



Dear Fellow Old Boys,

Greetings!

On 11 January, our profession network round table dinner (PNRTD) series opened as the first event of the New Year featuring the ever affable Paul Chow (65), the then retiring CEO of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd, as the opening speaker. The spectacular dining room of Club Lusitano was filled to the brim with 85 enthusiastic Old Boys fortunate enough to secure seats, and we soaked up every word of Paul's most entertaining and enlightening talk. Look out for the second installment of the PNRTD series featuring Mr. Y K Choi, the retired Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, coming in May.

Secondly, an updated report on our "Project Green", the initiative by the Association to turf the two "winged quadrants" at both ends of the tennis court, not included in the original resurfacing plans, which is intended to be used for specialised training like goalkeepers' working out and players' warming up and preparations. This project had been successfully completed thanks to donations from various Old Boys who responded generously to the Association's drive last year. The newly renovated track

and field was officially opened during the LSC Family Fun Day held in early February. The Association wishes to remind all members using these sporting facilities to strictly observe and abide by the rules and regulations set by the School to protect the re-turfed surfaces, to minimise maintenance and to avoid unnecessary, costly repairs in the future.

The LSC Family Fun Day was held in the College on 7 February. It's an annual event of the College to get the staff, students, parents and Old Boys together for a relaxing and entertaining gathering with performances, games stalls, food bazaar etc. The unseasonal rainy weather forced the event indoor but did not deter the keen participation and enthusiasm of those attending. On the contrary, the closer environment brought about an even warmer and more jovial ambience. The Association, as in the previous few years, took part in the event with a well-liked game stall in front of which long lines could be seen throughout the day. Ours has always been amongst the most popular thanks in no small part to the generous donation of toys by a number of Old Boys who have been sponsoring the Association in recent years; our hats off to them!

The final day of the Interscholar Division 1 Athletics Meet was held on Friday, 12 March in the Wanchai Sports Ground. An army of Old Boys took time off their busy work schedule to support in person our boys who were leading in the overall standing since Day 1 up till lunch break on Day 3, the final day. A series of morale-sapping injuries and unfortunate turn of events deprived them of yet another could-have-been well deserved championship. Disappointing as it might be, the very respectable 2-1-2 finish in A, B and C grades respectively and two meet records deserved congratulations for our athletes who have been training long and hard and with renewed vigour after the heart breaking, last minute disqualification of last year. The odds have been and will still be stacked overwhelmingly against us in the foreseeable future as we, by any measure, are competing in an unlevel playing field. Our competition has the distinct advantage, very much unfair to us, of using their complete admission autonomy to scout, admit and even poach student athletes of their liking, something which we obviously don't practise. While we hope against hope that the relevant authorities will one day implement those long awaited and sensible policies like waiting periods for "transferred

students" before they can represent their new school etc., our home grown and trained athletes nevertheless are determined to train even harder to regain the overall champion which is rightfully ours!

As tradition would have it, our annual Spring Dinner was held immediately after the above mentioned event. Well attended by over 500 honoured guests, current and retired teachers, Old Boys and students including the School's athletics teams, representatives from various sports teams and the Students' Association, this year's Spring Dinner had an added dimension as we bid farewell to our well-liked, retiring Principal, Mr. Wong Yen Kit after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the College. May Mr. Wong's well deserved retirement be a blissful one. Read more about this event in other section of this newsletter.

The ever popular Horse Racing Day, which the Association is planning to make as a biennial event, is tentatively scheduled for the coming month of June after two years' hiatus since the successful running of the "La Salle Diamond Jubilee Cup" in 2008. Look out for more details in our upcoming announcements.

Last but by no means least, the Association takes great honour and pleasure in extending our heartfelt welcome to Brother Steve Hogan from New Zealand, the newly confirmed La Salle College Principal who will take up his new post come this September. After more than a year of intensive searching and culling through the pool of suitable applicants by the selection committee, the very competent, well qualified and forty-nine years "young" Bro. Steve with his wealth of experience, impeccable records and proven leadership quality is an absolute godsend in every meaning of the word. The Association looks forward to his inspirational guidance in leading the College to new heights!

Yours in de La Salle,

Charles Chan (77)
President
president@lscoba.com



Founded 1939

La Salle College
Old Boys' Association Limited

c/o La Salle College
18 La Salle Road, Kowloon,
Hong Kong
OBA Office : (852) 2336 2985
School Office: (852) 2338 7171
www.lscoba.com

WELCOME TO THE NEW LSC PRINCIPAL

The Association has the great honour and pleasure in welcoming Brother Steve Hogan as the newly confirmed La Salle College Principal who will take up his post this coming September.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Brother Steve on his appointment as Principal and our wholehearted support to him as we look forward to his leadership in guiding La Salle College forward in the many years to come. The following is the announcement from the School Supervisor, Brother Patrick:



The Supervisor and the School Management Committee of La Salle College are pleased to announce the appointment of Brother Steve Hogan as the new principal of the College as of 1st September 2010.

