



Canossian

Connections

EDITORIAL

Hello there!

Vivien, our former Editor, has put in place a firm foundation for the newsletters. The baton has since been passed to me and I welcome contributions of articles from you Canossians. They can be stories of your yesteryears, current updates of your lives and updates of fabulous reunions. Be inspired as this newsletter belongs to each Canossian: past, present and future. Write to me editor@canossianalumni.com and God Bless you all in 2009.

Amy

Warmest Greetings from the Canossian Alumni Executive Committee 2008/9

Dear Alumni,

2008 has rung joys of celebrations. It was on 10th May 2008 that many Canossians were gathered with the Sisters at St Stephen's Church to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Foundation of the Canossian Institute. St Magdalene started the first house and school of the Canossian Daughters of Charity on 8th May 1808 in Verona, Italy. In September, SACSS was one of the three secondary schools in Singapore to receive the MOE School Distinction Award 2008-11 that recognises high-achieving schools with exemplary school processes and practices. Via Veritas Vita!

The Alumni AGM that was held on 23 August 2008 united many generations of Canossians and a new executive



1st Row (L to R): Beng Choo, Sr Janet, Sylvia, Hilda and Agnes
2nd Row (L to R): Seok Hwee, Magdalene, Ed-Linddi, Sharon, Belinda, Amy

committee 2008/9 has since been formed.

- President: Dr Sylvia Goh
- Vice President: Hilda Yap
- Secretary: Agnes Tan
- Asst Secretary: Magdalene Koh
- Treasurer: Leong Beng Choo
- Asst Treasurer: Koh Seok Hwee
- Committee Members: Belinda Huang, Amy Tan, Sharon Yu, Ed-Linddi Ong
- Spiritual Advisor: Sr Janet Wang

The current Exco would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Exco 2007/8 members: Nelly Soh, Adeline Lee, Chua Lee Beng, Susan Tham, Vivien Lee, Christina Lim, Chua Bee Leng and Sr. Angela for their tireless contributions in the past year.

The 2008/9 focus will be centred on connecting Canossian generations: past; present and future, to continue spreading the Canossian ethos. Sign

up, join the alumni and find out how you can play a part!

God Bless

Exco 2008/9

The Canossian Alumni strives to connect our members to our Alma Mater by ensuring the continuity of the Canossian Spirit through strong and vibrant ties.

Canossian Connections is published by the **Canossian Alumni Association**

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Education is like a special key that can open many doors.



Dr. Sylvia Goh

In time of peace we take education and healthcare for granted.

A little over sixty years ago Sylvia Voon's education was put on hold because of the 2nd World War. She was only able to leave Sabah, East Malaysia to come to Singapore by steam boat in 1946 with one intent: to continue with her education and realize her ambition of studying to be a medical doctor. She was already 20 years old. The first school she approached told her rudely that she was "too old" to study. Not one to give up easily she trudged to Middle Road and knocked on the door of St. Anthony's Convent.

Principal Rev. Mother Victoria paid it forward when she accepted the 20 year old into the folds of St. Anthony's Convent to study for the Senior Cambridge (equivalent to the 'O' Level now) in 1947. Having done well in the examinations she was accepted into the College of Medicine in 1948. During

her studies she met her future husband Goh Sin Tub from the faculty of Arts; they got married after she realized her ambition and her prayers answered in 1954.

Sylvia spent all her working life from 1955 to 1998 in the service of the poor; in the 1950s and 1960s most of the children were suffering from malnutrition, worm infestation, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and other ailments now forgotten with the advent of modern medical science. Her generosity with her love and time was recognized in 2008, 60 years after leaving St. Anthony's Convent. She was honoured with a Public Service Star for her contribution to Singapore.

Dr. Sylvia Goh, current President of Canossian Alumni Association, recently gave a generous donation to St. Anthony's Convent - the school that made all her dreams come true – for the new School Building. Her hope is that it will help forge more doors for Canossian students like what Rev. Mother Victoria did for her 60 years ago.

Contributed by Carolyn Seet

Calling Canossians!

