

Susan Kwan 1974, F7 Justice of Appeal, the Court of Appeal of the High Court

It all started from debating...

There have only been a handful of female Justices of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court. Our Alumnus, Justice Susan Kwan, together with Justice Doreen Le Pichon, took up two seats.

Susan recalled how the school campus spread out. There were only two buildings, the primary and secondary sections were linked up by a bridge. There were lots of playgrounds and it was very comfortable.

Paulinians were not known for their love of studying. In those days, Susan and her peers looked up to their seniors not because they were good at book works. She could tell one was a Paulinian without looking at the school uniform. "Paulinians were very different from students of other girl schools. They were presentable, confident and non-studious, they really knew how to carry themselves. They were very all-rounded, and they were good at sports and extra-curricular activities." The school choir led by Sr. Carmela swept all the prizes. The school then was strong at Art subjects and the girls had a distinguished English standard.

Susan is grateful to SPCS teachers for fostering her interest in languages. She had an affection for reading, and a feeling for books and words. She took part in verse speaking and debating. Her participation in debating was one reason she got into the law school, thereby starting her legal career. She thinks she would not be able to pursue what she does if not for debating.

There were lots of loving memories. She especially cherishes friendship made at school. She still meets with her high school friends regularly and she finds it invaluable that after all the years they are still speaking at the same wavelength.

During Form 6, she took part in a religious quiz together with her classmates Belinda Chiu and Agnes Mok. They won the first prize and guess what? They won a trip to Rome to have an audience with the Pope! Thanks to the generosity of the Serra Club, they also visited Switzerland and Paris. It was indeed an extraordinary and eye-opening experience.



Newspaper clippings on the religious quiz



Audience with the Pope

The Sisters of St. Paul's set examples for her and her peers. They learnt, through osmosis, about Christian values and Christian practices. Those early days she spent in SPCS have molded her character and laid the foundation for her to build into the person she is today. With great power comes great responsibility, Susan demands much of herself. She feels that one must not waste the opportunities that one is given, that one should take things seriously and not cut corners, and one should stand up for one's own standard.

Written by Clara Poon (1998, F5)