



Editors' Note

This is the first time in the four year history of North American LaSallian that the Chapter News section is missing from an issue, but our newsletter for this month is one of the most voluminous.

Rev. Brother Steve, current principal of our Alma Mater, sacrificed his only vacation for the year to come to North America this summer to attend the biennial La Salle College Old Boys' Global Reunion held in Vancouver and to visit many universities in North America to pave the way for La Salle boys wanting to study aboard.

Various local chapters helped organize this tour for Brother Steve. They also joined hands to compile detail reports of his tour. We are hoping that these reports will motivate more old boys to contribute.

The Global Alliance is working on an action plan to form a network to provide support to La Salle boys who plan to study aboard, their parents and the Career Councilor at La Salle. If you are connected with universities or other post secondary institutions, and believe that your connection can help boys from Hong Kong, or if you want to lend a general hand in the matter, please feel free to contact your local chapter or write to the editors of this newsletter at email editors@lscobedm.org. All helps are welcome.

If you attended the Global Reunion in August and have something to express or some photographs to share, please write to us at the email listed above. Sharing photographs taken during Global Reunion has helped re-connecting long lost pals in the past. May be you can do magic this time too.

If you have spent your summer somewhere with your family and would like to share your experience, please write to us. London Olympics and Hawaii may be coming up next month. How about your vacation? We look forward to your sharing.

Note: Many thanks to the kindness of the LSCOBAAHK, a link has been provided at their website to the newsletter archive under "Alma Mater".

Reminders

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering
Date Oct 5, 2012 (every first Friday)
Time noon
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓
10604-101 Street

Grey Cup Party

Date Nov 25, 2012
Time 3:30pm - 8:00pm
Venue Finnagan's Bistro Bar & Billiards
13560 - Fort Road, Edmonton
Contact billshwong@shaw.ca

Southern California

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering
Date every first Sunday
Time noon to 2 pm
Venue Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd, 3/F, Monterey Park

Toronto

New Year Eve Dinner

Date Monday December 31, 2012
Time 7:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.
warm up dancing starts at 6:30 p.m.
Venue Regal Chinese Cuisine & Banquet Hall
富都名宴
1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 107,
Scarborough (Finch & McCowan)
Feature: live band Synergy (led by old boys)
Price: \$68/person
RSVP: shihangfong@yahoo.com or
jchang@mcl-miley.com

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any 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-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965), Peter Lai (1967)	Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)	San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976) Ambrose Lee (1998)
Vancouver	Victor Leung (1977)	Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)

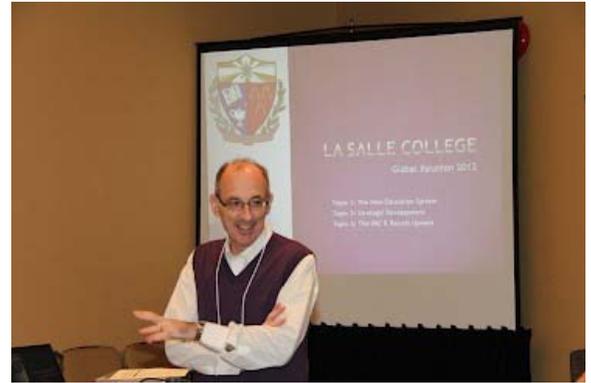


North America Tour

Brother Steve's Vancouver Visit

Victor Leung (77)

Those who attended GR2012 would agree that this GR was successful as the four day event was attended by more old boys than any previous GR. The overwhelming participation was in no doubt credited to our special guest of honor, Brother Steve Hogan, current Principal of La Salle College. While most of us were touched by the charisma of this relatively new LSC leader at the Reunion, some of us were less aware of the other contributions made by Br Steve during his month long North American visit. As coordinator of Brother Steve's North American visit, I thought fellow LaSallians would be interested in knowing some of the behind the scene stories of Brother Steve's visit.



The Global Alliance (GA) committee members were delighted when Brother Steve responded quickly to our invitation in June 2011 to be our special guest at GR2012. To our pleasant surprise, not only did Brother Steve agree to play an active role in our Reunion conference, he also requested a 3 hours time slot for a special "Meeting Brother Steve Night" on the eve of the GR Conference to personally explain to overseas old boys the latest development of and challenges experienced by LSC. Those who attended his presentation would agree that Brother Steve must have spent a lot of time preparing for his presentation. But that was only a very small part of his efforts for his North American University Tour.



The Reunion did not officially start until August 2, 2012, but Brother Steve arrived one week earlier on July 27, 2012 to kick-off his month long business trip. Though he had never visited North American before, Brother Steve sacrificed his only available short vacation window for LSC. He refrained from most side entertainment and dedicated most of his time to his intended business at hand.

Upon arrival on Friday after a long and tiring plane ride from Hong Kong, Brother Steve joined the directors of LSCOBA Vancouver Chapter for dinner. Brother Steve rested for a day, then Peter Choy (73) took him on a quick city tour on Sunday before he commenced with his very jam packed official business schedule.

