



From the Principal.....

Greetings to all Alumni of St Monica's College, Epping with a special and warm welcome to those who are receiving this publication for the first time. Please encourage all Alumni of SMC - whoever, wherever they are, to register their interest and information via our website.

This year has been an active and exciting one already as we await with great anticipation the new Science and Technology building on Dalton Road Campus. This building, along with the Year 9 building and the refurbished Learning & Activities Complex, has changed the face of DRC and it offers new opportunities for all junior Monicans for today and tomorrow.

Alumni will be pleased to know that the Sister Dorothea Tallon sgs Avenue is the central thoroughfare in the Learning & Activities Complex. The College proudly

acknowledges the significant contribution Sister Dorothea made to St Monica's College in association with all the other Good Sams who were stationed at Epping.

Our enrolments continue to be extremely strong with demand for places growing at a rapid rate. Please note that the children of Alumni are assured of a place at the College so long as closing dates for enrolment are respected.

Best wishes to Mario Bernardi and Alumni Committee members and I hope that our Alumni always feel welcome to visit or tour the College at nominated Morning Teas with the Principal.

Brian E. Hanley
College Principal

Editorial

The College theme for this year is 'Peace and Harmony'. Each of us, I'm sure, will have something to say on the topic. We have all experienced a variety of situations through life, study and work, and we can all look back at our experiences so far and see the development of our opinions on peace and harmony and what they mean. Achieving 'world peace' - is it possible or impossible? Necessary, perhaps? 'Inner peace' or 'peace of mind' - what is it, and how do we achieve it? Through enlightenment, wisdom and knowledge, or maybe some camomile tea and a warm bath?

Whatever the method or purpose, peace and harmony are things we all aspire to have or create. What we forget is that peace and harmony can only be achieved with a sustained push from all parties trying to achieve peace. In the case of 'world peace', nations and international organisations need to create the sustained push for peace. In the personal realm, we are all constantly fighting our desires, thoughts, needs and obligations within ourselves in an effort to achieve inner peace.

Through all of our experiences, we become steadfast in our opinions of what peace means for us personally. The greatest irony of it all, however, is that what we think is only a small part of the equation. We also need to have empathy, and the capacity to act in a meaningful way towards others. In short, we need to drop the selfishness, think about others, but still keep those necessary personal characteristics or thoughts that motivate us to continue.

And this is remarkably a lot like harmony in music - every note has its own characteristic, yet is played in a way which sounds good with all the other notes being played at the same time. If every note were self-centred and oblivious to all the others, harmony would stop and pandemonium would ensue. Any music teacher would also say that achieving harmony takes a lot of thought and practice. Likewise, achieving peace takes a lot of practice and especially thought. It may be worth making a cup of camomile tea, running a warm bath and having a good think.

May we always send out light and truth.

M. Bernardi

Old Collegians on Staff

<u>Angela Anderson (Keating)</u>	<u>1972 - 1978</u>
<u>Deidre Burggraaf</u>	<u>2001 - 2006</u>
<u>Bianca Chisari</u>	<u>2000 - 2005</u>
<u>Connie Curmi (Ciccio)</u>	<u>1978 - 1982</u>
<u>Lucy Cutajar (Signorini)</u>	<u>1968 - 1973</u>
<u>Penny Day (Smith)</u>	<u>1983 - 1988</u>
<u>Paula Di Maria</u>	<u>1984 - 1989</u>
<u>Katie Dossor</u>	<u>1995 - 2000</u>
<u>Sylvia Emirzian</u>	<u>1990 - 1995</u>
<u>Cathy Gentile</u>	<u>1993 - 1998</u>
<u>Pina Glover (Gurrieri)</u>	<u>1972 - 1978</u>
<u>Bernadette Harris</u>	<u>1979 - 1984</u>
<u>Tania Hislop</u>	<u>1986 - 1987</u>
<u>Leonie Johnson (Hornidge)</u>	<u>1971 - 1976</u>
<u>Katherine Mignano</u>	<u>1995 - 2000</u>
<u>Mary Millington (Caddy)</u>	<u>1975 - 1979</u>
<u>Danielle Nicolaci</u>	<u>1993 - 1998</u>
<u>Anna Papazzo (Caruso)</u>	<u>1977 - 1982</u>
<u>Silvana Pavia (Zacccone)</u>	<u>1977 - 1980</u>
<u>Claire Polidano (Pearson)</u>	<u>1975 - 1980</u>
<u>Rosalyn Prattico</u>	<u>2002 - 2007</u>
<u>Amy Ross</u>	<u>2000 - 2006</u>
<u>Margaret Santilli (Malone)</u>	<u>1965 - 1969</u>
<u>Wendy Styring (Hehir)</u>	<u>1970 - 1973</u>
<u>Mark Torcaso</u>	<u>1993 - 1998</u>



