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## Executive Director's Message



On 1st March 2016, ACS celebrated its 130th anniversary since its founding in 1886. As with the school, ACS Oldham Hall has also grown from strength to strength, an emblem of grand endeavour. In those early days, the boarding department was managed by the wives of the early missionaries, and all played a part that the boarders lived in an environment that was safe, well managed and wholesome. This philosophy has not changed in 130 years.

Living in Oldham Hall equips boarders with opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and to be equipped with important life skills. Boarders are given the facility to make friends of different nationalities and forge lifelong friendships. More importantly, boarders learn to appreciate consideration, co-operation, and independence in a supportive environment where standards of behaviour are determined for the benefit and welfare of the community.

Today, ACS Oldham Hall is a modern 6 storey building managed by a team of 10 administrative staff and more than 20 AHMs (Assistant House Masters/Mistresses). Within the Hall, there are other people that manage the kitchen, laundry, grounds, and building.

The AHMs provide support to the boarders, ensuring their welfare and personal needs are attended to. The Hall encourages boarders to participate in a range of Hall activities that enrich community life and promote personal development extolling the values of Respect, Integrity, Commitment, and Excellence which all Oldham Hall boarders subscribe to.

The Best Is Yet To Be.

**Mr Terrence Chee**

# UNLEASHED 2016



*The panel of Judges*



*Audience posing for a photo*



*Contestant Litong  
& Emcee Hong Anh*



*Emcee Linh Chi  
& Contestant Ziyue*



*Contestants Jessica & Grace  
with their supporters*



*Prize winner  
Van Nhi*

In February, the OH Students' Council organized an annual talent show titled "Unleashed" for our dear boarders.

As the name suggests, the event provides an opportunity for boarders to showcase their special abilities and skills. The theme for this year was "Agents", which depicted our dedicated mission in search of these hidden talents.

There were a wide range of performing categories for candidates to choose from without restriction, such as dancing, singing, doing magic, etc. Candidates had to go through several elimination rounds, after which, only three of them were selected by the judges into the final.

The intensive and competitive nature of Unleashed was a real challenge for most of the candidates, thus, hopefully

encouraged them to be better strategic planners. Along the way, candidates were also able to expand their potential even further, boost their stage confidence and pick up new soft skills.

The event was a two hour package with unique and wonderful performances by boarders of different nationalities such as Indonesian, Vietnamese, Myanmar and Chinese. The audiences, including other boarders, friends, the alumni and the AHMs were actively engaged in the event by getting to vote for their favourite candidate.

Part of the final results was decided by the judges, also our dear AHMs, Mr Steve, Ms Wennie, Ms Shanshan and Ms Eunice. Following the finals were two lovely guest performances by Ms Shanshan & Nghia and Ms Eunice & Mr

Victor to hype up the atmosphere while we were waiting for the final results. Excitement built up and burst into joy and happiness when the names of the winners were gradually called up.

Music was then played by the MMC, followed by some simple mass dances by the boarders, which wrapped up the whole evening in a happy note.

Unleashed was indeed a meaningful event for everyone involved, where friendships were fostered, lessons learnt, happiness shared and wonderful memories would linger.

**Nguyen Thuy Duong**



# UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH AHMs

Anh, Jiwen, Joanne, Xinyao and Yuwei

In this issue of Up Close & Personal, we interviewed AHMs Anh, Jiwen, Joanne, Xinyao and Yuwei. Read on to find out more!

## 1. Introduce yourselves (which cluster, your day job, a hobby, favourite food, etc)

**Anh:** My name is Anh and I am the AHM of Cluster 5A2. I'm a NTU marketing student by day and nanny by night (laughs), I love a lot of things: cheesecake, taking part in sports, cafe hopping, etc but what I like best is to spend quality time with the important people in my life

**Jiwen:** I am Jiwen, the AHM of cluster 6A2. I am currently studying Information Systems in Singapore Management University. My hobbies include eating and exercising and my favourite food is chicken.

**Joanne:** Hi, I'm Miss Joanne and I help adults with Special Needs. I like to eat a lot!! I'm a foodie who travels for yummy food!! I know where to find cheap but delicious food so you know who can guide you to yummy "lobangs" (deals in Malay).