Brother Steve was born in New Zealand in 1961. In 1984 he graduated from Auckland University with a Bachelor of Arts, and took two Masters of Education, one in Religious Studies in 1995 and the other in Curriculum Studies in 1997, both from the Australian Catholic University.

Up to now Brother Steve has been a teacher, religious education and curriculum coordinator, vice principal and, for the last five years, Principal of various Lasallian schools in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Currently he is the Principal of De La Salle College, Mangere East, in Auckland.

During his time as vice principal and principal, Brother Steve brought De La Salle College to new heights. The college is an all boys' school with a student population of over 1,000. Many of the students are from the Pacific Islands. Under Brother Steve's leadership the school won many awards, most notably national awards for value added academic success and for rugby. Brother Steve himself is a keen supporter of academic, cultural and sports activities.

We congratulate Brother Steve on his appointment as Principal and welcome him to our Lasallian Family in Hong Kong. Many of you will no doubt have the pleasure of meeting him shortly. We assure him of our wholehearted support and prayers as he prepares himself to lead the school forward in these exciting and challenging times.

Brother Patrick Tierney
Supervisor

Two LSCOBA Past Presidents honoured with Affiliation to the La Salle Brothers

Our Past Presidents A de O Sales (1957-60) and Nicholas Ng (1982-84) were honoured with Affiliation to the La Salle Brothers during the recent visit of Brother Superior of the Lasallian Institute to Hong Kong. This is an honour which is bestowed on only a few, and LSCOBA is especially proud that both gentlemen are not only from our beloved La Salle College, but are also our Association's Past Presidents. Our most sincere congratulations to the two Past Presidents!

Lasallian honoured at the Winter Olympics

Michael Abbas (70) was honoured by the Canadian Winter Olympics Committee by being selected as one of the 12,000 Olympic torch bearers taking the Olympic flame all across Canada to reach Vancouver in February for the start of the Winter Olympics. Michael ran his 300 meters leg on 20 December 2009 in the town of Thorold near St Catherines in Niagara and it took him about 1-2 minutes to complete the run. It was indeed a once in a life time experience.

Well done, Michael and congratulations! We are all immensely proud of you!

Roy Lie (70)



LSCOBA Chatboard user Authentication

Further to our earlier announcement that we had noticed our chatboards being continuously abused by some unidentified persons, our IT team has modified our chatboards to enable the User Authentication function, with the anticipated launch date in May 2010.

After the new function is enabled, to post messages onto the chatboards, you must be both (i) a LSCOBA member and (ii) a registered user in the Lasallian Directory. Nevertheless, all persons will continue to be able to view our chatboards.

If you are not a frequent user, or are a new user, or you would like to receive our latest news and events electronically, please use one of the following channels to establish your login account or update your email address and also enjoy the Lasallian network: -

1. To create a new Old Boy user account:

<https://www.lscoba.com/lscoba/register.html>

2. To reset your password:

<https://www.lscoba.com/lscoba/forgetpassword.html>

3. To apply for membership of the LSCOBA:

<http://www.lscoba.com/lscoba/membership/apply.html>

A one time membership fee is required to join. Kindly note that as usual, besides supporting meaningful events and functions of the OBA, the membership fee received goes to support the School in many types of awards, sponsorships and donations to LSC.

4. To contact the OBA Administrator for a manual check up of the Lasallian Directory:

<http://www.lscoba.com/lscoba/contactus.html>

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your long term support to LSCOBA and we hope that this new control to our chatboards will better verify the authenticity of posters, enhance the quality of sharings and discussions, and further promote the fraternity of the Lasallian family.

IT Subcommittee

Stay connected with LSCOBA on Facebook and Linkedin

LSCOBA now has formal groups on Facebook and LinkedIn. You can get updates, newsletters, photos, upcoming activities and announcements of the happenings in the OBA through the groups.

The official Facebook group of the OBA is called "La Salle Old Boys' Ties".

The official group in www.Linkedin.com is called "La Salle College (Hong Kong) Old Boys"

New Convenor for the UK Chapter

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Christopher Liu (77) as the new Convenor of the UK Chapter succeeding Dr. Brian Ho (74) who has returned to Hong Kong.

Professor Liu attended La Salle Primary School and La Salle College prior to furthering his studies in London and is now an internationally known ophthalmic surgeon. We wish him every success in leading the UK Chapter and the Old Boys there to new heights.