Keeping it in the Family

Enrolments are increasing at St. Monica's College. In 2008 we have an enrolment of 1868. 75 of these students are the sons or daughters of Alumni members. This group has been slowly increasing in number during recent years and this year includes the grand daughter of an Old Collegian.

Pictured below are the Milano family: –

Grandmother Maria Siracusa nee Di Francesco (centre) attended the College in 1965 to 1968, so too did her mother Daniela (rear) from 1985 to 1991. Giulio Milano, her father (left) was at St. Monica's in the years 1981 to 1986.

Lauren, a third generation Monican, commenced in Year 7 Blue this year. We wish her every success.



College Dux 2007

*Take time to think-
It is the source of all power.*

*Take time to read-
It is the fountain of wisdom.*

*Take time to dream-
It is what the future is made of.*

*Take time to work-
It is the price of success.*

Success is indeed a very difficult entity to define. Whilst we all have some grasp of what success personally means to us, it is quite a feat to produce a generic definition. A few days ago as I sat down to write this speech I was confronted with this task of attempting to delineate my success and most importantly convey to you all how to obtain it. Hence, I ploughed through the dusty recesses of my mind frantically searching for something profound to say. Instead, I stumbled across a memory that had been lying dormant for some time. I was transported back to year 7, there I was sitting amongst a sea of blue in my first assembly, much like you are today, and I watched in awe as the 2001 dux was awarded this prestigious title. Quietly but with great resolve I promised myself that very moment that in six years I would be upon this exact stage accepting the same award.

Thus, here I am today standing before you feeling a deep sense of accomplishment, honour and gratitude as your dux for 2007.

The journey I must concede has been a long and arduous one. Unfortunately, I cannot present you with an easy how-to-succeed in the VCE methodology or the ultimate study guide. However, I can reveal to you that my achievement in the VCE was a product of years of meticulous, ardent and unwavering commitment to my studies.

I learned from a very young age that academic accomplishment demands more than just mediocre contributions of effort. In order to fulfil your optimal potential you must invest your entire being into your work and continually push your boundaries to unlock new skills and abilities. This personal philosophy travelled with me throughout all my years of high school; it inspired me, guided me and corrected me from deviating. As a result, I studied with the same intensity consistently and never questioned my work ethic. I can honestly say that even in the junior years, I placed as much weight and significance on my assessment tasks as I did in year 12. Hence, my advice is pertinent to each and every one of you. I encourage you all to implement a practical system of profitable study techniques that will be conducive to success in the VCE. It is never too early to tailor a routine for efficacious study. To be bluntly honest, you will not academically excel by virtue of cramming in year 12. A solid foundation of effective study skills, a sense of direction and a clear objective are needed to facilitate a composed transition into the last year of secondary education. Therefore, the impetus of my achievement in the VCE was not a strategic one-year undertaking rather a consolidation of the years of preparation that had preceded it.

I will not dispel the notion that Year 12 is a mentally and emotionally taxing year. The reality is that you will be faced with a multitude of challenges and periods of stress. However, you can rest in the knowledge that your time spent labouring over work will not go unrecognised.

To the current year twelve students, ensure that you take every task seriously and study it profoundly. Allow yourself to explore the subject at hand in all its bearings and never be complacent or afraid to extend yourself. I worked assiduously throughout the whole year; I dedicated 5



Angela Kittikhoun

hours a night to studying, I read an array of texts not prescribed to the booklist, I attended numerous lectures and completed over 200 past papers across the two years of VCE. These measures were necessary as the VCE is extremely competitive and in order to surpass others it is imperative to work at a high intensity at all times.

