



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

SJIOBA Annual Report 2016

On behalf of the 11th Executive Committee, it is my pleasure to present the SJIOBA Annual Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

11th Executive Committee

President	Dr Gerard Nah	(Class of 1984)
Vice President	Bernard Yeo	(Class of 1980)
Honorary Secretary	Edward Lam	(Class of 1981)
Honorary Treasurer	Mark Tan	(Class of 1988)
Immediate Past President	Tan Chong Lee	(Class of 1978)

Ordinary Members

Committee Member	Adrian Lim	(Class of 1978)
Committee Member	Gerald Ngui	(Class of 1981)
Committee Member	Dr Jeremy Netto	(Class of 1997)
Committee Member	Matthias Lim	(Class of 2002)
Committee Member	Vickneswaran Sellathurai	(Class of 2002)

School Administration

Honorary Advisor	PSJI, Fr (Dr) Adrian Augustus Danker, SJ	(Class of 1981)
	PSJI Junior, Timothy Goh	(Class of 1988)
	PSJII High School, Bradley Roberts	
	PSJII Elementary School, Kevin Hannah	

Reports from Exco members

Josephians-At-Large 2016

Theme: "Josephians for Others"

This was the 6th successive year that the Josephians-At-Large(JAL) career workshop was organized for SJI students. Without fail every year the speakers walked away learning as much from this new generation of Josephians as the students did from them. This year we conducted the JAL in two parallel sessions, one for the Secondary 3 students and the other for the JC1 students in a forum style setting.

We welcome everyone from all fields and we find this is also a great way to re-connect with your Alma Mater and network with like-minded alumni. Since its inception, the feedback from students is extremely positive and that they truly value the personal interactions. Hence, if there are more of us, we will be able to outreach to and deeply engage them.

This year's theme, "Josephians for Others" not only traces its roots from what we've all inculcated during our time in SJI being "Men for Others" but also builds on the unique Josephian education we received that went beyond books and tests. We've ingrained that into the very core of our lives and live it every day in our positive contributions to society and our communities in that very same Josephian way.

This year we chose to focus on the Secondary 3 students as being Secondary 3, these students have a longer runway in setting up their goals and the time is opportune for them to start thinking, identifying and understanding their strengths and interests on what they want to do in life. We believe that the sharing sessions by us, the seniors, will provide inspiration and courage to our students.

What it means to be a Josephian 2016

This was a new initiative we launched this year to further deepen the engagement between our alumni and students at all levels. As our students begin a new chapter in their lives on the road to becoming exemplary Josephians and Men For Others, who better to inspire them than our very own alumni!

The half hour interactive session that the speakers have with the students had the desired outcome of stirring excitement within them and for them to look forward to the coming formative years that they'll spend in SJI.

The feedback from the session continues to be very positive and the school and OBA is planning to make it an annual event.

Josephians At Large - Internship for JC student

The SJI OBA continued its support for the school in 2016 by providing internship opportunities for the Year 5 & 6 students as part of their International Baccalaureate Programme (IBDP). In the SJI IBDP, students are encouraged to pursue and find ways to better understand their interests and passions.

In 2016, two notable mentors, Dr Gerard Nah and Dr Jeremy Tan took on students in their clinics. For Dr Jeremy, he mentored 4 JC1 students during their term 3 and each student spent 5 days at his clinic, Faith Clinic in Toa Payoh. During their postings, the interns rotated through the different functions of the clinic and learnt the various processes involved from the arrival of a patient, through the consultation process and up to the time the patient leaves the clinic. They also experienced dispensing medication to patients under supervision. It was the same with Dr Gerard with each student undergoing a 1 to 1 mentorship. In fact, the interns shadowed Dr Gerard so closely that (if they were Catholic) they would go with him for Mass too!

All in all, these opportunities are very valuable as the students learn what the classroom cannot teach and also get to experience the actual work environment and develop their unique vocation and talents. This programme also allowed our old boys to mentor their charges and pass on the values and skills they would need in their future careers.

