6 students to share and learn from the experience of past St. Marians, so that they could be better prepared for further studies and career choices.

A total of 37 past St. Marians volunteered to be mentors for our 96 students. They met or communicated, with some visiting the offices of the mentors to gain a better understanding of the industry and life at corporations or professional entities. For some students, the mentor was also their role model and confidante... someone they found easy to talk to.

A year end survey revealed that most students found the opportunity valuable and they suggested the program be continued. For the next academic year, a total of 34 past St. Marians have volunteered to join the program for our new cohort of F.6 students. Any past student who wishes to contribute to her Alma Mater can contact Mrs Karen Lui on (852) 2724 2771.



FINAL EXAM INVIGILATORS

It's not easy to be teachers these days. The demanding curriculum requires the teachers to spend a lot of time on coordinating among themselves in preparing for the next academic year.

In the past years, our teachers basically did not have a real summer holiday as they met regularly and frequently during the summer months. This year, the teachers were able to hold their meetings during the exam hours in June as they were released from the role of exam invigilators. Thanks to some of our members and PTA members who offered their help as exam invigilators.

Hope that the teachers do have a relaxed summer holiday and return to school in top form in September!

OPUS 105

OPUS 105, the concert to celebrate SMCC's 105th anniversary, was held on 27 June 2005 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.

More than 500 performers, comprising both past and present St. Marians and students of La Salle College, filled the Concert Hall with enchanting western, Chinese and also Latin American music.

Do you know that we have two groups of past students whose passion for music are expressed through the SMCC Alumni Chinese Instrumental Ensemble and the SMCC Alumni Orchestra? Their interest in music and strong sense of belonging are the main attributes of their success in that evening's performance. We look forward to seeing more of their performance in the future.



ANNUAL SCHOOL DRAMA

Psyche 2005 – and what's next?

By Geoff Oliver - Head of Drama & Language Arts, Writer/Director of Psyche 2005 and Nefertiti 2006

Thanks to the magnificent effort of the students and the support of the staff St. Marians once again proved that they are capable of great achievements.

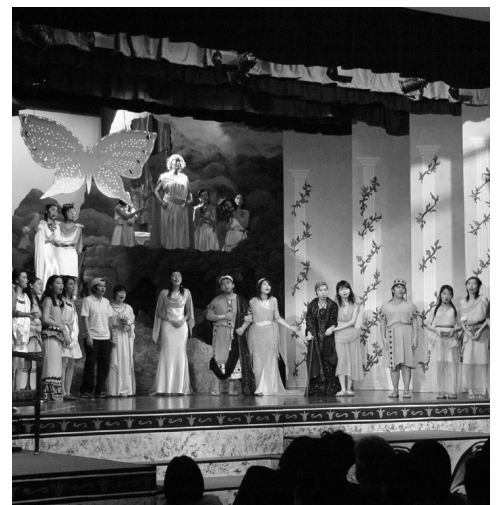
The play, *Psyche*, was a magnificent amalgam of talent. Beautiful, tuneful melodies composed by the girls; wonderful designs and art work; colourful costumes and make-up; believable acting and lovely singing; energetic and creative dancing; slick teamwork from stage managers, lighting and sound team members all combined to make this one of our best ever shows. The whole show was produced by a dedicated and enthusiastic team who were a pleasure to work with making this a very happy experience for all concerned.

It is not always easy to hit upon the right story to perform and it is never easy to produce a quality performance, but I believe we managed to get it just about right with *Psyche* and I am very happy with the reception of the play by the audience.

Doing such a big project is indeed a wonderful learning opportunity for all concerned and I am happy to say it will continue. Plans are already under way for next year's production which will be a story based on the life of one of the world's most beautiful women – Nefertiti, and her six daughters.

Nefertiti was wife of the Egyptian pharaoh, Akhenaten, who was one of Ancient Egypt's most interesting and revolutionary leaders and was the first person in recorded history to suggest that there was only one God. He changed the religion of his country, founded a new capital city and also instigated a whole new form of art. The play will explore the role and influence of Nefertiti at that time of radical change.

We look forward to your continuing support for drama in St. Mary's.



ST. MARY'S DEVELOPMENT FUND

With the concerted effort of past and present St. Marians, parents and friends of St. Mary's, we raised HK\$7.1 million in 2003-2004 for the school extension project. The project, which aimed to convert part of the convent in the Main Building to classrooms and other learning facilities, was completed in the summer of 2004, leaving a surplus of HK\$1.5 million.

In furtherance of the donors' support for St. Mary's, Sr Bernadette has kindly agreed to use this surplus amount to set up the St. Mary's Development Fund, the objective of which is to support projects that would be conducive to the development of St. Mary's, as well as her staff and students. A Fund Management Committee, comprising representatives from the school management, the Parent-Teacher Association, the Past Students' Association and the Fundraising Committee, has been set up to oversee the management of the Fund.

Over the year, the Fund has supported 3 projects – two on the upgrading of the school's computer systems, each costing some HK\$200,000, and the third on enhancing her drama installations at a cost of HK\$21,000.

