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Warm Homecoming on Alumnae Day 2018

The annual Alumnae Day is one of the most anxiously awaited occasions for past St. Marians when we can bring along our loved ones to visit the Alma Mater. Despite the weather forecast, we were so blessed by God's love to have held the event smoothly on a dry, warm but breezy autumn day.

On 24 November 2018, over 600 alumnae, family and friends visited the Primary and Secondary school campuses in the afternoon. To help save the environment, this year we have invited our alumnae to scan a QR Code for indication of the open campus locations. Another new feature is the addition



Members of the PSA Exco extended a warm welcome to visitors.

of foamboard stands featuring two St Marians in summer and winter uniforms. Our guests were excited to see these new props and the two stands have become a popular photo and selfie spot!



The uniform stands were popular photo spots - even late in the evening!

The highlight of the Alumnae Day was the Poon Choi dinner which started at 6pm. Past St. Marians have shown overwhelming support for the function and tickets for all the 50 tables were sold out within the first few days of announcement! The dinner kicked off with the Chairlady of the Past Students' Association delivering a welcome speech. It was followed by a speech from our Patron, Ms Janet Wong, who expressed gratitude to the support of all the old girls and to the PSA for organizing this annual event.



A touching moment when the School Song was sung in unison. What a great chorus!

The next to come was the School Song, at the tune of which, all 600 guests who were present stood in attention. This was indeed a touching and memorable moment, which symbolized the unity of all St. Marians. After the lucky draw and announcement of table prizes, the guests started to enjoy the scrumptious meal. While the grown-ups



were busily catching up with each other and taking photos, our younger guests took this golden opportunity to roam around the campus and enjoyed themselves!

We also had members of the St. Mary's Alumnae Dragon Boat team joining us at the dinner, sharing with us their achievements (and trophies!) and new uniform, making all guests so envious of their endless energy!

Kids were enjoying themselves too on the playground.

The PSA Exco

would like to sincerely thank our two patrons of SMCS and SMCC, Ms. Maria Cheung and Ms. Janet Wong; teachers-in-charge Mrs. Kapo Lee, Mrs. Queenie Mui, Ms. Rosa Zeng; the Student Council helpers and the school janitors who all contributed to the success of the Alumane Day. Last but not least, thank you to all the past St. Marians for your relentless support and participation to make the event another unforgettable experience!



The St. Mary's Alumnae Dragon Boat Team



Big thanks to Mrs. Kapo Lee and the Student Council team.



We were happy to have Ms. Catherine Wong, Ms. Amelia Tsang and Mr. Philip Lee returning to join us.



We thank God for the perfect weather which gave us another cozy Poon Choi dinner under the stars.

School Drama 2019

“The Mystic Shoemaker – A Modern Fairy Tale”

It's the time of the year again! Our school will present five performances of the latest production, “The Mystic Shoemaker - A Modern Fairy Tale”, an original musical drama written by Mr. Geoff Oliver, with input from the Core Production Team, and songs and dances composed by our students.



The story is a quirky tale set “long ago and far away”

and deals with an isolated community who, because of the peculiarities of the local shoemaker, all wear odd shoes instead of matching pairs. Challenges from the outside world herald an end to their idyllic - if slightly odd - way of life. The story has drama, romance and even murder. Can the Mystic Shoemaker maintain his independence, or will the arrival of cheap shoes from the modern world throw him out of business?

Show dates will be on 27 April (Sat), 29 April (Mon), 30 April (Tue), 3 May (Fri, Gala Night) and 4 May 2019 (Sat) at 7:00pm in the SMCC School Hall. Running time will be approximately 2.5 hours including two intervals. Ticket prices are \$100*, \$180*, \$250 and \$500. For reservation please visit the school's website or contact Ms. Wynsie Tang of the School Office at 2724 2771. (* not available on 3-4 May)

Support the SMCC Drama Development Fund



For more than three decades, the annual drama production in our Alma Mater has been a great opportunity for St. Marians to learn about and practice the important attributes of creativity, presentation and team collaboration. Under the guidance of Mr. Geoff Oliver, the production standard is always reaching new heights as the team continues to develop inventive ways to deliver the art form.