During his stay in Vancouver, Brother Steve visited two local universities - Simon Fraser University (SFU) on Monday July 29, accompanied by myself, an SFU alumni, and University of British Columbia (UBC) on Tuesday July 30, accompanied by Tony Fung (64) and Roger Wong (84). During his visit to SFU, Brother Steve explained to me that the main reason of his North American university tour was to pave way for LSC students seeking post-secondary education in North America. Contrary to a trend of steady decline in LSC graduates enrolling in North American post secondary through the last decade, Brother Steve predicts a renewed interest among LSC students to seek post-secondary education options outside of Hong Kong, potentially in North America. Although there are more university spaces in Hong Kong now compared to the 70's and 80's, the recent change to a 6 year program in the HK secondary school system has resulted in fierce competition for available university spaces because the number of students matriculating every year has increased immensely. In the old system, a large number of students would be "filtered" out by the HKCEE after F5. As more families in HK are becoming more affluent, more parents can now afford to send their children for post-secondary education abroad. In addition, the new 6 year secondary school system is more aligned to the North American secondary school system and is a major departure from the 5 year secondary school + 2 year matriculation system in the UK. Brother Steve felt it was important to gather useful information from the





different universities in North America in order to provide current information and proper advice to LSC graduates seeking opportunities to further their education in North America. Brother Steve's proactive planning and continuous care for LSC students beyond the secondary school years is truly commendable, especially when he was sacrificing his personal time to open up opportunities for LSC students.

After two full days visits to the two local universities Brother Steve spent most of Wednesday preparing for the GR2012 presentations. He then devoted his four remaining days in Vancouver (Aug 2 – 5) to attending and participating in the various GR2012 activities including Meeting Brother Steve Night on Thursday, Reunion Conference on Friday morning, Global Alliance meeting on Friday afternoon, weekend soccer games, several class reunion dinners, Saturday mass, and the Finale Dinner on Sunday night.

While most of the GR2012 participants were able to wind down after the Finale Dinner on Sunday night, the 10 days in Vancouver was but the first stop of Brother Steve's North American University Tour. After saying goodbye to Vancouver on Monday August 6, 2012, Brother Steve went to San Francisco and Los Angeles to visit several post secondary institutions in the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California, then onwards to New York to visit more institutions on the US east coast.

During the short 10-day gathering with Brother Steve, many of us felt the firm dedication and endless energy of our new LSC leader. His genuine care for the LSC students and graduates is overwhelmingly obvious. As La Salle old boys, we are very pleased to know that LSC has continued to be in good hands and that the (La Salle is) something more spirit does not happen by miracle but by strong leadership with genuine care from the heart for the students.

Rev. Brother Steve Hogan Bay Area Visit 2012

“...He came alone... and he came on a mission...”

Written by: Ambrose H Lee '98

Photo Credit: George Law '66, Chris Ngai '78, Fulcan Fong '82, Anderson Lee '97, Ambrose Lee '98, David Tong '01

Rev. Brother Steve Hogan, current Principal of our Alma Mater, came to the Bay for a 4-day visit (Aug 6th – Aug 9th).

He came alone, after his travel to the LSCOPA Global Reunion 2012 in Vancouver, and he came on a mission: on behalf of La Salle College, he would visit the famous colleges and universities around the major cities in U.S. – San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

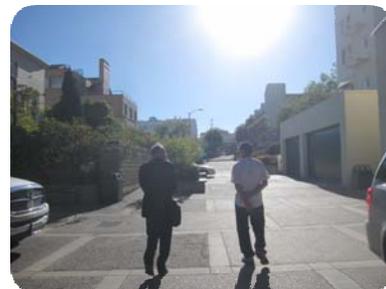
He came to pave the path for the future of our boys at *La Salle*, and San Francisco was merely his first stop.

“He is such a caring and nice Principal” said one of our Old Boys, *“The boys who are currently studying at La Salle are blessed to have him!”*

School Visits

Dressed in suit and school tie, Brother Steve had a tight schedule in these 4 days; he met with numerous admission offices. He introduced our Alma Mater, researched admission requirements of those schools and explored their campuses.

These schools, which included Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Foothill College, and St. Mary College of California,ⁱ are all targeted schools of our La Salle Boys for their tertiary education.





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Stanford University



St. Mary's College of California (SMCC)



"De La Salle Dr." at SMCC

Visiting Box



Box, Los Alto



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Brother Steve and David Tong '01 at Box

On top of the meetings with the various schools, Brother Steve also toured at one of the successful high tech companies in the Silicon Valley, Boxⁱⁱ, where one of our Old Boys, David Tong '01, works.

"It's amazing!!" said our Principal, "And they even have a slide from the second floor!"

