
SMU Sailing Club



Annual Report 2007/08



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Club Introduction

In 2004, a group of SMU students embarked on the inaugural S.A.I.L., or Student Active Involvement Programme which centred on a sailing trip to the island of Pulau Aur. With their interest in keelboat sailing thus kindled, a core group of 7 students from the trip formed the SMU Sailing Club and began taking part in local keelboat events. Since then, successive batches of sailors have dreamt big and sailed hard, making our Club the foremost tertiary keelboat sailing club in Singapore today, in terms of both sporting achievements and efforts spent towards the promotion of sailing in the University and Singapore. Most importantly, the Club is now a family of 45 undergraduates and alumni sailors, boasting one of the largest and most active membership bases among the University's sports clubs.

[T]he inaugural S.A.I.L., or Student Active Involvement Programme which centred on a sailing trip to the island of Pulau Aur.



We are based at Raffles Marina, and sail regularly on four keelboats. These boats are our two Platu Farr 25s, *SMUve* and *SMUm.a.d*, as well as two J24s, *Shengli* and *Quarterdeck*. Aside from being familiar faces in the local sailing fraternity, we are most fortunate to enjoy the support of sailors, marinas, and regatta organizers in and out of Singapore.

SMU Sailing Club is the first tertiary institution to participate regularly in the local and international keelboat scene. Training includes physical conditioning for strength and endurance, theory sessions, and water training on seamanship as well as competitive racing skills. Our teams have benefited from coaching by the best; past coaches and instructors have included America's Cup sailors and Asian Games medallists. As a result of the excellent support from the University, Raffles Marina and all of our supporters and stakeholders, we have consistently excelled in local and regional regattas, securing top honours and podium finishes in all the events that we take part in.

One of the highlights of our competitive sailing schedule is the international exposure our sailors receive. As part of our growing profile as the foremost tertiary sailing club in Singapore, we have been invited to participate in many overseas competition in Korea, Thailand and Malaysia. These events include the Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2007, the Selangor Youth Championships 2007, Raimon Land Platu Open Championships 08, Admiral Yi-Sun Sin Regatta 08, as well as the annual Top of the Gulf International Regatta, where we travel to Thailand to brave strong winds, intense competition and experience a wonderful learning journey with our Thai friends. The club and sailors have benefited from such exposure, making friends and contacts that will last for a lifetime.

As the club grows in strength and in resources, we look to further improving our current training program through redesign. Through consultation with coaches and other experts in the field, we hope to establish a modular, structured training program similar to the well-established intercollegiate sailing programs found in the United States. With this program in place, we hope to lay the foundation for further growth of Club as we are able to handle larger intakes of sailors without compromising on their safety and competitive training. Through this, we hope to set the gold standard in skills development and remain as the foremost tertiary sailing club in Singapore.



The 4th Executive Committee

President Alvin ONG Chee Keong

Vice President WONG Dan Chi

Secretary POH Lip Hang

Finance Secretary NG Jun Jia

Training Development Officer Karene SEAH Kai Ling

Logistics Manager Somruetai TANTATKITTI

Publicity Manager TAN Shi Wei

Events Manager Winfrid WONG



Our first mailer

President's Address

*"On life's vast ocean diversely we sail,
Reason the card, but passion is the gale."*

- Alexander Pope, 1688-1744

Dear sailors and friends,

If the year 2008 for the SMU Sailing Club can be likened to a keelboat fleet race, it has proved itself to be a long, hard race with perhaps more than its fair share of tears and joy.

If the year 2008 for the SMU Sailing Club can be likened to a keelboat fleet race, it has proved itself to be a long, hard race with perhaps more than its fair share of tears and joy.



Firstly, the Club saw its largest intake of new sailors, with 20 fresh faces joining our ranks after CCA Day in 2007. These new members of our family consist of both new and experienced sailors, as well as students from all years of study in the University; this open, inclusive approach towards recruitment is our attempt to share the incomparable joys of sailing with any SMU student who is keen to invest their time with us. This unprecedented influx of new sailors strained our training and logistics management system, as well as posed new questions on how best the Club can retain sailors who were not allocated places in upcoming regattas. We went about handling these changes guided by the 4th Exco's intent to provide opportunities for everyone regardless of past experience, and are glad to say that we managed to keep attrition rates of these new sailors to a minimum and provided them with the necessary training to achieve the past year's sterling results.

