



# 北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

May 2009

## Serving in Uniform

(This notice is a repeat of the one published in the previous issue.)

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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:editors@lscobaedm.org).

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

## Reminders

### Edmonton

Directors' Meeting / Dinner

Date: Wednesday May 6, 2009

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Venue: Kyoto Japanese Cuisine (780) 414-6055  
8709 - 109 Street, Edmonton, AB

All members are welcome to join. Please email [billshwong@shaw.ca](mailto:billshwong@shaw.ca) to reserve a seat.

### Vancouver

AGM / Dinner

Date: Friday May 15, 2009

Time: 9:00pm (after dinner)

Venue: Neptune Seafood Restaurant,  
100 - 8171 Ackroyd Road, Richmond

Costs: \$20.00 per person (\$30 for non-member)

### 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](mailto:fryeung@hotmail.com)

Chris Fong (94) Cell: 416-838-3664

[shihangfong@yahoo.com](mailto:shihangfong@yahoo.com)

### Southern California

La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass

Date: 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2009

Venue: St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church

Please see "Chapter News" for more details



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## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION

### CLASS OF 1959

(content updated)



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 (**Please note the changes in dates from those in the announcement placed in the April issue.**):

Wednesday November 11	Icebreaker Dim Sum lunch, followed by Mahjong for those so inclined
Thursday November 12	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
Friday November 13 to Monday November 16	4-day tour to Xiamen, Fukien Province and visit to the Hakka Roundhouses
Tuesday November 17	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](mailto:paulchu802@yahoo.com).

Classmates in North America will please contact

Benedict FAN 范漢堯

at (604) 278-9803

e-mail [bhfan@shaw.ca](mailto: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 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](mailto:editors@lscobaedm.org). We reserve the right to withhold any announcement with inappropriate content.

Editorial Board



## Chapter News

### Vancouver

#### Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LA SALLE COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION will be held at Neptune Seafood Restaurant, 100 – 8171 Ackroyd Road, Richmond, BC, on Friday, 15th May, 2009 at 9:00PM for the passing of the following resolutions:

- 1) To receive report from the President for activities during the year 2008 – 2009;
- 2) To receive and consider the Financial Statements of the Association for the year ending March 31, 2009;
- 3) To select the next Board of Directors and group of Executives,
- 4) To transact such further or other business as may properly come before the meeting.

DATED AT Vancouver, British Columbia the Twenty- first day of April 2009. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

### Southern California

#### La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass

The LSCOBASouthern California Chapter will sponsor a La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, at St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church (SBCCC) in Los Angeles. The mass aims to serve two purposes: (1) to celebrate the Feast Day of St. John Baptist de La Salle, and (2) to pay tributes to our Brothers and teachers. The address of SBCCC is:

510 Cottage Home Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Fr. Freddie Chua, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes at Tujunga, will be the celebrant of our mass. He graduated from De La Salle University, Manila Philippines. We are delighted that Fr. Chua will conduct our thanksgiving mass despite his tight schedule. His Lasallian lineage will bring back a familial feeling as we jointly attend to our spiritual needs on this special occasion.

Refreshment will be served after mass. We'll have plenty of time to mingle with old schoolmates and recall our youthful days. If you will attend our LSDTM, or if you are interested to join our choir, please email Ronnie Cheng ('92) at [ronnie\\_cheng77@yahoo.com](mailto:ronnie_cheng77@yahoo.com).

The La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass organizing committee earnestly seeks your support to make this a successful event.

### 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 <a href="mailto:fryeung@hotmail.com">fryeung@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Chris Fong (94)
	Cell 416-838-3664
	Email <a href="mailto:shihangfong@yahoo.com">shihangfong@yahoo.com</a>



## Story Behind

### The History and Formation of La Salle Old Boys Association New York/East Coast Chapter

(The content and information in this article are contributed by: John Ng, Stephen Ng, Benny Ng, Chris Wong and Victor Lee.)

Chris Tse (1965)

#### The La Salle Spirit – propagated in Chinatown New York

In the 1980s, a large number of Chinese immigrants came to the U.S. East Coast, especially the New York area. Most of them were young, energetic, eager to reach out and be connected. They were looking for a “home” away from “home”.

There were many high school graduates from Hong Kong coming to study in the U.S.. At that time, Hong Kong had only one accredited university, Hong Kong U, and it did not have sufficient freshman openings to accept most of the local high school graduates. One of the alternate options available to those who wished to receive university education was to go overseas. Often upon completion of their university programs and professional training, they would receive job offerings to continue working in their host countries. That was the case for many of the students who came to study in the U.S..

There were also immigrants from Hong Kong who came to join their families, who had already been U.S. residents.

There was one thing in common among these two groups of new immigrants: they liked to congregate, especially during weekends and holidays, in Chinatown.

Christopher Wong (67) was with the parish of St. Joseph Church in Manhattan Chinatown, New York, at the time and was active in providing community services there. His view on the LaSallian mind set can be summarized in his brief statement below:



Christopher Wong (67)



“I guess being a LaSallian, we are proud of our heritage and like to boast/parade about it, that's why everywhere we go, people know that we are "La Salle Tsai" (喇沙仔), and would tell us who are the other La Salle Tsai's in the area (who must be boasting all over of their royal breed too!) That's how I found out that Dr. Benny Ng (65) was also a La Salle Tsai, and his office was also in Chinatown.”

