

SFCC PSA Newsletter

January 2017

Past 
Students' Association
St. Francis' Canossian College

Principal's Message

Dear Franciscans,

It is my great pleasure and honour to be writing to you in this special publication of our Past Students' Association. Having been in my new position as the Principal of the school, I would first of all like to extend my sincere gratitude to our graduates who have been so generous and supportive over the years, in particular our PSA exco members who have been contributing selflessly and acting as the bridge between the school and our past students.

More than two decades has passed since I started my teaching at St. Francis' Canossian College – where I have been nurtured to be a Canossian educator. It has been a fruitful journey with the blessing of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the footsteps of St. Magdalene of Canossa, I endeavour to continue the work of my predecessors in the provision of an education that features student-centered learning and emphasizes the formation of the heart.

I am honoured to receive invitations to your gatherings and the warm welcome. Your active participation in PSA functions such as the campus tours organized in the past two years has been encouraging to us and created opportunities for interaction. The precious moments meeting you during the homecoming days have been a treasured memory. I am delighted to have attended your anniversary celebrations – 50th Anniversary of Class 1966, 40th Anniversary of Class 1976, 35th Anniversary of Class 1981 and 25th Anniversary of SFCC Alumni Association Ontario (SFCCAAON). It is amazing how the bonding among Franciscans have stood the test of time and overcome geographical boundaries. Your loyalty and love for your alma mater bear testimony to the success of the Canossian education.

The School Redevelopment Project has opened a new chapter in the history of our school which has been standing stout and strong for more than 147 years amidst challenging times and changing tides. Now, as we approach the completion of the Phase Two construction work, let us continue to walk hand in hand in God's grace.

Warmest regards,
Kenneth Law



Committee Members (2015-2017)



Fiona Lee (2004)
Senior Brand Manager
Tak Chun Group in Macau

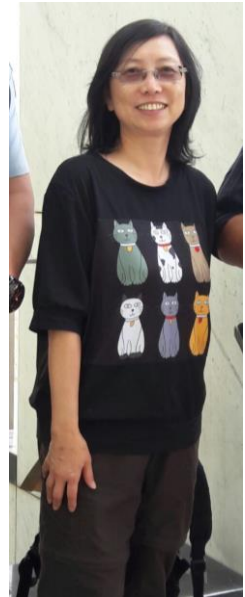


Joling Wong (2005)
Executive Officer
HKSAR Government



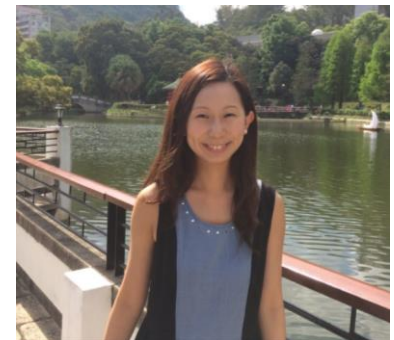
Nicole Chan (1999)
Regional Sales Manager
Domtar Asia Ltd

Lily Louie (1975)
Teacher



Olive Lam (1998)
Pianist

Tina Wong (1998)
Teaching Fellow



Jannie Chung (2004)
Senior Associate, HR
Sun Hung Kai Financial Ltd

Mary Law (2010)
Equestrian Operations Assistant
Hong Kong Equestrian Federation



Moments of Grace – The School Redevelopment Project

With the completion of Phase One of the School Redevelopment Project in October 2014, the new main block came into service in November 2014. This is followed by Phase Two of the building project which commenced in mid-April 2015 involving the demolition of the vacant old school compound and construction of an amphitheater, a library, an open playground and a link bridge joining the main school building and the assembly hall building.