**Xinyao:** I am currently the AHM of cluster 6B2 and also a Year 1 student at Singapore Management University, School of Information Systems. I was born and raised in a small northern city in China until I moved to Singapore at the age of 16. I like photography, especially capturing gorgeous moments of nature. Though I enjoy interacting with people, I prefer spending time alone when I don't have to work or go to school. I like reading, watching movies and listening to music.

I like a whole range of food including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and of course Singaporean food. My favourite though, is always home-cooked dumplings made by my mom. It is not for some sentimental value. My mom is a great cook!

**Yuwei:** I'm Yuwei, cluster AHM of 5A1. I'm a NUS student studying Environmental Studies (to save the Earth!) and I'm learning to play the guitar now. I like to eat fish soup with milk, sushi and curry.

## 2. What do you like best about being an AHM?

**Anh:** It is being able to interact with boarders and share God's love with them. As I have been staying in hostels all my life, I understand how a boarder feels and also the struggles of staying alone away from one's parents.

As someone who has walked a similar path before, I want to be with the boarders and share my experience with them. (laughs) What I like about being an AHM is that I am given the opportunity to spend time with the boarders and pray for them.



Xinyao



Anh



Jiwen & Xinyao



Jiwen



Anh, Yuwei & Joanne

**Joanne:** This is the most loving Kampong (community) that I have ever known. This is one big family where we take care of one another and help each other grow.

**Xinyao:** What is special about being an AHM is that I am back in the OH family. After spending 2 years in Oldham Hall as a boarder, it has become my home away from home. People in Oldham Hall truly care for each other. Boarders do appreciate what the AHMs and other staff do for them. When I see them smile and greet each other, even the cleaners and security guards, I feel truly proud to be in this love-filled community.

**Yuwei:** I get to meet boarders from different countries and learn about different cultures.

### 3. Who or what motivates you and why?

**Anh:** There are many people who motivate me in my life. However, someone who has always been there for me throughout my darkest and loneliest times and motivating me in life is Jesus.

**Jiwen:** One day, I was extremely tired and felt like collapsing while on my way back to the hostel. Nonetheless, a post-it note on my door brightened my day with the encouraging words "Thanks Miss for everything you have done for me." That really cheered me up.

**Joanne:** I would say God. His love for me motivates me to want to pass this love that I received to people around me!

**Xinyao:** All the fellow AHMs and HMs motivate me a lot as I see the effort they have been putting in over the years in building Oldham Hall into not only a place for boarders to stay, but more importantly, a place filled with love and compassion.

I have received countless blessings from them and that's what has been motivating me all along.

**Yuwei:** I am motivated when the boarders tell me that they are glad to be in my cluster and they want to stay in my cluster.



Joanne (bottom right) during Christmas celebrations



# ORIENTATION-CUM-FOUNDER'S DAY CHALLENGE



*Pre-games briefing*



*Red house listening intently to instructions*

Coined 'OGDSFD' by the AHMs, this acronym stands for the 'Orientation Games, Dedication Service and Founder's Day' event and celebrations organized by the staff and AHMs in Oldham Hall. This year, our annual Orientation Games was held on Saturday, the 27th of February. Decked out in 2016's turquoise-coloured T-shirts, boarders, staff, AHMs and alumni attended the event with much gusto.

A MRT theme was used this year with the various lines serving as the different House colours: Blue (Downtown Line), Grey (LRT), Purple (North-east Line), Red (North-south Line), Green (East-west Line) and Yellow (Circle Line). The members of the different Houses were identified by pieces of cloths and coloured face paint according to their House colour.

The weekend of games and celebrations actually took months of planning. In the weeks leading up to the games, the AHMs responsible for organizing this event had put their minds together and come up with the various bespoke games and activities. There were trial runs to ensure the smooth running of the various games and many briefings for the AHMs and boarders. All in, it was well worth the effort and hard work.

