



We had a smashing time at the CC06 this year! For those of you who were there, thank you for your support! In response to your feedback and comments on what you would like the Alumni Committee to do for you, we have a whole range of workshops and courses lined up for you in the following months. We surely hope to see more of you at our events. Gather your classmates and year-mates to learn together yet again – sans the pressure of exams!! This time, pick up new skills that you did not learn in school.

We are arranging a visit to St Joseph's Home on 7th May to celebrate Foundress' Feast Day – remember community days in school where we would visit these old folks once a year? Well, maybe it's time to visit them again! More information under "Upcoming Events".

This month's Canossian spotlight and feature bring to you up close with two extraordinary Canossians – they share with you their lives, their dreams and their motivation.

Stay connected! Happy Easter!

Sincerely, CNA Editorial Team

Canossian Spotlight

– Georgina Sng, Exco Extraordinaire



Georgina Sng is probably one of the Canossian Alumni Association's (CAA) longest-serving Exco members. Her voice and presence is strong at major events and it is hard to give this vibrant lady a pass. Getting an interview with her was a challenge, so *Veronica Tan* managed to squeeze one hour to chat up this energetic lady over the phone.

Georgina has been an active member of the, then known, Canossian Ex-girls' Association since around 1996 (she tries hard to recall and do some counting back!). She claims, "When I went for my first AGM, it seemed like everyone was my senior – I think I was the youngest! Sr Cecily pulled me in... then at that AGM I got voted straight into the Committee". Since then she has been actively serving the CAA, rotating from Committee member, and "moving

around in the Exco, and I went up to Vice President for a while". Over a few years, she witnessed the changes in the CAA to include new blood – "that was when younger people like Susanna and Peggy started to come in".

When asked her age, she retorts "Why must ask this one meh?" and I chose to rephrase that and asked instead, when she graduated. "1972!" She prides herself for being young at heart and that her jolly self has seen a few of her taxi passengers telling her she is in her mid 30s! She chuckles gleefully at that thought.

Georgina is a woman with tremendous energy. She now runs a phone cleaning service during the weekdays and drives a taxi at nights and on weekends. "I'm very colourful! Jack of all trades!" she declares. Admittedly, she has tried her hand at many things, some of which many of us may not even think of. Her inquisitiveness and adventurous spirit has drawn her into varied tasks from accounting, to running her family's import/export business, to doing surveys, managing KFC outlets and even going for a course in machining at the EDB, despite the fact that she had no technical background. She did that to take on the job of polishing industrial irons and steel till her hands blistered. "I did that for 8 months... cannot tahan la!"

When she is not working, she gives her time to good causes. At the Holy Trinity Church in Tampines, Georgina is a Catechist and a Level Rep for the Primary 2 catechumens and spends weekends running activities for the children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Also a Voluntary Aftercare Officer (VAO) with the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA), she counsels drug addicts after their rehabilitation and provides emotional support as a befriender when they get home. Her attachment to each charge lasts for 24 months. Although getting them totally off the hook is not expected of a VAO, she is gratified whenever her charge begins making a resolution to stay away from drugs.

Georgina was one of the pioneers along with 4 other ladies who supported Sr Calista to start the Lay Canossian Mission; sending items like clothes, blackboards, bicycles and medical supplies over to Africa. Now, this group has expanded and is active in sending supplies to countries like India and Papua New Guinea in container loads as well.

Reminiscing about her days at Middle Road, Georgina maintains that she was no angel, but one who was always up to mischief. "We would escape from Catechism class (which was conducted before the bell rang) and run outside to play rounders, and when we saw Sr Bridget coming out to look for us, all of us will run!"

– Cont'd on Page 4

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Please send your comments/views to:
[editor@canossialumni.com/](mailto:editor@canossialumni.com)
Fax: 64490162

To be an Alumni member or recommend a friend, visit our website at
www.canossialumni.com,
fax in to 64490162 or email
membership@canossialumni.com

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.

As the Canossian Alumni is a not-for-profit organisation and operates purely on the voluntary contributions by individuals. We appreciate any form of donation in terms or money or effort for fund-raising events.

To play a part in making a difference to the less fortunate and all Canossians, contact us today at editor@canossialumni.com or call Angela at 96988485.

God bless!

Ongoing/Past Events

Breakfast at Verona – February & March



The baby lion dance!

Come join us for a day of companionship and love!