Stephen Ng (65), founding chapter president, fondly recollected his first encounter with Chris Wong, when Stephen was teaching in Columbia University, New York. “I still remember vividly the day Chris Wong went to my office at Columbia and said he wanted to start an OBA in New York. I did not remember him from school days, and did not know that one of us had become a priest. But the ice was soon broken when we chatted about old times in

La Salle”.

According to Chris, the first La Salle Tsai he met up with in New York was Benjamin Ngu (67), whom he met with regularly in Chinatown. Encouraged, and with increased effort, he came to meet other La Salle Tsai's in the area.

John Ng (65), one of the chapter founding members and

Left standing on the first row behind Benedict (Tiger) Lim is Chris Wong  
Sitting next to Bro Henry is Rosanna Ng, the female board member of the  
1987 chapter and founding member.  
Kneeling at the front left is Dr. Stephen Ng (Founding president)  
At the last row, right in front of “double happiness” is John Ng. Next at his  
right is Dr. Benny Ng  
Alex Ng, Frank Lee, Gerald Lee, Peter Yu, Victor Lee, Woo Chi Hon, Liu Kai  
Wing, Albert Lo were amongst the founding members in this photograph.



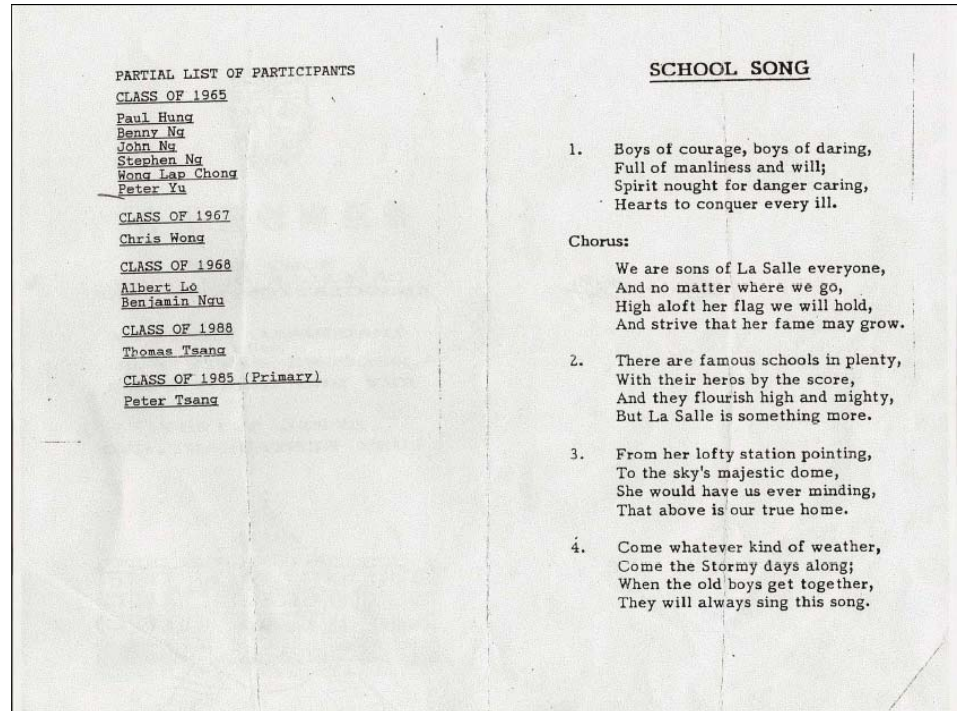
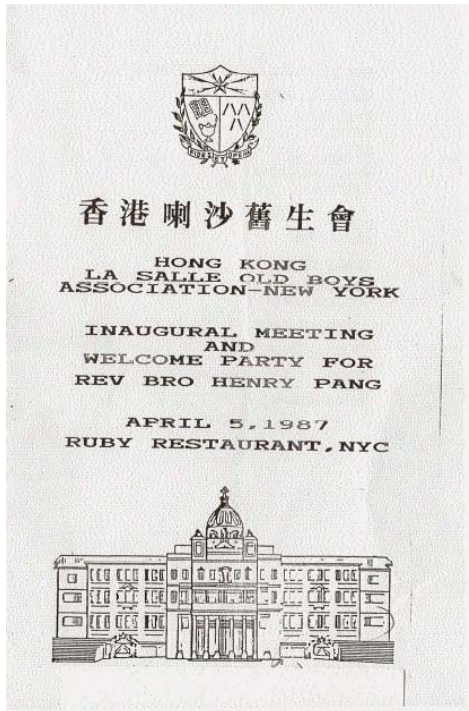


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the chapter secretary when the chapter was first founded in 1987, said, "Chris Wong was the actual originator of the chapter idea when he was working with the St. Joseph Parish in New York Chinatown. He was able to locate a few boys in the Chinatown area, possibly Liu Kai Wing (76) and Benny Ng (65), thereafter Stephen Ng (65), Peter Yu (66), Victor Lee (64) and myself. The group at that time was no more than a social connection trying to locate old friends in the area. The enthusiasm in those days was high and the network grew rapidly. Many boys in those days had young families, and were anxious to get their children involved as well. At many a dinner function, we had to set aside 'kiddy tables' with their own favorite food. However the children were not interested in the environment or happenings other than each one concentrating on his or her hand-held game machine (Game Boy wasn't out yet). In 1987 Bro. Henry Pang and Mr. Benedict (Tiger) Lim (老虎林) visited the U.S. East Coast (that was probably the reason we decided to use the name NY/East Coast), so we gathered everyone available to have dinner in their honor."



