



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER March 2014

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Message from the Executive Committee Congratulations to the New Alumni Managers !

After a year of preparation for the election of the Alumni Managers for the Incorporated Management Committees (IMCs) of St. Mary's Canossian College (SMCC) and St. Mary's Canossian School (SMCS), the nomination period took place from 26 October to 9 November 2013, and we are delighted to announce that two alumnae were elected uncontested – Ms. Angela Liu, class of 19xx, was elected as Alumni Manager for the IMC of SMCC, while Ms. Angela Leung, class of 19xx, was elected as Alumni Manager for the IMC of SMCS. As Alumni Managers, they will take part regularly in IMC meetings to assist in the management of the schools together with other school managers representing the School Sponsoring Body, teachers, parents and independent individuals. The term of service of school managers will be two years, ending August 2015.



Ms. Angela Leung, Alumni Manager for the IMC of SMCS (left) and Ms. Angela Liu, Alumni Manager for the IMC of SMCC (right)

Both Ms. Angela Liu and Ms. Angela Leung are currently executive committee members of the SMPSA, and they have been actively participating in the organization and implementation of PSA activities throughout the years. We are confident that they will continue to support SMCC and SMCS in their new capacities, and we thank them for their love and commitment to their Alma Mater.



Drama "TIMELESS" The 2014 attraction will be a new musical "Timeless" directed by Mr. Geoff Oliver and Ms. Eudora Lee. The play – with book & lyrics by Mr. Geoff Oliver – has 11 original songs with music composed by our students and includes dance sequences.
Let's fly together to year 2034!!

"Timeless" will run from 28th April (Mon) to 3rd May (Sat) (rest day on 1st May (Thur)). The Gala Night will take place on 2nd May (Fri). Ticket prices include \$100*, \$180*, \$250 and \$500. Further information is available from Ms Queenie Cheng (General Office) at 2724 2771. * Prices not available on 2nd & 3rd May.



*Thank you for your continuous support to the PSA.
The ExCo wishes you and your family a Happy Year of the Horse!*



School News - Mentorship Programme 2013-14

In early 2004, the Principal of SMCC at the time, Sr. Bernadette Au, discussed with the PSA the idea of setting up a mentorship programme in which past students can help to provide guidance to younger St. Marians. After months of planning and preparation, and with the support and participation from alumnae, the programme was successfully launched in the 2004-05 academic year. Throughout the years, this has provided a means for past St. Marians to share their experience (both academic and life) and professional knowledge with students who are in their second last year of secondary school life. It is hoped that through this sharing, we are able to help our younger sisters to better prepare for their further studies and career choices.

This year, we see the tenth year of the programme, with 156 students registering as mentees and 52 past St. Marians signing up as mentors. The kick-off ceremony was held on 9 November 2013, and it was a great opportunity for both mentors and mentees to make acquaintance and plan ahead for the year. The animated chatter was a clear sign that there was no "generation gap" despite the fact that

the mentors and mentees come from vastly different times and eras!

Towards the end of the session, our School Principal, Ms. Catherine Wong, thanked the past St. Marians for taking the time to contribute to their Alma Mater. The ceremony ended on a high note and we all took a group photo. Throughout the year, the mentors and mentees will meet a couple of times, and based on the interests of the mentees, mentors will endeavor to guide them and help them to discover themselves and their aspirations. The next gathering will be held on 15 March 2014 (Sat) in the school campus.

Once again, the school would like to extend her sincere gratitude to all mentors who have, throughout the years, contributed their expertise and time to guide and nurture junior St. Marians and to sustain the proud legacy of St. Mary's. Past students who are interested in participating in this Mentorship Programme may contact Ms Queenie Cheng at 2724 2771 for further information. Nominations are invited every year in early September.



Mentors and mentees of the academic year 2013-14



Getting to know each other in small groups



Mentors being briefed before meeting their mentees

Opt to receive soft copies of the PSA Newsletter?



To help save paper and administrative costs, we encourage members with email access to opt for receiving the electronic version of the PSA newsletter instead. Please contact the Membership Secretary at membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org if you'd like to help us out and opt not to receive the mailed copy. Thank you in advance.



PSA News - Alumnae Day Outing 2013



Sha Tau Kok, an area in the New Territories that has remained a mystery to most people in Hong Kong till mid 2012, was one of the destinations for our Alumnae Day Outing which took place on 8 December 2013. 55 past students and family members joined the outing and shared a day of sight-seeing and fun!

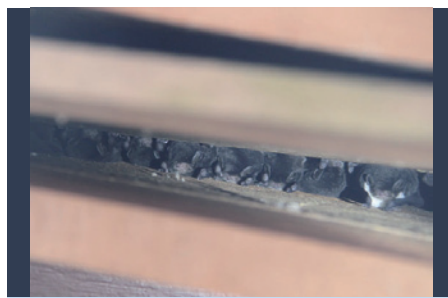
The journey started at 9 a.m. in the morning. Departing from the school, we took a coach that headed directly to the previously restricted Sha Tau Kok area. After travelling for around an hour, we arrived at the Tam Shui Hang Village (担水坑村), where we had a chance to meet the villagers, as well as a taste for local home-made



A walk into the Sha Tau Kok villages



Local snacks for sale



Can you see the bats hiding in here?



