



Canossian

Connections

FEATURE

A New Team at the Helm of the Executive Committee

Nelly Soh, Alumni President 2007/08 setting directions

Dear Members,

I am deeply honoured to be elected as your new Alumni President for the year 2007/08. Thank you for your trust and I hope that I can deliver and live up to your expectations. I am happy to work with the following new office bearers:

Vice President:

Adeline Lee

Secretary:

Chua Lee Beng

Assistant Secretary:

Susan Tham

Treasurer:

Hilda Yap

Assistant Treasurer:

Leong Beng Choo

Committee Members:

Chua Bee Leng

Christina Lim

Koh Seok Hwee

Vivien Lee

Spiritual Advisor:

Sr Angela Ng

May I take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Janelene Leong and her committee members for their dedicated and caring work in the past year. Many thanks also to our members, who have given your support, year after year, to keep our Alumni activities going.



The new committee at the Annual General Meeting. From L to R, back row: Koh Seok Hwee, Leong Beng Choo, Nelly Soh, Adeline Lee, Christina Lim and Chua Bee Leng. Front row: Susan Tham, Sr Angela Ng, Chua Lee Beng and Vivien Lee. Absent with apologies: Hilda Yap.

I appeal to all our members – do come forward and participate in our activities. This is YOUR Alumni calling; we need to get CONNECTED as one big CANOSSIAN family.

I know that you lead busy lives. Younger members need to tend to your careers and families and the elderly ones need to spend time with your grandchildren. Nevertheless, it is good to break away from your routine and participate in some social gatherings or learn new skills.

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She's the Boss!

Alumnus from both Middle Road and Bedok campuses, restaurateur and now a Singapore citizen, Thandar Swe (Class of 1995) shares with us her experiences after relocating to our shores from her native Myanmar (Burma) at the age of 14.



Young, spunky and gutsy Canossian entrepreneur, Thandar.

Canossian Connections (CC):

Hello Thandar. It must have been very exciting moving to a different country! Were there any particular challenges that you and your family faced?

Thandar Swe (TS): My parents wanted my siblings and I to be schooled here, language barrier notwithstanding. Communication with the locals was probably the most difficult challenge as I was used to speaking only Burmese at that time. Having to learn English and Chinese was not easy, especially written Chinese! Food was another aspect we had to get used to.

CC: You were there when SAC moved from Middle Road to Bedok. Tell us about that transitional period from a student's point of view.

TS: Well, the Middle Road campus was old but small, cosy and we had air-conditioned classrooms! The students could also greet each other easily across corridors. Its location was

also great, with places nearby to shop and eat. Bedok, in contrast, was spacious and huge and we had to walk a whole lot more.

CC: Any special memories of your years in Bedok?

TS: I remember taking part in a big celebration in 1996, performing with the Guitar Club. It was back to the books after that though, for the impending O levels!

CC: How has your education in a Canossian school helped prepare you for life after graduation?

Being a girls school, the teachers placed a lot of emphasis on us learning to be ladies of good character, through the values of our Foundress and "The Way, The Truth, The Life" as outlined in the school motto.

CC: How did you come to set up a restaurant? Any tips for those harboring similar aspirations?

TS: After graduating from the UK with a degree in Accounting and Finance and working for two years, I realized that doing balance sheets was not my cup of tea. The idea then occurred to me to set up a restaurant serving what I was familiar with... Myanmar cuisine, of course!

With my parents' help (financial and emotional!), loads of advice from people in the same industry, and much research, I opened Inle Myanmar Restaurant in 2004. Having no experience in the F&B business, I learned mostly by spending long hours in the day-to-day operations and being very hands-on. To all budding entrepreneurs: never give up no matter how much difficulties you face in the initial stages. Do it with passion and motivation and success will come eventually.

CC: What prompted you to take up Singapore citizenship?

TS: It was a natural next step, after being a Permanent Resident for two years.

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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**

For correspondence:-
Attn: The Editor
Canossian Alumni Association
c/o St Anthony's Canossian
Secondary School
1600 Bedok North Avenue 4
Singapore 469700
editor@canossialumni.com
Fax: 64490162
www.canossialumni.com
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past

alumni events
you supported

“Offer up to the Lord what you are doing frequently and with your heart”.

Annual General Meeting 2007

Thank you to all members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 8 September 2007 Saturday.

