



TV4 Sweden Comes to La Salle College

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

Ms Sara Recabarren from TV4, the largest television channel in Sweden, came to La Salle College to film a current affairs programme called 'Cold Facts' about the teaching and learning of Mathematics in Hong Kong, the second highest ranked country for mathematics achievement for 14/15 year olds in the world according to the PISA International Assessment Agency. La Salle College was identified to them by PISA as one of the strongest performing schools in the assessment, internationally. Also the College has an excellent reputation in Mathematics education evidenced by public examination results and competition results such as CMO and IMO.

The documentary involved the filming of a class at work (1E), an in-depth interview with the Principal, Vice-Principal, Math's Panel Head, a math's teacher (Mr Mak), the filming of a Math's Panel meeting. They also followed several boys home to film the home learning environment and interview their families.



Reminders

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering
Date Mar 7, 2014 (every first Friday)
Time noon
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓

AGM / Spring Dinner

Date Mar 22, 2014 (Saturday)
Time 6:00 pm
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓

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

Louis Pomeroy Memorial Mah Jong Tournament and Spring Dinner

Date Mar 9, 2014 (Sunday)
Time 12:00pm
Venue Emperor Fine Chinese Cuisine (君臨天下高級粵菜) 9019 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3M6
Cost \$45.00 for dinner and Tournament
\$40.00 for dinner only
Contact Danny Au Yeung 647 388 2020,
Tony Pomeroy 416 725 3170,
Kevin Kwok 647 928 5880

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.org-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

East Coast (USA) Christopher Tse (1965),
Peter Lai (1967)

Toronto Felix Leung (1985),
Kevin Kwok (1988),
Jimmy Chang (1966)

Vancouver Victor Leung (1977)

Southern California Eddie Shek (1985)

San Francisco Bay Area Ephrem Fung (1976)
Ambrose Lee (1998)

Edmonton Calvin Chan (1971)



Chapter News

Toronto Chapter

Hong Kong Joint Schools Alumni Association Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner

Kevin Kwok (1988)

Toronto Chapter welcomed New Year with a Great Party

Celebrating Chinese New Year 2014, Hong Kong Joint Schools Alumni Association organized a number of events for its members and friends on Sunday February 9th across different venues. The series started off with Karaoke/Line-dancing at PolyArt Studio. Bowling kicked off a little later at World Bowl and a dinner banquet concluded the day's activities at Golden Court Abalone Restaurant. La Salle had a number of representatives attended the events. Our Chapter President, Philip Wong (1967) said grace, Joe Tang (1971) and Chris Fong (1994) were guest performers, and Kevin Kwok (1988) served as MC of the event.

Background of HKJSSA:

The Hong Kong Joint Schools Alumni Association (HKJSAA) was established shortly after the 25th anniversary of our Joint Schools Valentine Ball 2011, with the intent of maintaining our long year friendship since the inception of our first HKJS Valentine Ball over 25 years ago.

Our HKJSAA Organizing Committee had met several times and is consisting of representatives from 8 Alumni Associations here in Ontario, namely,

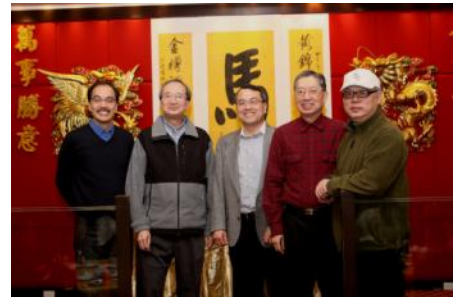
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Paulinians | St. Francis Canossian College |
| La Salle College | St. Joseph's College |
| St. Joseph's A-C School | St. Francis Xavier's College |
| Wah Yan College, Hong Kong | Wah Yan College, Kowloon |



President Group Photo!



La Salle Table



La Salle representatives with Salesian Group!