Kites flying everywhere

snacks like steamed rice dumplings, soya bean custard, stir-fried rice cookies, pickled fruits and other desserts. The group then moved on to another sight-seeing point – the Kang Yung Study Hall (鏡蓉書屋). The place was built in the Qianlong reign and was used as a small private school for around 20 pupils. It was declared a monument in 1991, and had then undergone a full restoration by the government. It was interesting to see how classrooms have evolved since then. We even learnt that the study hall is now also home for some bats that lived around the area!

Around noon, we enjoyed a tasty Chinese meal at a restaurant in Sheung Shui, and then moved on to the last sight-seeing point of the day – the Tai Po Waterfront Park. The park is the largest one managed by the Leisure & Culture Services Department, and it certainly gave us all a spacious break from the crowded Sha Tau Kok villages in the morning! From going up the 32.4 meter spiral lookout tower and having a panoramic view of the Tolo Harbour on one side and the giant floral display on the other, to visiting the insect house and saying hello to the creepy crawlers, or just sitting back and watching huge kites fly above our heads, alumnae and friends enjoyed a comfortable and relaxing afternoon under the warm sun, taking home cameras full of colourful pictures with memories to last!



Entrance to the Kang Yung Study Hall



55 happy faces after a full day of activities

An Old friend

Mr. Lau Kwok-sun (劉國新先生) is truly a good old friend of St. Mary's and St. Marians. For 38 years, he and Lok Sum Fast Food Shop (樂心快餐店) have witnessed the changes of the school and its neighbourhood.

The story began in 1976. Mr. Lau, aged 23 then, was working in the catering industry. "I told myself not to pick up any of the bad habits that most of my peers had, like drinking, smoking or gambling. I worked very hard, learnt all the skillsets of the industry and saved up every penny that I earned. A friend of mine, who was working at the Love Snack Shop (愛心快餐店), told me that his boss was not interested in running the shop and asked me to consider taking over the business." [*Note: The Love Snack Shop was located at 28 Austin Avenue, right next to Wing Hang Glass & Mirror Shop and opposite the staircase leading to Hillwood Road. It operated until 1996 when the building was demolished. The site has since 2000 been occupied by an office block called the Hong Kong Offshore Centre.] While this was a tempting proposition, it was not risk free. After careful deliberations, Mr. Lau made the bold decision to go ahead with the deal. "The neighbourhood then had a good mix of offices, workshops and retail stores. But most importantly, there was steady business from St. Marians." This venture started his lifelong association with St. Mary's.

In 1978, he started Lok Sum Fast Food Shop at 15B



Mr. Lau Kwok Sun sends his greetings to St. Marians.

Austin Avenue (currently a dental clinic). Lok Sum moved to the current location in 1990. Mr. Lau also started two Luen Wai Café (聯威茶餐廳), one in Carnival Mansion at Austin Avenue in 1989 and another one at Hillwood Road in 1991. He went on to run a few more fast food shops and Hong Kong style cafés at other locations. But his heart has always been with Lok Sum.

"Running fast food shops requires hard work from dawn to dusk. In 1976, a cup of tea cost \$0.80, a chicken leg \$1.1 and a lunch box \$1.5. Each transaction involves a small amount, so you need to maintain good turnover and have good resource management. The school calendar is thus very important for us. We would prepare much less food during school holidays. Reputation is also very important. I forbid my staff to talk to the girls, so



Lok Sum in 1978



Lok Sum in the 1990's

there are never complaints from the sisters and teachers. In fact, they do come to us for lunch boxes, and if they have special meetings, we would be most ready to provide delivery service!”

Year in, year out, St. Marians come to him for lunch boxes and snacks. According to Mr Lau, spaghetti bolognese and chicken legs have remained the girls’ favourites over the past four decades. Though being a quiet observer, Mr. Lau has often been part of St. Marians’ school life. He sees their working hard for their studies. He hears their laughter and jokes. He feels their anxieties and worries. Fall. Young girls join the big St. Marian family. Summer. The older ones move on to new pastures. “Many of them would come to bid farewell on their graduation day. And one girl came to visit us with her newly wed right after their wedding ceremony at Rosary Church. Well, the bridesmaids were all my customers during their school days!”

Mr. Lau is no doubt a role model for many young men and women. But to him, St. Marians had also been an inspiration for him when he was young. “St. Marians were nice girls, hardworking, intelligent, graceful and well-behaved. They reaffirmed my aspiration for a healthy, diligent, positive and quality life. I do not have extravagant habits, and I spend most of my free time on sports, particularly tennis and swimming.” No wonder he looks as youthful as he was 38 years ago!!

Today, Mr. Lau is half retired. He leaves the management of the other fast food shops to his partners, but he still comes back to Lok Sum regularly, to see to it that the rush hour (lunch hour of St Mary’s) is properly managed. “I have a lot of affection for St. Mary’s and the neighbourhood, and I enjoy serving them. This is where I started my career and my life. This is my home.”



Do you remember Love Snack Shop?