After an early lunch at 11am, members of the different Houses started gathering in the Dining Hall to put on their House identities and practise their cheering before heading towards the Sports Hall to start the day's activities with a customary group photo-taking session. There were a few



*Members of grey house having a discussion*





Flag for the Blue House



Green house cheering



Yellow House practicing cheers



Grey House's Flag

- snack breaks in between the games and a sumptuous dinner after. The boarders, AHMs, staff, befrienders, alumni and OHMC members then made their way to the BRMC Sanctuary for the Dedication Service. The service was simple yet meaningful for all the attendees. Supper was also prepared after the Dedication Service at the Dining Hall for all to enjoy.



A boarder and Mr Hugh Yii, our chairman



Helping a fellow house member face-paint

- The night ended with boarders and AHMs dancing on the makeshift dance floor underneath the skylight in the Dining Hall. A special Founder's Day talk delivered by Reverend Norman Wong during Sunday Assembly marked the end of this fortnight-long celebration.



Boarders gather for a group photo



- While everyone had fun and enjoyed the games and festivities, let us not forget the teams of people who spent hours on planning the frontline events, behind-the-scenes people who prepared the F&B fuelling us for the day, and definitely our dear boarders who participated with much vigour and passion. Here's a big THANK YOU to everyone!



Purple house member getting his face painted











# DEDICATION SERVICE 2016



Wesley & Stella during worship



Rev Chiu Ming Li delivering a lively exhortation



The choir, Voices of Oldham



Our chairman, Mr Hugh Yui giving a welcome speech



Ms Shan Shan leading the Dedication song



**"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2**

After a fun-filled day of orientation games held on 27 Feb 2016 that kindled the bonds of friendship among our boarders and Assistant House Masters/Mistresses (AHMs) at Oldham Hall, we all gathered at the Barker Road Methodist Church sanctuary; joined by our management committee, full-time office staff, befrienders and alumni for the dedication service. Held at the beginning of each year, it is a time when the management and staff together dedicate themselves to the Lord to serve the international community in ACS Oldham Hall. Boarders and alumni are present to witness this dedication as a testimony of the higher purpose for which we serve. The choir, 'Voices of Oldham' began with the choral introit "Be Exalted, O God!" that called and invited us to a sacred time of worship and dedication.

The theme for our dedication is "God Loves Us". Mr Hugh Yui (Oldham Hall's Chairman), inspired us with a recap of Bishop Oldham's inaugural mission work in 1886 that reached out to the first batch of 13 students at a shop house at 70 Amoy Street and by the grace of God, grew to become the family of ACS schools and Oldham Hall of today. It was a testimony of God's faithfulness and love, working through the men and women who had obeyed God's call to serve in His mission.

Rev Dr Chiu Ming Li, Pastor-In-Charge of Barker Road Methodist Church, reminded us that "God loves us", with a fatherly love that is sacrificial and that sometimes entails the need to administer discipline. In the Act of Dedication, the management committee and staff (both full-time and volunteers) pledged to serve and uphold the vision and mission of Oldham Hall with the help of God.

**Mr Steven Tan, Pastoral Team Staff of ACS Oldham Hall**



# Clubs in OH

The Multi-Media Club, or MMC in short, is a platform for boarders who have an interest to learn new skills and to share their knowledge in multimedia. We have 3 main departments, namely Photography, Videography and Public Announcement (PA) with a sub-department called MMC Radio.

This club was initiated in year 2007 by a group of boarders who have passion in multi-media. They volunteered to serve the hall in various hall events by taking pictures, creating videos, managing the sound system and at the same time having fun exploring their passion.

In the MMC, we hold general meetings for members of all the departments to discuss upcoming events and also to disseminate important information to all members. There is always an element of fun during these meetings. MMC is a place for boarders to learn new skills and make new friends. The members of the MMC are like one big family.

To find out more about what we do, please feel free to visit the MMC board located just next to the 2nd floor lifts.

**AHMs in charge of MMC,  
Yindy Teh & Nie Xinyao**



As part of enrichment activities, Oldham Hall also organises cooking sessions for boarders. Past sessions have included teaching how to cook Italian, Mexican, Thai, Hainanese, Vietnamese and South African dishes, as well as popular desserts such as Cheesecake, Tiramisu and molded chocolates. Boarders can learn new skills and get exposed to new tastes. Some boarders who cook well have also shared tips about dishes from their countries, which enriched everyone's understanding. Look out for upcoming sessions which will be publicised on the 2nd Floor notice board. Sign up if you are keen to experience new tastes or share your expertise in cooking!