Brothers' Mausoleum in Happy Valley Unharmful

On the morning of 19 February 2010, around 60 graves in the St Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Happy Valley were found vandalised. The scale of the damage ranged from unearthed plants and toppled vases, to actual smashing of tombstones. The Lasallian Brothers maintain a mausoleum and several graves at a site besides the chapel in the cemetery, where the remains of 29 Brothers are laid to rest. On hearing the news of the vandalism, some Old Boys paid a visit to the cemetery the next day to check if any damage was done to the Brothers' graves. Fortunately they reported back that the graves and mausoleum were unscathed. However, as of now, the Catholic Church does not know who carried out the acts, or what was the motive.





Round Table Dinner with Paul Chow

A LSCOPA Round Table Dinner was held on Monday, 11 January with Paul Man Yiu Chow (65) 周文耀 as the speaker at Club Lusitano in Central, Hong Kong. As the retiring Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, Paul first shared with the 85 Old Boys present his own career history, punctuated with his personal triumphs and pitfalls. Two of his remarks were especially outstanding, viz, the invaluable help from his mentor Mr. Fung King Hei, and his advice to youngsters about the importance of language skills.

He then enlightened the house with his views on the current financial market, the development of Hong Kong's financial system in the next 20 years, and the future of the Hong Kong Dollar. One Old Boy subsequently commented: "I enjoyed the evening very much. The venue was excellent, perfect for an intimate gathering like what we had. The food and services were reasonable. The speech by Paul was the best. He was relaxed and talked to us in a very causal (but sometimes serious) manner. I felt the brotherhood." As Paul said, with no reporters and no media, he was at ease to speak his mind five days before his official retirement date.

We take this opportunity to wish Paul a very pleasant retirement!

Gordon Fong (76)

Factory Visits

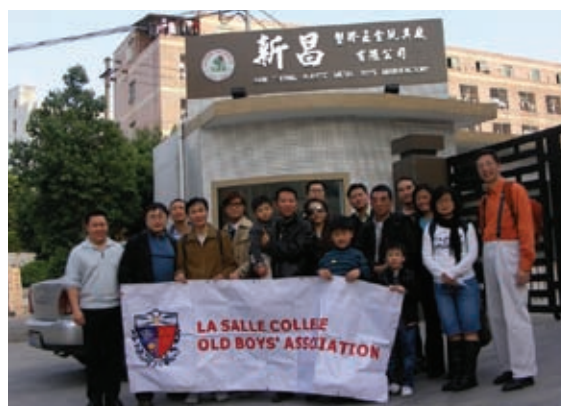
On Saturday, 16 January, the Alumni Development Subcommittee organised a visit to three factories in Shenzhen. A total of 14 participants including Old Boys and their family members assembled at the Kowloon Tong Station before taking the train to Lo Wu and then boarding a coach in Shenzhen for 龍崗南聯.

The first stop of the tour, as arranged by Old Boy Dwight Chan (85), took us to the Zhun Yan 臻彦 Printing Factory. German Roland printing technology together with many cutting and binding tools were shown to us. There we appreciated that even a small piece of wrapping involved many steps in its production. The group then consumed a very filling lunch before moving on to the second factory. Here the flocking process, ie the

electrostatic application of filaments or fine particles to adhesive coated surfaces of many traditional dolls and packaging material to impart a velvety or suede feel, was demonstrated.

A short drive then took us to Chong Sun 創新 Toy Manufacturer in 橫崗窩肚 where many processes of current toy making were explained. These included injection molding, rotational molding, tempo printing, and spray painting. Here the children attendees appreciated even more the many steps involved in the production of even a tiny toy such as the Bagukan 爆丸. The group was dismissed at Shenzhen Station where some continued their exploration for shopping and food.

Gordon Fong (76)



LSCOBA Annual Spring Dinner

The Annual Spring Dinner has always been a popular Old Boys' event in the past and this year was no exception. The Year of the Tiger Spring Dinner was held on 12 March at Wan Chai Ho Choi Banquet and Seafood Restaurant (灣仔好彩海鮮酒家), immediately after the Inter-school Athletics Finals.

With the 40 tables all sold out, the evening was filled with laughter of more than 450 Old Boys, present and former teachers as well as students. As always, we encouraged more young Old Boys to join the function, thus a special discount was given to those who graduated in or after the year of 2000. Some highlights of the evening included the personal sharing by our La Salle athletes on stage, Lucky Draw and of course the traditional beer drinking competition. More importantly, we bid farewell to Mr. Wong Yen Kit, who is retiring at the end of this school term as Principal of La Salle College, and we thanked him for his dedication and service to our Alma Mater.