Young Mr. Lau posing for a snapshot

Notice of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of St. Mary’s Past Students’ Association

Date : 22 March 2014 (Saturday)

Time : 3:00 pm

Venue : Geography Room, 2/F Marian Building, St. Mary’s Canossian College,
162 Austin Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting held on 16 March 2013
2. Chairman’s Report
3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year ending 31 August 2013
4. Any Other Business

All members are welcome.

Alumna News – Ms Mildred Moy in Vancouver

Congratulations to our alumna Mildred Moy, graduate in the 1980's, who was honoured with the Benemerenti Medal on 24 November 2013 in Vancouver, Canada!

The Benemerenti Medal (meaning “medal to a well deserving person”), is awarded to those who have exhibited long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community. This papal award approved by Pope Francis was bestowed on Mildred in recognition of her dedicated involvement and commitment with the St. Mary's Street Ministry and the Healing Ministry in her church, the St. Mary's Parish, in Vancouver, Canada.

We wrote to Mildred to invite her to share her experience with her fellow alumnae.



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Question: How was the St. Mary's Street Ministry founded?

In 2003, I quit my job and planned to work as a full-time missionary in a recovery house for helping women with drug and alcohol addictions. However, that did not work out as expected, though I knew very well that God wanted me to serve the poor. So I started walking on the street with a friend to look for those ladies who worked in street prostitution. Finally, some friends told us that there were some on Kingsway at night time. Our church, St. Mary's Parish, is very close to Kingsway. So one night around 9 p.m. we started walking on Kingsway, seeking the lost, and at the same time, sharing our faith. Then, we saw a beautiful young woman standing at a street corner. We immediately knew she was in street prostitution by the way she dressed. We approached her, and she was very friendly to us. We chatted and prayed with her. Later on, we saw more, and by the time we finished, it was past 1 a.m.! That was the beginning of St. Mary's Street Ministry. Up till today, we still go out around midnight to reach out to the street women every week.

We chose this name because St. Mary's is the name of our parish, and also the name of my Alma Mater where I learned about Jesus and the Catholic faith. I am very grateful to all the sisters and teachers who taught me by words and deeds what God's love is. It is such an important thing to learn. Without knowing what true love is, people go to the wrong paths to look for love, and some ended up on the street addicted.

Question: What was the inspiration behind?

After years of a successful career in the IT industry, I found myself very empty deep down in my heart. Searching for a more meaningful life I started volunteering in a recovery house. I met a woman of my age who was very friendly and nice, and was in the recovery house trying to get rid of her drug addiction. She shared with me her story: her parents were addicts, and she had been sexually abused since childhood. She left home, got addicted at a very young age, and had to sell her body to feed her habit. Most of her friends also had similar experience. I pondered if I were brought up in a similar way, I might very well end up the same way.

Then I sensed God's love for the poor. I heard Him say in my heart, "I have never forgotten them. They are mine. I am their Father and they are my children." God their Father was asking me to reach out to His weakest and poorest children who were lost. He filled my heart with His love for those who were 'hard to love' on the street. Since then I have been doing this for over 10 years, and the fire is still burning in my heart.

Question: What are the difficulties and how did you overcome them?

It is a hard ministry. Yet, I do see fruits. I see people leaving the street and starting new lives. But the fruits do not come very often. It is a ministry that requires great faith, trusting that God has a salvation plan for every single person on the street. I see our work as screws in the building of a space-shuttle. They are very small but without them, the space-shuttle would not function as designed. The ministry also helps me grow in my faith. Seeing all the sufferings on the street, one might become too depressed to persevere in the ministry. Only if one put trust in God would one be able to continue the ministry day after day, week after week, and year after year.

Question: What is your future mission?

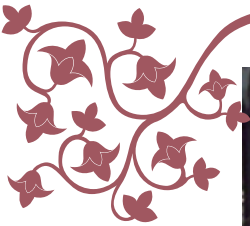
Recently, on several different occasions, I was given the following bible passage:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” [Luke 4:18-19]

I sense that the Lord Jesus is calling me to continue His work on earth: to continue to reach out to the poor and to involve in my parish’s Healing Ministry where I pray for those who come for prayer. Through prayer of Healing and Deliverance, many people have been healed, physically, emotionally and spiritually, and set free by God’s grace. That is why I will continue to serve God through helping the poor, and pray for those who need healing and deliverance.



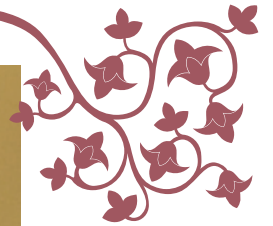
It is our pleasure to learn about the meaningful work that Mildred has done in her parish for the Love of Jesus, and we are pleased to know that even the less fortunate in Vancouver are now inspired by the spirit of a true St. Marian. We thank Mildred for her sharing and we pray to the Lord that He will continue to guide and render support to her in her ministry in fulfilling His loving plan. For more information about St. Mary’s Ministry, please visit their website at <http://www.sm2.ca/>.



Mildred receiving the award from Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB



The front and rear of the Benerementi Medal



Ministry work: Hugging a street woman



Ministry work: Reaching out to the homeless

