



北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

Apr 2009



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION

CLASS OF 1959



A reunion will be held in Hong Kong to celebrate the golden anniversary of the graduation of the class of 1959. Classmates and their better halves are cordially invited to attend. We look forward to a nostalgic and fun-filled reunion. The tentative program is as follows:

Saturday November 07	Icebreaker Dim Sum lunch, followed by Mahjong for those so inclined
Sunday November 08	Walk up and over Kadoorie Hill to LSC campus; Meeting with the current principal; campus tour; Reunion banquet, former teachers who still live in HK, as well as the current principal, will be our guests of honour
Monday November 09 to Thursday November 12	4-day tour to Xiamen, Fukien Province and visit to the Hakka Roundhouses
Friday November 13	Farewell Dim Sum lunch

Those who have not already done so are invited to pre-register for the event.

Classmates in Hong Kong will please contact

Paul CHU 褚明晰 at (852) 9459-4465

e-mail paulchu802@yahoo.com.

Classmates in North America will please contact

Benedict FAN 范漢堯 at (604) 278-9803

e-mail bhfan@shaw.ca.

The program will be firmed up by August 31, with announcement on requisite fees to cover the functions and the Xiamen tour. All applicable fees are payable by September 30, or earlier should function venue and tour organizers so demand.

We welcome special announcements from every LaSallian to be placed in this newsletter. Please send your announcement and instructions, if any, to editors@lscobaedm.org. We reserve the right to withhold any announcement with inappropriate content.

Editorial Board



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Serving in Uniform

We understand that many old boys have once served in the military forces. These are experiences that many of us would like to know. The editorial board invites those old boys who have served or are currently serving in the military forces to share with us their lives as soldiers. Please send your writing to editors@lscobaedm.org. Photos are most welcome.

To help contributors to focus, the editorial board suggests the following areas for consideration:

- What prompted you to consider joining the military forces?
- Since you were brought up in Hong Kong, where politics and the military were not parts of a common citizen's life, did your military experience change your view towards life relative to when you were in Hong Kong?
- What are the top 3 things you learned from your military experience that help your life development? Why?
- We see military families in North America, where generation after generation take it as a career. What is your opinion on this?
- Can you describe some unforgettable moments?
- What are your duties and assignments?
- What are the difficulties you encountered when dealing with the people around you (not the soldiers)? How would you overcome these difficulties?

The contributor can directly answer these questions, or write the way he wants, using the suggested framework. Please note that these are not imposed restrictions but merely suggestions.

The editorial board respects your copyright but reserves the right to review and edit the article so as to ensure all contents are appropriate for this newsletter.

Reminders

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date: noon April 3, 2009

Venue: Century Palace Restaurant

金漢龍廷大酒樓

(Gathering is held every first Friday of the month.)

Southern California

LA Regional Foodbank volunteering

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009

Time: 8:45am to 12:00pm

Venue: 1734 East 41st Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90058

RSVP to Eddie Shek ('85) at

rsvp@lscobasc.org before April 18 (Saturday).

Toronto

La Salle Day Dinner and AGM

Date: Friday May 15, 2009

Venue: Diamond Banquet Hall (First Markham Place, Unit 1 - Highway 7, Markham)

Costs: \$40.00 per person

Contact: Francis Yeung (71) Cell: 416-433-2202
fryeung@hotmail.com

Chris Fong (94) Cell: 416-838-3664
shihangfong@yahoo.com

Story Behind

This newsletter is a joint publication of the six local chapters of La Salle College Old Boys Association in North America. Many readers have expressed interest in knowing the history of these chapters especially how each was born. To satisfy the need of our readers, with the support of the chapter executives, the editorial board decides to launch a series of stories covering the formation of these local chapters in North America. Read these stories in our up-coming issues.

Obituary: Dr. William T Wu (1937-2009)

The Edmonton Chapter mourns the passing of one of its senior members, Dr. William Wu, who passed away peacefully at the age of 72 on March 17, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Dr. Wu is survived by his loving wife Dr. Grace Chen, four children and four grandchildren. He lovingly served the community and practised pediatrics at the University of Alberta, Royal Alexandra and Sturgeon General Hospital over the last 30 years.

May Dr. Wu rest in peace.