Chris Fong (1994)



Grand Prize Winner - John Yeung (1973)
- Toronto Chapter Vice President!



Joe Tang (1971)



Special Contribution

Fly The Ocean (Part 1)

William Lai (1961)

William wishes to thank fellow 61er, Francis Siu, for collating the photo montages in this article.

A 1950s Classic

One of the most sentimental ballads in the 1950s was Jo Stafford's *You Belong To Me*. The song was written in the early 50s, with WWII still fresh in people's minds. It was a hark-back to the war years when women waited patiently for the return of their service-member loved ones deployed to theatres of war which in normal times would be exotic tourist destinations. The lyrics go as follows:

*See the pyramids along the Nile
Watch the sun rise on a tropic isle
Just remember, darling, all the while
You belong to me*

*See the marketplace in old Algiers
Send me photographs and souvenirs
Just remember when a dream appears
You belong to me*

*I'll be so alone without you
May be you'll be lonesome too, and blue*

*Fly the ocean in a silver plane
See the jungle when it's wet with rain
Just remember till you're home again
You belong to me*

The song was originally recorded by Sue Thomson who later in 1961, our Form 5 graduation year, had a much more successful hit with *Sad Movies (made me cry)*. Many singers and songstresses had covered *You Belong To Me*, including Patsy Cline, Patti Page, Pat Boone, and Canadian Anne Murray. But Jo Stafford's version has, even today, remained the most popular and the tune has become her signature song.

You can hear her at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=berL-80EPmg>

The lyrics seemingly allude to several war zones that saw heavy and prolonged combat.

Egypt (*pyramids along the Nile*) and Algeria (*old market place*) suggest the North African fight between Rommel, the Dessert Fox, and Field Marshall Montgomery. The campaign was a see-saw battle between the British and German forces. Some of the tactics employed in this battle became classic teaching points in military texts. The battle was eventually won by Montgomery at El Alamein, Egypt.

Tropic isle seems to represent the South Pacific islands through which the US forces marched towards Japan. Brutal combat was conducted on many idyllic islands well-placed snapshots of which would portray paradise rather than horrendous killing grounds.

Jungle.. wet with rain reminds one of the guerrilla-like battles in Southeast Asia where monsoon rains made the business of warfare pure hell, aiding and abetting other enemies such as tropical diseases and animal predators than the intended human ones with guns shooting at you. In peace, the beaches in these areas around the equator are heaven to swimmers and water-sport enthusiasts.

Flying in a plane was, of course, a big deal in those days. Ordinary people never had the luxury and pleasure of riding in an aeroplane, only those with a special status or mission. The then privilege of a plane ride over the ocean was worth mentioning as a unique experience that might affect the passengers' views towards home-bound spouses.



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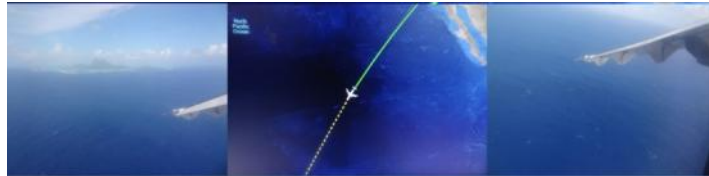
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Flying the ocean

On a recent trip to the French Polynesia, while flying over the Pacific Ocean, it occurred to me that through the years, I had actually done most of the things mentioned in the song. The only exception was the marketplace in Old Algiers where apparently it is still unsafe to visit. But the Grand Bazar in Istanbul is a good surrogate.

Here is a pictorial travelogue paralleling the lyrics of *You Belong To Me*.

Fly the ocean in a silver plane



See the jungle when it's wet with rain



See the pyramids.....



along the Nile



El Alamein



Watch the sunrise (Papeete)...