Around the Bay



Golden Gate Bridge



Saint Mary's Cathedral



"La Salle Campus" at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory



Brother Steve and George Law '66 at Palo Alto

"One cannot claim that he/she has been to San Francisco without seeing the Golden Gate Bridge!"

We were happy to give Brother Steve some driving tours around different cities in the Bay Area, especially the City of San Francisco. We were at the Golden Gate Bridge, Fishermen's Wharf, Pacific Heights, etc. We said a short prayer at St. Ignatius Churchⁱⁱⁱ in San Francisco, visited the "La Salle Campus"^{iv} of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory^v, St. Mary's Cathedral^{vi}, and many other sites.



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The Dinner with the Old Boys



The highlight of these 4 days was a dinner on Aug 7th. 30 local Old Boys and their families gathered at the China Bistro Restaurant in San Mateo to welcome and meet with Brother Steve.

"I am so surprised to meet our current Principal here, in United States," said one of our Old Boys during dinner, "He is so friendly and well mannered! I am humbled!"





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We were also delighted that 6 Old Boys flew all the way from different cities to catch this occasion!



They were

- Charles Chan '77 & Aaron Chan '10 from Hong Kong;
- Stephen Hui '91 from Los Angeles;
- Kelvin Chan '94 from Austin Texas;
- Anderson Lee '97 and his family from Hong Kong; and
- Albert Kwok '04 from Seattle.



Thank you very much for coming!!!



*♪ High aloft her flag we will hold,
And strive that her fame may grow!! ♪*

This convivial dinner concluded nicely with the singing of our school song and presenting our commemorative souvenir to Brother Steve. Designed and produced by Chris Ngai '78, the souvenir was a silicon wafer with the signatures of the local Old Boys inscribed at the back.





President Andrew Sien '63 presented our signatures-inscribed silicon wafer to Brother Steve

Thank you, Brother Steve, for visiting us!

Wish you a pleasant journey at your subsequent destinations: Los Angeles and New York.

May God bless you and our school in the coming years!

Yours in La Salle,
LSCOBASF (Bay Area)

<https://www.facebook.com/lscobasf>
<http://www.lscoba.com/chapter/sf/>

Acknowledgments

The Chapter is most grateful to the following entities and Old Boys for their generosity and enormous contributions towards Brother Steve's visit.

● **Companies**

- Box
- Applied Materials, Inc. ^{vii viii}

● **Old Boys:**

Special thanks to,

- *Andrew Sien '63:* for leading the chapter.
- *George Law '66 & Fulcan Fong '82:* for coordinating with Brother Steve before his visit.
- *George Law '66, Fulcan Fong '82 & Franco Chan '10:* for the logistic arrangements during Brother Steve's visit.
- *David Tong '01:* for altering his meeting at the last minute to guide Brother Steve on the tour at Box.
- *Chris Ngai '78:* for designing, producing and packaging our commemorative souvenir: the silicon wafer.
- *Johnson Chan '07:* for setting up Brother Steve's meeting with Foothill College.
- *The SF (Bay Area) chapter committee:* who were kind enough to read and comment on the typescript, which have made an enormous contribution to the finished text
- *And others:* for many hard works and participation.

ⁱ **Saint Mary's College of California** is an affiliated school to the De La Salle Brothers.

ⁱⁱ **Box** is an online file sharing and Cloud content management service for enterprise companies. It is based in Los Altos

ⁱⁱⁱ **Saint Ignatius Church** is the university chapel of the University of San Francisco.

^{iv} The "**La Salle Campus**" of Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory is named in honored to *St. John Baptist de La Salle*.

^v **Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory** is an affiliated school to the De La Salle Brothers.

^{vi} **Saint Mary's Cathedral** is the principal church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco.

^{vii} Our Chapter would like to thank Applied Materials, Inc. in sponsoring the silicon wafer.

^{viii} **Applied Materials** is an American semiconductor equipment maker corporation. It is headquartered in Santa Clara, in the Silicon Valley.



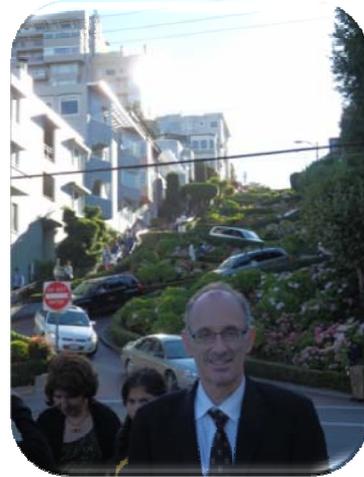
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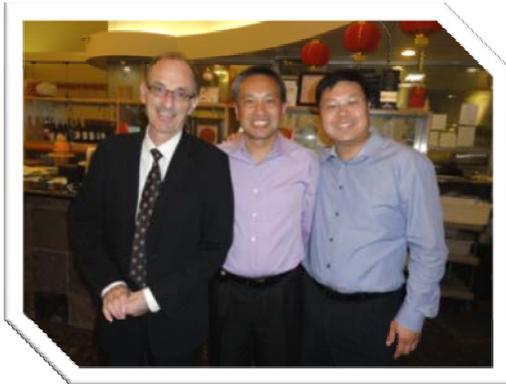
Thank you Brother Steve! May God bless La Salle!



