



Peggy Chan
1978, F4
Founding Chairlady of SPCS Alumni Association

God has Plan for Each of Us

With a long and proud history of providing quality education to girls, SPCS did not have an official alumni association until 1986. It started as a result of a Paulinian's quest for lost friends. Let's hear the story from Ms Peggy Chan, the founding chairlady of SPCS Alumni Association (AA).

"After finishing Form 4, I went to Canada. Having obtained a university degree in Physical Education, I returned to Hong Kong in 1986 and started to search for the dear friends of my childhood," recalled Peggy. "After rebuilding contact with some of my friends, we found that it was a great pity to lose contact of any old friend. We shared the common wish of locating and preserving contact information of as many fellow Paulinians as possible. How could our wonderful school do without an alumni association?"

It turned out that to formally establish an association for alumni was much more than inviting friends for dinner. An association is a legal entity with financial and legal liabilities. There was no clear indication about the scale of membership to start with.

"We were lucky to have Angel Li, a government lawyer, who had prepared all the necessary legal documents for registration," Peggy said. "Angela May Ng, June Fong and other members of the first executive committee (EC) helped with publication, promotion and calling each potential member in person. Paulinians were helpful and dedicated, as always, but no one wanted to be the chairlady. So, I filled this vacancy."

"We needed the blessing from our school for this project. I used to be a naughty student, so understandably Sr Damian was a little concerned in the beginning", said Peggy with a smile. "Eventually, we won her support. She and other sisters joined our inauguration ceremony held at Lee Gardens."

At the beginning, EC members often had meetings at Peggy's home and stayed for home-cooked dinners prepared by Peggy's mother. Outdoor activities, including BBQ, outings, cruising were organized. Members were kept in the loop via phone calls. Mails were sent to each member by post for updates. Due to limited resources, office envelopes and letter sheets were used. The very first batch of membership cards was handwritten.

The AA has been providing continuous support to the school through mentoring programme and fund-raising. "We were able to raise \$1,000 for a scholarship back then," said Peggy, who was pleased to witness the growth of membership, not only in Hong Kong but overseas as well. The flame has been lit and the torch is being passed on. This is how a naughty student, in questing for lost friends and driven by the love for the school, unexpectedly became the founding chairlady of the AA. "I am what I am," remarked Peggy, "but God has a plan for each of us, and we just have to march on and follow it through."

Written by Vivian Lai (1991, F5)