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on a tropic isle (Bora Bora)



See the market place (and buy souvenirs)



You belong to me



LAX



Visit with Patrick Lau



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Before “flying the ocean” to Tahiti, we stopped over in Los Angeles and took the opportunity to visit an old classmate, Patrick Lau Pak Man. We actually had seen one another several times during various La Salle Old Boys reunions, but never had the opportunity to sit down and catch up on each other’s circumstance and endeavours. We met at the Universal Studios, walked under big iconic statues of King Kong, which reminded me of our days of youth when we saw that movie in Hong Kong. We lunched at the Bubba Gump restaurant which also has a large franchise on Victoria Peak in Hong Kong. We had a most enjoyable visit. We pledged to revisit, perhaps with Patrick coming up north to the famed Canadian Rockies at some point.

By a stroke of luck, we were also able to attend the Jay Leno show. Having watched the legendary Tonight Show for decades, I thought it would be fascinating to attend the show in person, especially during these last months of Leno’s tenure on the show. The show that we saw, however, was interesting but not that great. Some of Leno’s jokes were not that amusing. The main guest was songstress Shakira. Leno’s interview with her was OK but not very entertaining. Guest performer happened to be Tom Jones. We had seen him a couple of times before in concert when he was a younger man. The Tom Jones we saw that night sang an undistinguished song and appeared a far cry from his former amatory self. We didn’t see any female undergarments or room keys thrown at the stage, which is a bit of a sorry commentary on his presence. All in all, the show was interesting but perhaps also showed why a change of guard (Jimmy Fallon) in early 2014 is necessary to preserve the appeal of the show.



The Jay Leno Tonight Show – cameras disallowed inside

Not exactly the Kon-Tiki Expedition

My interest in Polynesia was sparked by studying *The Kon-Tiki Expedition*, a required reading in Form 4. I seem to remember our then Form-master, Mr. Henry Lau, reading and explaining the text to us. Tahiti became another of my bucket list items inspired by my studies at La Salle.

The *Kon-Tiki Expedition* was, of course, the story of the Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyerdal who went on a muscle-powered voyage in the South Pacific hoping to prove that Polynesians were actually ancient migrants from South America and not from Asia. Despite his Herculean effort, he was unable to find evidence substantiating his theory. His proposition became rather controversial and was disputed vigorously. More recent research using modern technology such as DNA analysis seems to show that he was at least partly right after all. There appears to be some DNA connection between some Polynesian islanders and some Native Americans.

DNA analysis was far from my mind when Vivien and I travelled to Tahiti in the French Polynesia. We were more interested in analysing the fabled Edenic offerings of these islands. After much research and consideration, we decided to try out a cruise line with which we had not sailed before, the Paul Gauguin Cruises. Its ships allegedly have superior service and a size best suited for plying the narrow waters in these islands. It is considered by many as a premier cruise line, definitely not a Kon-Tiki-Expedition raft.



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The Society Islands

French Polynesia is an overseas country of the French Republic, comprised of several groups of islands. The most well-known of these islands are Tahiti and the group called the Society Islands. The capital, Papeete, is located on Tahiti.

The so-called cruise was basically a glorified ferry ride amongst ports in the Society Islands group. The sailing distances and times between stops were quite short, sometimes only a couple of hours. While the country is French, it is full of English history. The "Society Islands" were named by Captain Cook after the British Royal Society in honour of that organization.

The other well-known historical incident related to this part of the South Pacific was the mutiny on HMS Bounty in 1789. I remember watching two movie versions of Mutiny on the Bounty in Hong Kong. The older one, a black and white film, came out in 1935, starring Charles Laughton and Clark Gable. I watched that one as a kid. The one I remember more was released in 1962, starring Marlon Brando, in colour. This latter one was partly filmed on location in Tahiti and some of the Society Islands.

In brief, the story was about the uprising of a crew commanded by Captain Bligh on an exploratory voyage which routed through the South Pacific and the Caribbean. Captain Bligh, a hand-picked lieutenant of Captain Cook, was allegedly a brutal commander who lost control of his command. The Bounty and the mutineers stopped over at Tahiti several times during this misadventure. Looking at the paradisiacal setting of these islands, I couldn't help but wonder why these folks couldn't just indulge themselves in this near-utopian environment instead of creating fatal conflicts, especially considering that they were on what essentially was an all-expenses-paid cruise, on a top-line boat of the day to boot.

