



Helen Wong  
1978, F5  
Deputy Chairman, President and CEO, HSBC China

### **Celebrating the Paulinian Spirit**

I have very fond memories of the teachers, classmates and classes during my 5 years at SPCS, but perhaps I remember most vividly the school grounds where I spent much time training in netball, badminton, running and high jump – in the 1970s, the jump pad was filled with sand, and it was tough!

Looking back at my SPCS years, I rediscover the saying, “Apples don’t fall far from the tree.” Much has changed for me and the school, yet I realize how close I have stayed on the path paved for me at SPCS. The opportunities to learn languages, arts and sciences and to train physically prepared me for higher education and helped me develop. In the process, the school set a foundation of firm principles and strong morals that shaped the choices I have made in my life and career. It embedded in me the proper values that define my relationship with my family, friends and colleagues. My SPCS experience cultivated those early hopes and dreams that I still strive for at various points of my life.

Our school motto of “Omnia Omnibus” helped me see everything with an open mind grounded in impartiality. In any task or personal interaction, that principle focuses on what matters with a clear view of the person or group of people. We have our roles in life – daughter, sister, friend, teacher, pupil, leader – yet how we act should focus on the matter at hand. Not often easy, but that’s where values and principles matter most in both judgment and behavior, the same values and principles I embrace in my current role as a CEO and banker in HSBC China.

The finance industry is known to be male dominated, but I never let corporate statistics and social trends determine my individual experience. Leadership and achievement come from desire, determination and dedication. The finance industry is no different from other industries. Certainly there’s no difference between being a female CEO and a male CEO. I have been fortunate to develop my career in an organization that truly understands and practices inclusion among its diverse staff. In fact, that reminds me of “Omnia Omnibus”, which means being all things to all people irrespective of race, religion and social status.

We proudly call ourselves Paulinians. We embody the values that SPCS represents and instilled in us, long after we left the memorable school grounds. These values of integrity and equality continue to guide me today. It is also about developing as an all-rounded individual, a leader in an organization, a member of family and social circles, or a citizen of society. Being a Paulinian has given me the tools to achieve that well-rounded balance in career and life.

As we celebrate our beloved school's 160th anniversary, we all remember the values and principles our school taught us, and always live the Paulinian spirit – much like we did that first day of school.