Golden Gate Bridge



The Lombard Street



With Chris Ngai '78 and Derek Choy '93



With Homer Yau '85



**With George Law '66, Fulcan Fong '82
& Ambrose Lee '98**



With George Law '66



Brother Steve's visit to Los Angeles

LSCOPA, Southern California Chapter



Brother Steve addressing old boys at the Southern California Chapter AGM.

Brother Steve Hogan, principal of La Salle College, visited Southern California from August 9 -13, 2012 after attending the LSC Old Boys Global Reunion in Vancouver and visiting the San Francisco bay area.

On August 10 (Friday), Brother Steve was accompanied by Raymond Ho ('72), Southern California Chapter immediate past president, and Sampson Chan ('75) Southern California Chapter president on a tour of the University of Southern California (USC), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Santa Monica College (SMC), and Pepperdine University. During the tour, Brother Steve met with many officials of the schools (including the Dean of Admissions at USC, the Sr. Associated Director of International Recruitment at UCLA, and the Superintendent/President of SMC), providing them with information about LSC while establishing personal relationships with US school administrators and learning about the US education system in order to help LSC students who are interested in attending college/university in the US in the future.

After a full day of visits to the universities and colleges, Raymond and Sampson showed Brother Steve a little bit of the laid-back Southern California nightlife at the famous Santa Monica Pier and Malibu Beach, finishing with a dinner by the Pacific Ocean while watching the surfers surf the day away.

90 old boys, family and friend gathered for the Southern California Chapter AGM and dinner on August 11 (Saturday) at New Capital Seafood Restaurant (半島海鮮酒家) in San Gabriel to enjoy an evening of good food and great friendships. We are honored to have Brother Steve attend the AGM dinner of the Southern California Chapter as our guest of honor. Joining Brother Steve as our honored guests were Brother John Montgomery, principal of Cathedral High School, and Fr. John Lam, pastor of the St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church (羅省華人天主堂).

During AGM dinner, Brother Steve addressed the old boys with the mission of his college visits in US/Canada, and gave a brief overview of the new HK education system and the reason why more La Salle boys will choose to continue their education in US and Canada in the coming years. In addition, Brother Steve also met with LSC old boys who work in the education field (high school teachers, college instructors, and university professors) to gain further insights into the local education system.

Furthermore, Brother Steve installed the newly elected 2012-2014 Directors and Officers of the Southern California Chapter, while all the old boys in Southern California Chapter celebrated our soccer team's triumph with Toronto Chapter and New York Chapter at the North America Cup Tournament hosted by LSCOPA Vancouver Chapter during the Global Reunion weekend (August 2-6).

On August 12 (Sunday), Brother Steve attended Sunday mass at St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church with a number of old boys. During the Mass, Fr. Lam introduced Brother Steve to the audience and invited him on stage for a short speech about his mission in Los Angeles. Before leaving for New York early August 13 (Monday), Brother Steve enjoyed a relaxing evening out with a few old boys at the Hollywood Bowl for a picnic and concert by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Southern California Chapter will be hosting the 2014 LSC Old Boys Global Reunion. Brother Steve has promised that he will attend and we all look forward to seeing Brother Steve again in Los Angeles in 2014, if not sooner.



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Southern California old boys with Brother Steve



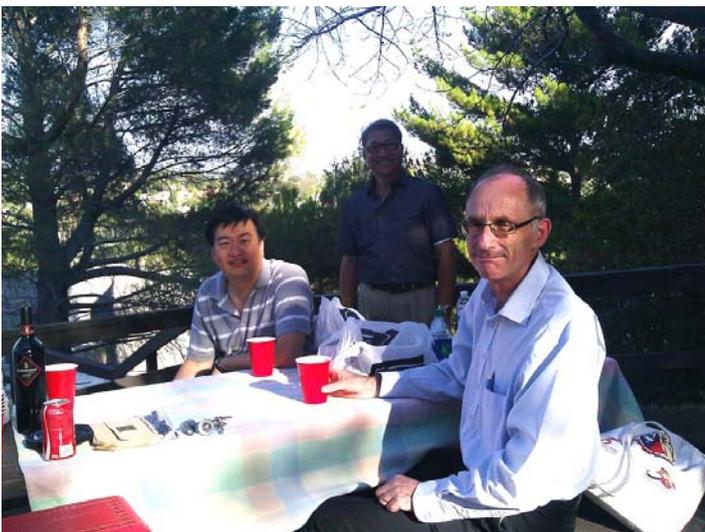
Southern California Chapter soccer team celebrating winning the North America Cup Tournament in Vancouver during the Global Reunion (with Toronto Chapter and New York Chapter).



