Welcome to this issue of the Simmarians. Many of you will know that Katrina Giles left St Mary’s last year and I have now taken over as Alumni Officer. Like Katrina, I am a Simmarians (1994-97) having come to St Mary’s as a mature student to read Single Honours English. After completing my degree, I spent an enjoyable year as Secondary Schools’ Partnership Officer in the Department of Education.

Whilst I have only been in position for a few weeks, I have spoken to many Simmarians and have been touched by their genuine fondness for the college. St Mary’s is a very special institution which retains a place in the hearts of Simmarians many years after leaving campus. This is what makes our Alumni activities so successful. Reunions, clubs and associations combine to recreate the feeling of community known to all Simmarians.

If you would like to contribute to the Simmarians in any way, perhaps to share your memories or photographs of your time at St Mary’s, please contact me. Your comments are always welcome and if you return the reader survey form enclosed with this issue, you will be entered into our prize draw.

A new collection of alumni merchandise should be available next year, so it is your last chance to order most items from the current collection. Please note that some items are limited in stock - so order soon! I hope that if you have not done so already you will consider taking advantage of the St Mary’s MasterCard as each card issued provides valuable resources for the library.

Finally, an alumni reply form has been enclosed with this issue. Please complete this if your address or employment details have changed in any way. You may also use the form to inform me of any Simmarians who are not currently receiving the magazine.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of the Simmarians.

Karen Smith
Alumni Officer
I am very pleased to welcome Karen Smith, our new alumni officer. Karen is a distinguished former student who graduated with First Class Honours in English in 1997. I know that Karen will build on the work of Katrina Giles who did so much to extend the database of information so that contacts among alumni could be maintained and developed.

In recent months I have had the opportunity to meet many former students visiting the college either as individuals or by way of example while they were attending the Remembrance Mass in November. A particular highlight was the Irish Simmarian reunion at Carrickmacross last October when Fr Desmond Beirne CM, former Principal and Fr Sam Clyne CM, Principal of St Patrick’s, Drumcondra were present maintaining the Vincentian link with St Mary’s. Events of this kind depend on the hard work of those who, through the Simmarian Association, organise the clubs and societies in this country and overseas. I would wish to take this opportunity to thank them for all that they do for the Association and the College.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Dr Arthur Nayor
Principal

Due to government legislation regarding the use of the title ‘University College’ we have changed our institutional title to St Mary’s, Strawberry Hill. We continue to be accredited by the University of Surrey.

The Trinity College London Certificate in TESOL is now being offered at St Mary’s. This intensive four week course is designed to prepare participants in the basic skills of English language teaching to speakers of other languages. The course, which is a challenging mixture of theory and practice, offers the possibility of a new career to successful trainees. Course numbers are limited to fifteen to ensure personal attention for all participants.

An information pack and further details can be obtained from Kathy Grant, Secretary to the Department of Language and Literature on 0181 240 4346 or email grantk@smuc.ac.uk.
Where are they now?

FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

**1944-46**
Reunion. Taking place on September 7,8,9, 1999 at Strawberry Hill.

**1947-49**
Easter Reunion. A residential reunion running from Thursday 1st April until Saturday 4th April in conjunction with the Simmarian Association’s Easter Retreat and Reunion Dinner.

**1949-51**
Reunion on Friday 3 September at Strawberry Hill.

**1962-65**
35th Anniversary Reunion taking place in September 2000 at Strawberry Hill.

**1969-72**
Reunion at Strawberry Hill on September 4, 1999.

**1972-75**
25th Anniversary Reunion taking place on April 29th, 2000 at Strawberry Hill.

**1988-91**
Reunion at Strawberry Hill on September 11, 1999

Thank you to Tony Smith (1947-49), Alan Scanalon (1949-51), Angela Holmes (1969-72), John Tasker (1944-46), Ije Akigwe (1988-91) Tom Clapperton (1962-65) and John Booth (1972-75) for organising these events.

If you would like to attend any of these reunions, or would like assistance in organising a reunion please contact the Alumni Office.

150 YEARS ON

In 2000, St Mary’s will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. There will be many exciting events occurring throughout the anniversary year and further details will appear in the next issue of the Simmarian. If you have any interesting anecdotes, photographs or documentation from your part in our 150 years’ history please contact the Alumni Office.