Chapter News

East Coast (USA)

Newly Elected Executive Members

I am pleased to announce that the New York/East Coast Chapter conducted an energetic AGM on Saturday, Feb 28, 2008. The 10 executive members elected at the AGM for the next 2-year term (2009-2010) are:

Balrao Baptista	1977	Secretary General
Frank Hon	1966	Treasurer
Kelvin Kan	1969	
Peter Lai	1967	President
Victor Lee	1964	Immediate Past President
Albert Lo	1968	
John Ng	1965	Vice President
Chris Tse	1965	Vice President – External Affairs
Simon Wai	1983	
Peter Yu	1966	

Other invited members serving on the Executive Advisory Committee are:

John Jean	1976	IT
Angus Wong	1973	Finance
Louis Wong	1966	Legal

Please join me in congratulating all elected directors and officers and we look forward to continue our dialogue with all OBA chapters for the betterment of LSC and the OB communities. We also like to express our appreciation to the retired directors Anthony Chan (67) and David Chan (66) for their contribution to the NY Chapter.

Best Regards,

Peter Lai

President



Spring Dinner and Annual General Meeting February 28, 2009

Chris Tse (1965)

This year, we had our Spring Dinner party at Orchid Restaurant in Long Island. The head chef and owner is James Ng (66). The kitchen prepared for us a special meal with over 20 dishes, including multiple appetizers and exquisite northern flavored main dishes. There was also a “bottomless” supply of wine for us to consume on the table. It was a sumptuous feast.



樟茶鴨

We congratulated Peter Yu for becoming a grandfather the second time. Following the Chinese tradition, he brought in two big pots of Chinese “ginger and vinegar” filled with hard boiled eggs and pigs knuckles. The taste was excellent, and we all thought that Peter had this prepared by a professional chef. We finished the 2 full pots within minutes; it was our instant favorite dish before dinner. Then Peter shared with us that the master chef to the “ginger and vinegar” was Louis Wong. We all took note. Louis will soon be a busy man!!

It was also announced that Henry Lui (66) visiting from Toronto had also become a grandfather a couple weeks ago.

It was suggested that our OBA should include a “grandfather” league, and members of this league will pursue new and more appropriate activities for this senior generation, which may include golfing, hikingetc., rather than soccer.

For a change, at this year’s AGM, the board included on the agenda an item “to establish a social calendar for the year”. Apart from the usual festivities, BBQ outings and soccer tournaments, the board decided to initiate 2 new programs in 2009: mahjong tournament and golf outing. The chapter’s average graduation year from LSC is 1966. In spite of the daring spirit and commitment of the OBs, we are on a decline in endurance and skill in physically competitive sports. We hope with this inclusion, it will open up more means to increase the participation to the OBs and spouses. We are glad that we are not only strong, but also wiser by now.

This year, we missed the presence of some active members at the Spring Dinner. They were engaged mostly by prior business commitments, thus unable to join. Peter Lai called in from China, to show his support and best wishes to the new directors.

There were altogether 38 attendees at the party (group picture on next page). We would like to thank the visitors who joined us from out of town:

Henry Lui (66) Toronto
Paul Tsang (71) Vancouver
Terrence Tsoi (01) New Jersey
Vicent Li (01) New Jersey/LA



Left to Right

Back Row: Gerald Lee (66), Angus Wong (73), Simon Wai (83), James Ng (66), Peter Yu (66), John Kam (68), George Sze (82), Benny Ng (65), John Jean (76), Jimmy Chang (66), David Lee (60), David Chan (66)

On the Couch: Chris Tse (65), Kelvin Kan (69), Victor Lee (64), John Ng (65), Frank Hon (66), Lin To Chan (66)

Front Row: Vincent Li (01), Terrence Tsoi (01), Peter Wong (67), Henry Lui (66), Paul Tsang (71)

We also thank our regular members, who travelled from Toronto (Jimmy Chang and wife) and Washington DC (John Kam and wife)



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to join the occasion.

The new board of directors and officers (2009/10) are:

Bel Baptista (Secretary)
Frank Hon (Treasurer)
Kelvin Kan
Peter Lai (President)
Victor Lee (IPP)
Albert Lo
John Ng (VP)
Christopher Tse (VP – External Affairs)
Peter Yu

The board also approved the chapter to participate in the LSCOBA Global Alliance activities. The immediate task is to contribute to the monthly “The North American LaSallians” newsletter, currently hosted and produced by the Edmonton Chapter. The chapter will also participate in supporting the organization of LSC Global Reunion 2010 to be hosted by San Francisco chapter.



Group Picture of All Attendees



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San Francisco Bay Area

Spring Dinner (February 28, 2009)

Ephrem Fung (1976)

The annual Spring Dinner took place on Saturday, February 28th at Jade Palace in Palo Alto. Seventy Old Boys from four decades, and their families, occupying seven tables, celebrated the event. The highlights of the evening were our group game and lucky draw. First, each table was challenged to write down as many teachers' nick names as possible. I believe the winning table put down over 60 nick names. Then some of us were asked to explain the origin or meaning of a few "interesting" nick names. We all had a blast walking down memory lane. The raffle drawing was the finale of the evening's festivity. Many congratulations to Percy Shaaw (1991) for taking home the grand prize, an iPod nano.