AGM dinner MCs Eddie Shek ('85) and Ronny Mok ('03).



Sampson Chan ('75) presenting souvenir (framed group picture of Brother Steve with Southern California old boys) to Brother Steve.



Paul Chiu ('88), Sampson Chan ('75), and Brother Steve picnic at the Hollywood Bowl.



Brother Steve with old boys at Hollywood Bowl before concert by the LA Philharmonic Orchestra



The Memorable 7-Day Visit of Brother Steve

Bel Baptista (77), Victor Lee (64), Peter Lai (67)
Endorsed by BOD of OBA-NY

Members of the New York/East Coast Chapter were very excited about Brother Steve's visit to our region, and chapter president Bel Baptista wanted to ensure that a relaxing but productive environment was ready for Brother Steve during his 7-day visit to the East Coast. Below is a brief recap of his visit.

Day One - Monday, August 13th 2012

Brother Steve had arrived New York from Los Angeles at 6 pm and was greeted at the airport by David Lee (64) and Victor Lee (65); he was visibly tired and declined the suggestion of dinner or take-out, but gladly accepted a sandwich from David and Victor instead; and around 8 pm, they arrived the Christian Brothers Center of **Manhattan College** in Bronx, where Brother Steve will stay for the duration of his visit. Manhattan College is a LaSallian Catholic institution founded in 1853 on the principles of John Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of teachers. It was indeed, a long traveling day for Brother Steve and a good night sleep was necessary before his meeting schedule the next day.



Day Two – Tuesday, August 14th 2012

Two appointments were scheduled today, with **Columbia University** in mid-morning and **New York University** in mid-afternoon. Victor Lee (64) and Peter Lai (67) were the designated team to assist Brother Steve; a 2-member team was necessary because driving and parking in NYC on a weekday is not an easy task, it is more efficient for one person to serve as the guide while the other look for a parking space, and Victor was the lucky one with his hands on the wheel today.



Brother Steve met with Victor and Peter after he finished his business with Manhattan College officials and they immediately proceed to Columbia University for the 11 AM appointment; thankfully, traffic was light and they were there with time to spare. While Victor drove around for parking, Peter and Brother Steve walked around the campus and took a few photos along the path. Brother Steve was most impressed by the classical learning atmosphere that surrounded the university campus.

At the meeting, Brother Steve and Peter were greeted by the university's Senior Admission Officer, who is also a Chinese. The meeting last about 45 minutes as Brother Steve first introduced LSC, and then explained the new HK system and its impact to the students. He also stated the main goal for his visit was to explore how

he, as LSC principal, can help his students better prepare in competing for admission to universities in North America.

The university officer was quite impressed by Brother Steve's commitment to his students, as it is very uncommon for principals to make personal site visitation, in particular, all the way from Hong Kong. On the other hand, due to sensitivity of the university's admission/selection policies, she was also very cautious in offering specific information or suggestions. However, the exchanges and dialogues were very positive, and further confirmed that test score is only one of many criteria that Columbia is considering in their evaluation process.

Emerging from the meeting a little past noon, they drove downtown leisurely along Broadway, passing through the banking and the theater districts. With his hectic schedule, this was perhaps the only opportunity that Brother Steve had to take in the sight and sound of this historic city. He was especially impressed by the old architectural gems dotting both sides of the straight and unending avenue.

They parked the car on the western end of 4th Street and walked eastwards. It was lunch time so they wandered into this peculiar place in the Village called Jekyll and Hyde. It was dimly lit, eerily decorated, with creaky wooden floor planks and subway cars running right underneath it. Lunch was interrupted by





sporadic comedic shows that could at best be described as anemic efforts. Both Victor and Peter breathed a sigh of relief as they were leaving, thankful for the absence of any off-color humor (only in New York folks!). It was still early for the 3 pm appointment so they took a walk around the NYU campus. Brother Steve found it interesting that the campus blended in so seamlessly with the neighborhood as there was no apparent demarcation separating one from the other.

At the NYU office, they were greeted by the Assistant Dean of Admissions. The meeting lasted a good two hours. Brother Steve meticulously presented LSC as a top-notch institution that produces exceptional graduates. The dean then offered many suggestions that should be invaluable to LSC boys in the future, and Brother Steve was very happy with the positive feedbacks from the university. It was obviously a “mission accomplished”. On the way back to Manhattan College, they stopped by a local pub for a round of beer and relaxation before saying goodbye to Brother Steve.

Day Three to Five – Wednesday to Friday, August 15th to 17th 2012

The New England mission was a 3-day road trip to seven universities visits that originated from New York City through Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Bel Baptista and his family, who lives in Connecticut, volunteered to serve as the guide on this mission. Their first day covered **Sacred Heart University** and **Yale University** in Connecticut and **Brown University** in Rhode Island; they visited **MIT** and **Harvard University** in Cambridge, Massachusetts on the second day, and finally **Boston University** and **Northeastern University** in Boston on the third day.