Despite all my own efforts, I would not be standing here without the unconditional support and assistance from those around me. To Mr Hanley, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to realise my potential and offering me with the facilities required to do so; my gratitude is immense. I express my sincere appreciation to all my teachers, in particular my year 12 teachers, who built my knowledge, advised me during times of adversity, and tolerated my incessant knocks at their office door. I will carry the lessons you have taught me with great fondness into the new phase of my life. On a personal level, I must acknowledge the vital role my parents have played throughout all these years. You both gave me freedom to grow academically and never coerced me into following a path I did not want to take. To my dearest friends, thank you for never allowing me to forget the meaning of fun; giving me the respite from the fierce studying to relax and maintain a sense of sanity. Finally, I would like to dedicate this accolade to my grandmother. Achieving a 99.90 would have been impossible had you not given me the fortitude to chase my dreams indefatigably and fearlessly. I am the person I am today because you loved me and believed that I could transcend mediocrity.

As you all embark upon completing the 2008 academic year, I wish you all the best of luck. You each possess an inherent capacity to be better scholars perhaps this may not seem true to you now but with work and dedication, this truth will emerge. Commence studying early, work hard, be innovative and most of all persevere to ameliorate

yourself with confidence. Carry the conviction that your goals can be rendered realities and one day you shall reap the fruits of success. I leave you now with a perspicacious thought: "Success does not come to those who wait . . . and it does not wait for anyone to come to it".

Angela Kittikhoun (SMC 2002-2007)



St Monica's Medal 2007



Jian Samuel (SMC 2001-2006)

It is an honour and privilege to return after two and a half years, especially to receive such a prestigious award.

Many times have I been faced with situations outside High School that I have had to draw from my experiences here at St. Monica's. Transitions into University, meeting and dealing with new people, juggling many responsibilities, deadlines and financial demands. I guess it would be hard for you as high school students to understand where I am coming from, so for now, I will tell you this... As soon as you step into the outside world, you'll be in for a pleasant surprise!

With that said, I strongly urge you all to seize the moment, take on challenges, do things you don't normally do. I have no regrets on taking on the many challenges and responsibilities that I did, because all my experiences made me into the person that I am today. You will certainly be surprised as to how much more you can learn outside the classroom. Captaincy positions teach you leadership skills, participation in choirs, bands and sporting groups give you team building and group work skills, extra curricular activities and social groups help you understand the importance of organisational skills. The opportunities here are endless and the benefits even more so.

I must extend my gratitude to those who consistently stood by me through my time here at St. Monica's.

First of all, my family and friends, who moulded me into the person I am today. The importance of family and friends is one that is unexplainable and I would not be here without them. Thank you.

The admirable leadership of Mr. Hanley was a trait I constantly looked up to. Working closely with Mr. Hanley,



I always hoped to replicate his steadfast and sociable style of leadership, for no one else I have met can be so supportive and easy to confide in, even if he does seem the stern Principal at times. (But to the year 7s, trust me, Mr. Hanley is a great man). Once again, I thank you Mr. Hanley.

Also, I would like to thank the staff of St. Monica's College. Mr. Frijó, your quirky yet comforting guidance was much needed in my first three years, and I thank you for your continued support.

Ms. Chirico, your wise words and compassion through such a crucial and stressful time was also an essential, and you were certainly one that I could always depend on.

Ms. Sarantos, never have I met such an understanding and caring person. Not only were you my guidance when I needed direction, but also the safety net should I fall. I cannot thank you enough.

Ms. Harris, I extend immense appreciation for your patience and supervision whilst at St. Monica's, especially when dealing with the formalities of many presentations and speeches, even applicable to today. Today's speech is an example of the lessons I have learned here in St. Monica's assisting me after high school.

Students of St. Monica's College 2008, should you take away anything from this speech, it should be the fact that there is much to be learned here at this school. Not just inside your books, but also beyond them. Inside these grounds is a nurturing environment full of people that will do everything in their power to prepare you for the outside world. Take a leap, and should you fall, I guarantee you that someone will catch you, dust you off, and wish they could fly as high as you did.

Thank you all very much, take care, take on life, and God Bless.