I would like to thank all the Old Boys that participated at the dinner. Everyone had a great time. Special thanks to our Masters of Ceremony, Calvin Ting (2002) and David Tong (2001); our photographers, Derek Choy (1993) and Wilson So (1993); Homer Yau (1985) for handling all the audio / video setup and Francis Siu (1961) for creating the program book (included as the last two pages of this newsletter).



Southern California

Spring Dinner (February 21, 2009)

Thomas Tsui (1995)

It has been raining on and off for weeks in Los Angeles. The sun finally broke through the grey sky this afternoon when our crew was busily delivering the banners, gifts and souvenirs to the King Palace Restaurant in preparation for our 8th Annual Spring Dinner. Music was already coming from the stage when we stepped into the restaurant. Ronnie Cheng (92) was standing behind his keyboard while Ronny Mok (05) was standing at the front of the stage with his saxophone; they were practicing our school song as well as checking the sound equipment. Ronny was to be our key performer that night.

We went to our tasks – some decorated the dining room while others set up the reception table and the booth for La Salle souvenirs. Even at that late hour, last minute calls were still coming in from some of our old boys and their friends wanting to join our party. Our seating planner had to make last minute arrangement for the late comers.

Douglas Chan (77) arrived 7 minutes before six o'clock and kicked off the reception activities. Louis Wong (40) came with his family, including Louis Wong Jr. (64). Wellington Chan (57), T.T. Chan (60), and Paul Owen (61) followed. Stanley Ng (61) and his guests from the Lions Club arrived at around half past six. Thomas Tsui (95) and Cyrus Pang (95) were very busy checking in the arriving guests by the door while Johnny Tsang (81) and John Mak (89) were taking snap shots through the crowd. Yvonne was helping our boys to collect the La Salle souvenirs while Emily and Vanessa were plying across the tables selling raffle tickets. They festooned our party.

Our event started off with a Lion Dance with the thunder of drums breaking through the air. The two lions, one gold and other red, matched their ways in the house with their kung fu steps, kicks and jumps. It was followed by a demonstration of Northern Shao Lin Form #5 and the Seven Stars Mantis. The house was just too small for their powerful punches, jaw breaking kicks and Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon style kung fu. We thank the brothers and sisters of Raymond Ho (72), and the Northern Shao Lin Kung Fu Association.



When our two Masters of Ceremony Leo Wong (84) and Jose Archim (81) called for our school song, Ronnie jumped behind his keyboard again, Ronny picked up his saxophone, and Vincent Chan (67) and his brother Henry (70) hung the guitar straps around their necks. The band was ready. And 1, and 2, and "Boys of courage, boys of daring...." a lively performance from the La Salle alumni! Everyone in the house rejoiced with the La Salle spirit.

After Stanley said a prayer, our President, Eddie Shek (85) delivered his speech. Eddie thanked us for all our efforts in supporting the Chapter. He also summarized what we had done last year and introduced the up coming events.



Our first dish, roast pig combo, was served at the right time when our appetites were just heightening - good timing of our restaurant coordinator, Charles Tsang (83). The house turned silent as everyone enjoyed the tasteful, sweet and crunchy and red roast pig skin. Eddie then set up the projector for a slide show that summarized our past and current activities as well as our future events. Did he eat?

Our talented youngest brother, Ronny (05) performed an entertaining saxophone solo for us. All his elder brothers were overwhelmed by his heart tingling music. Calls for encore rang through the house after the performance.

Jose and Leo hosted the lucky draw. More than twenty gifts were given away - golf balls, jewelry boxes, kitchen accessories, Bruce Lee posters, toy cars, an all-in-one inkjet printer and big "red envelopes." George Yick (83) was the winner in the quiz over the history of our mother school and Fred Chan (70) was the runner-up for not answering any questions. We felt sorry for Anthony Luk (66), who answered most questions correctly, but was voted out for being too sharp.



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Congratulations to all winners and the lucky persons.

Jose started the karaoke session with his favorite song - the classic "My Way" by Frank Sinatra. Charlene, Leo's girl friend, sang a Taiwanese song for us that brought up the atmosphere. Old boys flocked to the stage to join in the singing of the Cantonese song "Friends" by Alan Tam. Louis Wong (40) led the singing, joined by our three presidents, Eddie Yu (68), Eddie Shek and Bryan Lee (88). There were also others like Wellington, Stanley, Fred, Sampson Chan (75), Anthony Chan (79) and many more.