The big push to the formation of the chapter was stimulated by the visit of Bro. Henry and Mr. Benedict (Tiger) Lim in June 1987.

星島 一九八七年六月七日

**美東岸 喇沙 舊生會**

1987年6月7日星期日下午五時  
正假座 17 DIVISION 街紅寶海鮮酒家  
舉行第二次敝會請與以下同學聯絡：

DR BENNY NG: (212) 732-6667  
DR STEPHEN NG: (212) 305-7966  
PAUL HUNG: (201) 494-9417  
FR CHRIS WONG: (212) 267-8376

(NY) 星島 4/30/87

美東香港喇沙舊生會  
定期歡宴彭亨利校長

紐約及鄰近地區的十多名香港喇沙舊生校友，乘喇沙小學校長彭亨利校長來訪之便，一同聚會，在紐約華埠聯合晚宴老校長彭亨利校長老當益壯，昔日的威風凜凜，如今已退隱，但談話則依舊如洪鐘，記憶力還十分強，當日聚會時把三十年來主持校務的往事如數家珍的一一細說，既充滿了感情，也充滿了幽默，在座校友紛紛被他的講話勾起少年時代的快樂時光。彭校長畢竟是一位終生培育英才的教育工作者，他的講話還積極鼓勵各位校友們各抒所長，努力在美國替我們華人社區爭光，發揚喇沙學院的傳統精神。

當日參加聚會的校友大部份是六五年至六八年度的畢業生，其中包括在華埠開設醫務所的腦科與神經科專家吳鏡泉醫生和在華埠教區服務的黃楚雄神父。

當晚的聚會歷時五個小時，但是各校友仍意猶未盡，決定於六月七日(星期日)晚五時仍舊在紐約華埠地威臣街十七號紅寶聚餐(孔子大皮對面)再行聚會，並

在這期間裡聯絡更多的喇沙校友參加。有意參加的校友可聯絡：紐約區的吳鏡泉醫生(二一二)七三二一六六六七；吳錦祥醫生(二一二)三〇五七九六六；黃楚雄神父(二一二)六七一八三七六；和新澤西州的孔令江博士。

Press releases on the visit of Bro. Henry and Mr. Lim were made in April, 1987 to the New York Chinese media. The dinner took place at the Ruby Restaurant in Chinatown. This brought back many fond memories of the OBs spent at one of their favorite restaurants with the same name at the junction of Prince Edward Road and Nathan Road in Hong Kong.





美洲華僑日報  
4/29/87

在美國我們有台灣區爭光，發揚鄉土書院的傳統精神。

當日參加聚會的校友大部份是六五年至六八年度的畢業生，其中包括在華埠開設醫務所的腦科與神經科專家吳鏡泉醫生和在華埠墩教區服務的黃楚雄神父。

當晚的聚會歷時五

在紐約及鄰近地區」住  
的十多名香港海濱書院  
校友，乘興沙小學校  
長彭亨利修士來訪之  
便，一同聚餐，並在  
紐約華埠聯合歡宴老  
校長。

彭亨利修士老當益  
壯，昔日的威嚴雖然  
隨着歲月隱退，但講  
話則依舊雷動全場，當  
記憶力還十分強，當  
日聚會時把卅年來主  
持校務的往事如數家  
珍的一一細說，既充  
滿了感情，也充滿了  
幽默，在座的校友們  
紛紛被他的講話勾起  
少年時跳動的快樂  
時光。彭修士畢竟是  
一位終生培育英才的

個小時，但是各校友仍意猶未盡，決定於六月七日（星期日）晚五時仍舊在紐約華埠地威臣街十七號紅寶餐廳（孔子大廈對面）再行聚會，並在這期間裡聯絡更多的

十街之舞獅會酒樓舉行慶祝聯歡宴會，凡欲參加而未及通知報名之校友，可電（二一五）八〇九七五或（一九四二）二五八〇九七五。清華同學會通訊地址 60 Third Ave., 22nd Fl., New York, N. Y. 10016。

▲放美浙江同鄉會籌備會，定於五月三十一（星期日）下午二時假華埠孔子大廈宴館（包厘街入口）召開第二次籌備會，討論成立大會及各項事務。該會籌備主任，已推舉丁仁壽先生負責籌備，首全慶博士為顧問，及徐孫貴氏為法律顧問，擬定會章。