Recently the alumni sponsored a motivational banner for SACSS to welcome the Secondary One students to the Canossian Family. The banner has invoked many positive comments and is displayed in a prominent section of the school. Should you be interested to be make a love offering to subsidise the cost for this banner (SGD 2000), your cheque is to be made payable to Canossian Alumni Association. Kindly indicate "Love offering for Banner".



A Letter from Ms Melanie Ann Martens



**Principal,
St Anthony's
Canossian
Secondary
School**

Dear Canossian Alumni,

The school's vision of developing a passionate learning community renowned for its spirit of innovation and excellence within a culture of compassion' has guided school leaders and staff in developing key themes since 2003. The themes Renewal of the Heart, Rebirth of the Arts and Curriculum Renaissance have provided the focus for key programmes to be planned and implemented for pupil development.

The committed efforts of the Canossian Family of teachers, support staff, religious educators, parents and alumni in providing holistic God-centered education to our children have been rewarded over the past two years with the following MOE awards.

- 1. The School Distinction Award (2008 – 2011)**
Awarded to SACSS for well-defined processes that lead to a high level of sustained achievement in academic, co-curricular and teaching and learning areas.
- 2. Best Practice Award (Teaching & Learning) 2007**
Awarded to SACSS for well-defined teaching and learning processes that result in high levels of sustained holistic achievement.
- 3. Sustained Achievement Award (Aesthetics)**
- 4. Sustained Achievement Award (Academic Value-added / Express)**

5. TAF Award Silver

6. DA (Character Development 2006-2008)

7. AA 2008 (Academic Value Added) GOLD

8. AA 2008 (Academic Value-added) (Normal) BRONZE

The school strives to help each child discover how good they can be, how much potential they have been endowed with and how much they can care for others. To this end, we provide a "CURRICULUM FOR ALL" programme that includes;

- Curriculum with Problem-based learning & Inquiring Mind approaches
- Differentiated learning such as Sec 1.8 and 2.8, 1.7 & 2.7
- English Language programme for Hearing-Impaired pupils
- Smaller teacher-pupil ratio for Sec 4s and 5s through banding
- Bridging programme for all Sec 3 E/NA/NT & 4NA
- Brain Gym programme to help students master whole brain learning
- Overseas learning journeys to Malaysia, China, Vietnam, Laos, Korea

The school also has Talent Management Programmes to stretch identified students to be better than they think they are.

English Department

- Creative Arts Programme
- Journalism/Broadcasting
- O' Level Drama Elective

Science Department

- Alternative Energy Programme in collaboration with NIE and Solaris Power Pte. Ltd.

Life Arts Department (Home Economics, Art & Design & Technology)

- Hospitality Attachment at Temasek Polytechnic
- Hospitality Attachment at Downlands Catholic College, Brisbane

has attained Gold with Honours (Guitar, Indian Dance), Gold (Modern dance, Drama) and Silver (Chinese Orchestra, Choir, Angklung) awards for our various performing arts groups



Mother Tongue

- Confucius Institute, Singapore To learn Chinese language and Contemporary China History

Mathematics Department

- Mathematics Olympiad Competition
- Collaboration with NIE CRPP (Centre for Research in Pedagogy & Practice) on ICT and Formative Assessment

We also look after the HEART of the Canossian child with the following programmes:

- Camp CORRI
- Curriculum Values Education
- One-to-one Teacher-Pupil conferencing
- Open Door and Me-to-You cyber counselling
- Special Needs Support
- After-school "Brain Gym" programme
- Responsible Thinking Programme

The school's niche area is in the performing arts and to this end we are proud to say that the girls will be young ladies of poise and grace, with the skill to lead with confidence and compassion. The MOE Sustained Achievement (Aesthetics) is testament to the level of achievement our girls have reached. Over three consecutive SYF (2003, 2005, 2007) the school

As the school moves into a new chapter of its history with the impending PRIME, the journey of excellence in teaching and learning will continue as we strive to develop women of integrity and compassion with the competence to serve the nation and the world.