Terence Mak (97)

Inter-school Athletics Meet

The Inter-school Athletics Meet Final was held on 12 March and drew a huge crowd of over one hundred Old Boys, teachers, and parents as it traditionally did. Despite leading all the way through the morning events, misfortune started to fall on our athletes like the pouring rain from the gloomy afternoon sky. Injuries and unexpected outcome turned our winning hope upside down, but the consistency we continued to witness was the Never-Say-Die spirit of our athletes and the endless support from the Old Boys. United as one, the team captured the B-grade Champion, C-grade 1st runner-up as well as the A-grade 1st runner-up, which was determined by a finger-biting one point margin over the third ranked CGHC. Although the team could not convert their year long effort into ultimate victory, they have brought a lot of priceless pride to all those who love and support La Salle.

Winning never comes easy, especially when we are always up against adversity from opponents with different education values. However, with the unity and high flying spirits demonstrated by the team this year, we consider ourselves victors in spirit and sportsmanship. The boys have vowed to uphold the fame of La Salle and the Old Boys will always be cheering them on!

Terence Mak (97)



Pouring rain no damper for LSC Family Fun Day 2010

Held on 7 April, the annual Family Fun Day also marked the official opening of the newly resurfaced football field and track, with Old Boy Wilfred Ng (81) as the guest of honour. As part of the Lasallian family, OBA set up a game stall among many others run by the students. It was a very rainy morning and the School decided to relocate the game stalls from the football field to the indoor area at LG1 while the opening ceremony was held in the auditorium instead. The packed environment caused some inconvenience but the festive atmosphere was even enhanced as everything became so close together. Not only could we enjoy delicious homemade gourmets prepared by students and parents in the auditorium but also entertaining performances by students, teachers, parents and Old Boys on stage, a perfect combination that made us forget about the pouring rain outside. We continued the tradition of attracting endless patrons to our game stall until all our 400 gifts (including 10 remote-control planes) were won with joy and fun.

We would like to thank Lung Cheong International Holdings Ltd, Soma International Ltd and Vincent Ma (82) for their generous sponsorship of the gifts and Lam Sheung Chi (04), Sun Tin Ho Jerry (04) and Alexander Ng (05) for their stage performances.

Stanley Shum (79)



Mentorship Program 2nd Gathering - BBQ Lunch

After the kick-off event of the Mentorship Program in October last year, we received suggestions from the Mentees as to the format of the second large group gathering: they would like to have a more casual gathering to mingle with and get to know the Mentors better. Therefore, a BBQ lunch gathering was held on Saturday, 6 March at the Police Sports and Recreation Club in Prince Edward, Kowloon. A total of 40 Mentors and Mentees attended the gathering for an enjoyable weekend afternoon.

The final gathering of the Mentorship Program 2009 - 2010 will be held in early June, see you all then!

Eric Chow (00)

Ricky Chow (03)

Young Members' Section Task Force



Reflections on an Indian Summer Evening



It was an evening with a smart casual dress code, but the night was dressed up by the lights from around Victoria Harbour. The gathering had been brewing for a few months, and the anticipation jacked up the ante in the minds of all concerned. On Friday, 25 September 2009, more than 80 La Salle Old Boys from 1974 gathered together at the Lawn of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club to mark the 35th Anniversary of their completion of secondary education. They came from near and afar, some nearing retirement, others already retired, while some were still actively engaged in life's many wonderful pursuits. From thousands of miles away in Canada, United States, Australia, Malaysia and China, many joined for what may be an event of a lifetime.

It was an evening to renew long-lost friendships, and a night to revive innocent days when horseplay between young boys took on an imagined magnitude that reverberates through the ages. This was a generation that experienced and survived, inter alia, television (remember radio days?), how a 5-cent hike in Star Ferry fares sparked a riot, how a war was won in the Sinai in six days in 1967, parades in the streets to welcome British royalty, transition from ferries to cross-harbour tunnels, stock market rollercoaster rides once about a dozen years, the transmogrification of Hong Kong from a "developing" manufacturing centre to a service/value-added centre, the cataclysmic changes of 1997, C H Tung, personal computers, mobile phones and junk emails. Through the travail of ages, young men who grew up tracked a similar course, but each generation with its own experience and unique sparkle. But the evening belonged to friendship, brotherhood, camaraderie, and the Class of 1974.

*To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die...* Ecclesiastes 3.1-8

Looking back, 1974 was a rather momentous year for Hong Kong too. After all, following some social clamour, the Independent Commission Against Corruption was established in February that year. The Vietnam War was suddenly nearing its end, though the ordinary American "GI" visiting Wanchai on R & R might not be aware of it. The Hang Seng Index was in the doldrums after feverish speculation. These young boys from that generation has seen the spectacular transformation of Hong Kong from the heady days of 1950's to become the metropolis it is today, and may yet bear witness to some other changes in the territory which never cease to amaze us.