Apart from showing our support by watching the performances, wouldn't it be great if there are other ways that we can help? Good news here - the school has set up a Drama Development Fund to support expenses related to our school drama production, including the maintenance of audio-visual and back stage equipment, and contributions are welcome!

Please prepare a cheque payable to “**The IMC of St. Mary's Canossian College**”, marking “**Drama Development Fund**” at the back. If a receipt for tax deduction purpose is required, please also indicate the name to be put on the receipt and the address for mailing. For further enquiries, please contact Ms. Wynsie Tang of the School Office at 2724 2771 or wynsietang@smcc.hk. Thank you again for your support to your Alma Mater!

120th Anniversary of our Alma Mater



The year 2020 will mark the 120th anniversary of our Alma Mater! Apart from the many celebratory activities organised by the school, the PSA will also be hosting the St. Mary's 120th Anniversary Dinner to commemorate this grand occasion.



Date of the dinner has been set on **28 November 2020 (Sat)**. A Chinese banquet will be held in the evening, after an Open Campus session in the afternoon. Please mark your diaries for the time being, especially for those who are residing overseas. Further information will be available closer to 2020, so please stay tuned !

Hong Kong Police Force Initiative - Project Legacy

Thanks to the invitation of past St. Marians in the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), we were delighted to join a special luncheon in the Senior Officers' Mess of HKPF in Wan Chai on 13 February 2019!

This was one of the activities under Project Legacy, the secondary school engagement initiative launched by the HKPF in January 2018. The Project aims to strengthen the bonding between police alumni and their alma maters on matters of common interest that lies beyond the traditional police context. We are pleased to learn that there are currently 15 past St. Marians serving as police officers, including Assistant Commissioner of Police Ms. Rebecca Lam, and Chief Superintendent of Police Ms. Anna Tsang.



Presentation by Assistant Commissioner of Police Ms. Rebecca Lam at the Police Headquarters.

Our police alumnae invited the Principal of SMCC, the Headmistresses of the two feeder schools



A delightful get together made possible by our fellow St. Marians in the Police Force. We were joined in this photo by Commissioner of Police Mr. Stephen Lo (centre).

SMCS and HACS, the Chairpersons of the Parent Teacher Associations, the Past Students' Association and the Junior Police Call Fellows, as well as senior teachers. A total of 20 guests first attended a presentation on the history and mission of the Police Force, and then enjoyed the famous "Curry Lunch" at the Senior Officers' Mess of HKPF. The activity was a great success - not only does it connect us with our police alumnae who are very supportive of their Alma Mater, it also provided a platform to strengthen mutual communication to enhance knowledge about youth crime prevention. Let's keep the spirit going!

In Loving Memory

Ms. Cissy Lui (呂善儀女士), school clerk of the General Office of St. Mary's Canossian College for more than three decades, returned peacefully to God on 8 August 2018 in Vancouver, Canada, at age 83.

Ms. Lui spent almost half a century in St. Mary's. She began receiving local education at SMCC after her family brought her to Hong Kong in the late 1940s. After completing high school, she stayed on to work as school clerk at the General Office for the next thirty six years, being known as 呂姑娘 to many. She retired in 1990 and her family moved to Vancouver Canada permanently in 1994.



We thank Ms. Lui for her devotion and her years of service to generations of St. Marians. She will always remain in the hearts of those who crossed paths with her.

~ Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. ~

MS. SHIRLEY CHU, ALWAYS A MADAM !

During our meeting with our Police alumnae for Project Legacy (see article on P.4), we came across a familiar face who approached us with all smiles. Ms. Shirley Chu retired at the rank of Chief Superintendent of Police in 2014. Cheerful and energetic, Shirley is still active in her post-retirement life, including joining Project Legacy to support her alumnae. We had the opportunity to speak with Shirley, and asked her to share with us her stories about her Alma Mater.



Ms. Shirley Chu sends her best wishes to all.

When did you start at St. Mary’s and how was your studies?