The design of the future school entrance

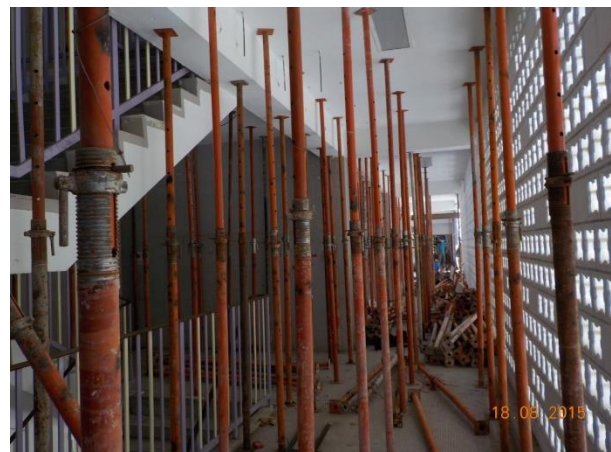
2016 has seen tremendous challenges and endeavor as the school redevelopment project entered its significant stage. Foundation works were met with difficulties that were beyond possible pre-planning. Yet, day by day, on-site construction works were moving ahead. The superstructure works near the Assembly Hall Building which started in November 2016 are now in full swing. The entire school redevelopment project is expected to complete by September 2017.

Site Progress



Scaffolding and demolition of old Block (August 2015)

Popping works inside old block (August 2015)





Site formation works and piling works (April 2016)



Substructure and superstructure works (December 2016)

While the redevelopment project is still underway, we have in our hearts gratitude for God who has led us on a grace-paved path. One step after another, God has bestowed His blessings upon the school. We also owe our gratitude to all those who have been zealously involved in the school's fund-raising project and whose support has never ceased, especially you – our past students.

50th Anniversary Reunion of the 1966 Franciscans

2016 marked the 50th Anniversary since our graduation from SFCC. We had chosen the 12th November as our day of celebration, and it was followed by a three-day tour to He Shan (鶴山) in Guangdong on 14th-16th November. Quite a number of the girls came back from overseas for the occasion and they even brought along their spouses and relatives for the celebration and tour.



Schedule for the Reunion Day:

9:45a.m - 10:00a.m	Meeting at the Main Entrance of SFCC
10:00a.m - 12:00p.m	Guided Tour at the SFCC
12:15p.m - 2:00p.m	Lunch at the Cuisine Royale Restaurant, 7/F Hopewell Centre
2:00p.m - 5:30p.m	Tour to Stanley
6:30p.m - 10:00p.m	Dinner Reception at the HKU Alumni Association Clubhouse



Everyone is back to her teens again!

*I was so happy to see everyone.
It was just like the old days.
We had a marvelous time!*

*I had so much fun meeting long lost friends...
Should do it more, like every or every other year.*

很懷念那三天的相聚。
一齊行動,一齊玩樂。
做大笑姑婆,做老頑童。
如果下次再有大旅行,預埋我。



**Just want to express our gratitude for
a memorable gathering.**

Dear schoolmates, I would like to thank u all for the
laughter n fun shared during the reunion dinner n
the He-Shan tour. It's time we bid u all farewell
until we meet again!



40th Anniversary of Class 1976

Classmates of 1976 gathered together to celebrate the 40th Anniversary. For many of the classmates, they have not seen one another for almost 40 years. People were so glad to have the friendship rekindled.

A week's celebratory events including a school visit, a reunion dinner and a 5-day tour to Kagoshima, Japan had been organized. The participants (including a few overseas classmates who came to Hong Kong) all had a great time in attending the activities.

As the finale, an e-Album with contributions from classmates is also produced with the 18-month preparatory work. Precious moments in school days and present day life are captured in the personal page contributed by classmates.

Photos of school visit on 5th Nov 2016.