As mentioned earlier, Brother Steve’s main objective has two folds: (a) to enhance the awareness of the university admission officers on the excel reputation and quality of La Salle College graduates; and (b) to better understand the evaluation process of respective universities and thereby improve the acceptance rate for LSC applicants. In summary, key emphases in his messages to the universities include:

- Explained the differences in government regulations and tuition costs between government-aided, direct-subsidy and international schools; highlighted the guiding principle of providing education to students of all social and economic levels (as reason why La Salle College remains a government aided school). Further presented our performances/achievements to strengthen the fact that - La Salle may not be as well-known internationally as few brand name budget-riches Band-1 schools from Hong Kong, students from La Salle are no less qualified and must not be overlooked during the admission process.
- Explained the “Band 1-2-3” system of Hong Kong where each band represents different academic level set forth by the Bureau of Education with Band-1 being the highest level; Such that a ‘C’ in a Band-1 schools like La Salle can be a ‘B+’ or ‘A’ in a Band-2 or even an ‘A++’ in a Band-3. He further emphasized the importance of this background when comparing grades between students of La Salle College and United States high schools - because LSC students will be at a disadvantage if their grades are not adjusted upward properly by the admissions office.
- Stressed the situation of which Hong Kong applicants are drowned out by the overwhelming numbers of applicants from China, especially if all applicants are grouped by geographical region. He explained that the tremendous growth in both economic and education prowess coupled with ten million high school graduates from China annually - have dramatically changed the ratio of the Asian applicants pool - with students from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea now having to compete for the same number of available university seats as they did in previous years. In short, Brother Steve called for the assurance from the admission officers that LSC students are given a fair shot at their admission process.
- Inquired about the admission decision process of respective universities; and drawn the attention to the general disadvantage that boys may have if the admission decisions rely heavily on their application essays. He further emphasized two significant facts to the admission officers that (a) Chinese culture encourages modesty and frowns upon self-promotion; and (b) at the age of 16 or 17, girls are emotionally more matured and are better equipped to write in a more expressive and compassionate fashion than boys in that age group, and in contrast, boys are more analytical in nature.
- At the closing of those meetings, Brother Steve officially inviting the admission officers to visit La Salle College campus during their next Hong Kong stopover, to have a firsthand experience with the school’s learning environment, and to coordinate with LSC Career Officer in establishing a direct communication channel to better serve La Salle students regarding their decisions in overseas education.

In addition to the abovementioned official businesses, Brother Steve also had the opportunities to meet other Old Boys in the region. In Boston, they were warmly greeted and had dinner on Thursday evening with Windsor Sung (71) and Michael Ho (83), and they had lunch with Professor Wan Kai Tak (81) on Friday at Northeastern University. After the meeting with school officials, Professor



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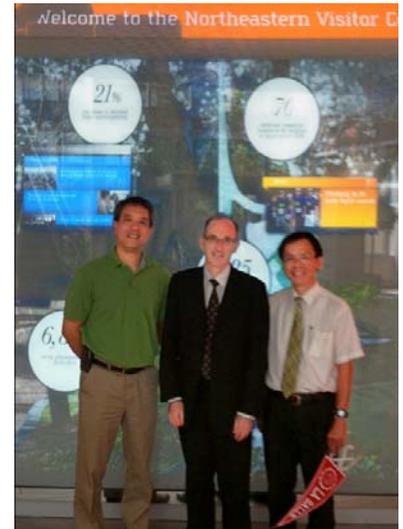
Wan also provided a tour of the National Science Foundation nanotechnology laboratories where he conducts his research at Northeastern.

To put all businesses aside, it would be inexcusable for not inducing some recreational elements into Brother Steve's schedule, especially all these university visits were made on his personal holidays and it was also his first trip to the East Coast. Luckily, they were able to find time during the 3-day trip for a tasting of world famous New England clam chowder and lobsters, a walk along most of the Freedom Trail in Boston and a drive-by tour of the

cottages ("mansions") of Newport, Rhode Island. Finally, they returned to the Christian Brothers Center (Manhattan College) a little after mid-night on Friday. After three hectic days that mostly centered on highways and appointments, Brother Steve was visibly tired; however, he was much more relaxed and relieved after his grueling two weeks of university visits that took him across both coasts of North America. It was certainly a job very well done by a very caring principal.

Day Six – Saturday, August 18th 2012

It was definitely a well deserved off day for Brother Steve, as he spent time relaxing in the morning with other Brothers and taken care of few personal/school related matters. In the mid-afternoon, Bel Baptista again provided Brother Steve a drive-by tour of various tourism spots in New York City before taken him to the Orchid Garden Restaurant in Garden City, Long Island, where a dinner in Brother Steve's honor was held by the chapter. Orchid Garden is a very popular place for the New York old boys because it is owned and operated by James Ng (66), who always personally prepares special dishes on every old boys visit.