The karaoke session concluded our official program but the party was not over yet. It was the birthday of Paul Owen! When friends brought out the birthday cake, everyone in the house chanted the birthday song for Paul. Did he get birthday kisses from the ladies as well? The party continued. Many of us and our guests from the Lions Club stayed over for more karaoke and dance. Our photographer, Johnny, danced with his wife Karen; they were married last fall. Dennis Chan (73) and Peter Cheung (81) were chasing everyone around to drink with them. More people were singing and dancing on the floor. What a party and what a night! It was almost midnight before we finally left because the restaurant had to close.

The restaurant seemed a bit too small when 140 of old boys, families and guests packed in. With all the joy and fun through the evening, we could certainly say, "This is the night." Of course all would agree that the best part of the evening was the opportunity for old boys to gather and chat about the good old days. We all look forward to be together again at the next Spring Dinner. As Louis said in his speech, he wished that our next Spring Dinner would be bigger and better.

A heart felt "thank you" for all the performers, the Board, the Officers, members, and friends for their great efforts to make this event possible. Lastly, thanks to all the sponsors for the attractive gifts for our raffle draw, and the wine that filled up our glasses through the night. The funds raised from the event will be used to fund the up-coming La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass.



Join us on facebook!

Southern California Chapter is on facebook!

You can join our group [La Salle College Old Boys in Southern California](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=7680110215)
(<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=7680110215>)

Upcoming Event:

LA Regional Foodbank volunteering

DATE: Saturday, April 25, 2009
TIME: 8:45am to 12:00pm
LOCATION: 1734 East 41st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90058
RSVP to Eddie Shek ('85) at rsvp@lscobasc.org before April 18 (Saturday).



Toronto

La Salle Day Dinner & AGM

In keeping with tradition, the Toronto Chapter AGM this year will again be held on the same evening as the La Salle Day dinner. The term of office for the current directors will expire and new directors for the next 2-year term will be elected at the AGM that evening. All old boys are invited to attend this meaningful annual event. Please also consider volunteering yourself and/or nominating another interested old boy to serve as director(s) of the chapter.

Date	Friday May 15, 2009
Time	7 pm
Venue	Banquet Hall (First Markham Place, Unit 1 - Highway 7, Markham)
Cost	\$40 / person

Please book your seats ASAP. For reservation and other queries, please contact:

President	Francis Yeung (71)
Cell	416-433-2202
Email	fryeung@hotmail.com
Secretary	Chris Fong (94)
Cell	416-838-3664

Mah-Jong Tournament (March 8, 2009)

Kevin Kwok (1988)

Bravo in name and bravo in nature! All the 20 participants of our 2nd LSCOBAs (Toronto) Mah-jong Tournament deserve recognition for their participation and playing this traditional Chinese game so well and with such vigour.

What a close and tough tournament it was! Our defending champion, Joe Tang (71), was eliminated in the third round (semi final), but fortunately his wife, Anh, saved his day by squeezing into the final round and finished in the respectable second runner-up position. The final round ended with a two-way tie, and the championship had to be determined by another 1-on-1 tie breaker game.

Special thanks should be given to our Chapter President, Francis Yeung (71), who did not play but arranged for coffee and serve everybody "dim sum" during the course of the afternoon; otherwise, eight rounds of mah-jong wouldn't have been so much fun for all the players.

More old boys and guests arrived towards the end of the tournament as spectators to the exciting finish, making up a total of 4 tables for dinner afterwards. With good food and prize presentation, everyone had an enjoyable evening.

After the tournament, most of the participants, especially our old boys, indicated that they would definitely participate again next year and would even invite their friends along. It will be a "headache" for our Event Chairman Danny Au Yeung (67) to find a bigger venue to accommodate the anticipated much larger crowd in 2010.



L-R: Consolation prize winner Stephen Leung (63),
Event Chairman Danny Au Yeung (67),
Champion James Tang,
1st Runner-up Alice Cheung,
3rd Runner-up Heidi Wong (front),
Event Assistant Kevin Kwok (88),
2nd Runner-up Anh Tang, and
last year's champion Joe Tang (71).



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Thanks again to everyone who made this a success and we look forward to the same again next year.



Stephen Leung (63) and Kevin Kwok (88) at the consolation round.



Defending champion Joe Tang (71) and John Yeung (72) at the semi-final round.



Chris Fong (94) watching the final round.



The 1-on-1 tie breaking championship game between Alice Cheung & James Tang.