Today St Mary’s has some 2600 students and 200 staff, somewhat more than the staff and students featured in this photograph taken at our original Hammersmith site one hundred years ago in 1899.

School Experience (Teaching Practice) - Training Future Simmarians

Barbara Wallace (nee Gillespie - 1974-78) writes:
Many of you will remember the excitement of Teaching Practice. The journey, the lesson plans and the Banda machine! Student teachers today have sophisticated technology to assist them but the anticipation, the teaching of the first lesson and the sharing of stories at the end of the day is still the same. St Mary’s Secondary trainee teachers have placements in schools in Woodford, Basingstoke, Hackney, Croydon and all points in between.

It is always a great pleasure for trainees and tutors to meet Simmarians who are training teachers in schools. If you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at St Mary’s.

1950’s

David Finnigan (1957-60) is a retired teacher. He is the Diocesan Master of Ceremonies and the Vice-Chairman of the Liturgy Commission for Brentwood Diocese.

Peter Hennessy (1958-60) is the head teacher at an RC primary school in Ebbw Vale. He lives in Merthyr Tydfil.

Percy Matheson (1953-55) is the Head of History living in Gibraltar. He now writes history articles for the Gibraltar Chronicle.

Patrick O’Brien (1959-61) is a registered OFSTED Inspector. He lives in Market Harborough and would like to contact anyone from his year group via the Alumni Contact Service.

1960’s

Joseph Barr (1959-72) lives in Sunderland. He is Head Teacher at a primary school in Southwick.

Romeo Micallef (1938-40) lives in Malta where he is a retired head teacher. He has been broadcasting programmes on classical music for Radio Malta for the last fifty years and occasionally writes as a music critic for the ‘Times of Malta.’

James (Jim) Carus (1943-45) is a retired head teacher from Warrington. He became active in the Mother Teresa Co-Workers Movement after retirement.

Mick Lyonette (1944-46) lives in Hightown, Merseyside and is a retired head teacher. He was awarded the Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifici medal for his outstanding contribution to Catholic education on Merseyside.

Gerard Murphy (1945-47) lives in Canada and is a retired Professor of Memorial University, Newfoundland. He is married with three children.

David Finnigan (1957-60) is a retired teacher. He is the Diocesan Master of Ceremonies and the Vice-Chairman of the Liturgy Commission for Brentwood Diocese.

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1970’s

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Marathon Jack

Jack McCabe (1956-59) ran in the 1998 Flora London Marathon to raise funds for Age Concern. Jack ran wearing his St Mary’s PE badge which he has had since 1958. In October Jack ran in the Great North Run. Jack is a Ranger for the North Yorkshire moors and visits the gym daily, wearing his St Mary’s badge. A retired Deputy Head Teacher, Jack is clearly enjoying an extremely active retirement.

Simmarrian Magic

Bernard Williams (1954-56) retired from his post as Head Teacher of Hartmann House, St George’s College in Zimbabwe. He remembers his time at St Mary’s as ‘the happiest two years of my life’. He is presently making others happy as a stage magician and is President of the Zimbabwe Magic Circle.

Guatemalan Health Programme

A Maryknoll Sister, Dee Smith (1972-75), recently visited St Mary’s to talk about her work as an educator for the Catholic National Health Commission in Guatemala. Sister Dee develops education programmes as part of a project designed to address the imminent HIV/AIDS crisis in Guatemala. She also helps a group of 90 HIV positive patients. If you would like to contribute towards Sister Dee’s work, cheques made payable to St Mary’s, Strawberry Hill, can be sent to Dr Kevin Cook, SHOC, at the usual St Mary’s address.

Please send cheques payable to “Past Redemption” to:
Past Redemption
Old School House
21 Church Street
Long Buckby
Northampton
NN6 7QH.
Tel: 01327 843160

Nora O’Keeffe (1968-71) has produced these signed and mounted colour prints of Strawberry Hill. The prints measure 10” by 8” and are mounted on a cream background. They are priced at £8.00 each to include UK package and posting.
reunions

1952 - 1954

Jim Toner writes: the reunion of our year group in September 1998 was a function to leave a permanent glow in the memory.