2008 also saw the launch of our new Platu Farr 25, *SMUm.a.d* (with “*m.a.d*” standing for “make a difference”). This new acquisition to our fleet of keelboats is yet another sign of the University’s unwavering support for the Club; with it, we indeed hope to make a difference in both competitive excellence and people development, as it will definitely ease the strain on training resources and allow us to field more and better teams.

On the competitive front, the Club kicked off the start of our racing calendar with an excellent haul of awards at the Top of the Gulf International Regatta in Pattaya, Thailand. Besides fielding our very first boat in the competitive Racing Class, the fact that the team was made up of our alumni sailors speaks volumes about the commitment and support which they continue to give to the Club. In the Cruising Class, we built upon our success the previous year and managed to sail off with the top spot, despite having a crew of mostly new sailors. Lastly in the Platu Class, we continued our tradition of having an all-girls boat at TOGR by having an all-girls Platu team, along with two other Platu teams. In all, TOGR 08 can only be summed up in superlatives – aside from the largest contingent bringing back the most number of trophies, the experiences gained by sailors new and old are similarly priceless and memorable.

The 11th Western Circuit Sailing Regatta met with roaring success as we put our sailors’ organisational skills to test. Helmed by our Events Manager, his account in the later part of the report gives only a hint of the exuberant atmosphere of the event.

2008 was a year of tears as well, with the Club losing a promising young member of our family in an unfortunate incident. Levin Angsana, a freshman sailor, fell overboard accidentally during a routine training off Raffles Marina, despite efforts by the crew to rescue him. Levin’s passing affected each and every sailor personally, and was all the more scarring due to the closely-knitted nature of our team. Despite this, the sailors were able to put aside their own personal sorrow and rallied as a Club to provide Levin’s family with all the support and help that we could give. It was also at this most trying time when we found the University and the sailing fraternity standing by us, a gesture which we are deeply grateful for.

Although Levin’s passing was found to be a misadventure beyond human control, the Club put into place more stringent safety measures which all sailors have to abide by. Also, the University has kindly sponsored an award in memory of Levin – the Levin Angsana Sailing Award is given out annually to the freshman sailor who best embody the traits which we remember Levin most fondly for, namely his earnest commitment to the sport and passion for learning. Through this award, we hope to enshrine Levin’s exemplary attitude as a sailor as a model for which we hope all

SMU sailors work towards, and remember him always for the joy and mirth which he had brought into our lives.

[W]e hope to enshrine Levin's exemplary attitude as a sailor as a model for which we hope all SMU sailors work towards, and remember him always for the joy and mirth which he had brought into our lives.



Through this most eventful year at the helm of this most amazing team of sailors and friends, I will like to express my deepest and most sincere gratitude to those who have made the journey possible. I will like to thank the 3rd Exco, who were ceaseless in their support and patient in their guidance. To my 4th Exco, thank you for taking every step of this journey by my side and serving the sailors always, by keeping their interests close to your hearts. I will also like to thank Andrew Tam, our Office of Student Life manager, for his selfless love of the Club since day one. Lastly, from the bottom of my heart, I thank *you*. To all sailors past and present, you are the reason for our Club's success, and our continued success in the future.

It will perhaps be apt to take you back to the quote from the English poet Pope at the start of this address before signing off - from the very inception of our Club, passion has been the very wind that bore us through to this very day. I am certain that this same passion for excellence, for sportsmanship, for camaraderie and for the sun and the sea will see the Club to far greater heights in the years to come.

I wish you fair winds and following seas always.

Yours always,
Alvin
President
SMU Sailing Club

Vice-President's Address

Without a strict portfolio, my duty essentially revolved around sourcing for opportunities to support our Exco in whatever ways I can, in particular the President. I take it upon myself to complement him, and will continue to do so here by writing a short address. ;)

SMU Sailing Club prides itself on not only being a platform for students to nurture an interest in the sport, but also to be part of a community where strong friendships form a foundation for personal development.