Edmonton

AGM and Spring Dinner (March 20, 2009)

Calvin Chan (1971)

On March 20, 30 people including 17 old boys gathered at the Beijing Beijing Dim Sum & Seafood Restaurant (高朋滿座大酒樓) for the Annual General Meeting of the Association and Spring Dinner. Although Victor Leung had relocated back to Vancouver, he made a special trip to Edmonton to join the party. To appreciate his "loyalty", a group of old boys treated him to a dim sum gathering the next morning before he boarded a plane to fly back home. (Please see pictures on next page)



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Life Update

A Night to Remember

Source: Johnson Ng (63)

Michael Remedios (66) came from Vancouver to Toronto to be the featured guest performer at a dinner concert “A Night to Remember” on February 28, 2009. A number of old boys attended the concert (separately), several with their keepers, to support a fellow Lasallian, and to enjoy the show, oldies music and good food at a bargain price. As soon as they saw and recognized each other (Johnson was surprised that Michael recognized him), the La Salle spirit came alive and the group just wouldn’t let the photo-op slip by.



Arthur Cheung (69), Johnson Ng (63), Miss Silian Wong (singer), Michael Remedios (66), Stephen Ma (66), Mr. Larry Lo (local Chinese radio station DJ, singer & show producer), King Choy (66) and Angelo Lee (65)



Proud Dad

Joe Alano (75) from Edmonton would like to share his joy with you. His elder daughter Joanne (pictured on the left holding 5 medals collected from a recent meet) was featured on the city newspaper (St. Albert Saint City News) for her outstanding performance in gymnastics. In brief, Joanne faces no challenger in the region and has gathered a lot of medals in her collection. At the same time, Joanne is also an excellent soccer player and a Recreational Gymnastics Coach at her club, the St. Albert Gymnastics Club. Bravo!

Local gymnasts looking for tougher competition these days

by SHERI LAMB
Saint City News

Joanne Alano has her mom to thank for starting her gymnastics career.

"My mom put me in gymnastics because I was doing cartwheels on the sofa," said Alano.

The 14-year-old competes at Level 4, one of only two gymnasts at the St. Albert Gymnastics Club to do so, but the competition in the area is slim for her to improve.

Due to the lack of competitors, Alano and Sianna Kaplar have already qualified for the provincials, April 17 to 19 in Brooks, Alta., so they won't be competing this weekend at the zone meet, at Dynamex Gymnastics Club in St. Albert.

Instead, both young ladies are learning new skills and preparing for the Western Canadian Championship Trials in Lethbridge on March 29.

"I'm expecting lots of really good girls because it's a higher level," said Alano. "I have to learn a few more skills to match up with them."

Alano and Kaplar moved up to Level 4 last year when they were no longer being challenged, but in order to compete at Westerns, they

need to do more skills and bump up to Level 5.

Alano said she's realistic about her chances at the trials.

"I'm hoping to do well," she said. "But with all the new skills I'm going to do, I'm not expecting to do fantastic."

Davin Bettenson, coach at the St. Albert Club, said once he sees gymnasts mastering at least two events, he moves them up so they can continue to develop upper level skills.

"I don't want to hold them back, so I don't want them doing something that's too easy for them," said Bettenson.

The coach said there is only one thing he wants to see from the girls in their first higher-level competition.

"Making sure they warm-up and train the way we've practiced it and execute the way we practiced it, not just hoping to lock or trying," said Bettenson. "We're looking for consistent results; whatever we do in the gym, we're trying to duplicate in competition."

The lack of competitors at their level was obvious at a meet on March 7 and 8 at Salto Gymnastics Club in Sherwood Park when both young women cleaned up, bringing home five gold medals each.

"My babysitter, she needed to take an hour's break once a week, so she'd bring me to gymnastics."

— Sianna Kaplar

Bettenson said he encourages his students to maintain a regular life, with school, friends and other activities, rather than devoting 20-plus hours a week to gymnastics.

"Our strength is we train out of desire, love of the sport, and as stress-free as possible," he said.

Kaplar trains about 15 hours each week, while Alano shows up at the gym for 12 hours, sometimes less. But Bettenson will also give the athletes private lessons during the week if they want them.

Although, if the athletes want to compete at a high level, some sacrifices should be made. Kaplar is solely committed to gymnastics, while Alano balances her tumbling with indoor soccer.

"They are probably the most single-sport committed of the girls we have in the gym," said Bettenson.