SJI-SJI OBA Charity Golf and Dinner 2016

Location: New Course. SICC Island Location

Date: 28th October 2016

The SJI-SJI OBA Charity Golf 2016, with Mr. George Yeo as its Guest-of-honor, kicked off with 140 golfers all ready to tackle the New Course at SICC Island location. The weather looked ominous and threatened to rain but held up early enough for the golfers. The golfers, many of whom old boys, had decided to get together on a Friday afternoon, to raise funds for their Alma Mater, specifically for the School Building Fund and the Lasallian Scholarships.

Armed with ice-cold 100Plus drinks in the golf buggy and with ample supply of mini-burgers and food placed strategically along the course, the golfers had a great time roving about the course, with some golfers playing excellently. There was also a friendly ice-cream uncle around, providing delicious scoops to help cool the golfer's from the humid weather.

Unfortunately, the weather took a turn for the worse and it started to rain torrentially, forcing the golfers to end their rounds earlier. However, this did not dampen their moods as after a quick refreshing shower, many of them proceed to the cocktail reception to mingle, reconnect and to enjoy the festivities of the evening.

Dinner was a scrumptious affair, with the finest quality of food catered to fulfill the hungry stomachs of the many present. Distinguished guests and many supporters of the school were treated to a fine evening of entertainment by (name of the band) belting out a mixture of oldies and modern day pop ballads.

The event managed to raise about \$350,000 and the SJIOBA would like to thank the generosity of the various sponsors, the volunteers and all those that were involved in creating such a successful event.

Born Nite

In an effort to create events for old boys, by old boys and to nurture an environment of mutual support in the SJIOBA, it was proposed that OBA social events be held at old boys' business establishments, giving old boys opportunities to reunite and network while keeping costs low for our members. The SJIOBA Beer, Oysters, Reunions & Networking (BORN) Nite was held on 18 November 2016 at the Tong Kang Restaurant at Clark Quay. It was attended by 50 members and demonstrated the potential of such events. It is hoped that as such events gain traction, more old boys will step forward to host events at their eateries thus creating a lively and exciting community in the SJIOBA.

Bands of Bros and Sisters

Bands of Bros & Sisters 2 was held on the 4th June 2016 at the SJI Amphitheatre from 4pm to 8pm

To recap, the idea was to bring back cool joes from the various years together through the universal language: music. It was a magical evening of music and fun with a great crowd of supporters of the 15 bands, 5 more than the previous year.

Once again food and drinks were sold at the event and the net proceeds were used to support a La Salle School as well as the SJIOBA mission trip: The Josephian Family Missions Trip to Phnom Penh in Dec for the underprivileged. We had a wide range of food like hotdogs, satay, ice cream; nachos fish balls, mee siam and bento sets which were mainly sponsored by the old boys.

The MC for the day was an old boy Suffian Hakim and the music equipment was generously sponsored by another old boy Theodore Chan.

We can host successful and fun self-funding events which brings Josephians from all ages to celebrate together as one with the school. It also incorporates the value of being man for other by using it as an opportunity to raise funds for the underprivileged in another SJIOBA project which is the mission trip to Phnom Penh.

Lasallian Concert

The Lasallian Concert 2016 was held in conjunction with the DBS Marina Regatta 2016 on 28th May 2016.

Talent across our Lasallian schools rocked the scorching afternoon with their guitars and drums. SJI Guitar Ensemble, SJIIES Samba Band, Colon:D and Intimate Friends brought life to the Marina Bay area with beautiful renditions of popular hits.

Friends, families and alumni of our Lasallian fraternity turned up to unwind on the man-made beach at The Promontory. The event certainly gave our budding artists a bigger stage to showcase their talent and revel in spotlight.

The Lasallian Concert, though first of its kind, was born out of the popularity of the SJI Concert in previous years. With alumni and other Lasallian schools alike searching for a platform to showcase their talent, the Lasallian Concert 2016 aimed to provide them with just that.