Photos of reunion dinner



Photos of 5-day Japan trip



35th Anniversary of Class 1981

When face-to-face interactions are fading out in digital interfaces, we share the joy to reconnect with our classmates through Whatsapp from all over the world. Some classmates have not met each other for 35 years since graduation. To join this reunion dinner, schoolmates flew in from different parts of the world including Canada, the USA, Australia, Japan, and Shanghai to Hong Kong. Upon their arrivals, there were ongoing tea gatherings with different combinations of students and teachers since the Lost and Found reunion was announced. A new term “Flash Coffee Break” (閃啡) was created to indicate that an ad hoc gathering can be organised within hours. Moreover, our group Whatsapp message exchanges hit 35,000 messages, echoing our 35th Anniversary Reunion. At our reunion dinner, 64 classmates and 12 teachers were reunited to enjoy a heartwarming and memorable evening. This is truly not only the reunion of schoolmates, but also a reunion event with our former teachers.

Date	Event
Nov 2015	Deciding on the reunion date to be 17 November 2016 and reconnecting schoolmates
Jul 2016	Setting up Whatsapp groups - Adding contacts of schoolmates (now maintaining at 92 schoolmates)
12 Nov 2016	Back to School Visit 重温校園之旅 (Primary section and Secondary section) in the morning, followed by Chinese tea gathering at Hopewell Centre - 35 classmates joined.
17 Nov 2016	Tea gathering prior to Reunion dinner 「門常開」茶聚
	Reunion dinner at i-Bakery Restaurant in Admiralty
19-20 Nov 2016	Weekend China trip





St. Francis' Canossian College Alumni Association Ontario (SFCCAAON)

SFCCAAON was founded by Sister Marie Remedios in 1991. To date, we have over 100 members from various parts of Ontario, Canada.

The objectives of the Association are:

- (a) to live the Christian virtues of faith, simplicity and love, according to the spirit of St. Francis' Canossian College;
- (b) to encourage and foster the ties among the alumni, the Association and our Alma Mater;
- (c) to promote friendship, co-operate and maintain a closer link among former students of Hong Kong Canossian schools;
- (d) to foster activities of a social, cultural, educational, civic or religious nature in the interests of the members of the Association and of the community at large.



2015-2017 Committee: (From left) Regina Ko, Angela Kwan, Chermaine Yew, Irene Kwok, Ida Chiu, Eva Hung, Fatima Chan, Lucilla Cheng



Hong Kong Joint Schools Alumni Association (HKJSAA) 30th Anniversary Valentine Ball

With these objectives in mind, our Association has organized social activities to foster friendship among our members and also with former students of several of the catholic high schools in Hong Kong.

Functions

In the past twenty-five years, we have held annual dinners, potluck gatherings, karaoke singing competitions and line dancing classes; and joint school functions

...



SFCCAAON 25th Anniversary/ Annual Dinner 2016



2010 Joint Schools Valentine Ball

...such as the Valentine Ball, golf tournaments, Chinese New Year celebration dinners and picnics.



2012 HKJSAA Golf Tournament Winners

Several members have formed the Canossian choir with our sister schools, St. Mary's and Sacred Heart, and have performed at senior homes during the festive seasons and Chinese New Year.

We have also looked into the spiritual needs of our members. We attended retreats and had organized a retreat in which Sister Marie acted



2014 HKJSAA Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner



2012 Retreat facilitated by Sister Marie

as the facilitator; organized a "church hopping" in which several churches were visited in one day and in which we were able to reintroduce and reignite Catholicism to members; and we visited Holy Doors in several churches in Toronto.

Fundraising

We assisted in raising funds to support the school redevelopment project, lunch sponsorship program

and the Canossian Foundation. We hope that the modest amount that we have raised will benefit the current students.

Scholarship Program

In 2003, we started a scholarship program. The purpose of the scholarship is to acknowledge the academic excellence of high school graduates who are members of SFCCAAON or are children or grandchildren of SFCCAAON members, who will pursue post-secondary school education. So far, we have given out 26 scholarships to the children of our alumnae.

Our Association welcomes alumnae who are local residents and also newcomers to Ontario, and we would like to assist them to settle in the new environment. For further information, please contact us at sfccaaon@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.sfccaaon.org.