清華大學校友慶祝七六校慶

望江鎮陳姓二子參加，浙江同鄉會聯絡處電話係徐華民律師（七二）九五一〇八八九九、丁仁壽（七八）五六一三〇五〇。

▲一群從美香港來汕書院校友日前在華埠紅星餐館歡聚。適逢來訪之老校長彭亨利牧師、韓絳師生之友、饒興來深談，鬆琴更月幾日之後再在校、地點還未定，希望更多舊紐的親朋到前來參加。聯絡電話：（二三）七三一六六七吳鏡泉醫生。（二三）七三一六六七吳鏡泉醫生。吳錦祥醫生（二三）六七一八三七；黃楚雄神父（二三）六七一八三七。九一、或新澤西州之孔令江（二〇）四九九二一（二八）。

彭亨利校長卅年來從事教育工作，主持潮汕書院校務，是位悠生以培養人才為己任的校長。日前在宴會上仍不忘勉勵各校友及努力在美國奮華人祖國爭光，發揚潮汕書院的傳統精神。

[illegible]

**香港喇沙書院  
舊生會選職員**

(本市訊) 美東香  
港喇沙書院舊生會日前  
選出首屆職員，在哥倫  
比亞大學任教之吳錦祥  
先生任會長，華壇園劇  
中心之吳鏡泉醫生為副  
會長，旅遊界聞人吳漢  
劍任秘書，華壇聖若瑟  
天主堂副堂黃楚雄神父  
任財務。該會成立不久  
之後，特到香港親友之

(本報訊)美東香港喇沙書院舊生會日前選出首屆之職員。在哥倫比亞大學任教之吳錦祥醫生任會長。華埠科利中心之呂展華醫生為副會長。該會謹定十一日(星期日)廿九日(星期日)在華埠地咸臣街卅號之蘭香閣召開大，歡迎校友參加。

該會議定十一月廿九日(星期日)假座華場地威臣街卅一號開香閣召集大會，歡迎校旗和計劃來年之活動。該校歡迎各界人士參加主辦之飯間學府衛生籌加，詳情可向以下職員聯

August 19, 87.

Dear La Sallites,

You may be happy to know that we have formally established a La Salle College Old Boys' Association (U.S.A. East Coast) on July 25, 1987 after a heated general election. Names were called, ballots were counted, protests were lodged, and finally after much commotion the executive committee was formed. The following will be your humble servants for as long as you want them (against both their better judgement and yours):

Advisor	Ms. Rosanna Ng
President	Dr. Stephen Ng
Vice-President	Dr. Benny Ng
Hon. Secretary	Mr. John Ng
Treasurer	Rev. Christopher WoNg
Committee Member	Mr. Alex Ng

In case you suspect a conspiracy among the Ngs, let me assure you that not all of them are related and that this is not the beginning of a dynasty. Three of them, however, are blood-relatives. I leave it to your resourcefulness to identify them. The executive committee has so far met once to eat (the real reason for the meeting!), draft a constitution and plan the next activity. We are looking into the feasibility of a boat trip. You will hear shortly about the next event. We are also planning a major membership drive to boost the treasurer's wallet.

I would like to express here, on behalf of all the members, our deepest thanks to Rev. Fr. Christopher Wong for bringing us together. Most of us have been in the U.S. for a number of years with no knowledge of each others' whereabouts. Had it not been the effort of Christopher this association would never materialize. I hope we will treasure this opportunity to renew some old acquaintances and make new ones. This association is you and me, and will thrive only with the support of all of us.

So much for my inaugural address, stay tune for the next announcement from our Hon. Secretary.

Yours respectfully,

Stephen Ng  
President

The chapter was officially formed and officers named in July 1987.

Dr. Stephen Ng (65) was voted to be the first president of the Chapter, and was reported by the New York Chinese media. The first term of officers of the chapter were:

Rosanna Ng (Adviser)  
Dr. Stephen Ng –President  
Dr. Benny Ng – Vice President  
John Ng - Secretary  
Christopher Wong – Treasurer  
Committee member – Alex Ng

In the formation of the New York Chapter, there were 2 unintended co-incidents:

- 1) five of the six chapter officers, were Ng's (Rosanna Ng, John Ng, Benny Ng, Stephen Ng and Alex Ng), and
- 2) three Ng's are from class of 65.

There was rumor at the time that the chapter was in effect an “Ng’s Clan” association.