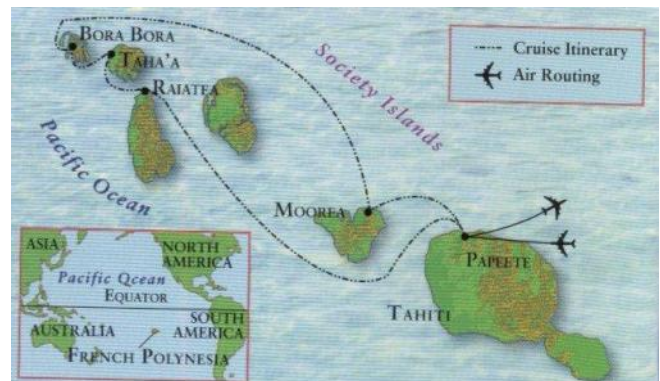
The Paul Gauguin Cruises

Named after a French artist who made his name in Tahiti in the late 1800s, this cruise line is probably not as well-known as the larger cruise ship operators such as Carnival, Celebrity etc. But it boasts a first-class service, luxury on board, more intimate atmosphere, optimum-sized ships able to reach ports larger cruise ships cannot. There are no inner cabins; all staterooms have ocean view. The prices of the seven-day cruise that we chose ranged from about US\$4,000 to US\$12,000. The higher prices had larger suites and included butler service. Needless to say, we had the peasant level of accommodation on the ship (i.e. just a room and no butler). The relative high cost of the cruise was somewhat offset by the fact that it included return airfare from Los Angeles. One could add a pre- or post-cruise extension stay in one of the islands, which we also did.

The included flight was by Air Tahiti Nui, taking about eight and half hours from LA to Papeete. The flight itself was pleasant enough, with very colourful interior and seats. If you are a frequent flyer point collector, note that this airline is not affiliated with other airline groups such as Star Alliance, so that you cannot collect points on these systems. They have their own rewards program called Club Tiare. One can join up and collect their points, but the problem is that for us in North America, we probably would not fly that airline often enough to have usable points. The flight from LA arrived in Papeete early in the morning, like about 5 a.m., so that one can coincidentally and effortlessly fulfill the "dream" of seeing the sunrise on a tropic isle, as recommended by Jo Stafford in her signature song. Another good thing is that the price also included a stay in the local Intercontinental for the day so one could recover from jet lag and freshen up before boarding the cruise ship at about 10 p.m.



Paul Gauguin Cruises



Cruise itinerary

(to be continued...)



School News

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

2014-02-24

La Salle College Fencing Champions 2014

La Salle College Fencing Team participated in the annual Hong Kong Individual Championships on Sunday the 16th February (see results below) and the Interschool Team Championships on Sunday 23rd February. Once again it came down to the final joust in the Saber, fencing for 3rd and 4th position. La Salle College lost the point to DBS and came fourth in the event but retaining a shared Championship.

Of note is Thomas TANG (F6) our Fencing Captain. Having served the Foil Team to victory every year since Form 2 he knew that we needed an extra team member for the Epee even though he knew he may not achieve the Gold medal in Epee whereas the Foil Team were confident they could. Thomas sacrificed his own glory for the Fencing Team and the school. A remarkable story of service, loyalty, and leadership. A remarkable Lasallian to be commended by all.