Much has/will be said about the happy moments, yet it would laughably unrealistic if all was simply a bed of roses. With the countless hours spent planning, training, competing and organising, friction and conflicts have naturally manifested themselves. What the Club offers that we cherish, however, is that beneath all these frustrating emotions, every sailor is able to count on genuine concern from our family (which is a little naïve to assume in the harsher corporate world that SMU seeks to prepare us for).

In our youthful foolhardiness, there leaves many lessons to be learnt and compassion for each other has given us courage and support to grow as an individual. Words cannot do justice to the love, loyalty and laughter that the Club has fostered.

To every sailor with your own (quirky) personality, thank you for contributing to the Club simply by being part of the family, by being you.

much love,
danch :)
Vice-President
SMU Sailing Club

Secretary's Report

Checking emails, clearing emails, sending emails, replying to emails... well you get my point! How much more interesting can the job of the SMU Sailing Club Secretary get?

E...is for Secretary?!

Checking emails, clearing email, sending emails, replying to emails...

Well let's see, the past year as part of the 5th Exco of the SMU Sailing Club has been more than eventful. The job of a secretary goes beyond checking email (albeit inheriting a smustu\sailing email account with 1000+ emails and 20 over folders!). I recount an innocent question by one of our young year 1 sailor, "er what does the club secretary do ah? Check email only right?" Contrary to popular belief that I will lash out at the member, I chuckled and said that the job of the sailing secretary goes beyond checking the email (read obsessive compulsive disorder exhibiting symptoms of logging in and out of the mailbox to check for unread messages). One has to log details and minutes of every Exco meetings (such as hounding and pushing for deadlines), record and update member profile, archive all media/publicity posters and most importantly give valuable inputs to the President and other Exco members on various club issues.

The secretary is also responsible for keeping the boat licenses and racing certificates up to date, lend support to the other departments such as Store/Logistics IC. Ad-hoc projects like writing up proposals for regatta sponsorships, purchasing new boats and even the semi-annual OSL budgeting requires the input for the secretary too. During my term as the secretary, I also created a new central database that documents the particulars of each member. (and yes, I did get funny replies such as special diet requirements : pretty girls.)

In this past term, I have learnt many important lessons from the very small to the big events that the Club has been through. I thank the sailors for voting me into office, having faith in my ability to deliver and execute my responsibilities. To the new Exco, stay steadfast and rooted in your beliefs and steer the Club to greater heights!

Lips
Secretary
SMU Sailing Club

Membership Record

As at the time of writing, the SMU sailing club total active membership stands at 54, with 10 Alumni members and 44 full time SMU students.

Sailing Exco

1. Alvin ONG Chee Keong (Year 3)
2. WONG Dan Chi (Year 4)
3. POH Lip Hang (Year 3)
4. NG Jun Jia (Year 3)
5. TAN Shi Wei (Year 4)
6. Winfrid WONG (Year 3)
7. Karene SEAH Kai Ling (Year 3)
8. Somruetai TANTATKITTI (Year 4)

Year 2

1. Amanda LIM An Na
2. Catherine Mary CHUA Zi Hui
3. Clarence CHAN Xian Yao
4. CHUA Mui Yi
5. Elin WONG
6. ER Zixian
7. HE Shu Xiang George
8. HUANG Jie Ying
9. HUANG Shihui Debbie
10. James KOH Yi Zhi
11. Jeremy TAN Hee Yong
12. Joshua EE Xu He
13. Karthik s/o Rames
14. LEE Cher Han
15. LIM Pei Mun
16. Priscillia Beatrice Teo Zhi Leng
17. Richard Laurence Forbes Edmunds
18. Siobhan TAM
19. Sherilyn TAN Ying Ting
20. Sim Xin Yi Justina
21. Tan Hwee Ping Fidelis Cornelia
22. Tan Qing Wen Jeremy

Year 3

1. Jacqueline TANG Xuan Xiu
2. Jason ZHOU Songyi
3. KOH Seng Leong
4. LEONG Yuxuan Denyse
5. NG Tze Hsien Christopher
6. Renfred TAY Woon Chuan
7. Tay Yen Chang Aaron

Year 4

1. CHONG Zhixin
2. Dickson SU Bing Xing
3. FIONA Sng Yu Ling
4. LIM Yi Jia
5. PEK Ling Hong
6. THAM Huan Ling
7. Vincent TAN