February's breakfast was filled with performances and games to celebrate CNY. Children from CCH put up 2 performances to the delight of our breakfast guests. The lion dance thrilled the audience and brought cheer and laughter and got the folks into a party mood. A game of Bingo ended the day. In March, we welcomed an Indian Family with 2 young children having Breakfast with us for the first time.

Breakfast at Verona is a monthly outreach activity held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The next breakfast is on **Saturday April 8th**.



*United in common endeavour
...once again*

EXCO and Sub-Committee Retreat – Getting on Track with the Canossian Express..



The Canossian Express ... headed up, up up!

Bungalow 8 of Aloha Loyang was home to many of us in the Exco and Sub-committee as we did a 2-day stay-in retreat to get to know each other and get the "Canossian Express on track" during which we re-established our fundamental Canossian Core Values and realigned our objectives for the Canossian Alumni Association.

With a team fully re-charged, members can expect more to come your way! All aboard!



*Ivy Singh giving away the \$117
bunch of bananas*

Canossians Connect 2006 – Pamper Me Silly!

150 Alumni joined in the celebrations for our Canossian Saints' Day on 4th March at York Hotel this year. It was also an afternoon to Relish, Rejuvenate and Rebond.



*Mrs Kana in
her element*

Our ladies enjoyed free massages and skin analyses and stood a chance to win massage and skin spa vouchers, kindly sponsored Atos Wellness and Smart Spa. Our raffle tickets (at \$2 each) vying for the top prizes of a Conrad Hotel Stay, Romantic Sunset Cruise and a DVD player were all sold out, along with lovely limited-edition Alumni bath towels that were snapped up at the Alumni booth.

We played a Spavenger Hunt where each table had to find a list of spa-related items and had our very own Ms Spa-cial in our Spacial Spa Show catwalk. We even had a special guest appearance – Klui Nam Wa, organic Thai bananas – brought by Ivy Singh from her farm. Everyone was asked to make a guess on the number of bananas there were in that stalk (there were 75!) and make a small contribution to the alumni in the process. The bananas raised \$117 by the end of the bidding process!

It was an afternoon filled with good memories, especially when Mrs Kanagarajah led us in our school song. Many left with the warm feeling of being reunited and wondering what CC07 will bring next year.



*Our Ms Spa-cials all dolled up for a
day at the 'CC06 Spa'*

Upcoming Events (do your bit for society)

St Joseph's Home Visit

Last year, we visited the Home with foodstuff, donations and contributions collected from teachers at our Canossian Schools. We spent time providing companionship to the residents there, chatting and listening to them. Many happily shared their life experiences with us, telling us about their families and friends, and what they like to do – we also met Mr Tan – who showed us his self-made lanterns.

After the sharing, we gathered them into the hall and they were divided into two: the self-feeding ones and those who needed help. Each of us was attached to an elder who needed assistance. There, we learnt how to feed these old folks. Feeding was a new experience for many of us. We learnt to be patient and very attentive to them. Towards the end of the visit, we had a mini karaoke session, sang a couple of hymns and we ended the visit with a Rosary session.

- Contributed by Serene Soh, Mission Team

Join us this year!

Celebrate Foundress' Feast Day at St Joseph's Home

Date: 7 May 06, Sunday

2.30pm : Arrival at St Joseph's Home

3.00pm : Entertainment by Junior Alumni & Youngsters from the Church of the Holy Trinity

3.30pm : Befriending

4.00pm : Dinner time for the folks

5.00pm : Rosary & short prayers

How to get there: (from Boon Lay MRT station, take feeder bus no. 157 and alight directly outside the home)

For more details on this visit please contact **Georgina (94879187) or Susanna (91060847).**

Calling all Canossian Businesswomen, Directors and Managers – be part of SAC'S Students' Work Shadowing Programme

SACSS invites Alumni members to extend attachment opportunities to senior students for a 3-day work shadowing experience at your workplace. This programme aims to give our students exposure and insights in industries such as hospitality, media, finance or medicine, and will greatly help them in their choice of a career. Each company is invited to recruit 1 to 3 girls for this attachment between 28 Oct to 30 Nov 06.

If you think you can offer to "open your doors" and play a pivotal role in these girls' career choices, contact Wendy at 6449 1952 x 131) or email wendy_arleena_sukma@moe.edu.sg.



Upcoming Events

We heard you! Your feedback at the CC06 has spurred us to organize more workshops for you – organized by Canossians for Canossians. Our workshop instructors themselves have strong Canossian links. We look forward to learning with you and seeing you more often!

Gift Wrapping/Ribbon-Making Workshop

Learn how to wrap irregular-shaped items and enhance your gifts with self-made ribbons. Materials provided.