It was a time to celebrate the very simple fact that we were all still here. The evening was graced by the presence of our teachers of yesteryears, who included, in no particular order, Mr. Peter Chiu Wing Tak, Mr. Yik Kwan, Mr. John Au, Mr. Lawrence Chan Hok Man, Mr. Cheung Ting-por, Mr. Chiu Siu Lai, Mr. Peter Cheung Wah-tai, Mr. Chong Ket Seng, Mr. Henry Lau, Mr. N.K. Leung, Mr. Albert Loong, Mr. Woo Ho Wai, and our French teacher Monsieur Wu. Rev. Brother Thomas inspired the group with his words of how Old Boys could help the welfare of retired La Salle teachers, and of how La Salle has reinvented itself amidst ever changing circumstances in Hong Kong. The balance of the proceeds of the evening, after deducting expenses, eventually went to the successful auction for an old photograph of La Salle College, which will be displayed in the school. Among the Old Boys, there were chats and laughter about days that would never come again, and future gatherings to renew old ties. The words of William Blake somehow come to mind:

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

As we get on in life, many will seek solace and comfort in our families and loved ones, but as is always the case, the spirits of those who have passed ~ carry on in the memories of the living. It would be interesting to surmise how our next generation might see us, but for now we might rest our souls, knowing that we have lived and loved. An unwritten pledge of the Reunion night was that somehow there would be another one in five years, but we never know. As we look forward to a new decade (where we may slide slowly into oblivion), perhaps ponder the words of William Butler Yeats:

*When you are old and gray and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;*

*How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true;
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;*

*And bending down inside the glowing bars
Murmur, a little sadly, how love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.*

And these from Lord Alfred Tennyson:

*"Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all."*

Hear, hear...

Edmand Wong (74)





The “Double 55” Celebration of the Seventeeners

The Group Committee of The 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group held its annual spring dinner on 7 March at the Eaton Hotel to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the Scout Troop's establishment in 1955. Incidentally, as the figures implied, the event was also dedicated to celebrate the “Double 55” of the Committee. Thanks to the generosity of Chairman Nelson Lee (58) and the two Vice-Chairmen James Chiu (69) and Karl Ng (64), a western buffet style dinner was chosen to provide a cosy atmosphere for the participants.

We were honoured to have the presence of Bro. Patrick and Bro. Alphonsus as Honorary Advisors, Principal Wong Yen Kit as the sponsoring authority and Emily Leung as Principal of LSPS. The VIPs were Charles Chan (77), President of LSCOPA, Dr. Steven Wong, PTA Chairman of LSC, Lai Kwok Wing, Kowloon City District Commissioner, Scout Association of Hong Kong and other guests. There was a congregation of more than 90 persons at the event, including members and their spouses, as well as scout leaders.

In his welcoming speech, Chairman Nelson Lee thanked Bro. Patrick, the Supervisor and the two Principals for their support, the Chairman of PTA for inviting ten parents to join as scouters and all the scout leaders for their good work. Adding to this special “Double 55” function, the Committee decided to contribute a total sum of \$55,000 separately to support two meaningful projects in the pipeline. On behalf of the Committee, he presented in the ceremony the following:

- (1) \$30,000 to Bro. Patrick for all the fact-finding effort in writing the biographies of the Brothers, past and present, and related issues in The Gateway periodicals for sharing among fellow Old Boys.
- (2) \$25,000 to Bro. David Liao (represented by Principal Wong Yen Kit) to teach free English and computer courses, and to further provide free meals for poor students at the La Salle Study Centre which has been in operation since 2002 in Changjiao, Guangdong. (The PTA of LSPS will also present donations from the X'mas Carnival 2009 during their April visit to the Centre, the latest updates can be found at: <http://www.lasallechina.com/index.htm>)

In response, Bro. Patrick expressed his gratitude to the Committee for its contribution and mentioned that “17” is a prime number showing that the Group be always indivisible and united. He appraised the members for their good work for La Salle scouting and described the Committee as the guardian angel of the Seventeeners, whereas the teachers, the guardian angels of the students. Over the years, the Committee has protected and guided the scouts to become good citizens of the community.

Principal Wong Yen Kit commended the Chairman for his time and effort devoted to the management of the Committee. He thanked the members for their guidance and financial support to the scout movement; the scout leaders, led by Group Scout Leader Ng Siu Wing, for their hard work and contribution in various scouting activities; the teachers and, more importantly, the returning Old Boys for their invaluable involvement in training the scouts. While wishing the members every success in the Year of the Tiger, he also congratulated those members and scout leaders who were receiving awards from the Scout Association of Hong Kong and the souvenirs from the Committee respectively.