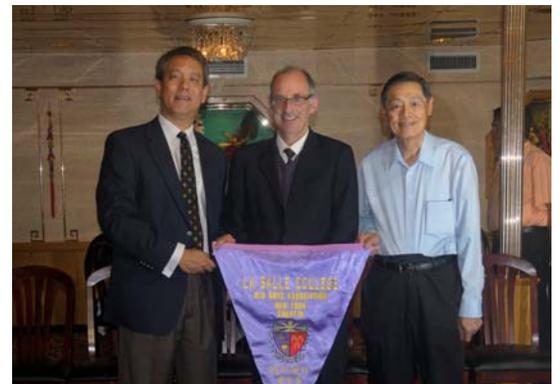
The party was well attended, and Brother Steve was excited and happy to chat with many old boys from different classes, including George Hsi (54), whose journey to the restaurant from New Hamburg, near Poughkeepsie New York, involved 5 different transfers of trains and buses. For the benefit of those who had missed the Vancouver Reunion, Brother Steve gave a short brief on the state of the LSC and the upcoming challenges. He also specifically expressed his appreciation to all the spouses of the old boys for their supports and participations in OBA activities.

Day Seven – Sunday, August 19th 2012

Brother Steve was scheduled to return to Hong Kong later this afternoon, and prior to his journey to the airport, he agreed to join the old boys for the traditional Dim-Sum lunch that takes place every Sunday in Queens New York. Bel picked up Brother Steve and his luggage from Manhattan College and they were greeted by a dozen of OBs and their families upon arrival. It was obviously a very pleasant and enjoyable lunch for all participants, but unfortunately, time gone by too fast and Brother Steve must begin his home journey so everyone wished him well and a safe trip home.

Summary

We are all very grateful for the opportunities in spending time with Brother Steve, to listen to him and to know him. All in all, Brother Steve left everyone the impression that as a school principal, he is a very hardworking, meticulous principal totally committed to his school and students; he is a very seasoned educator who understands the problems and challenges faced everyday by the Hong Kong education system and La Salle College, but yet, he does not miss the small elements that are equally critical to the success of the students. For examples, he encourages whenever overseas old boys who are in town, to stop





by LSC to meet with students and provide them opportunities to practice one-on-one English; to work with them on essay skills; to help the teachers on recommendation letters that can better present the student's character rather than the subjects learned. All these extras may help to enhance the student's chance in college admission.

As a businessman, Brother Steve fully understands the important elements in running successful operations; his future LSC Business Plan is a testimony of how he combined his visions and expectations into action plans. The old boys should be very happy that LSC is under such good hands and the sons of LaSalle should appreciate these great opportunities that hardworking Brother Steve is creating for them.

Last but not the least, Brother Steve the person, is a very warm, kind and quiet person with a very good sense of humor. Grew up in a dairy farm and knows how to milk cows by hand, he studied economics in college before becoming a Brother. He is a connoisseur of fine architecture, hums to Simon and Garfunkel music and eats a very light and healthy diet but loves Chinese hot sauce, and most of all; he is a great companion on the road.

To conclude, there are significant challenges facing the Hong Kong education system now and in the near future, and no doubt for La Salle College as a top reputable education institution, will need to weather many of those challenges in a commendable fashion, and at this critical time, once again, a Christian Brother comes to the rescue. While all the old boys should be thankful for having such a fine principal, but in the same token, we must also do our best to support Brother Steve's mission. As Victor Lee told us "Driving home, I had this warm and fuzzy feeling, knowing that in my own insignificant way, I was thankful for the chance and the privilege to play a miniscule role in this mission. I know... I was just driving Brother Steve around."

May the La Salle Spirit flourish for generations to come!



School News

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

2012-09-28

Mr Read from Kavanagh College Visits La Salle College

Mr Read, Deputy Principal of Kavanagh College, Dunedin, New Zealand, visited La Salle College on Friday 28th September. Kavanagh College began in 1871 and has both the Irish Christian Brothers and the Irish Mercy Sister traditions and is located in the centre of picturesque Dunedin with the New Zealand Alps as a backdrop. Mr Read was visiting the families of the Hong Kong borders. For more information contact www.kavanagh.school.nz or sread@kavanagh.school.nz



2012-09-27

3rd in International Flute Competition

Congratulations to NG Tin Long Jason (1D) who came 3rd in the International Flute Competition hosted by the Beijing Conservatory from the 20th - 23rd August, 2012 with competitors coming from all around the world.