Date : 29 Apr 06, Sat
Time : 2 - 4pm
Venue : Canossa Convent Primary School
Fee : \$30 (Alumni members);
\$35 (non-members)
Closing date for registration: 21 Apr 06

Skin Care and Health Workshop

Receive a free Microscopic Skin Imaging to analyze your skin type and learn how to protect your skin and keep it healthy.

Date : 13 May 06, Sat
Time : 2 - 4pm
Venue : St Anthony's Canossian
Secondary, Multi-purpose Hall
Fee : \$10 (Alumni members);
\$12 (non-members)
Closing date for registration: 24 Apr 06

Future events to note:

Kluang Visit

Date: 24 Jun 06, Sat

Event Cancellations:

Do note that the Local Farm Tour (3 Jun 06) and Penggarang Ostrich Farm Tour (15 Jul 06) have been cancelled due to bird flu. Refunds will be made to those who have signed up for these activities.

To register for any of the events, email events@canossianalumni.com or fax in the application forms to 64490162. Forms may be downloaded from www.canossianalumni.com/events



Support SAC Arts!

The SACSS Modern Dance group, winner of Gold with Honours at the SYF 05, will be staging a dance extravaganza together with our Percussion Band.

Date: 14 & 15 Jul 06, Fri & Sat
Time: 7pm

Venue: Victoria Concert Hall

Support the school's nurturing of the arts. To be a sponsor or to purchase tickets, please contact Ms Leong Sue Ann at 64490616 x 134.

Canossian Feature

An E-mail sharing by a mainstream hearing-impaired student, Ginny Ong Jing Yun (Grad year 2005)

I'm Ginny Ong Jing Yun. I am going to be 18, and have just completed my O-levels last year at SACSS and I've been posted to Ngee Ann Polytechnic to do a course in Information Technology. I plan to complete my Diploma there, then enter the University before I join the workforce. I don't know what I would like to do just yet – perhaps eventually, I'll be my own boss!



I was from the Canossian School for the Hearing Impaired (CSH) until I was 8 years old. My principal then decided to integrate my friend and me into SACPS, where we would get to interact with more "hearing" students instead of mixing around with only the Hearing Impaired (HI) students. I'm extremely grateful for that because I noticed that many of my friends in CSH always used signs and seldom their voices. Most of them also lack confidence, like me initially. When I entered SACPS, I used to lack confidence. But thanks to my encouraging and supportive parents and teachers, I have now gained more confidence in myself. Moreover, I notice I can speak so much better than my hearing-impaired friends, but, they definitely can sign much better than me!

When I entered SACPS, I found it tough because there were 40 students in a class, compared to CSH where there are only about 7-8 students per class. My friend and I were really scared to mix around. In fact we often stuck to each other. It seemed to me that our classmates looked down on us. Sometimes the teachers would speak too fast and we couldn't catch up. Fortunately we have a support teacher who will teach us when the rest of the class was doing Mother Tongue lessons (we don't take a second language and use this time to catch up on our work!). She is Ms Han – my favourite teacher and she gives us remedial lessons after school. If not for her, I would not have scored A for English and Bs for Maths and Science for PSLE. I would also not have scored so well in my O-levels. She was the teacher who built a strong basic foundation for me while I was in primary school.

Ms Han would also remind teachers that we could not catch up in class. Gradually, teachers became more aware of our hearing impairment and would often help us. In fact some of my teachers loved us so much, that there were few who even went to CSH to teach! This is because we seem to be more disciplined than the hearing students! You see, when we can't hear well, we tend to be very attentive in class and complete every assignment.

I coped quite well in secondary school. My form teacher in SACSS would always compliment me in class for always being the first to complete all the homework and for always doing more than what she asked us to do! In school, I made many friends. I love my class of Sec 3/4 class (2004) and Sec 4/4 (2005)!

For my CCA, I joined the Girl Guides and I was the only HI student there. I enjoyed talking and doing activities with my fellow Guides.

I love being part of SACSS. Everyone treats me like a normal person and they are all so nice and kind to me. In one class, there used to be a girl who taunted me because I couldn't hear well but the other girls would scold her. They were very protective of me – and I am really thankful for their kindness.

I notice that the young HI students entering Sec 1 seem scared to mix around with the hearing students and often stay around the deaf students. I want them to know that they shouldn't be afraid of their disability of not being able to hear or speak well. Just voice it out and people will understand.