Alumni

1. Benjamin MUI Jie Min
2. Dawn PHUNG Min Hui
3. KOH Shinglei
4. LOY Wenfang
5. GOH Weiye Wildon
6. KOH Su Jun
7. Vivian NEO
8. ONG Changqi
9. PUA Youjin
10. Wong Yun Feng Marco

Finance Secretary's Report

For Financial Period 1st September 2007 – 31st August 2008

SMU Sailing Club's financial status has been healthy for the past year. The Club received funding from the usual SMU Sports Union budget (for competition, repair and maintenance of equipment and facilities, miscellaneous and welfare expenses) and an additional Sports Excellence budget (for coaching fees and training facilities expenses) which was introduced during the course of my term. As such, the Club was able to increase the intensity of trainings towards achieving better results for the School.

Budget utilization was healthy as a whole, and the Club was generally allocated sufficient budget for trainings and maintenance and purchase of equipment. The Sports Excellence budget was underutilized mainly due to scheduled dinghy trainings being unable to materialize as there was a greater need to train for important competitions. Coaching was also not as frequent as expected as the coach was unable to commit to some of the sessions allocated. The Club also conducted its annual Sailing 101 course for freshmen from which it derived its revenues.

The finances of the Club have been efficiently managed for the past year and financial procedures appropriately complied with. Lost claims for 2007 have been successfully retrieved and members were compensated. The income statement presented on Appendix A thus reflects to you a true and fair view of SMU Sailing Club's financial health in the last financial year.

Ng Jun Jia
Financial Secretary
SMU Sailing Club

INCOME STATEMENT

Part I: SMU Sports Union Funding

Financial Period 1st September 2007 – 31st August 2008

Revenue	
Sailing 101	\$ 953.27
Expenses	
Competition	\$ 2,625.57
Repair Maintenance	\$ 13,188.51
Miscellaneous	\$ 208.85
Welfare	\$ 285.00
Net Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	\$(15,354.66)
Tax	\$ -
Net Loss	<u><u>\$(15,354.66)</u></u>

INCOME STATEMENT

Part II: Sports Excellence Funding

Financial Period 1st September 2007 – 31st August 2008

Revenue	\$ -
Expenses	
Coaching	\$ 8,180.00
Facilities	\$ 3,429.00
Net Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	\$(11,609.00)
Tax	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
Net Loss	<u><u>\$(11,609.00)</u></u>

Training Development Officer's Report

SMU Sailing has been extremely busy in the competition scene in the past year, both locally and overseas. Our sailors have trained hard to maintain and increase their fitness level, as well as sailing skills in order to represent the Club to compete with the local and foreign sailors in the water. Selections are conducted for each regatta the Club participates in. Attendance, competency and compatibility are some key components we take into consideration for each selection process.

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For year 2007/08, we came out with a more structured training programme as well as selection process. Our coach provided us with a set of regime useful for core and strength development. Also, a set of gym programme was created specifically for each individual's roles on the boat. Weekly intensive physically training with constant physical tests helped increased the fitness level for racing team members. In addition, the number of sea sessions also increased to allow sailors to have more practices on water. These intensive trainings improved the sailors' accuracy and speed in their individual roles and created stronger team dynamics. Most importantly, these additional trainings honed our sailors' problem-solving on the water. The team and mass debriefs conducted after each sea session have also contributed to the success of the club. Besides the usual physical trainings and sea sessions every week, we have also organized theory lessons fortnightly to increase and maximize club members' sailing knowledge. With these programs in place, the SMU Sailing Club managed to achieve good placing for each regatta we participated in.

Regatta Participation, Results and Highlights

J24 Nationals 2007

Teams *Shengli* and *Quarterdeck*

Highlights

- 4 intensive sea trainings a week before the competition
- 2 new helms
- Challenging wind and water conditions at Changi Sailing Club

Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2008

Teams *Team SMU*

Achievements 3rd, Sports Boat Under-25 Class

Highlights

- Blasting winds and huge waves during the competition
- Crew had to deal with poor conditions of chartered boat, including having to bail water from boat mid-race

14th Singapore Straits Regatta (SSR) 2008

Teams *Shengli*, *Quarterdeck* & *SMUve*

Achievements 2nd & 4th, J24 One Design; 2nd, IRC B Class

Highlights

- Challenging starts and countless wind shifts
- Sailing pass numerous tankers and windsurfers along East Coast