2012-09-27

Northeastern University, Boston, Visits La Salle College

Pictured is Mr Daniel Gerbatch from the Admissions Office of Northeastern University, Boston, with some Form 6 La Salle College students. Northeastern University has 44,000 applicants each year and 15,000 Undergraduate students of which 2,800 are Freshman. Founded in 1898, the university is the home of more than 35 specialized research and education centers and is classified as a RU/H institution (High Research Activity Institution) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more information please go to www.neu.edu or email Mr Gerbatch at d.gerbatch@neu.edu





2012-09-27

John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Visits La Salle College

Mr Jon Goldstein of the Centre for Talented Youth (pictured with Mr Mak from LSC) visited La Salle College on the 26th September. John Hopkins University is keen to pilot a programme for La Salle students from P6, F1, and F2 who may not be able to afford one of their summer schools. Summer schools operate both in Hong Kong at UST and also in Baltimore. Students who may wish to attend a self-funded programme are able to register now on-line. The College will provide more information about the pilot programme in the next few weeks. John Hopkins University was founded in 1876 by John Hopkins and today is one of, if not the, top research university in science, medicine, and engineering. In this regard John Hopkins has only 4,700 Undergraduate students over the 4 years but 14,200 Postgraduate students. For more information please see www.jhu.edu



2012-09-24

University of British Columbia Visits La Salle College



Mr Hakan Bjorn and Ms Adeline from UBC visited La Salle College to meet students and answer questions about UBC. La Salle College has a long tradition of alumni graduating from UBC in either Undergraduate and/or Graduate programmes and with over 4,000 International students out of 42,000 it has the largest international student enrolment in North America. UBC is a top ranking research university. With 99% of professors with PhD's even undergraduates have the potential to be involved in research. For further information please contact Mr Bjorn hakan.bjorn@ubc.ca or the UBC website at www.ubc.ca

2012-09-14

St. Mary's University, California, Visits La Salle College

Br. Brendan and Mr Rolando Chrisostomo from St Mary's University, Moraga, California, a Lasallian University, visited La Salle College on Friday 14th September. Founded in 1863 by the De La Salle Brothers, St. Mary's is guided by the three traditions: catholic, Lasallian, Liberal Arts. A small University College St Mary's is known for its School of Science, School of Economics and Business Administration (SEBA), School of Education, School of Liberal Arts. The college is also very successful in NCAA Division 1 athletics, rugby, and basketball with 2 of the 2012 Olympic team from St. Mary's. Recently Saint Mary's was ranked the 12th best College in the West by US News & World Report and among the top 20 Master's Colleges by Forbes. Any La Salle secondary student from anywhere in the world receives a 20% discount on fees at many Lasallian Universities in the USA. St. Mary's has other scholarship opportunities. Please contact Ms Chow or www.stmarys-ca.edu



2012-09-13

Exeter Academy School and La Salle College



Emeritus Professor Philip Loughlan from Philips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire, USA visited La Salle College on Thursday 13th September having heard about La Salle College while on an education conference in Beijing. Philips Exeter Academy is an elite private school in Exeter, New Hampshire, founded in 1781 by Mr Phillips. Exeter Academy has about 1,000 students from F3-F6 of which about 850 are boarders. The school was founded to teach in the Calvinist (Presbyterian) tradition. In 1930 philanthropist Edward Harkness provided an endowment to establish a Socratic method of teaching now known as the Harkness Method, a seminar tutorial style of learning with classes of 10-15 students. For more details please refer to www.exeter.edu



2012-09-13

Brown University Visits La Salle College

Ms Ott from the International Student Office of Brown University visited La Salle College on Thursday 13th September. Founded in 1764, Providence, Rhode Island, Brown University is unique in that its 6,000 Under-graduate students are architects of their own courses and chose subjects that form 70 Bachelors programmes from their first year. For more please view www.brown.edu



2012-09-13

La Salle College Old Boys Contribute to CityU International Success



SAJNANI Suraj, LEUNG Ming Yin Henry, and HUI Man Nok were recognised by City University on Wed 12th September, along with other team members who were involved in 11 International Moot Competitions in 2011-2012. In the previous year Saraj was also part of the winning Moot team in the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration moot held in Vienna and this year Henry was part of that team. Congratulations lasallians. Congratulations City University. Moot provides the opportunity to develop logical, reasoned thought in the pursuit of justice with integrity while learning to apply the rule of law - skills of leadership that these lasallians will carry into the future.

2012-09-12

Boston University Visits La Salle College

Boston has over 200 Universities, Boston University being one of the more famous. Founded in 1839 with a Methodist affiliation, Boston University is now one of the largest private research universities in the USA boasting some 31,000 students. Pictured is Mr John Gursky from BU International Admissions. For more information you can go to www.bu.edu. Boys in F6 who intend to apply to overseas universities in place of or in addition to JUPAS need to begin applications now. I and staff can help. Boys in F5 who may intend to apply to overseas universities in place of or in addition to JUPAS need to identify options now.



2012-09-05

Asia Music and Speech Competition 2012

In the summer holiday two La Salle College students, WAN Dexter (3D) and KWOK Kwan Ki (5E) entered and won the Violin Duet Championship (Senior Secondary Group) in the 2012 Asia Music and Speech Competition. Congratulations to these two lasallians because this violin competition draws the best from across Asia.