The outgoing committee reported on the previous years' events and their success was endorsed by those who attended. Following the election of the new Executive Committee, members proceeded to enjoy a very generous buffet spread prepared by well-wishers.



Incoming President Nelly presented outgoing President Janelene with a golfing gift.

coming up ...

alumni events to
participate in

Breakfast@Verona

The monthly breakfast for the poor takes place 10th November 2007 Saturday at 8:30am, Canossaville Children's Home. To contribute, contact Christina at 93679293 or email geoksuanlim@yahoo.com.

Have a class event to share?
Write to us at
info@canossialumni.com.

Update of Email Addresses

To save on mailing cost, **Canossian Connections** will be emailed to members with email addresses. Please update changes in email addresses by writing to info@canossialumni.com.

where it all happens

S C H O O L S

St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School Choir Wins International Award

In June 2007, the Choir took part in the International Festival of Songs in Olomouc, Czech Republic. We competed in two categories: Children's Choir and Youth Choir. During the preparation, the Choir underwent intensive practices where we were constantly reminded to maintain our focus, with a common goal in mind.

Through the struggles we faced, our conductor Mr Toh Ban Sheng constantly reminded us to be resilient and not to give up. Mr Toh, along with the teachers who were with us; Ms Tan Sio Ling, Ms Chua Bee Leng and Ms Jezialle Wang, had certainly



Fresh from clinching the silver award at the Singapore Youth Festival Central Judging of Choirs 2007, the girls went on to win several prestigious international awards this June.

Congratulations! The Alumni is proud of you!

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A New Team at the Helm

Keep a lookout for activities and events through our newsletter and website. We also need your feedback and ideas.

Finally, I am happy to report that our finances remain healthy but we cannot remain complacent. We welcome love offerings to fund our activities and to keep our student development fund going.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

God Bless

Nelly Soh

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She's the Boss!

CC: In the interest of cultural exchange, please teach us a few key phrases in your mother tongue!

TS: Hello... *mingalaba*, and thank you... *kyay-zu-tin-par-de*

CC: Thank you for taking the time to share these insights with us, Thandar. And we wish you further success as you "march ever on through life"! So all you hungry alumni out there, do drop by the restaurant to say "Hi!" to Thandar and enjoy some mouth-watering dishes for your next girls' night out!

Inle Myanmar Restaurant is located at 111, North Bridge Road, #B1-07(A), Peninsula Plaza Tel: 63335436

Show your Alumni membership card and get 10% off the bill.

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Choir Wins International Award

played a crucial part in contributing to our growth as individuals and as a choir.

Although we were the only Asian choir competing in this prestigious event, we were not daunted and focused on giving our best. All our efforts and countless hours of practice finally paid off when we topped both categories which we took part in and clinched 2nd position out of 127 choirs that participated in the festival. This memorable trip has enabled us to bond and develop strong camaraderie among the members. Besides making new friends with other choirs, we also enjoyed learning more about historical places in Europe and soaking in the culture. We look forward to more of such trips in the future!

When we returned to Singapore, we were greeted not only by our families but the media as well! We are truly honoured to be featured in the news and grateful to all who had made our achievements possible.

Were you a choir member? Were you a Girl Guide?

Do you have a word of encouragement for the choir? Does reading about the Girl Guides bring back memories for you about your days in school? Write to us at the editor@canossialumni.com.

Walkers in Action for Love and Kindness (W.A.L.K) Girl Guides organise 7-day round-island walk in aid of charity

The Girl Guides from SACSS will be walking around the island of Singapore in 7 days from 17 to 23 November 2007 in aid of Assisi Hospice, their adopted charity for 2007.

The 7-day walk is a way to say thank you to generous donors and sponsors for their support. The walk also hopes to bring out the CORRI qualities of a Canossian Learner; that of the can-do spirit, other-centredness, resilience, individual responsibility and an inquiring mind.

If you wish to support the Girl Guides, you can make

a donation to Assisi Hospice. Please make all cheques payable to **Assisi Hospice** with your name, NRIC, address and contact numbers at the back of the cheque. Cheques can be mailed to the teacher-in-charge:

Miss Aileen Tan
St. Anthony's Canossian
Secondary School
1600 Bedok North Ave 4
Singapore 469700

If you wish to contribute to the project in other ways, please feel free to contact Miss Aileen Tan at 6449 0616, ext 137.

All the best girls!