Via Veritas Vita

<http://schools.moe.edu.sg/sac/>

To be more green, **Canossian Connections** will be emailed to members with email addresses. Please update changes in email addresses by writing to info@cannossianalumni.com



Canossian Alumni Outreach – Meeting 2008 batch

On 10 Oct 2008, the alumni exco members met up with the 2008 batch and invited them to be Friends of the Alumni till they turn 21 years of age. The response has been overwhelming and we received more than 200 applications.

200th Anniversary Eucharistic Celebrations of the Canossian Missions in Singapore and abroad



Dr Janelene Leong, former President of CAA Exco 2006/7, attended the Thanksgiving Mass officiated by His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia to mark the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity on 10th May 2008 in the Church of St. Stephen, Sallim Road.

The date, 8th May 1808, may not ring a bell with many of us who graduated from SAC / CCPS. Its significance was, however, highlighted this year on 10th May 2008 when the Canossian Sisters and their friends gathered together to celebrate two hundred years of St Magdalene's Foundation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. What began as a simple refuge for the poor and the sick in San Zeno, Italy, now encompasses worldwide ministries in faith formation, education, hospitals, prisons and homes for the elderly, all of which are inspired by their mission "to make Jesus known and loved".

Preparations for the occasion began in early 2008, with a call to alumni (via Facebook, email, SMSes, word-of-mouth, etc) to lend their voices to form the choir for the Mass. Rehearsals were held every Saturday at the St Anthony's Canossian School chapel, with the guidance of Sr Mary S, who painstakingly taught us the proper pronunciation of the Latin words in

two of the hymns. The choir was a good mix of alumni and current students from the SACSS Choir, who harmonized perfectly and was ably led by choir conductor, Mrs Suszan Joseph, SACPS.

The Church of St Stephen was packed with past and present Canossian students, teachers, friends and associates of the Canossian Sisters, including many who had come from overseas. Squeals and hugs pervaded the atmosphere, as ties were re-established, contacts renewed and new friendships made.

Canossians...here's to the next two hundred years!

Canossian Staff Symposium HEARTBEAT 2008 "Canossian hearts beating as ONE"



The Canossian Staff Symposium, held on 20 June 2008 at the Singapore Swimming Club, was attended by 320 staff from all the 4 Canossian Schools, 2 Kindergartens, 2 Nursing Homes (St. Joseph's and Villa Francis) and Canossaville Children's Home as well as Canossian Sisters from the 5 communities in Singapore.

It was an opportunity to get to know one another, to share visions and dreams as members of the Canossian Family.

The following are just a few of the encouraging feedback from the participants:

- Created greater sense of belonging to the Canossian family
- Activities were creative and fun,

touching, inspiring...

- Filled with love & hope, Re-energized
- Realize that we are part of a wider Canossian mission
- Touching stories by presenters
- The approach was refreshing.

The idea of the drama and the sharing of memories by veteran teachers were wonderful and I love the song – Big Hearts! All the Sisters were enthusiastic. I have been reminded today of my mission as an educator and that I am part of a rich and proud tradition belonging to the Canossian Order.

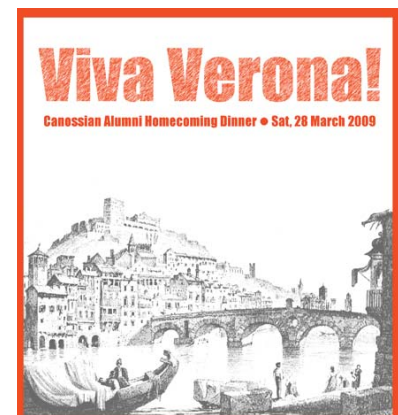
We hope that in future members of our Canossian Alumni will also join our fraternity as Canossian educators.

coming up ...
alumni events to participate in

Sat, 31 Jan 2009 SK Quah Run for FUNd!

8am – 3pm @ St Joseph's Church compound (Victoria Street)

Sat, 28 Mar 2009 Canossians Connect, Homecoming Dinner



6 to 10pm @ St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School Hall. Download your forms at www.canossialumni.com