Pau Shiu Hung, SBS (60), the Honorary Consultant, said that with the support of the first Chairman Young Wing Yau, JP in a fund raising drive, the scouts had its first dedicated custom-built HQ building in the 1960s. To his knowledge, this is a milestone in the history of Hong Kong scouting in that no other single scout group has this privilege. He then shared some interesting stories of the scouts HQ room from the 50s to 80s, starting from the classroom situated at the end of the row of timber building at Perth Street, to the garage on the lowest floor of the old school building in Boundary Street and finally to the dedicated room next to the sports ground today. He thanked the School Authority for the very desirous tradition of providing accommodation for scouting within the school campus yet away from the watchful eyes of the Brothers and college staff. He acknowledged that this tradition has contributed to the free development of scouting, and will help to turn new pages of glory for the Seventeeners in the years to come.

The members' contribution to the Group was fully acknowledged by the Scout Association of Hong Kong with Lai Kwok Wing announcing the various awards to the members on behalf of the Association. He also highlighted the long history of the Group which came into existence even before the Association's Kowloon City District, to which it now belongs. The Committee, one of the few in Hong Kong and undisputedly the first to be established, is the strongest in offering various resources to the Group through the joint effort of members and the support of the School Authority.

The Chairpersons then kicked off the the fun part of the evening - Karaoke. We listened with admiration to Karl Ng's fine melodies in Spanish and Japanese. Before we sang our School song, Karl Ng thanked everyone for coming, the speakers for their inspiring words, the MCs Gordon Leung (69) and Patrick Lam (93), and the organisers Alan Cheung (93) and Philip Yeung (93) for making the event a great success.

It was indeed enjoyable to share the La Salle spirit with all present in the evening. Hip, Hip, Hooray to the Seventeeners!

Chow Loi (62)
 Hon. Secretary
 The 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group Committee

Awards presented by the Scout Association of Hong Kong
Good Service Award <i>Nelson Lee</i>
Long Service One Star Medal (over 25 years of service) <i>Nelson Lee, Karl Ng, Chow Loi, Stephen Wai, Fung Man Fai</i>
Long Service Medal (over 15 years of service) <i>Nelson Lee, James Chiu, Rowdget Young, Lau Sai Lai, Thomas Law, Chu Yee Kong, Dennis Chow</i>
Souvenirs to Scouters by the Group Committee
<i>Brenda Wong</i> (over 25 years of service since 1984) <i>Sit King Wah, Arthur</i> (over 12 years of service from 1997 – 2009)

CLASS OF 1980 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The class of 1980 will have their 30th anniversary reunion on Saturday, 10 July 2010. There will be a tour around the College campus and a soccer match on the newly resurfaced school soccer field starting at 9:00am, followed by a dinner at Renaissance Harbour View Hotel in Wanchai. All participants will bring home a pack of souvenirs designed specifically for this event, including vintage memorabilia of our school days.

A Facebook "LSC1980" group has been created and our old photos can be viewed at the LSCOBA website:
http://www.lscoba.com/photo.html?g2_itemId=8952

Ticket price for the event: \$600 per head to be paid on the spot. All surplus will be donated to the College.

For those who register on or before 7 May 2010, a personalised USB flash drive pre-loaded with class contact list, old photos and inscribed with your name will be included in the souvenir pack.

Please register with any one of the following classmates:

Name	Email
Samuel WONG Kam Wah	samuel.wong@synthesis-design.com
Henry SHAM Kai Chung	kcsham@netvigator.com
John LAU Yu Leung	johnyllau@gmail.com
Peter LAM To Sang	plam@netvigator.com
Stephen LI Tak Ming	Stephenli.hk@gmail.com
CHAN Kwong Fat	kfchan@southa.com
Edward, BB, KO Wing Hang	bikoproduction@hotmail.com

Name	Email
Vitus LEUNG Wing Hang	leung@tw.com.hk
Wilson LAM Wai Sang	Wilson@chikwong.com
Cary LAW Kai Wah	carycom@hotmail.com
Benny LAW Chi Keung	benny.law@gmail.com
Alex CHAN Tak Ko	alexander@initialize.com.hk
Mark WONG Muk Chuen	Mark.wong@prunk.com
Jacky CHAN Cheuk Ki	ccjackycc@gmail.com

For enquiries, please call Peter LAM at (852) 2381 5049 or CHAN Kwong Fat at (852) 2963 7231.

Chan Kwong Fat (80)



2010
LSCOBA

SAN FRANCISCO GLOBAL REUNION



The LSCOBA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter is proud to host the 2010 La Salle Old Boys' Global Reunion on 1-4 July 2010. This will be the second time for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter to host this event. Our goal this year is to provide a memorable opportunity for the Old Boys and their families around the world to rekindle their old friendship as well as creating new ones. We will also discuss how overseas Old Boys can contribute back to LSC. All Old Boys around the world are encouraged to participate. For further details, please visit <http://www.lscobasf.com/reunion>.