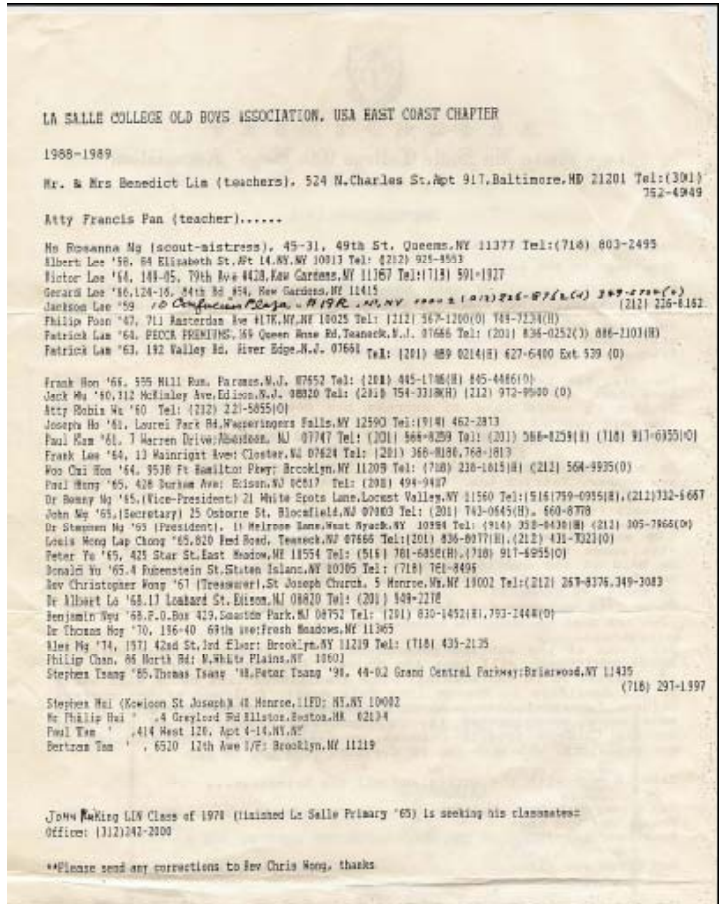




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May 2009

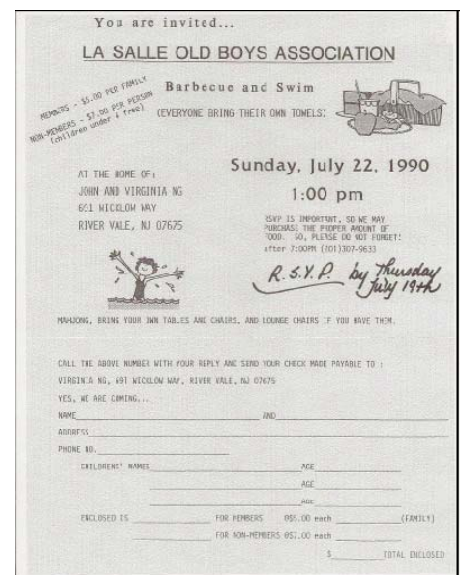
More uniquely, as far as we know, Rosanna Ng, sister of John Ng, is the only woman who ever became a board member (adviser) of any LSCOPA globally. She taught LSPS in the 70s for a few years before emigrating out of Hong Kong. She was also a LSPS cub mistress in those days.



The chapter's first Thanksgiving gathering announcement - 1988

This official Thanksgiving gathering announcement was formal, complete with La Salle College school badge and both Chinese and English letter heads. At that point there were 28 registered OB members, covering from New York to Baltimore. Prompted by the success of this gathering, the chapter has, since then, maintained a regular social calendar for outings and parties to celebrate festivities and seasonal events.

Chris Wong comments on the 60ers: "I think the NYLSCOPA has the highest attendance/gathering rate among all the chapters. One of the reasons is the large number of classmates from the class of 65/66/67 who have been meeting regularly for many years."





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May 2009

## The Chapter today

In the past few years, the number of OB members in the New York/East Coast Chapter has reached a plateau. However the weekly “dim-sum” lunch is faithfully maintained and warmly participated by those OBs living in the Metropolitan New York City area and visiting OBs. In addition, Mid Autumn Festival party, spring dinner, spring outing, swimming pool party, autumn foliage outing and New Year dinner are the regular events in our annual calendar.



Participating members from New York/East Coast USA  
in the 2008 Charity Gala dinner



With great effort, the chapter still maintains a soccer team, which practises during the summer months. Now we have renamed the New York Team – a family team. The chapter is exploring to diversify to less physical demanding social activities which would include golfing, mahjong and ballroom dancing, just to name a few. Through migration, some members have moved: Stephen Ng is now in Hong Kong and Chris Wong has moved to Chicago to continue his pursuit to educate inner city minorities. There were also a few others who have unfortunately passed away. We have expanded our coverage to the Washington, DC area (Maryland, Virginia) as well as up state New York (Rochester), but due to geographic distances, social gatherings with members in these extended areas are limited to annually or bi-annually.



Founding officers (L – R)  
Dr. Stephen Ng, Chris Wong, Rosanna Ng, John Ng and Dr. Benny Ng



Founding members (L-R)  
John Ng, Dr. Benny Ng, Dr. Stephen Ng, Chris Wong, Dr. Albert Lo, Rosanna Ng, Peter Yu, Maria Ng (Mrs. Stephen Ng), Victor Lee, Louis Wong, and Gerald Lee

No doubt, our members are predominantly from the “baby boomer” generation. We have today 62 registered members and the average graduation year is in the mid 60s. Now the OBs in our chapter are established – they have built a “home” in the New York/East Coast area. Their common dream to have a “home” away from “home” was materialized. The challenge today is to attract younger OBs to come to the East Coast and join us. Alternatively our chapter will focus to provide support for the younger OBs, enabling those who would like to visit or study in the area with an infra-structure, network and bridge, to prosper on their own.