We are grateful for the continued support DBS Bank has lent us over the years in growing our musical talent. This year we were propelled to greater heights with the golden opportunity to perform in the heart of Singapore at Marina Bay all thanks to DBS Bank's kind support.

Josephian Family Missions Trip

This is the 2nd year the OBA organized an overseas mission trip. The aim of organizing such missions was to have activities that would bring alumni together for a higher purpose. The Old Boys having benefitted from their Lasallian education are given an ideal opportunity to give back to the poor. The mission trip would also give Josephians (aged 13-18) a chance to give their time and efforts to offer aid in developing countries. This year, the programme was renamed Josephian Family Missions to be more inclusive so that Josephians and their loved ones could go on mission as family units. However, it was still hoped that the boys and their fathers, would benefit from the quality time spent together. With fathers mentoring their sons while they learn to appreciate each other better.

The Josephian Family Mission (JFM) Team consisted of a total of 31 missionaries joining ACTS (a Call to Share) Phnom Penh 2016 during the Advent season from 10th to 17th December 2016. These numbers did not include other Josephians and their families who were part of the ACTS contingent. The adults were placed in leadership positions to better understand the necessary skills required for subsequent missions. The boys were placed in the different Don Bosco schools in Phnom Penh. There was a medical team that was set up at two villages, where villagers travelled long distances to seek free medical aid as well as an Eye Specialist team that provided training to local Ophthalmologists at the Rose Local NGO Clinic. A special projects unit was sent to the La Salle Kindergarten in Pothum Village where together with the La Salle brothers, they built a hydroponics farming unit in the hope of popularising this cheap, modern and effective agricultural technique to local farmers. A modest financial sum raised by JFM missionaries was also presented to the Christian Brothers of the kindergarten to help with the running of the school. The Spiritual Director for the entire mission which ministered to both JFM and ACTS missionaries was SJI's chaplain Friar Michael D'Cruz. JFM also provided other team members who helped with the spiritual programming and photo-journaling of the mission.

As with the previous year the missionaries were enriched and many hope to return in 2017. In the long run, it is hoped that we will be able to involve more Josephians, and support La Salle Schools in other developing countries.

Technology

Capabilities Transformation Background

Released in September 2015 - Enhanced Level 1 **Informational capability** on www.sjioba.org with a lower cost platform and higher functionality. Provided a faster and a simplified process for publishing and managing content.

Released in March 2016 – Implemented Level 2 **Transactional capability** on shop.sjioba.org, allowing online transactions with It allows us to improve on our current mail and face-to-face payment methods of cash and cheque, and to provide the convenience for members to pay online for payments such as activities, membership fees, memorabilia and student scholarship support.

Testing from April 2016 to December 2016 - A trial SJIOPA Social Network platform on net.sjioba.org based on Open Source was set up to trial the enhancement of the Level 3 **Social Networking capability** with a private social network for the SJIOPA to form a network with classes across all years, and to allow formation of groups and networks across all classes of SJI.

Level 3 Social Networking Capability - Private Social Networking Trial

Benefits

- One central directory to connect to any SJI Alumni
- One view of all SJI Alumni Interest Groups and to network with them
- Bring broader segments of the SJI Alumni together on important topics
- Improve Cross-SJI Alumni collaboration and networking.

- Allows sub-groups within groups. This addresses the limitation faced with Facebook. Allows the establishment of a network of all SJI alumni with sub-groups for classes, and sub-groups across classes.
- No limitations on maximum number participants in a group or sub-group. This addresses the limitation that is faced with Whatsapp which has a 255 participant limit.

Areas to work out further before deciding on an implementation

- User Adoption. A user adoption team should be established to plan and execute activities to increase awareness and usage of the platform and have campaigns to accelerate adoption of the platform.
- Application Management. There is a need to identify technical and functional resources to manage the application platform. For cost reasons, these resources should ideally be volunteers with the right skills and time.
- Cost. There will be a need to assess further and cater for additional cost for the infrastructure growth needs of this platform, such as storage, servers and networking. The infrastructure needs will further grow as the usage grows.