We welcome donations from all St. Marians, so that the Fund can continue to serve its purpose of supporting the school. Please send your cheque, payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College", to the school direct, and specify that it is for the Development Fund. Donations over HK\$100 are tax deductible.



PSA Updates

ALUMNAE STATISTICS

According to our records, we have a total of 3,904 alumnae members in our database, spanning seven decades!

40s	5	50s	113	60s	311	70s	326	80s	286	90s	1,582	00s	1,281
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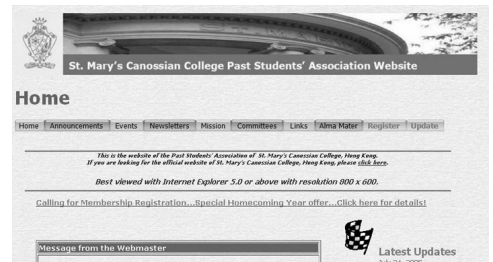
This year is the 105th Anniversary of our alma mater and the Homecoming Year for all alumnae. The PSA is taking this opportunity to strengthen our community and to unite as many past St. Marians as possible. We are making a special Homecoming Year offer to all past St. Marians who have not yet joined the PSA – you can register for **Life-time Membership FOR FREE!** The offer will only last till the end of 2005.

We know that if you are receiving this newsletter, you're already one of our members. Thank you for your support in the past years. However, we do need your help to spread the word to your schoolmates who are not yet PSA members. For further information, visit the PSA website at www.smccpsa.org.

SMCC PSA WEBSITE

Have you visited our revamped website at www.smccpsa.org?

With the launch of the website we hope to provide a convenient channel for timely updates, thus helping to further bring together St. Marians near and far. You can also download forms to register for membership, or update your membership profile. We will continue to enhance the website over the year. Do pay us a visit from time to time!



SMCC 105th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Organized by the Past Students' Association, the dinner will be a great gathering opportunity for old friends, teachers and peers, and a delightful night of warmth and fun with performances, lucky draw, games, gifts and souvenirs!

Date: Saturday, 26 November 2005
Time: Reception 6 p.m. / Dinner 7 p.m.
Venue: Grand Rotunda, 3rd Floor, Hongkong International Trade & Exhibition Centre,
1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon
(Complimentary shuttle service available to and from the Kowloon Bay MTR station)
Menu: Chinese style set dinner will be served
Ticket price: HK\$400 per ticket (10% off for early bird booking before 14 October 2005)
Booking: Please fill in and return this Reply Form

More information available from the PSA website www.smccpsa.org

REPLY FORM

(You can also download this form from the PSA website)

Name: _____
Contact Tel: _____ **Email Address:** _____
PSA No. (if any): _____ **Year of Form 5:** _____

(A) Reservation Please where appropriate.

I would like to attend the Dinner and reserve the following seats:

	<u>Type</u>	<u>Ticket Price</u>	<u>Number of seats</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Bird (Full payment to be received on or before 14 October 2005)	@HK\$360	_____	HK\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Normal (Please reply before 5 November 2005)	@HK\$400	_____	HK\$ _____

1. Group booking is welcome. Each table carries 12 seats. Free corkage of 1 bottle per table for self-brought-in hard liquor or wine.
2. Seating will be arranged on a first-come, first-served basis.
3. You will receive confirmation of your reservation via email or telephone before 10 November 2005.
4. Please make cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College Past Students' Association".

I would like to collect my ticket(s): From school office (recommended) On site at HITEC

(B) Gift Sponsorship Please where appropriate.

I would also like to donate a gift/some gifts for lucky draw and/or table prizes.

Item: _____ X _____ Pieces

Item: _____ X _____ Pieces

1. Please reply before 5 November 2005 to allow time for necessary arrangements.
2. Kindly contact Mrs Karen Lui on (852) 2724 2771 to arrange for collection.

(C) General Donation Please where appropriate.

I would like to make a separate donation in support of the St. Mary's Canossian College Development Fund. Enclosed is a cheque of _____.

Please tick here if a receipt for tax deduction purpose is required.

Name to be put on the receipt: _____

Cheque number: _____

1. Please make cheque crossed and payable to **"St. Mary's Canossian College"**.
2. Please specify on the back of the cheque that it is a donation for the SMCC Development Fund.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Kindly return this reply form together with your cheque(s) to
SMCC Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon (Attention : Mrs Karen Lui)

For enquiries about the dinner:

Email: 105dinner@smccpsa.org / Telephone : (852) 2724 2771 / Fax : (852) 2724 2719



Note on Newsletter Distribution - Use of Email

Dear members: We do upload an electronic version of our newsletters onto the PSA website upon publication. To save the environment as well as administrative costs, starting from the next issue, we will only send hard copies to those without online access. For those with email accounts registered with us, we will email them a reminder to read online instead. If you need to update your email address, please download the Membership Update Form from the PSA website. If you still prefer to receive a hard copy, please notify our Membership Secretary at smccpsa@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration!