

THE PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS – 40TH COLLEGE DAY REPORT

Our Guest-of-Honour, Professor Alfred Huan, Executive Director, Institute of High Performance Computing and, Ex Dir, Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research);
Chairman of the SAJC Board of Governors, Mr Tan Soo Kiang;
Members of the Board of Governors;
Chairman of SAJC Parents Support Group, Mr Randall Choo;
Principals and Alumni;
Distinguished guests, parents, teachers and students.

Welcome to SAJC's 40th College Day. We are happy that you are able to make time this afternoon to join us on this joyous occasion as we celebrate our College's 39th birthday. Yes it has been 39 years since our first cohort of students entered SAJC in January 1978. You may ask why then are we celebrating the 40th College Day and not the 39th? Interesting question! Let me assure you that there was no mistake in the calculation of the number of College Days SAJC has witnessed so far – our College actually had its 1st College Day in 1978, even before it completed its first 12 months of operation! So next year's 41st College Day will rightly be SAJC's 40th Birthday!!

Having clarified this important nugget of information, it is now my privilege to deliver the College report highlighting the key developments and fine accomplishments of our Saints and staff in the past year.

First of all, let me acknowledge the student leaders of the College for their dedication and contributions. The 39th Student Council was led by Rachel Lee Jiajin as President. Together with her fellow student councillors they have worked very hard to be the voice of the students and, to foster and pass on the Saint's spirit. Their creative and well thought out activities has played an important role in uniting the student body as one St Andrew's Family. They have served their peers and the College tirelessly and selflessly.

We also acknowledge the Christian student group of the College – Saints-for-Christ, led by its President, Germaine Koh Dan Ning. They have served fervently to keep our Christian heritage strong through their daily morning worship and prayers, weekly scripture reading, and in the Life Concert, Easter celebrations and the College's Mission Week. Their service has inspired their peers to be true to God and be a testimony for Him.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the 17th House Council and the 7th Saints Advocate, together with all the CCA leaders for your commitment, dedication and love for the College shown through your service and contributions. While I am not able to mention each and every one of you by name here, I have placed you on record in the Principal's Report. Thank you for making SAJC a special place enriched by your talents and gifts.

Our theme this year for College Day, 'Glorify Thy Name', represents the motivations of our College – that whatever the victories and achievements by our Saints, it is for the glory of God. It invites and encourages our Saints to pursue excellence, and give thanks for their achievements. This theme is taken from the last stanza in our College Hymn, which culminates with a clarion call to all Saints to come together "with one acclaim", joining our hearts as one and, together, uplifting our voices to glorify God's name. Indeed there is every reason that we should give praise to God and glorify His name on a daily basis – for His unfailing love, care and protection for us and for the College; for the gentle mercies and grace that He has shown us in spite of our failings and transgressions; and for the manifold of blessings and gifts that He has bestowed upon all our Saints so freely and generously. Truly we want to give thanks with a grateful heart and glorify God's name in the highest.

The release of the 2016 A-Level Examination results saw our graduates performing well against the Ministry of Education's national indicator of percentage of students with 'at least 3 H2 passes and a pass in General Paper'. Not only did the College continue to surpass this national indicator, our 2016 graduates again improved upon the performance of their seniors. I am pleased to announce that the 2016 cohort of Saints has obtained one of the best results for the College in the mean A-level rank point and other indicators – you can find the details in the Principal's Report (p.3). Congratulations to the Class of 2016 Saints and teachers on your success in yet again keeping the College flag flying high and maintaining a high benchmark of excellence for your juniors to aspire towards.

We are also especially pleased that our students continue to excel in both their academic endeavours and co-curricular pursuits. Notwithstanding their heavy involvement in CCAs, 25 Captains and Presidents scored 80 rank points and better in the A Level Exams. At the same time we have another 52 students whom the College considers as exemplary all-rounders – excelling academically with at least 80 rank points and better while at the

same time being recognised at the highest level for their excellence in and commitment to their CCAs, through the College's Colours and Service Awards.

The strong foundation that the College has laid for our Saints' academic learning and their development in 21st century leadership competencies has served them well as our Saints continue to gain admission into courses of their choice at both local and overseas universities. As you can see in the programme booklet (pp.18-19), this year we have Saints garnering prestigious scholarships from the Public Service Commission, the Ministry of Education, A*STAR, the Singapore-Industry Holdings, SPRING Singapore, etc. The list is by no means complete as we will still be receiving good news of more scholarships in the coming days. In addition to scholarships, our Class of 2016 Saints has continued to distinguish themselves by securing places at renowned universities in the world including Cambridge, Stanford University, Australian National University and Duke-NUS.

The Principal's Report shows the full list of achievements garnered by the Saints as they excelled in various competitions. I will thus only highlight the key achievements and accomplishments of our students, staff and the College.

In the area of sports achievements, 4 of our sports teams were in the top 4 positions at the National Schools Games. All the games were highly contested and even though they did not win all their matches we are proud of our teams who played hard at every match. At the Rugby semi-finals, our boys fought a fiercely contested match where they were neck-to-neck with the opposing team at every juncture and the atmosphere in the stadium was electric with the cheering of our Saints supporters. We were heartened by our boys' relentless resolve to play hard right to the final moments of the game. While we came in 4th at the nationals, our Rugby boys through their valiant efforts, have truly exemplified College spirit as 'Truest fame lies in high endeavour'.

This is a SYF year for all performing arts CCAs except English Drama. We congratulate our Saints in the Concert Band, Dance Society and Choir for obtaining the highest award of Certificate of Distinction at the SYF, as well as the Chinese Orchestra and Guitar Ensemble for achieving a Certificate of Accomplishment. Saints in English Drama also took to the stage at the Arts House and put up three shows for us to enjoy their talents, playing to almost full houses and resounding applause at each show.

Another significant student achievement we saw this earlier this month was at the Istana where Brendan Chang Jing Quan from 16S04 received the Boys Brigade's highest recognition – the President's Award from President Tony Tan.

Consistent with our aspirations to be servant leaders, a unique defining attribute of our Saints, is their selfless service to others. With a grateful heart our Saints shared God's blessings by helping the less privileged members of the community both here in Singapore, and overseas in Phong Thanh commune, Vietnam and in Chiang Mai, Thailand through their support of NGOs in their work with poverty-stricken communities.

As part of the College's National Day Celebrations last year, our JC1s continued their partnership with Central Singapore CDC and Kreta Ayer-Kim Seng Grassroots Office to embark on 'Project Silver Homes', reaching out to elderly residents in the Tiong Bahru area to help clean up their homes, interact with them and putting up a morning of entertaining performances and cross-generational activities. At the same time, our JC2 students collaborated with Central Singapore CDC for a second time on the social advocacy project, 'Giraffes Singapore' which honours compassionate risk-takers and people who have the courage to stick their necks out for the common good. Our Saints fanned out to various locations around Singapore to spread awareness of the Giraffes Singapore movement and gather inspiring stories of 'Giraffes of Singapore'.

Another example of our students' passion in service is evident in their championing of environmental causes. Students from the Environment Club took the lead to clear litter along the Park Connector of the Kallang River besides our College and conducted outreach among the residents in Potong Pasir to inform them about water conservation. The College is also continually seeking new ways to conserve energy through the use of technology – these efforts have been affirmed through the 2016 Energy Efficiency National Partnership Award, where the College was recognised under the school category for the "Best Energy Efficiency Practices in the Public Sector". At the same time, two of our staff, Mr Sia Lai Chai and Mr Sinni Suppiah, were also awarded the 2016 MOE Innergy Gold Award for their innovative project of a LAN remote control to automate the control of electrical power to air-conditioners in the lecture theatres and classrooms.

The College sees it as our responsibility to nurture successive generations of community builders and servant leaders who will serve well in the coming days. Beyond the

many environmental and values-in-action programmes, as well as local and overseas service learning projects that our Saints are actively involved in, the College's student leadership summit – chrySAlis, deserves special mention. chrySAlis is not just the College's signature student leadership development programme, it is also a joint project of the three St Andrew's Schools. It seeks to groom our students to exercise self-leadership and influence regardless of their station in life.

This year marked the 4th instalment of ChrySAlis, with the theme: 'Be the Change'. This residential summit drew approximately 330 participants from SAV, Anglican Diocese Schools, S5 Cluster Schools and beyond. The Village was honoured to have Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development, as the Guest of Honour for the Opening Ceremony of the Summit and participants learnt much from a lively and enriching dialogue session with Mr Tan. For the first time, JC2 student leaders from the Student Council, House Council and Saints Advocate and students from the Talent Development Programme worked together as the student EXCO to support the planning and execution of ChrySAlis 2017. At the same time, our JC1 student leaders served as group leaders for the Summit participants. They facilitated team activities and helmed the Summit's outreach programme – the Amazing (G)Race which saw participants head out to community spaces and advocate for causes they were passionate about. This annual Summit has continued to provide the breadth of learning and experiences for our students to understand what it means to be a servant leader who exemplifies the 4 Qualities of a Saint. We are indeed thankful to the Ching Foo Kun Fund which has supported the student leadership programmes in the Village.

Beyond chrySAlis, SAJC has continued to leverage on its close proximity to the junior and secondary schools in the Village to have our JC students make a difference in the lives of their younger brothers. I am heartened to report that this year we have deepened our partnerships on several fronts. Last year, students from the Secondary School joined our Saints Model United Nations Conference as Observers; this year they participated as full delegate members. In preparation for this year's conference, our JC students from the Saints Model United Nations Club planned and conducted four pre-conference training sessions to help their secondary school juniors better understand and experience the complexities of global issues, as well as coach them on skills like critical reading and public speaking. Just recently too, our student Christian group from the Saints-for-Christ began a 4-part programme at St Andrew's House with the Junior School boys, bringing to them lessons on character and leadership through sharing biblical stories and fun-filled activities.

We are greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and youthful energy that our JC students have given towards the growth and development of their younger brothers in our St Andrew's family. It is through ChrySAlis, the Saints Model UN Conference, the mentoring and tutoring programmes, and the many other smaller collaborative projects, carried out over the past 10 years that our three schools have grown ever closer together as One Family Unbroken in St Andrew's Village.

To provide our students with an excellent quality Christian education, SAJC is proud to be part of the Anglican Character, Thinking and Service (ACTS) Leadership Academy together with our Anglican family of schools. The ACTS Leadership Academy seeks to provide a total curriculum that will stretch our students' potential to be 21st century servant leaders. I am happy to share that good progress has been made thus far in this endeavour as we continue to develop our teachers in integrating critical thinking skills, intellectual virtues and standards with the curriculum of various academic subjects. This year SAJC was proud to be the organiser for the 4th ACTS Seminar which saw our six Anglican schools presenting 28 different concurrent workshops for over 200 participants. So while our respective schools may be developing at different paces along this shared journey, we continue to grow closer together as an Anglican family of schools because we share expertise and exchange ideas regularly through platforms such as at this annual ACTS Seminar. ACTS is still in its formative years, and as it continues to take root and permeate into more of our total curriculum, we hold true to the belief that many years from now, our students will mature into 21st century servant leaders and active citizens who are ready to serve responsibly and selflessly towards the betterment of society.

As part of our efforts to inspire in students a passion for learning and the entrepreneurial dare, a small team of teachers saw the opportunity to provide a platform for our students, past and present, to come together to articulate and share their ideas, trials and triumphs related to the theme of 'Chance', and in the process, inspire the Saints community with their passion, perspectives and enterprise. They accomplished this through the inaugural TEDxYouth@SAJC Talks, held at the College on 29 May. For those who have missed our 10 TEDx Talks or who are curious to find out what it is all about, you can view our students' presentations on YouTube by keying in: TEDxYouth@SAJC.

Our Talent Development Programme (or TDP for short), is another avenue where we endeavour to cultivate students' passion and the pursuit of learning beyond the A-Level

curriculum. While the TDP continues to be a work-in-progress in achieving its lofty objectives of nurturing passionate learners and leaders who make a difference in society, we nevertheless, can see early signs of the TDP's success in the work of some of our student alumni who have been through the programme.

Miss Nanrawee Kitiarsa, a TDP alumna from the 2016 Humanities Scholars Programme, was a Geography student who not only excelled in H2 Geography but also offered H3 Geography under the NUS-Humanities and Social Sciences Research Programme. This is a special H3 option offered to only selected students across Singapore schools. Her H3 academic work was awarded a Distinction at the A-Levels. But what I want to share is not her achievement at the A-Levels, but the academic research she did under the NUS-Humanities and Social Sciences Research Programme. This H3 option is designed as an independent study module, with minimal supervision from her teacher mentors. Nanrawee's H3 academic paper has recently been selected for presentation at an international conference. This is indeed highly commendable. Despite only having A-Level credentials, she had the opportunity less than 2 weeks ago to present her academic paper at the 13th International Conference on Thai Studies in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Nanrawee is indeed a good example of a TDP scholar who has lived up to the objectives of the TDP programme, demonstrating the application of the social sciences in an authentic manner by examining real societal and world issues. Well done, Nanrawee, you have made an excellent start on your way to being a junior scholar as you pursue this area of interest and passion.

Behind all the enriching programmes and the distinctive College experience that SAJC provides for its students lie a forward-looking, competent and collaborative team of teachers. The growth of our students to become men and women of exemplary character and servant leaders would not be possible without the collective efforts of our dedicated staff who have been steadfast in their zeal and commitment to making a difference in the lives of their students. As we celebrate and give thanks for the accomplishments of our students, we are also celebrating the success of our teachers and non-teaching staff for their faithful service to the College. Please join me in honouring our teachers and our support staff.

While we bade farewell to a number of our staff members, I would like to welcome new staff members who have joined us between January and June this year. At the same time, we congratulate sixteen of our staff members who were promoted to a higher educational grade or management executive grade this year. We are also very proud to

share that two of our staff were awarded National Day Medals in 2016. Our Deputy Principal, Mr Cecil Ang was awarded the Public Service Administration Medal (Bronze) for significant contributions towards overall school improvement. Our Chinese Language Teacher, Mdm Loh Lih Yeh, received the National Day Long Service Award for her faithful and outstanding service in education. Additionally, seven of our non-teaching staff received the SPRING Singapore-Public Service Division Excellent Service Gold and Silver awards in recognition of their contribution and excellent service by going the extra mile for our students and teachers.

At the Association of Mathematics Educators Conference on 1st June this year, our Mathematics Senior Teacher, Mr Eng Kai Seng, was one of three Mathematics teachers in Singapore who were presented with the inaugural 'Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Award'. This award serves to encourage and honour dedicated, empowering and passionate Mathematics teachers, and to recognise and promote excellence in Mathematics teaching practices. Mr Eng Kai Seng was shortlisted from amongst more than a hundred nominations from across schools in Singapore, and had to undergo lesson observations and interviews from a panel of Mathematics experts before being selected. Congratulation Kai Seng!

Our Deputy Principal, Mrs Koh Chern Ee left our College on a year and a half of no pay leave to dedicate more time to her three children as a fulltime home maker. We want to thank her for the contributions she made during her time with us at SAJC. We are glad to see her back again this afternoon to join us on College Day. We also want to welcome a new Deputy Principal, Mr Cecil Ang, who joined us in December last year.

SAJC is grateful for the unstinting support of the parents under the leadership of Mr Michael Wong who was the chairperson of the 5th Parents Support Group EXCO. Besides serving the College in promoting student welfare by providing dinners during the Night Study programme, the PSG has in the past two years intensified their efforts in meeting the needs of our Saints. We are now pleased to welcome the parents of our 6th PSG EXCO led by Mr Randall Choo. The new PSG EXCO is actively looking to expand and reach out to more parents through MSF's Family Matters@School programmes to support the needs of both parents and the College community.

This is indeed a day of thanksgiving as we look back and reflect on the past one year – God has been unfailing in His manifold blessings on our students, staff and the College.

We are grateful and blessed for the unwavering support of our Bishop Rennis Ponniah, the Board of Governors, Alumni, parents and friends of St Andrew's without whom, we would not have come so far. Led by Mr Tan Soo Kiang, the Board of Governors have been proactive mentors in supporting and guiding us forward towards the vision for SAJC. We are truly blessed to be in a community which loves and cares for one another.

Finally we want to proclaim and glorify the name of God, for He has been faithful and we behold His abundant grace and blessings towards us all the time. We continue to look to Him for wisdom and guidance in this work that He has entrusted to us, as we believe that He shall continue to lead us 'Up and On'!

Now it is my pleasure to introduce our Guest-of-Honour, Professor Alfred Huan. Prof Huan is a true blue Saint. He spent his formative years in the St Andrew's Family of schools between 1968 and 1979 – starting from the Junior and then the Secondary School, before progressing in 1978 to St Andrew's Junior College as the pioneer batch of SAJC students at the Malan Road campus. He received his education at the University of Oxford, graduating with Bachelor of Arts in Physics in 1983 and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1987.

Professor Huan joined the National University of Singapore in 1989 as a Lecturer in the Department of Physics, and later become its Deputy Head in 2004. In 2005 he left NUS to join the new School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences at Nanyang Technological University where he took up the appointment as Head of the Division of Physics and Applied Physics, and later added the portfolio of Associate Chair for Outreach and Admissions.

Professor Huan was seconded to the A*STAR Science and Engineering Research Council in 2011. In 2012, he took up the position of Acting Executive Director of the Institute of High Performance Computing, and later assumed the position of full Executive Director of the Institute. In 2017, Professor Huan concurrently took on a second portfolio as the Executive Director of the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering.

I am sure we will be blessed by Professor Huan's practical wisdom and vast experience. Without further ado, may I invite Professor Huan to deliver his address. Professor Huan, please.