Dennis Etienne managed to make it with his bride from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. Vince McDermott only learnt of the event on the Saturday morning and took off in a cloud of dust from Pontefract in order to join us for dinner in College that night. Actually our third since we had sat down together on the previous two evenings - by which time we well and truly recognised each other. Only 20 present out of 150 students on the roll. No matter, it was a happy few.

Those present were: Ted and Darlene Balmer, Brian Battagel, Rae and Mrs Carter, Harry Chick, Pete Cooper, Frank Ellis, Dennis and Maureen Etienne, Terry and Molly Larkin, Joe and Pat Mahoney, Gerry and Mrs Mason, Jim McNicholas, Tom Moreland, Gervase Stringer, Kev Tanney, Austin and Margaret Tipping, Jim Toner, Denis Tunstall, Harry Watson, Gerry Wright and Austin Moffatt (1951-53). Ted Balmer organised the reunion.

1944-1946

‘Ná beidh ãr leithéidí arís ann’ - our like will not be seen again.

Mick Lyonette writes: The highlight of our Liverpool reunion (September 1998) was undoubtedly our reunion Mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King which was extremely well attended.

We met in the Park Hotel, Netherton and partook of a delicious dinner there. On Saturday, the coach took our party to the Cathedral for the reunion Mass. Father Alex Fleming celebrated, assisted by the Rev. Gerald Marsh and others. John Tasker and Ged Hanbury led the singing including the ‘Missa cum Jubilo’ - it was a Mass of Joy, was it not. We then took a tour of the Cathedral and lunched at the Cathedral ‘Bistro’.

We later visited the Liverpool Cathedral, the Albert Docks and took a trip on the ferry before returning to the hotel for dinner. After dinner we entertained ourselves with a repertoire of songs.

A good reunion was thoroughly enjoyed by all. John Tasker was the organiser.

1968 Freshers

As always at our reunions, there were friends that we expected to meet, friends we had hoped to meet, those who had arranged to get together, and those who came by chance. As Saturday progressed more and more of us arrived on the scene. Saturday night was wonderful.

Great friends, great company, great night! Far too many to mention, yet some caught the eye, such as Theresa Lord, Gill McErlean, Trish Pidgeon, Mary Grocott and Bernadette Devlin looking even better than they did last time I saw them in 1971.

Friday evening saw the beginning of a wonderful weekend. The afternoon arrival, I am sure for all of us, brought back a lovely warm feeling of nostalgia, memories of friendships everlasting. Memories of happiness; and sadness for those no longer with us.

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Where are they now?

alumni news

Simmarians from Malta

Joseph Zammit Mangion writes: The link of students from the Island of Malta with Simmarians goes back as far as 1881. In 1880, the then Colonial Government of Malta took the decision to start training primary school head teachers in the UK and the first male teachers selected were sent to St Mary’s. The female teachers were sent to other Catholic teacher training colleges. Over 150 Maltese teachers were trained at the college until 1971 so one can see what great influence the training given at St Mary’s had on Maltese education as a whole and the training of individual teachers in particular.

Most of the Maltese head teachers trained at St Mary’s reached posts of high position in education in Malta. Perhaps the best known Maltese Simmarian is Mr Francis Ebejer, the writer of many Maltese and English novels, plays and broadcasts. Born in 1925, he trained at St Mary’s in the years 1948-1950. He is undoubtedly the foremost modern writer of Maltese, he was equally well versed in the English language and produced a number of novels and short stories written in English. Francis Ebejer died on June 10, 1993 and a monument has been erected in his memory in Dingli.

Irish Simmarians Reunion

The 49th Irish Simmarians Reunion will take place in Monaghan on October 9th, 1999. Mass will be celebrated at St Macartan’s College at 11.00 and will be followed by the AGM at 12.20 and by dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel at 4.30. There will also be a trip to Armagh. The cost of Bed and Breakfast is £36.00 per person sharing. For further information, please contact Frances Jordan, Secretary to the Association, on 01868 767713.

The 49th Irish Simmarians Reunion

The AGM will take place on April 3, 1999 at 11.30 am in the Waldegrave Drawing Room, Strawberry Hill

The Annual Remembrance Mass will take place in the Chapel at Strawberry Hill on Sunday November 14, 1999 at 11.00 am.