“As with many who studied in Holy Angels Canossian School, St. Mary’s was my first choice for secondary school. While having two relatives already studying at St. Mary’s, I did not know much about the school, except being impressed by its gorgeous historical buildings. Form 1 was a pretty tough year as I had to adjust from a Chinese-learning environment to an English-learning environment. The dictionary became my study buddy as I tried to catch up. I am particularly indebted to Ms. Elizabeth Fung, my English teacher in Form 5, who took extra effort in helping students in need, myself included.”



Those were the days! Apart from Chinese cultural activities, Shirley (top left) was also active in folk singing.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities?

“Thanks to Ms. Ng Yuk-chi (吳鈺池老師) who made Chinese and Chinese History lessons so interesting and lively, I developed a keen interest in Chinese culture since those early days, and even joined the Chinese Culture Club (中國文化學會) at school. Decades later, I also chaired the Chinese Culture Club in the Police Force, and after retirement, I’ve signed up for classes in Cantonese opera and Chinese musical instruments! I guess you can really call that long-term impact!”

Were you a member of any uniform groups at school?

“Oh yes! I was fascinated by the special attire and the foot drill of uniform groups. I joined the Red Cross as a result, as we can learn useful first-aid knowledge, and be engaged in social and community services. The whole experience in Red Cross provided me with a good foundation of civic education and discipline.”



Shirley (top) with her Red Cross team members.



Shirley (4th from left, back row) with her course instructors, not long after graduation from Police Training School in August 1982.

Did you join the Police Force right after graduation?

“Well, no. Believe it or not, my initial wish was to become an air stewardess! I thought that would be the job to bring me to different places. Unfortunately, I ended up as a reservations officer as I could not pass the swimming test! After some time, I felt like taking on a more challenging job, and moved on to work in a bank to monitor electronic systems

and backups. My interest in the new job started to subside after a year or so, as I yearned for more action in my work. Inspired by my classmate who declined an offer from HKU to join the Police Force, I decided to submit my application and give it a try, and I passed the tests and interviews! So I started my training as an inspector at the then Police Training School. It was around year end of 1981.”

What excites you most throughout your career as a Police Officer?

“I am grateful for the wide range of duties entrusted in me throughout the 30-odd years - from operation to administration support; at district to regional to headquarters levels; from narcotics to crime investigation to traffic management and more. One of my most memorable duties was re-writing the various operational orders and emergency response protocol for crowd control, following the 1993 Lan Kwai Fong stampede, which many of you might be too young to remember. Another notable initiative was the introduction of a new legislation -- the Prevention of Child Pornography Ordinance in 2003 - which provided me with a whole new experience in law enforcement. And in 2005, when I was the last Commandant of the Hong Kong Police Training School, I witnessed a big leap in training enhancement for our officers as the School was being upgraded to Hong Kong Police College, which was the first government department, being neither a tertiary institution nor a chartered body, to acquire accreditation status under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework at Levels 4 and 5. I was then transferred to other posts, and returned after a few years as a Deputy Director of the Police College until my retirement in 2014. An amazing journey indeed!”



Shirley was a member of the PTU Tango Company in 1998-99.



On the occasion of her promotion in 2010 to Chief Superintendent of Police, with then Commissioner of Police Mr. Tang King-shing.

training enhancement for our officers as the School was being upgraded to Hong Kong Police College, which was the first government department, being neither a tertiary institution nor a chartered body, to acquire accreditation status under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework at Levels 4 and 5. I was then transferred to other posts, and returned after a few years as a Deputy Director of the Police College until my retirement in 2014. An amazing journey indeed!”

How would you say our Alma Mater had helped you with your achievements?

“In my view, St. Marians are brought up to be humble and diligent, and they are inspired to become respectable beings. Our Alma Mater equipped me with good language skills, and broadened my horizon, particularly on current affairs, through extra-curricular activities. These are important attributes that enabled me to approach and handle different situations as I moved on in my life. I am forever grateful for her teachings.”

Even after retirement, Shirley has a busy schedule, and is making the most to enjoy life, as well as to contribute wherever she can. We are happy to have her in Project Legacy to support our current Police alumnae. We thank Shirley for her sharing, and wish her joy and happiness in her endeavours. Once a St. Marian, always a St. Marian. And for Shirley, we will add “once a madam, always a madam!”