LSCOBA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

The Story of Fencing in La Salle *Part 2*

In the last issue of the OBA newsletter, we offered an overview of the development of fencing in La Salle from the 1950s to the 1970s. In this second half of the story, we will take a look at how the sport had fared in the last 20 odd years, who helped to drive the program, and most importantly, what the sport has instilled into the generations of fencing boys.

The last article mentioned that in the 1950s, La Salle was the pioneer of fencing among Hong Kong high schools, and as a result, the School was frequently invited to host exhibition matches. In the mid-1960s, a junior in La Salle was much attracted by the sport. However, before he ever made it to become an active fencer, he left La Salle after finishing Form 2 for studies in the USA.

In his new school, the boy picked up the sport, and slowly matured into a good fencer. In 1969, the young Old Boy entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and though being the shortest fellow in the University team, he was made captain. After working in the US for several years, and having earned a Harvard MBA, he returned to Hong Kong in 1981 and became an Administrative Officer in the HK Government. He worked his way up, and currently holds the position of Financial Secretary (“FS”) of Hong Kong. This Old Boy is John Tsang Chun Wah (68).

The reason for covering John Tsang (commonly referred to as “Ah-Sir” among the fencers) is not because he is the FS of HK, but because of what he had offered to LSC in restoring the standard of fencing in La Salle, and in turn, what fencing has offered to generations of Lasallians.

In 1985, John returned to LSC, and having seen how the fencing team was training, he asked Brother Alphonsus Chee, the then Principal, whether he could be allowed to train the La Salle Fencing Team. At the time, the Fencing Team was struggling, and there was neither a formal coach nor a structured program. Brother Alphonsus readily agreed and John wasted no time to get the boys into a program of physical training, basic footwork and hand techniques, using the knowledge he acquired from the MIT Fencing Team.

By the second year under the leadership of John, in 1986, the team leapt from the dismal results of “outside top 16” the year before to a commendable second runner up. Encouraged by the results, the boys and their coach began working towards the following year’s championship title. The coach drove the boys even harder, and in the third year under John’s supervision, LSC finally recaptured the championship in inter-school fencing after a long drought.

In the following season, teams from other schools advanced rapidly, while our own team probably became somewhat complacent. That

year, LSC was knocked back into second place, and the team realised the need to work even harder. They picked up the pieces, and John put the determined boys into an even more bitter regime of training. Everyone aimed for a comeback in the next season, stronger not only physically but also mentally. In November 1989, the team outstandingly captured the Individual and the Team championships in both the inter-school and the joint school meets.

However, what John probably didn’t realise was that the fruit of his training in 1989 would have a much greater impact on fencing in La Salle, far beyond the immediate season or two. In the year 2000, many team members of the late 1980s began to return to LSC to support the regular Saturday fencing trainings. Among them were Patrick Wu (F7-86), John Lee (88), Patrick’s brother Brian Wu (89), Ambrose Ng (89), Victor Lee (90), and Francis Pang (92). These former La Salle fencers began to take up an active role in coaching the boys. They also added an evening training during weekdays – so that the Old Boys could be present after work.

Meanwhile, having reduced his commitment to the team for a few years, John Tsang was approached by these Old Boys who invited him back to coach. In response, John, by then the HK Commissioner of Customs and Excise Department, paused in deep



Old Boy coaches of the Fencing Team (L-R) John Lee (88), Brian Wu (89), John Tsang (68), Victor Lee (90), Patrick Wu (F7-86), Francis Pang (92), Ambrose Ng (89)

thought and then responded resolutely: “I will commit up to two Saturdays a month.” He fulfilled his promise, and more. In fact, up till today John returns to School most Saturdays often in his limousine bearing the “FS” registration. John misses training only when he is traveling or has official engagements. In 2001, with John Tsang as the head coach and supported by 6 other assistant coaches, a formal training program began.

A recent member of the fencing team, Johnny Chang (09), shared his feelings on being a member of the team. Johnny is a classic example of a balanced student life – in fact, perhaps a bit too good to be true. He scored 8As in his HKCEE and entered the HKU Medical School after Form 6 under the Early Admissions Scheme. He was also a member of the School’s Legion of Mary, and the SA President of the year 2009-10. He first thought was that LSC’s Fencing Team is different from the others because of the large pool of support the fencers received individually. While other schools probably had one, or at most two, coaches to oversee a large team of fencers, La Salle fencers had five to six Old Boy coaches, each with clearly divided responsibilities yet all working together as a close-knit team. During competition, each fencer had one coach dedicated to watching his every bout, and offering immediate attention and advice.

Johnny further commented that the team’s physical training as absolutely brutal, but the resulting excellent condition of the fencers helped them endure the duration and pressure of the competitions.