Kaplar said she was put



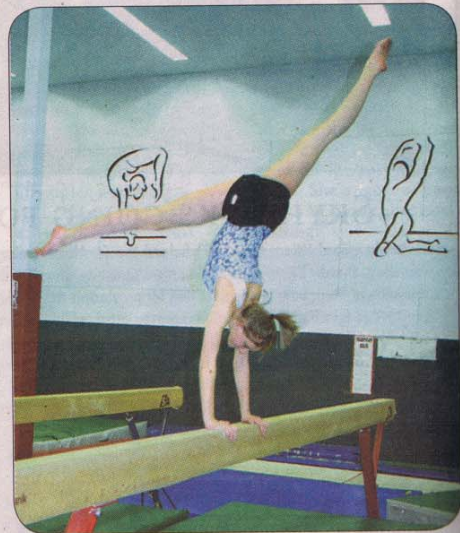
into gymnastics when she was three because she was so energetic she would tucker out her elders.

"My babysitter, she needed to take an hour's break once a week, so she'd bring me to gymnastics," said the 15-year-old.

It wasn't long before Kaplar was moved into the pre-competitive class.

"Since I started to be really good when I was little, it just kind of kept me there and it was fun," she said.

Recently Kaplar counted all her hardware, which totals 107 medals, 58 of them gold.



PHOTOS BY SHERI LAMB, SAINT CITY NEWS



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Time to Relax and Enjoy Life

After twenty something years of studying hard, 28 years of working hard, and now he is going to play hard. Michael Lam (1966) left his office for good on March 6, 2009. While his retirement status would not be official until May 2009, he is now enjoying his pre-retirement vacation. A group of his friends gathered on March 27 to share this happy milestone of his.



Congratulations!



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Trip to Panama

Joe Alano took a short break from his busy work schedule and enjoyed some real good time with his better half Diane in Panama. He shared with us some pictures taken there. He emphasized that the Presidential Guards were really friendly to the tourists. He took one picture with one of them (as shown). He also took one picture with a La Salle 75th Anniversary jersey in front of the Panama Canal. **Joe challenges every one of you to send in pictures of your travel wearing La Salle logo gear.**



Every LaSallian is welcome to send in recent pictures to update fellow classmates or historical pictures to share with our readers.

Please send materials to editors@lscobaedm.org.

Editorial Board



Memory Lane

Francis has shown his great support to this newsletter by sending us a series of 12 articles for the memory lane. The editorial board greatly appreciates the support from Francis. Francis, thanks for sharing with us.

When reading a story, it would be nice to visualize how the author actually looks like. We finally persuade Francis, the author of this series, to show us his face when the stories unfolded.

Editor



8. Here, There, And Everywhere

簡 文 輝 Francis Kan (1966)

It gives me goose pimples to realize that I am actually addressing (if you care to read my writing at all) a group of people who breathed the same air, walked under the same sun, and suffered through the same typhoon and drought in the sixties.

We are a trickle in the flood. We are a small group who are lucky enough to be united by the good effort of a few devoted souls after all these years to share our common moments. We should be thankful that it is actually happening. To me, it is more like a dream.

No dream of the sixties is complete without the memories of the great drought of Form 2 and Form 3.

Water, Water, Everywhere

I think it was the end of Form 2, the beginning of the hot summer. The water supply was so low, the government decided to cut the water supply to 4 hours every 4 days.

You will remember that most of the English composition we did began with "Hong Kong is an island surrounded by water." No matter what the given title of the composition, be it "Chinese New Year", "A Picnic in Sha Tin", or "Higher Education in Hong Kong", we felt obliged to begin our masterpiece with the mention of the geographical setting of Hong Kong. And probably we felt the naked sentence "Hong Kong is an island" is too short, we were tempted to add the qualifying phrase "surrounded by water." To this day, I still notice this use of unneeded adjectives in the language. Maybe we can blame it on the often-specified requirement of the length of the essays. We wanted to beef up the things we wrote to meet the requirement.

Anyway, Hong Kong was indeed surrounded by water, and in the early summer of 1963, water reserve was so low that supply was limited to 4 hours every 4 days. It brought changes even to our school life. I don't know if it was official or not, but we were allowed to wear colour clothing to school instead of our all white summer uniform. And that practice lingered on even after the crisis.

I try to remember how we lived through that period. I think that the 4x4 water thing did not end until almost a year later, all through Form 3. In 4 hours, we had to store enough water for the whole family for 4 days. From drinking, cooking, washing, bathing, to flushing the toilet. That was incredible.

I try in vain to remember any bitterness. The need to limit water supply was simply accepted. Instead of complaining, people just learned to cope. All I remember was that the whole family chipped in to help with holding up these huge plastic bags to be filled



with water. Remember those plastic bags? The bathtub and everything in the house that could be used were appropriated to store water. And since large water tanks were scarce in the market, Hong Kong came up with these huge plastic bags that could be made to stand up by 3 or 4 ropes.