Simmarians on the Rock

Clive Beltran writes: The Gibraltar Simmarians were joined at the last Annual Dinner by an English Simmarian, Gervaise Stringer (1952-54) and his wife. Gervaise contributed to the after dinner anecdotes that have now become and permanent feature of the evenings’ proceedings followed by one or two traditional Simmarian songs. Any Simmarian wishing to join us at future dinners, held on the Friday nearest to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception may contact the Gibraltar Simmarian Society, c/o Bayside School, Bayside Road, Gibraltar (tel. 350 74500).

Besides the Annual Dinner our Society organises various activities in the course of the year which have included talks by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar and by the Leader of the Opposition. Recently Leslie Linares (1969-73) gave a most interesting talk on Gibraltar’s flora.

Irish Simmarians Association

Frances Jordan writes: At the recent reunion of the Irish Simmarians Association Dr Naylor made a presentation to three octogenarians; Francis O’Brien, Paddy Hill and Liam O’Connor who attended St Mary’s in 1934-37.

The Young Generation of Rock Simmarians at the Annual Dinner

Autumn Issue

Please send any contributions for the next issue to the Alumni Office by September 30th 1999
Liverpool Simmarian Club

Frank Harris, Honorary Secretary, writes: The Annual Mass for deceased members of the Club was held on November 28th, 1998, celebrated by Father Alec Fleming (1944-46). The Mass is offered up for the souls of all departed members and especially those who had died during the past year. These were John Bryce, Tom Fleming, Bill McCormack and Henry Saunders. Prayers were also said for Fred Wusterman and Peter Harris who had died in recent years but of whose passing we had heard only recently.

On the Thursday before the Mass some twenty five members attended a most enjoyable Christmas lunch organised for us by Mick Lyonette. Mick has proved a most valuable supporter of the club over many years.

If any local Simmarians would like to make contact with the Club they may contact the Alumni Office who will forward any mail to Mick or myself. Alternatively the Club has lunch and an informal meeting on the last Thursday of any month at the Blundellsands Hotel.

On a much sadder note, Gilly Fyles (1945-47) shortly before Christmas. Bernard had been ill for some time and had borne his illness with characteristic fortitude and humour and above all with great faith.

Finally, our Benevolence Committee still functions, headed by Jim Moran and Terry Roose, offering help and advice when required.

Manchester & District Simmarians

Kevin Madden writes: Thirty Simmarians attended the Mass on November 14 for deceased Simmarians. The Mass was celebrated by Canon Tony Dorrain (1945-47). Due to sickness our other loyal priest Dean, Frank Austin (1946-48), was unable to celebrate. After the Mass there was a convivial evening in the local Catholic Club.

We received eleven apologies for non-attendance. Bill Glynn (1933-35), the ‘Father’ of the group, was unwell and we missed his always amusing anecdotes. We prayed especially for his wife, Margaret, who had died a few weeks before the Mass. We also made a special remembrance of Joe McGrath who had died earlier in the year.

M A IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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Recruiting now for September 1999

For an MA Information Pack, (and/or details about our range of continuing professional development services) please contact:

Andy Phillips, Head of External Services
St Mary’s, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4SX.
Tel: 0181-240-4128    Fax: 0181-240-4256
email: phillipa@smuc.ac.uk

NEWS OF THE DEATHS OF THE FOLLOWING SIMMARIANS HAS BEEN RECEIVED

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Please remember in your prayers these Simmarians, their relatives and friends.

MAY THEY
REST IN PEACE
A CLASS APART

Now your choice of credit card is academic. You are, no doubt, deluged with credit card offers. So how do you choose which one to carry? The St Mary's, Strawberry Hill MasterCard makes that choice simple.

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For every new Gold account opened as a result of this advertisement, MBNA International Bank Ltd pays St Mary's, Strawberry Hill £20 and £10 for each standard account. £3 is also paid for each account that remains open in subsequent years and 0.15% of amounts spent on retail transactions.

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COLLEGE Merchandise

The college merchandise is available through mail order from:

The Alumni Office
St Mary's, Strawberry Hill
Waldegrave Road
Twickenham
TW1 4SX
U.K.

Limited Stock - Place your order now!

Teddy bear with jumper £11.99
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