Alumnae Day 2019

The PSA is pleased to announce that the Alumnae Day this year is scheduled on **30 November 2019 (Sat)**. The campus will be open on the day to welcome past St. Marians, friends and family. Details of other planned activities will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter. Do mark the date now, and stay tuned for more update!

Marians in Faith

In October 2018, Ms. Meaco Kwok shared the mysteries of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the most famous image of Mother Mary on the American continent. Indeed, it was the first Marian apparition officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church. What makes it most impressive is the image was directly granted by Mother Mary onto the cloak in 1531, and it is still well kept and displayed in the Basilica in Mexico. The fact that scientific tests and analyses have yet to be able to explain how and why the cloak could have survived throughout the centuries makes the apparition more miraculous. The Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 every year.

“Marians in Faith” is a self-initiated Catholic group aimed at strengthening SMCC alumnae’s faith in God. Please visit our Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/MariansInFaith> for more details, or contact us via mariansinfaith@gmail.com.



Ms. Meaco Kwok was the speaker at the Oct 2018 retreat.

Security Procedures for School Visits



To ensure student safety and school security, registration at the school gate is required for all visitors.

Past students are strongly encouraged to make prior arrangement with the General Office for school visits. Simply send an email to the General Office at info@smcc.hk with the following details: purpose, date, time, name(s), graduation year, and the mobile number of the contact person. Staff members can then verify the information in advance in order to speed up the entry. Please note that visitors may be requested to show their HKID card for verification.

For unannounced visits, the registration will take longer. The security guard on duty is required to contact the General Office to verify the identity of the visitors, especially for those without past student cards. If the visit is made during non-office hours, visitors will be required to show their HKID card to the security guard, and write down their mobile numbers, and the first 4 digits of their ID, in the Log Book. For further details, please refer to the guidelines on the PSA website.

The school management apologizes for any inconvenience these procedures may cause, and appreciates your understanding for the necessity to safeguard the campus and students of our Alma Mater.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SMCC ALUMNAE CHOIR

Do you miss the joyful memories of singing with your fellow St. Marians back in school? Since 2010, past St. Marian choristers from different generations have been coming together to perform during various celebrations of our Alma Mater. Those performances certainly brought back memories of joy and friendship along with the music! With the support of our Music Advisor Ms. Viola Chan, we are excited to announce the establishment of the SMCC Alumnae Choir!



Looking forward to singing with you soon!

All past St. Marians with choral or vocal experience are welcome to join by sending an email to smccchoir@gmail.com with your name, year of graduation and email address for communication. Further information on choir activities will be sent to members afterwards, and will be published through the PSA newsletter.

Notice of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Past Students' Association

Date : 23 March 2019 (Saturday)
Time : 3:00 pm
Venue : Geography Room, 2/F Marian Building

All members are welcome !

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on 17 March 2018
2. Chairman's Report
3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year ending 31 August 2018
4. Election of office-bearers for the Council (College)* for the term 2019-2021
5. Election of office-bearers for the Council (School)* for the term 2019-2021
6. Formation of the Executive Committee of the SMPSA for the term 2019-2021
7. Any Other Business

Note: The following documents can be downloaded from www.stmaryspsa.org :

- Proxy Form
- Nomination Forms



* Only Life Members who are past students of the designated school are eligible to vote for the resolution.

...CLASS REUNION NEWS...

The Class of 1983 hosted their 35th anniversary reunion on 20 October 2018 in Hong Kong. 35 classmates and 11 teachers reunited to enjoy lunch, shared past memories and catch up on recent developments. Those who would like to reconnect with the group please contact Eva Chow at ongsiong@yahoo.com.



The Class of 1983 sent their greetings.



Girls from Class of 1988 shared a memorable dinner.

The Class of 1988 enjoyed a great 30th anniversary dinner gathering on 24 November 2018. Over 70 classmates reunited to catch up, take photos and even sing the school song! It was a remarkable opportunity to meet friends they spent life with three decades ago. To reconnect with the group, please contact Heidi Lee at leeheidi1201@gmail.com.



Thank you for your continuous support to the PSA.

The Exco wishes you and your family a Happy Year of the Pig!