**AHM in charge of  
cooking sessions, Cheryl Ng**



# LEADERSHIP 101 IN OLDHAM HALL

Want to get a better idea of what you can do at Oldham Hall? Here in our home away from home, we have the opportunity to make friends from other countries and enjoy the most up-to-date facilities.

We also have the opportunity to serve as student leaders and look after the welfare of the boarders. You can join the Students' Council, be part of the Multimedia Club executive committee, or be a house or cluster captain and other leadership positions. We started our year with a training session called "Leadership 101" organised by Mrs. Ling, Ms. Jasmine and our AHMs on the 31st of January.

We commenced the day by setting individual targets for our personal leadership journey. What we wanted to achieve or make changes to the Hall were written down in a notebook, together with our simple plans to draw out a clear direction of where to go.

As for the more exciting part, games were organised by AHMs for us to learn more about leadership qualities like serving others and communicating effectively among ourselves. One of our favourite games was the leaning game. In this game, we formed small circles with one person in the middle. That person would have to close his or her eyes while slowly leaning back. The job of the rest was to ensure that he or she would not fall.

"The sensation of fear and worry overwhelmed me at first as I started leaning forward and putting my 'fate' in

the hands of my teammates. However, after a while, my confidence in my friends increased as I could feel my fear fading away. It dawned on me that whether you are a leader or a team member, you can only collaborate with others most effectively by placing your trust in them." reported Hoang Phuong, 17, Oldham Hall's student leader.

Through various games and activities, we learnt invaluable lessons on the essential qualities of a leader such as trustworthiness, approachability and adaptability especially in Oldham Hall when we constantly have to interact with new boarders from different parts of the world.

This leadership training session has taught me that anyone can learn to be a leader, however it is equally important that we should know when to step down to give others an opportunity for self-development. This is where we can practise our people skills by providing them with platforms to hone their individual potential so that everybody can contribute to make the hall a better place to live in.

We are sincerely grateful for the training, which has shown us the important qualities of a leader and the precious life principles that we rarely learn in school. We hope that even more boarders will have such an invaluable opportunity to nurture their leadership potential.

**Tran Linh Chi, Pham Thi Hoang Phuong & Nguyen Minh Chau**



*Boarders participating in the leaning game*



*Group photo at the end of the day*



*AHMs and boarders taking a selfie*



*Writing down our goals*



*Boarders listening to instructions*





# TAKE 5 CAMP



No Greater Love! - was the theme of this year's Take 5 camp conducted over the Easter weekend from 24th to 27th Mar 2016 at Aloha Changi Chalet. Boarders, AHMs and Alumni trotted down to Changi for a great time of bonding and reflection on the love of God; the significance of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Highlights of the camp include the amazing race games around the Changi beach broad-walk, talks by Mr Hugh Yii, Mr Kevin Ngan and Pastor David, and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus with a sunrise service early on Easter Sunday morning by the beach front.

The boarders had an enjoyable and meaningful time at the camp whilst hearing the amazing love of God. We trust that they had encountered the love of our living God this Easter in a special way and in His time, respond to His amazing love. Indeed! There is no greater love! Praise and thanks be to God!

**Mr Steven Tan & Ms Ling Shanshan,  
Pastoral Team Staff of ACS Oldham Hall**





# MY BOARDING EXPERIENCE



Grace & her sister, Jessica

**Grace will be turning 16 this year and has been living in ACS Oldham Hall with her sister since August last year. She studies in Stamford American International School.**

## **1. Why did you come to Singapore to study? Why pick Oldham Hall?**

I came to Singapore because of my parents as they wanted me to have a better education. Singapore is also a really safe country to study abroad in. We visited my different schools asking them if they provided accommodation and most of

them recommended Oldham Hall. Thus we decided to come to Oldham Hall.