## Life Update

### Proud Dad

We learned from the last newsletter that Joanne, daughter of Joe Alano (75) from Edmonton, competed in the provincial championship held April 17-19.

The editors of this newsletter take great pleasure to inform you that Joanne won gold in Vault, bronze in Beam, and bronze in Bars, with her total score of all four events won her gold in ALL Around. She is the Champion of Provincial Level Four Novice, ranks first in Alberta.

### Congratulations Joanne, Diane and Joe!



### Relocating to Down Under

Joseph Wong (1996), current director of Toronto Chapter, has accepted his employer's offer to relocate to Australia. Joseph and his wife, Pia, will be leaving Toronto for Sydney in early May.

Joseph graduated from University of Waterloo and is currently an IT consultant. He loves the outdoors and sounds like he will enjoy the open air and beautiful beaches in Australia.

All the best, Joe!



## Time to Relax and Enjoy Life

After more than 30 years of hard work, Peter Chiong (1970), member of the Edmonton Chapter, decided to retire and enjoy life. Peter had been serving and contributing to the community for a long time. He was President of the Edmonton Toastmaster Club and of the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club. His dream is now to travel a lot with Lina, his wife.

On April 17, 60 family members, close friends from the Lions Club, Toastmaster Club, companion golfers, previous co-workers and fellow LaSallians gathered together to hold a surprise party to celebrate Peter's retirement. He was amazed how such a big party could be kept secret until he entered the function room reserved by Lina.

## Congratulations Peter!



Cake cutting with family members:  
Rene(son-in-law), Peter, Lina, Alex (son) and Valerie (daughter).



Picture with fellow LaSallians attending the party.



Everybody is listening to Peter's dream.



A souvenir signed by everyone - a picture taken after his hole-in-one.

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](mailto: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



## 9. Things We Said Today

簡文輝 Francis Kan (1966)

### Play Misty For Me

Sometimes I do feel like I am a graveyard-shift radio announcer, talking into an un-responding keyboard, not knowing if anybody is reading, wondering if anything I write is of interest to anyone at all.

But I do write in the comfort of knowing that I am talking to a bunch of boys who grew up in the same era as me. And more than that, they all speak my language, and have developed around the same people, places, and climate, for at least a few very important years of our young lives. In addition to that, we all have another thirty odd years of life experience on our backs. The experience has perhaps been gained in different parts of the world, but all during the same time in history.

I may think I am a voice in the wilderness, but I do get messages from many of you. It is difficult to describe the feeling. I know I am being heard. I don't have to shout. You can hear me even when I am whispering.

### Where the Boys Are

I have often wondered about the wisdom of having an all-boys or an all-girls school, as opposed to a co-ed school. All my school life, I went to schools of boys. My first experience of having boys and girls sitting in the same classroom was when I taught in a co-ed school after Form 7.

I did mention that, for the longest time, I thought girls were just boys standing backwards. And until very late, I thought their private parts were much higher than they actually were. (I also found out that many girls thought our parts were much lower.) As I said, in my school days, I actually went out on fewer dates than I dared to admit. So only on rare occasions did I have the opportunity to examine girls in closed quarters. For a time, I thought all girls naturally had black lines around their eyes, and pink cheeks, and ruby red lips. I am not blaming our school, but I did enter the real world unprepared.

If schools were to prepare us for the world, and the real world is made up of both boys and girls, why were we put in a school of boys only? I have asked girls from all-girls schools. We all felt that we might have been better off if we had been brought up in boy-girl schools.

My brief experience in co-ed schools gave me the impression that both boys and girls were better behaved. (University was the first time I sat with girls in the classroom. As a teacher, I think I was at a better vintage point to observe the behavior.) The first class I



# 北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

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taught was a Form 3 class. The students were past the paper ball throwing stage. They made sure that they came to class well groomed, and behaved much more matured than when we were in Form 3.

It is generally agreed that girls mature sooner than boys during adolescence. So putting boys and girls of the same age in the same class may help the boys ripen earlier. I guess I will never know. I don't know much about the history of the development of the education system. All I remember was reading somewhere that the four years of university was determined haphazardly. Maybe the all-boy and all-girl systems were decided in the same way.

Or maybe it was natural for celibate monks and nuns to have all-boys and all-girls school. Now I have great respect for the men and women who take the sacred vow, and have no intention of making fun of them. As a matter of fact, I used to be a fervent catholic who once had wanted to be a priest. But now I refer to myself as a retired catholic. Some would say non-practicing. But I like "retired" better. Who knows? I might get a pension.

## I Want To Hold Your Hand

Unisex schools develop girl-crazy horny boys like me. I think I spent way too much time fantasizing, and not enough time practicing. But like most other teenagers, I pretended I couldn't care less about the opposite sex. I wanted to give the impression that I was experienced in that sort of thing. I remember our discussions about the proper placement of the tongue when kissing. We talked as if we were experts. But the truth was we had hardly touched a girl's hand. I remember I helped a girl skip over a narrow stream at one of our rare picnics. I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

There are obviously pros and cons about unisex schools. But what does it matter anymore? The fact is, we all went to an all-boys school. And that is that. But think about it, we didn't even have woman teachers in the secondary. I am glad we had Miss Tsang and Miss Hong earlier.