Results:

Fencing (Open)		Fencing (Individual)		
Foil	Champion	A Grade:	B Grade: 1st YUEN James,	C Grade: 2nd CHEUNG King Ho
Epee	Third	A Grade: 2nd CHOI Ryan,	B Grade:	C Grade:
Sabre	Fourth	A Grade: 3rd CHAU Lincoln		
Overall	Champion (with DBS)			

2014-02-24

La Salle College 2nd in the 50th Hong Kong Schools Dance Festival

The La Salle College Dance Team came second in the Hong Kong Secondary Schools Dance Festival competitions on Sunday. The Jazz (Group Section) were awarded the Highly Commended Award (2nd Place) for their dance 'Fun Fun Fun'. This is following from the Jazz (Trio) winning First Place in the Hong Kong Schools Dance Festival during the Chinese New Year.



Pictured: Coach, Mr Bon Kwong, Teachers, Ms Poon, Mr Mak and Ms Zhang, and the Jazz dance Group [LAU Johnathan (1A), HO Siu Chun (1C), LAM Chi Hin (1C), HUI Matthew (1E), NG Justin (1F), LUK Hong Yi (2B), YUEN Ethan (2E), CHEUNG Fung Chit (2G), ARCILIA Jose (3A), NAIR Ashwin (3A), LAM Hei Long (3G), CHEUNG Derek Tsz Yin (4D), Tang Tsz Chung (4F)]

2014-02-19

China Mathematics Olympiad (CMO)

Four La Salle College boys were members of the Hong Kong Mathematics Team in the China Mathematics Olympiad (CMO) held from the 19th – 23rd December 2013, in Nanjing, Jiangsu. The Olympiad was organized by the Chinese Mathematical Society, the Jiangsu Mathematics Society, and the High School Affiliated to Nanjing Normal University. There were over 360 contestants forming 35 teams from Chinese Provinces, Municipalities, Autonomous Regions and Special Administrative Regions, as well as from Singapore and Russia.

The LSC team members' results were:

YU Hoi Wai, Harry (3C)	Second Class Honour
TANG Dik Man, Damian (5G)	Third Class Honour
HUI Pak Nam, Jeffery (6F)	Third Class Honour
WONG Hing Shing, Benjamin (6G)	Third Class Honour

The Hong Kong Team received 2 Second Class Honours and 4 Third Class Honours.





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Global Reunion

**LSCOPA Southern California Chapter to host
La Salle College Old Boys Global Reunion 2014
from August 8 to August 10, 2014 at Pacific Palms Resort in Los Angeles**

La Salle College Old Boys Global Reunion returns to Southern California in 2014!

Date: August 8, 2014 (Friday) to August 10, 2014 (Sunday)
Headquarter: Pacific Palms Resort (<http://www.pacificpalmsresort.com/>)
One Industry Hills Parkway, City of Industry, CA 91744)

Tentative Program

	August 7, 2014 (Thursday)	August 8, 2014 (Friday)	August 9, 2014 (Saturday)	August 10, 2014 (Sunday)
AM		World Conference	Soccer Tournament	Bowling Challenge
PM	Check-In Happy Hour	Class/Group Mini-Reunions	Mass Class/Group Mini-Reunions	Gala Dinner

Our chapter last hosted the Global Reunion in 2005. It was a great success with over 400 old boys, family, and friends from all over the world attending.

The organization committee is hard at work to make the 2014 Global Reunion an even more rewarding experience for all attendees, and we need your support! If you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions, please contact the Global Reunion 2014 organizing committee at gr2014@lscobasc.org.

As details of the events are finalized in the coming days, they will be posted to the LSC Old Boys Global Reunion 2014 web page <http://www.lscobasc.org/gr2014/> and on the LSCOPA Southern California Chapter Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lscobasc/>. Please check on the pages regularly or subscribe to updates to make sure you receive the latest news on the Global Reunion.

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

喇沙桃李滿天下
港九鷗鵬造乾坤

We look forward to seeing you at the Global Reunion!

Sincerely,

Sampson Chan ('75)
President
LSCOPA Southern California Chapter

Charles Tsang ('83)
Chair, Organizing Committee
LSC Old Boys Global Reunion 2014