No, there was no bitterness. Everybody accepted the water shortage and did what could be done to make do with what was there. Life went on. There was no outbreak of any epidemic diseases because of contamination due to water shortage. I still wonder how restaurants continued to operate. If this happens today, I am sure there will be protest marches against the government, and the newspaper would be filled with horror stories about people dying of poison water and food.

It was an age of quiet acceptance. Submissiveness may not be a bad thing after all. I remember there was not much discussion among us about the shortage. Instead, there might have been a few jokes. A buddy and I wrote a mock diary recording the days of water shortage. I think we started by describing the events after we played a football game at the dried out Tai Tam Reservoir.

And it was about that time we changed our uniform blazer from navy blue to black. The water shortage might have helped So Chak Kwong (Jack) to convince Brother Felix to make the change. (Some of you reminded me of the person involved in the change after I mentioned it.) It was also about that time when jeans were tolerated in school.

Ferry 'Cross the Harbour

We lived in a time before the cross-harbour tunnel. And because I lived on the Hong Kong side, I probably have more stories to tell about life relying on the ferries. I had to take the ferry every day to go to school. It might have been an advantage. I did a lot of reading on the ferry. It was not a long ride, only twenty minutes or so. But you would be surprised how much you could cram in for the chemistry test in that time.

Because the ferry ride was less bumpy than the bus (on most days), you could even catch up on some needed sleep. And the scenes and the roominess also made it the relaxing part of the day. But having to rely on the ferry had its drawbacks: it only ran until about midnight, and it stopped during a typhoon.

Most of my activities were on Kowloon side. So I had to watch my time. The latest ferry across the harbour was Star Ferry at 12:30 a.m. If you missed that, you were stuck on the wrong side of the harbour. Forty years later, I still had nightmares of missing the last boat.

The walla walla came to the rescue. After the Star Ferry stopped operating, there were these little diesel motor boats at Queen's Pier. They would take you from Tsim Sha Tsui to Central for a share of the \$30 that they charged each way. The way it worked was this: you got on and waited for and hoped for more passengers. The boat could carry ten to fifteen people so if you had a full boat, each only had to pay two dollars. Or if there were only 5 of you, and you all agreed, you could ask to start the trip without any more waiting, each paying \$6.00. Or if you were in the money, you could "charter" the whole walla walla and cross the harbour all by yourself. Very similar to the Rockies Tour by Charming Holidays. I put this in to show you this is LIVE; not something I wrote ten, twenty years ago.

But there were occasions when having \$30 would not save you. When there was a typhoon. When typhoon signal was over something (never knew what number), Hong Kong was cut off from Kowloon. Yes, cut off, full stop. (Hong Kong is an island...) It is probably a strange notion now. But for us, it was another thing we accepted peacefully before the days of the tunnels.

In those days, a typhoon was a good excuse to spend the night on the other side, unable and not having to go home. I used to rush to the last ferry before it stopped operation in order to play mahjong over night in Kowloon. Typhoons meant extra days off from school and excuses for not going home.

I used to long for direct-hit typhoons like I longed for Chinese New Year. When Typhoon Wanda hit and did a lot of damage at about the beginning of Form 2, I understood that it was not quite ethical to have such wishes. I might even have gone to confession about this. But I don't think the priest understood what I was talking about and sent me away with three Hail Marys.

P.S. There is no cross harbour ferry now; I haven't played mahjong for years; and no more chemistry tests.



School News

Excerpts from <http://www.lasalle.edu.hk/>

2009-03-26

Music Achievements



Congratulations to **Johnson Leung Hok Hiu (4C)** who captured Championship in the ultimate "Open Class" pianoforte section, the "Gold Medal Award". He has been invited to perform in the Winners' Concert on 7 April 2009 held at 8:00 pm at City Hall.

We are pleased to announce that with his excellent piece of composition, "the Vampire", Johnson won Championship in the Original Composition - Western Instrument (Open Class) and was awarded both "the Composers & Authors Society of Hong Kong Limited Prize" and the "Doming Lam Prize".

2009-03-23

The Exchange Program with Heep Yunn School

The Exchange Program (23/3 to 27/3) with Heep Yunn School is being held this week. On Monday, 13 Form Six girls from Heep Yunn School came to our school and are going to experience life in La Salle.



2009-03-23

Original Composition - Western Instrument (Open Class)

Congratulations to **Johnson Leung(4C)**, who has captured the Champion in the Original Composition - Western Instrument (Open Class) with his composition, "The Vampire".