St Monica's Medal Recipients

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>
1991	Miss Angela Minniti
1992	Miss Maria Ensabella
1993	Miss Sonia De Angelis
1994	Miss Angela Stella
1995	Miss Kylie Cardamone
1996	Miss Linda Ferraro
1997	Miss Sara Stefani
1998	Miss Helen Spiteri
1999	Miss Nicole Yianni
2000	Miss Kellee Jordan
2001	Miss Carla Jobson
2002	Mr Christopher Dossor
2003	Mr Cameron Cavallo
2004	Mr Mario Bernardi
2005	Miss Roslyn Galati
2006	Miss Shelly Karpathakis
2007	Mr Jian Samuel

Where are they now?



Suttisak Jantavongso

Suttisak Jantavongso joined St. Monica's College in 1993 and having completed his VCE, he graduated in 1995. Suttisak is currently an Assistant Lecturer at the Clayton School of Information Technology at Monash University. He graduated from Monash University with a Business Systems degree in 1999, a Master of Digital Communications in 2000, and a Doctor of Philosophy in 2007.

His thesis titled "Facilitating Electronic Business (E-Business) Implementation among Thai Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs)", the research he undertook included comparative studies between Western with Asian countries not only from the perspective of business but also political, financial and cultural structures. His research involved both domestic and foreign policy in analyzing factors such as the free trade agreement, business law issues and aspects appropriate to the implementation of e-business practices.

Suttisak has also had extensive experience over several years in teaching and tutoring to both undergraduate and postgraduate students at Monash University including Faculty of Business and Economics (MBA Program), and Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT).

During his study, he worked with JiJi Press (Japan) in the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok in 1998 and had been recognized by the Chairman of the 13th Asian Games Coordinating Committee for the work he did in liaising between the Japanese team and the Thai journalists. He also worked as a Kanban Systems (a Japanese word that means "display" or "instruction" card) Project with Wilson Transformer Company in Glen Waverley in 1999.

Suttisak was also a Residential Advisor (RA), a Computer Coordinator with Monash Residential Services (MRS) between 1999 until 2003, and the President of Monash Thai Society Club Monash University at 1999 which he received a Certificate of Appreciation from Monash International.



Where are they now?

Genevieve Tran

Since leaving St. Monica's in 1999, Genevieve Tran nee De Vos (SMC:1994-1999) has completed a Bachelor of Behavioural Sciences and a Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment.

Genevieve works as a consultant in employment services. Her experience and passion for the industry provides her with the ability and knowledge to understand the demands of employment services and recruit candidates of the highest calibre.

Prior to this she had been working as an English Teacher in Tokyo, where she strengthened her experience working with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Genevieve met her husband Lam at the College, where they studied many subjects together. Genevieve returned to the College in 2007 as a Guest Presenter at the Academic Honours Presentation Ceremony.



Emitte lucem et veritatem
send out light and truth

DRC Science & Technology Building



Alumni Involvement Leadership Training

Gerard Salvador, Terence Upoko, Anthony Anselmo, Shelley Karpathakis, Laura Mancin, Zoe Solomon, Raymond Milidoni, Jian Samuel and Michelle Rechichi.





Are you thinking about organizing a reunion?

We can help

- Arrange a print out of names and addresses of the students who completed Year 12 in your year level (please note that pre-computerized records (pre 1986) are incomplete)
- Assist with postage of invitations to a reunion
- Arrange for copies of photographs of your class at St. Monica's (where available in the Archives)
- Advertise your reunion in the Principal's Bulletin, this publication, The Monican Newsletter and on our website
- Make suggestions about venues and formats that have worked for gatherings in previous years, as well as providing advice about RSVP's, booking fees and expressions of interest

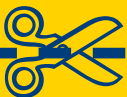
The Alumni Committee holds regular meetings, and we invite you to contact us at the College on 9401 2444 and come along to a meeting to discuss your planned event.

Alternatively, each year the College hosts numerous Morning Tea With the Principal events. Please contact the College Reception for dates and times. This is an excellent opportunity to return to St. Monica's.



Emitte lucem et veritatem
send out light and truth

PEACE & HARMONY



**PLEASE
CIRCULATE**

Log on to www.stmonicas-epping.com to access the Alumni Association and add your details to the Old Collegians database.