Raimonland One Design 2008

Teams *Team SMU*

Achievements 11th, Platu Open Class

Highlights

- Competitive international Platu fleet with highly experienced sailors from Asia and Australia
- Crew had to brave storms and heavy winds on all race days

Top of the Gulf Regatta (TOGR) 2008

Teams *Platu Team 1*, *Platu Team 2*, *Platu (Girls)*, *Amanda*, *Hi Jinks*

Achievements 3rd, IRC Racing Class; 1st, Cruising Class; 6th, 11th, 13th, Platu Coronation Cup

Highlights

- The first regatta our juniors participated (highly challenging for newbies with the strong wind conditions in Pattaya, Thailand)
- Our first girl's team on a Platu - 7 girls on a boat, with 2 trimmers
- *Amanda* broke her tiller but still managed to take the title
- *Hi Jinks* - our first alumni boat, racing on a boat which was not available for them to train on before the regatta

- Winds ranged from 10 to 20 knots, testing our sailors' ability to handle moderate to strong wind conditions
- We learnt a lot about sailing and about each other, and made friends for a lifetime (broaches, drinking, partying, fun and laughter).

Western Circuit Sailing Regatta (WCSR) 2008

Teams *Shengli, Quarterdeck and SMUve*

Achievements 4th & 5th, J24 One Design Class; 4th, IRC A Class

Highlights

- Swimming test and seamanship course were introduced as part of the safety procedure for selection

We learnt a lot about sailing and about each other, and made friends for a lifetime (broaches, drinking, partying, fun and laughter).



With that, we have come to one full circle of training and racing. Now, we are ready to induct a new batch of freshmen into our sailing family. In Vivace 2008, we managed to attract more than 100 sign ups at our booth. After our recruitment drive, we conducted four *Sailing 101* sessions for our freshmen in September. The response was overwhelming as we were oversubscribed! Along with *Sailing 101*, the SMU Sailing Club also organized *Level One Course* as well as *Powered Pleasure Craft Driving License (PPCDL) Course* for all existing and new sailors to enrich their skills.

It had been a fulfilling and exciting year for us; we can look back with pride at our achievements, and more importantly, we have seen all our sailors improve by leaps and bounds. Moving forward, we will review our training progress and safety procedures for the year ahead. I believe the SMU Sailing Club will continue to grow as a club and as a family.

Karene Seah
Training Development Officer
SMU Sailing Club

Logistics Manager's Report

It has been an exciting year for my logistics side. When I assumed my responsibility as the Logistics Manager for the Club, we had our largest intake of the new sailors since the inception of our Club. Moreover, to boost our performance, we had adopted a very intensive training program; you can imagine how those would affect the logistics side. If you are unable to, I'll be telling you in a minute about the problems I faced during the year.

Firstly, the intensive trainings and tight schedule increased the usage of the boats. We wanted everyone to have equal opportunities to sail and tried to provide that to all of our enthusiastic new members. In addition, we are all busy students trying our best in our academic studies. Consequently, that left us with little time for maintenance.

Secondly, there was an initial lack of awareness in maintenance/logistics repairs amongst the sailors at the start of the term. It has been really hard to get the majority to come to be aware of how important the boats and other assets are. But, after a year of stressing the importance and attempts at a logistics maintenance methodology, the sailors had slowly come to understand that in order for the club to keep running and for us to continue racing, we need every member to take care of the boats.

[I]n order for the club to keep running and for us to continue racing, we need every member to take care of the boats.



Lastly, there was an unbalance between repairs and funds. The boats are old and are even older now, and as such we really need to pay more attention to them so that more generations of SMU sailors will get a chance to sail. It is very likely to every year from now, we will face an increase in number of members (people who will be using, training, racing on our boats) without the certainty of a proportionate increase in funding which can be directed to the maintenance of our crafts.

Update on Club Assets

During the year we acquired major assets to foster the growth of the club:

1. Keel Boat - 25 feet Platu (*SMUm.a.d.*) with mainsails, genoas, and spinnakers.
2. 2 sets of J24 Rolly Tasker training genoas
3. 1 set of Platu Quantum racing sails: 1 mainsail, 1 genoa and 2 spinnakers
4. Safety equipment: life rings, life jackets, first aid kits and anchors
5. DIY repair equipment: ropes/sheets, toolbox sets, bailers and pumps

I have prepared the asset and equipment list which is regularly updated. This will be handed to the next logistics head. It will facilitate the tracking of club property.