## **2. Is there someone in OH who inspired you?**

I have not stayed in Oldham Hall for long so I don't really know many people yet but there are still many people who inspired me and they are all of my beloved AHMs.

They teach us lessons about friendship, discipline, leadership, and many more.

## **3. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

I don't know for sure, but I see myself in a medical university though I don't know where yet. I'm actually aiming for Harvard.

## **4. Name your favorite memory in OH thus far.**

One of my favorite memories so far is the Orientation Games and Founder's Day celebrations where we all played games and it was really fun although tiring. I made many new friends at this event too.





Ryonald on the left

**Ryonald Teo is aged 17 this year and has been living in ACS Oldham Hall since mid-2013. He recently finished Year 4 in ACS (International) and will be furthering his studies overseas.**

### 1. Why Oldham Hall?

First of all, it's because it is really convenient, a school bus to take you to school. Who doesn't want that? Secondly, it is probably because of the people here, they make me feel at home. From AHMs to roommates, their friendliness and kindness make this place truly special. Learning about new cultures and languages are truly fun.

### 2. What do you do in your free time?

Going out to the nearby Orchard Road to buy things and eat is almost what all the boarders in Oldham Hall do in their free time during the weekends. I also like to play sports such as football and basketball.

But what I like best is to simply relax with all my mates and do nothing; it's the feeling of togetherness that creates the warmth.

### 3. Is there someone in Oldham Hall who has inspired you?

Yes, that person is AHM Auntie Linda. The fact that she could be both a nurse and an AHM at the same time is inspiring. Juggling 2 important jobs can't be easy and all the while being really nice and patient to immature boys is not something anyone can do with ease. This is why I respect her so much.



### 4. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I don't like to assume that I will be successful and good things will just come to me in the future, I really don't want to jinx it. I believe that you need to hustle in life. Just standing still and assuming things will happen won't get you far in life. Life is too short, make the most of it.

### 5. Name your favorite memory in Oldham Hall.

It would probably be the Thanksgiving Dinners that I had attended for the three years that I've been here. This is the time where everybody is really having fun and everyone is happy, including boarders and AHMs. It is when all of us can enjoy as one big family.

### 6. What makes you happy?

Seeing other people happy makes me happy.



# In & Out of OH



*Newly renovated Dining Hall*



*Renovations in progress*

## Improving Oldham Hall's Dining Experience

Heralding the upgrading works to ACS Oldham Hall was the upgrading of its Dining Hall. The upgrading works in the Dining Hall began in late November as soon as most of the boarders had left for home to enjoy their December holidays. This minimized the disruption and inconvenience that would otherwise be caused to boarders.

The works scheduled for the end of the year were duly completed before boarders began streaming back in towards the end of December. The Dining Hall now sports brand-new, energy-efficient LED lighting, while preserving the ambience of the area. Additionally, the air-conditioning systems have been replaced, and the ceiling and walls have acquired a fresh coat of paint. We also look forward to changes to the existing furniture, which has weathered many years of usage. This Dining Hall is well-known for its unique round tables which boarders love, as these makes interaction over meals so much easier.

The Dining Hall also hosts wedding lunches and church-related events from time to time. Seating a maximum of 400 guests, it comes fully equipped with a stage, projector, projection screen, as well as a public address system. Request for the multimedia support may be made when renting the Dining Hall. The support is provided by ACS Oldham Hall's own boarders – members of the Multimedia Club.

We can all look forward to enjoying the refurbished Dining Hall with its new look and ambience.

## Founder's Day Dinner

Every year, the OBA organizes a dinner on 1st March to commemorate ACS Founder's Day where Oldham Hall shows our support by sponsoring a table and this year is no exception. Our chairman, Mr Hugh Yui, office staff, AHMs and 2 student council members attended this dinner filled with superb food and a great atmosphere. It is not every day that you get to hear the ACS Anthem being sung by a thousand over people in the same room. What makes this year's dinner extra special is that it marks the 130th anniversary of ACS. Featuring photo booths, ACS paraphernalia and exciting performances by various groups of students, the evening was something to experience and one to remember for years to come.



*AHMs and boarders at the photobooth*



*Founder's Day Dinner*