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communications among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, no article should be used as a tool for promoting personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit every single submission to make sure that no inappropriate content appears in every single issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscobaedm.org-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

Vancouver	José Antonio Yeung-Cardoso (1968)	Southern California	Thomas Tsui (1995)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Jimmy Chang (1966)	San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976)
East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965) , Peter Lai (1967)	Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)



LSCOBAS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Year of the Ox Spring Dinner
February 28, 2009
Jade Palace, Palo Alto, CA

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Message from the President

Dear Alumni, Family & Friends:

Welcome to our 2009 Spring Dinner party. I hope everyone enjoys the food and program we have prepared for you tonight.

2008 has been a year of celebrations for the Old Boys in the Bay Area with weddings, newborns and celebration of the 75th Anniversary of our Mother School in our 2008 Chinese New Year Dinner.

Our Chapter will be hosting the LSCOBAS Global Reunion in July 2010. Our committee is already working hard to prepare this event. I whole-heartedly invite everyone to attend this once-every-2-year Old Boys activity. We are also looking for volunteers to help out. If you are interested, please let us know.

Lastly, I wish all of you a very Healthy and Prosperous Year of the Golden Ox!

Sincerely yours,

Ephrem Fung '76
President, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



Message from the Vice President

Dear See Hing's, See Dai's and families,

First of all, I'd like to join Ephrem and the rest of the committee in wishing you all the very best in the Year of the Ox!

We are planning a lot of activities this year and next for old boys and families in the San Francisco Bay Area. The highlight is definitely going to be the Global LaSallian Reunion in San Francisco during the 4th of July weekend in 2010. It is a reunion that is now held once every two years in different parts of the world. We had the honor to host the first reunion back in 2001 and it is now our privilege to host hundreds of old boys and their families from all parts of the world next year to re-kindle friendships, celebrate milestones of our alma mater and to enjoy the many attractions that our beautiful city has to offer. Planning is already underway, and we'll be sending out communications with more details in the near future. We can certainly use your help; so if you're interested in helping, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. It'll be exciting to work together to host our La Sallian buddies in the city next year.

Last but not least, we have planned a fun evening for everyone tonight so I hope you'll all have a wonderful time and once again, Happy Chinese New Year to you all!

Yours sincerely,

Derek Choy, '93
Vice President, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



Weddings and Births

Kevin Wong, Class of '95 and **Gloria Lau** had their wedding ceremony at the Stanford Memorial Church on Saturday, July 26, 2008. Over 20 Old Boys and their families attended the ceremony.



George Law, Class of '66 became a grandfather in 2008. His grandson, **Brendan Wong** (now 7 months old) was baptized as a Catholic in December 2008.



Derek Choy, Class of '93 and his wife **Barbara** welcome daughter **Rachel** on Sunday, February 8, 2009.

Rachel Wing-Sze Choy
Born on 8th of Feb, 2009
Pleasanton, CA
7lbs 2oz, 19.75"



Past and Future Events

The Inaugural issue of **The North American LaSallians**, a newsletter by the Old Boys in North America, was published on February 1, 2009. Those who did not receive a soft copy of the newsletter, please contact the Chapter Committee. We are in the process of establishing a mailing list for the newsletter.

Old Boy visiting the Bay Area - 2/2009



Ip Sheung Wah, '66 (and a famous soccer star in the 70s) and his wife **Jessica** had dinner with over a dozen of Old Boys when they visited the Bay Area from Hong Kong.

Annual Picnic – 9/2008



Over 30 Old Boys and family members enjoyed our **annual picnic** in Fremont.

Team California – 7/2008



Team California, a joint force between the chapters of SF and LA, won the 2008 Global Reunion soccer tournament in New York.

2010 Global Reunion

Our Chapter will be hosting the **2010 LSCOBAs Global Reunion** over the July 4th weekend. We are looking for volunteers. Please visit the link for details:

<http://www.lscoba.com/overseas/sf/index.shtml>

Program

6:00pm	Reception & Photo
7:00pm	Greeting from the President
	Sports Activities
	School Song
7:30pm	Dinner
9:00pm	Games
	Raffle Drawing
10:00pm	Closing

Emcees
Calvin Tin '02
David Tong '01

La Salle School Song

Boys of courage, boys of daring,
Full of manliness and will,
Spirits nought for danger caring,
Hearts to conquer every ill.

Chorus

We are sons of La Salle
everyone,
And no matter where we go,
High aloft her flag we will hold,
And strive that her fame may
grow.

There are famous schools in
plenty,
With their heroes by the score,
And they flourish high and
mighty,
But La Salle is something more.

From her lofty station pointing,
To the sky's majestic dome,
She would have us ever minding,
That above is our true home.

Come whatever kind of weather,
Come the stormy days along,
When the Old Boys get together,
They will always sing this song.