That would be all from me, I wish the best for the upcoming Logistics Manager. (Hint: Problem number 2 is very challenging. If we can get cooperation of the members fast, then everything will be easier for you!)

I thank all my Exco friends and all the sailors for supporting me throughout this role and responsibility, without you all, I wouldn't be able to handle everything. And I wish the new logistic head would get a strong support from the upcoming Exco and Club as well!! ☺

Bests,

Somruetai Tantakitti
Logistics Manager
SMU Sailing Club

Publicity Manager's Report

MAILERS! Eat, breathe, sleep - mailers. It is the best way to increase awareness for the Club and also the most important tool in shaping the school's impression of us. Some mailers of our glorious victories even helped open up opportunities for the Club! This year, in a bid to promote more identity for the Club and facilitate the process of having team shirts during various regattas, we have started an initiative to get club shirts for everyone, be it competitive or recreational members and the sales definitely look great.

This post requires proficiency in Photoshop. But fret not if you are a complete idiot at it (for that's what I was when I first started), because there are always internet forums to help you along. In the coming year, the role of publicity manager will also encompass the active search for sponsorships. Having the passion to socialize and design shirts / mailers will help bring you a longgg way and keep the sailing family spirit going! All the best!

Tan Shi Wei
Publicity Manager
SMU Sailing Club

Events Manager's Report

Our Club saw five minor and major events through 2007/08:

- Sailing 101
- Sailing 102 + *SMUm.a.d.* Launch Party
- Powered Pleasured Craft Driving License
- Basic Sailing Course
- 11th Western Circuit Sailing Regatta 2008

Sailing 101 saw over 72 students expressing interest to learn the ropes of being sailors, however, because of the limitation of resources, only 43 students were able to participate in the course. The aim of the course is to provide opportunities for students who are interested in this sport to acquire basic knowledge and gain firsthand experience of keelboat sailing. In addition, retention of interested students who wants to become proficient sailors saw its take off from Sailing101.

[R]etention of interested students who wants to become proficient sailors saw its take off from Sailing101.



The Sailing 102 course was a tailored course conducted for faculties and staff of SMU. It saw the participation of 2 faculty members on one boat. This also coincided with the launch of the new Platu, *SMUm.a.d.* It was well received and has been commended to be of professional standard. The intention of the course was to raise awareness of sailing as a lifestyle sport and to get faculties and staff to be supportive of and interested in the activities of the SMU Sailing Club.

The Powered Pleasure Craft Driving License and the basic sailing courses were organized in October and December 2007 respectively, to equip sailors new and old with the basic seamanship knowledge. 8 sailors signed up for the Powered Pleasure Craft Driving License whilst 23 freshmen signed up for the Basic Sailing Course conducted over 3 weekends on December.

SMU Sailing Club has always been a keen participant in the Western Circuit Sailing Regatta organized by Raffles Marina. This year, in addition to participating in the regatta, SMU Sailing Club co-organized for the 2nd time round this prestigious and Singapore largest regatta with Raffles Marina. The regatta saw a participation of 300 people young and old in 47 boats in six different classes.

The event organized on the 17th, 24th and 30th August 2008 received numerous rave reviews from the yachting community in Singapore and overseas. The signature vibrancy of SMU students has indeed been injected into this regatta. Boaters are looking forward to yet another year of exhilarating fun and fantastic collaboration between SMU and Raffles Marina.

The signature vibrancy of SMU students has indeed been injected into this regatta.



The event has also served to provide SMU sailors with a platform of learning beyond sailing. The intricate details and planning that goes into organizing the regatta has open many eyes and have brought about a new level of learning and insight to regattas. Regatta has now taken more meaning to it than just sailing.

With the end of the 11th Western Circuit Sailing Regatta also marked the end of my short tenure in office. May I wish the new committee great success and fair winds in riding the waves of challenges in the continuing dream to make SMU Sailing Club a leading club in SMU and also a club of opportunity and growth.

All the best!

Winfred
Events Manager
SMU Sailing Club



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