## Rocky Mountain High

For some reason I have drawn an imaginary line and limited my aimless rambling to the time before 1966. But life did not stop in 1966. More of our lives were lived AFTER 1966. So I think you don't mind if I talked about things beyond 1966, especially they involved some 66ers.

Have you noticed that I have not referred to any names of the 66ers in these write-ups? (There was one exception: I did mention Robert Mathews.) This is because I don't want to embarrass anyone in case I say the wrong thing. No question, a lot of water has gone under the bridge. It's been a long time. But if I can tell stories without mentioning names, I will continue to do so.

There might be a Rockies tour at this year's reunion. So I will tell you some of my biases about the Rockies. Perhaps to lure you into joining the tour, perhaps not. I spent more than a couple of summers in the Rockies so I feel qualified to comment on the subject.

Before I saw the Rockies, I had heard how the mountains were compared to Tien Shan (天山) (the heaven's mountains). And there were sayings like, "See the Rockies and die." I was summoned to the mountains by a phone call.

It was the end of my first year at university. I was sitting around waiting for a summer job with the federal government. In those days, there were make-work projects for students in the summer. I put in the application and one by one, the people who also applied got calls and started working. My call never came.

It was past Mother's Day and I still did not have a job. My bankbook showed a two-digit balance. Panic city. The phone rang and a 66er who went to the same university called from Jasper. He said he just got a better summer job back at the university and asked me if I wanted to take over his dishwasher job, which he had for the previous summer as well. I said yes and the next day I was on the Greyhound for Jasper.

Jasper is the other destination spot of the Canadian Rockies. It is about a two hours' drive from the more famous Banff, passing Columbia Ice field and Lake Louise on the way. Banff is more famous probably because of the marketing efforts of the various festivals and conferences and summer activities. But it is a constant debate between Jasperites and people of Banff as to which is a better place. It is similar to the argument between Calgary and Edmonton.





Both Jasper and Banff are necessary evils in places like national parks. When you have a nice tourist spot, you need facilities such as hotels and restaurants, which in turn need workers, who need accommodation, and other facilities like banks and grocery stores. People need transportation and parking and gas stations. It goes on, until you have an unattractive congregation amongst the beautiful scenery.

Having spent time in Jasper, I am naturally a Jasper supporter. The Jasper town itself is smaller and not as populated as Banff. From both places you will need transportation to go to the attractions. But I think there are more attractions close to Jasper. I'd better stop before this turns into a travel brochure. Back to my introduction to the Rockies.

## The Look of Love

When the Greyhound bus went around a corner, we came face to face with a tall, tall, tall mountain. To this boy who had not seen anything taller than Tai Mo Shan, the view was suffocating. (I was going to say breath-taking; but I probably had not understood the true meaning of the expression then.) I suddenly felt very small. I suddenly realized that there was something meaningful about Life itself.

And the snow-capped peaks went on and on for miles. It was a typical sunny Alberta day, not a cloud in the sky. The blue sky backed up the bluer mountains. I found out that those funny white patterns on the side of some mountains were glaciers, literally "ice rivers." And the highways were surrounded by the beautiful mountain ranges.

I knew I could have fallen in love with anybody right there and then. I started dreaming about traveling with someone I love into this fairytale land. Wouldn't it be lovely? I guess it is human nature to want to share good things.

## Top Of The World

The 66er met me at the bus and he introduced me to the resort owner. The employers of summer jobs loved Chinese students. The local kids liked to take some time off at the end of the summer holidays, and that happened to be the busiest time at these touristy places. Chinese kids, on the other hand, did not mind working all the way through till the day before class.

The job I was to take provided no days off. The restaurant did not take days off, it was explained to me. The 66er, who had worked on that job the previous summer, stayed to show me around the kitchen. I was very grateful because I don't think he was paid for that shift. (Thank you, I know you are reading.) He even showed me how to mop the floor properly, without hurting my back.

To make a long story short, because of some sort of reversed racial prejudice, I was promoted to be the assistant cook after two weeks of being a dishwasher. You see, they think all Chinese can cook and do laundry. The same sort of racial prejudice led to my being treated as the mathematics guru of my department at university. To most North Americans, Chinese and Indians are mathematics geniuses, even though (or because) they don't speak English.

I worked a split shift at the restaurant. It opened for breakfast in the morning to feed the tourists; closed at 10:00 a.m., and opened again at 5:00 p.m. for dinner. So even though it was hard work in the kitchen, I had a good summer. I started out six thirty in the morning. On the way to work, I was greeted by the mountain, scaring away the elk (a kind of deer) from the landlady's flower garden. Then I had a break from ten to five to enjoy the mountains.

I was too young to rent a car, but you needed a vehicle to get around Jasper. The Pyramid and Patricia Lakes up on Mount Pyramid right behind the town site was 4 miles away, a bit too far for me if I wanted to spend my afternoon there. Fortunately, we lived in a time before serial killers and it was safe to hitchhike. People in resort areas were generally friendly.