SACSS is a wonderful school with everyone willing to lend a helping hand and ear. I hope that the younger HI students will build their confidence and study hard. We may not have our hearing but we have thinking minds and good eyesight!

I wish them all the best in their studies and future endeavours. I'm very sure that once they finish the secondary studies, they will turn back and say a BIG THANK YOU to our Canossian Schools – CHS, SACPS & SACSS!

Cont'd from Page 1 – Canossian Spotlight on Georgina Sng

Some into the toilet, some into St Joseph's Church, some out of the school gate. For me, I'd run outside to the stalls where they sell mee siam. Then I would stay there and chit chat with the hawkers."

Georgina converted to Catholicism after she left school and she attributes this decision to the strong religious and moral foundation that the nuns instilled in her during her days at SAC. Values of honesty, compassion and respect have always been a part of her way of life. Strong faith in God has also been a foothold for her during many of her trying experiences in life.

Asked if she's ever thought of becoming nun, she related a story about how close she was to being recruited when she was in her 20s. Having this keen interest in how nuns answered to the "call of God", Georgina had once asked a young nun what had inspired her to join the vocation. This nun told her story and then invited Georgina to tea at their Order House a couple of weeks later. When she arrived, she was shown into a room where the Reverend Mother began asking her a few questions with the assumption that she was interested in being one immediately. Eventually, Georgina admitted to wanting to see the world first and not lose her "freedom" and declined the sisterhood. This also explains why she has chosen not to tie the knot. Today, her answer to me on being a nun still is, "If God calls."

With all the love and enthusiasm that Georgina Sng gives to the Canossian Alumni, the Lay Canossians, the Church and society, even if she never dons a nun's habit, who can deny that what she's doing now is not God's calling?

Canossian Voice

In the last issue of Canossian Voice, we called for the longest family line of Canossians. We'd like to present you, two notable Canossian families – the first group of 8 sisters all went through 10 years of Canossian education and were often referred to as the 'Lim' girls or Sr Catherine Lim's grand-nieces:



8 sisters (L-R): Susanna (CCPS 1977, SACSS 1981), Priscilla (CCPS 1983, SACSS 1987), Dorothy (CCPS 1981, SACSS 1985), Evangeline (CCPS 1968, SACSS 1972), Regina (CCPS 1975, SACSS 1979), Christina (CCPS 1973, SACSS 1977), Juliana (CCPS 1969, SACSS 1973) and Adeline (CCPS 1985, SACSS 1989). **Not in photo:** Denise Lim (niece, SACSS 2005); Jillian Goodenough (daughter of Susanna, CCPS 2002, SACSS Sec 4), Sister-in-law (SACPS), Sister-in-law's mother (SACSS)

And the Teos have 3 generations of Canossians under one roof!

3 generations of Canossians...all under one roof
Han Buay Chin (Aunt, SACSS 1975)
Ivy Han (Aunt, SACSS 1977)
Angeline Teo (SACSS 1979)
Lena Teo, (sister, SACSS 1982)
Judy Han (first cousin, SACSS 1982)
Sherrianne Ng (eldest daughter, SACSS Sec 4)
Cherylanne Ng (younger daughter, SACSS Sec 1)

The Canossian Spirit lives on from generation to generation!

For the next Canossian Voice, we look to mother's day. Was your mother from Canossa too? In what ways did she inspire you in life? Share with us your story.

Pay a tribute to all the wonderful mothers and women in your life in the next issue of the CNA by sending us your dedications. Write in to

editor@canossianalumni.com

Announcements

The Canossian Alumni Student Development Fund is into its second year and we would like to thank all our generous sponsors. The 3 Canossian schools each receive \$800 a year for disbursement to deserving students.

Ms Catherine Ng returns to Canossa to teach. Catherine was inspired to be a teacher by enthusiastic and dedicated sisters and teachers such as Ms Daisy Tan and the late Mr Quah, as well as caring sisters. She taught Physical Education and English Language at Gan Eng Seng School, but has now been accepted into the SACSS. She returns to serve the school that has inculcated in her core values such as compassion and integrity and hopes to contribute her part in the progress of the students and the school.

Alumni Partners

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To be our Alumni Partner, please write to us at editor@canossianalumni.com.

To help keep the operating costs of the Alumni low, we appeal to those of you who have an email address to furnish us with it so that we may send you the CNA via email instead. You may send us an email at membership@canossianalumni.com to update your personal details. Alternatively, you may fax this portion over to 64490162.

Full name: _____

Married name: _____

Hanyu Pinyin name (if any): _____

Email: _____