Membership

The various activities organized through 2016 definitely engaged and attracted many alumni to sign up for SJIOBA memberships. We saw a 20% increase in annual sign up numbers for Life Membership. SJIOBA added some 29 new Life Members, 5 more than the preceding year. We continue to phase out Ordinary Membership by either urging them to convert to Life Membership as well as offering Life membership as perfect choice. Thus paid up Ordinary Members numbers grew very slightly from 169 to 173 through 2016. As always we also boarded the graduating class of 2016 into our Associate Members tier.

Our new Associate members were given a symbolic key chain in the shape of a 'Key', always reminding them of their duty to safeguard this institution as theirs to protect and grow. The SJIOBA Exco also engaged our new Associates in an hour long Q&A where they posed tough questions, reflecting on the purpose of our organization, our future and how they will integrate in the coming years.

In 2016, we also welcomed the return of 1469 of our brethren with a rather unanimous voting outcome. Life Memberships were conferred upon the members affected by the decisions undertaken in the 2010 AGM. As part of the proposal, the SJIOBA also offered to return a total of \$102,150 to affected members for any annual subscription or conversion fees paid over a 6 month period from the resolution date. Only \$5,600 have been redeemed, with the rest of the members deciding to leave that sum with the SJIOBA as we go forth in growing our organization.

Moving ahead, the Exco will be looking at new ways to improve the value of membership to the SJIOBA community. Plans are underway to roll new schemes which include a Business Directory of members as well as Membership Privileges by Businesses own or run by OBA members.

Engagement Talks

To engage old boys intellectually in topics of interest, the SJIOBA embarked on the first of its engagement talks on the evening of 12 October 2017. "Lasallian Education in Today's Educational Landscape" was a lively and informative discourse given by former SJI Principal, Dr Koh Thiam Seng. Dr Koh shared how the change in the educational demands for Singapore has shaped the way SJI and other LaSallian schools educate its students today. It was an enlightening seminar which helped the audience understand the finer nuances of the educational system and how to navigate their children through it.

The SJIOBA also supported another talk organised by the Catholic Business Network (CBN) by old boy Professor Leo Tan on "My Journey" which was held at SJI on 16 Feb 2017. All SJIOBA members, alumni, as well as, SJI and SJII staff were invited. The well-attended talk enriched the audience on how Prof Tan took the road less travelled, trusted in God and reaped the rewards of his unconventional decision.

The SJIOBA hopes to organise more engagement talks such as health talks given by old boys in the medical field to reach out to and pique the interests of its members.

Thanksgiving & Memorial Mass

In 2016, the SJIOBA Thanksgiving Mass was renamed the SJIOBA Thanksgiving and Memorial Mass to include the element of praying for and remembering Josephians that have passed before us in addition to the thanksgiving theme. Publicity was carried out in way of electronic direct mailers (EDMs) to all alumni, Facebook posts and an advertisement placed in the Catholic News. Invitations were also made to the Parent Support Group and current Josephians who may have wanted to give thanks for the past academic year.

The Mass was celebrated on the evening of 19 November 2016 SJI Auditorium in Bishan by the school chaplain Friar Michael D’Cruz and con-celebrated by 3 other old boy clergy, namely, Fr Simon Pereira, Fr Clement Lee and, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Fr John Paul Tan. The Chancellor shared his wisdom by giving the homily. Music and animation was provided by old boy Anthony Lim and the liturgy of the word shared by members of the Thio family.

Mass was followed by the traditional dinner reception, where alumni and their families broke bread and mingled together in fellowship and camaraderie. This year’s mass had the distinction of the being the very last to be held at the Bishan holding school and the very last SJI event at which the school rally was sung before the move back to Malcolm Road. In 2017, we will look into the proposal by the Christian Brothers to have a Christmas Eve mass in the SJI chapel at Malcolm Road.

For and on behalf of the SJIOBA

Ora et Labora



Dr Gerard Nah
SJIOBA President
11th Executive Committee