It was a good summer. I learned to cook; like, really cook. No, not short order cooking. The chef was a Greek from Montreal, and he did French and Italian cooking. No, he did not teach me as such. I had to steal a look here and there. Like the Chinese master of anything, they liked to keep some secrets and would not let you see what was it that made the whole thing work. I learned to cook a lot of dishes, but to this day, I still do not know how to make a French toast as fluffy as his.

Jasper was good to me that summer. But I kept dreaming about the day when I could share the mountains with someone I wanted to be with.



## We've Only Just Begun

The following summer, on the way to Jasper to report for work, I was holding the hand of a girl I met the previous Christmas. She did not have a job yet, but she was willing to give it a try. There were lots of openings for summer job seekers in national parks. It was her first time at the Rockies and she was as excited as I was the first time I saw the mountains and had no problem getting a job as a waitress at Jasper Park Lodge. My dream came true. We were to spend the summer in the Mountains. By the way, quite a few 66ers knew about her.

Jasper Park Lodge was a famous hotel across the railroad and Athabasca River from the Jasper townsite. Queen Elizabeth (the first) stayed there. It was the retreat for many wealthy families with names like Kennedy and Rockefeller. When Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum were filming the River of No Return, they stayed at the Lodge. Beside luxurious rooms, there were also wooden cabins with good mountain views.

There was a free shuttle bus between the townsite where I worked and Jasper Park Lodge so there was no problem for us to see each other on our time off. The Lodge had staff quarters and the woman quarters did not allow male guests. My employer also provided accommodation by retaining a number of basement suites in Jasper. (It was essential for employers to provide accommodation because the living standards at these resort areas were way beyond us lowly workers.) My landlady was also very strict about visitors of the opposite sex. It went back to my question about all-boys and all-girls schools. The world loves to impose self-righteous rules on people having a good time.

We had a good time anyway. We were in love and were drunken with the magnificent mountains and lakes. We found a small lake not far behind the main lodge. It was little known and all summer we met maybe two other people there. So we spent a lot of time there and not knowing the name of the lake, we called it "Our Lake."

Yes, it was paradise on earth. When we ran out of things to say, we just sat there and stared at the emerald green lake water. A breeze came up and I said there was something in my eye and she said she would blow it off and she held my eyelids open and blew and then I said it was still there and then she blew again and then I kissed her. I wondered if we were in love with each other or with the Rockies.

In any case, I gave her a diamond ring and told people we were engaged, not knowing much what it meant. I thought I would feel better that she could have something to show for it when she went back to university out East, after spending a summer with a guy. I didn't know that North Americans usually would have a wedding date set when they had an "engagement." We didn't have one. I was very naïve.

## The Morning After

At the end of summer, she went back to university out East, and we spent a lot of money on long distance, and I spent a lot of money on stamps, writing long letters. Her letters were like telegraphs, terse, crisp, and succinct. At the beginning of the following summer, we had some disagreement and she mailed me back the ring and my favorite cardigan. I wish she had also returned my letters; I think I would like to read them. I sold the ring for the same amount I paid.

## Obituary: Harvey Ng (1979)

Harvey Ng (1979), a dedicated LaSallian who faithfully and generously served as Director of the Toronto Chapter for many years, passed away in the week of April 19, 2009 in Hong Kong. May his soul rest in peace.





## School News

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

**2009-04-21**

### 26th Hong Kong Mathematics Olympiad

Math Team is very pleased to announce that the team captured the **champion of Hong Kong Mathematics Olympiad** on 18th April 2009. The Math Olympiad was jointly organized by HKIEd and EDB with more than two hundred participating schools.

It is a record that our school captured the championship for six times, the highest number received by a single school. Also we got the championship three years in a row and no other schools got it in two consecutive years. We are proud of the achievement.

Congratulations to the team members

Chan Tse Tei (4C),

Kwok Hoi Kit (4C),

Nicholas Leung (4C),

Justin Lo (4C),

Barry Wo (4C) and

Trevor Yu (4C) and the teacher advisor **Miss Luk Mee Lin** for their outstanding performance and achievement!



**2009-04-07**

### Talk from Guidance Team

**Mr. Chim Shui Man (詹瑞文)** was invited to be our guest and share his views about success and failure (詹瑞文@喇沙 成敗之間) in a talk for the F.3-F.6 students. His speech was vivid, interactive and meaningful. Mr. Chim encouraged our boys to have a positive attitude towards challenges and difficulties. One of the key points he mentioned: **'Enjoy the failure'**.

**2009-04-07**

### Shanghai Exchange Programme

The Shanghai Exchange Programme is being held from 3rd April to 14th April. There are 20 students from LSC and HYS and the teacher advisors are Mr Chan Tong and Ms Helen Law. We wish them every success.



**2009-04-07**

### Hong Kong Red Cross Youth Unit 15



The Hong Kong Red Cross Youth Unit 15 would like to announce that they have captured the 1st Runner-up in the Hong Kong Red Cross West Kowloon District Nursing Competition 2009. The Team members include:

Gordon Chan (4C)

Lam Chin Ting (3E)

Lam Kai Shing (3E)

Lam Tsang Lung (3G)

They would like to thank their teacher advisors and old boys for their invaluable guidance and support.