Old Boy Coach Patrick Wu (second from left) and Francis Khong (far right), with Patrick's Epee Team (Forms 3 to 5) paying a visit to a local fencing club, a.k.a. 踢館! Patrick's Epee team was champion for a record 6 consecutive years (2003-2008).

There is also an unwritten rule in the team: the boys are never allowed to train in air-conditioned rooms, even during the hot summer and in spite of the heavy protective gear. There is a saying in School that the physical condition of fencers is the best among all sportsmen in LSC. Such training makes all fencers exceptionally tough and disciplined, something that Johnny said had him trained well for his academic achievements and future life.

During off-season, the fencing training regime is generally one Saturday afternoon training per week. It becomes two times per week in early summer and finally intensifies to three times a week for some three to four months prior to the November competition season. Weekday evening trainings commence at 6 pm and regularly go beyond 10 pm. Students are expected to complete their homework and studies before the evening training commences.

In fact, the success of the weekday evening training system must be credited to one of the key coaches, Patrick Wu. Besides Tsang Sir, Patrick is the most seasoned Old Boy coach, and is also the main driving force not only behind the fencing team, but also all the other coaches. Although Patrick only joined La Salle at Form 6, his dedication to La Salle is no less than any of the other Old Boy coaches. As the Epee Team Coach, it was Patrick's considerable effort that drove La Salle to win the Epee Team Championship for six years in a row from 2003-08, contributing to LSC's winning of the overall championship. As a practising dentist, Patrick gives up his busy Saturday afternoons and two weeknight evenings that could have been spent on making more money, to return to School and coach the boys.

One might expect that parents would complain about the long training hours. SA President Johnny shared that when parents find out how intensely the boys train, how much personal time the Old Boy coaches dedicate to training the boys, and how the coaches and fencers alike work towards a common goal and dream, they become fully committed and supportive. After all, having the Financial Secretary of HK as a coach almost every Saturday does offer some assurance to parents that the boys are not fooling around!

Before the commencement of the 2009 interschool season, the coaches decided to expose the younger fencers to some overseas competitions. They signed the F.1 and F.2 boys up for the Under-12 and Under-14 categories of the Singapore Fencing Championships, and also brought along some F.3 and F.4 boys for friendly competitions with some Singapore fencing clubs. The thought of fencing in an unknown land got the boys tremendously

motivated. In the end, the HK visitors snatched the first three places of the U-14 Foil category, and also came first in the U-12. The two U-14 Foil teams LSC entered captured 1st and 2nd places. Since the other entrants were representing clubs and not schools, the competition officials insisted on referring to our team as the HKG team, not the LSC team! The more senior boys paid visits and entered friendly competitions against other Singapore Clubs, and they also did well.

By the way, the coaches made it clear that parents were not welcome to accompany the fencers on this trip. For the sake of instilling independence amongst the boys, the coaches made sure that the boys had to take care of themselves, from managing their competition gear and dirty clothes, to filling out their own immigration slips. To keep the concerned parents from worries, the coaches sent them email updates of the day's happenings every evening. On speaking to some parents, the author found that they were most impressed and touched by the selfless dedication of the volunteer coaches, and also with what the trip offered to the boys, and not least, the achievements attained.

With the wholehearted support and dedication from all camps, La Salle became the overall champion every year from 2005 to 2008, the only disappointment being that the title was split with Diocesan Boys' School. However, in the 2009 competition, with the tremendous commitment of the student fencers, the squad of Old Boys and Stanley Shum (84), the teacher-in-charge, the team finally broke the deadlock and claimed the Championship title squarely all for La Salle alone! The coaches and the fencers were in tears of joy when the years of hard work finally paid off. However, as always, the road ahead will only get more difficult, and the competition will come back more determined and prepared.

We wish the LSC Fencing Team continued success, and offer our thanks to the Old Boys for their commitment to the team. Win or lose, we trust that each generation of Lasallian fencers will gain a memorable and fulfilling experience being a member of the La Salle fencing team.

As John Tsang once commented in Mingpao Newspaper (translated from Chinese), "When training students of my alma mater, LSC, I place particular stress on basic physical training. Although the winner is a minority in every competition, I believe that the emphasis on physical conditioning trains an individual's determination to overcome adversities, and this is a very important life lesson for students. That lesson is much more significant than merely gaining victory."

Mark Huang (85)



Fencers at the Singapore trip in September 2009, taken at St Patrick's School. Brother Gregory Lim(center) was LSPS Headmaster for the PM Session from 1963-66.

Lasallian News



The adorably talkative and energetic Gabriel Chan, first son of Arvin Chan (87) and Carina, was born on 4 Jan 2010 in Hong Kong and now weighs over 16 pounds in just 3 months.

Congratulations to the proud parents!



Eugene Lai (87) and Irene Wong got married on 23 Jan 2010 at the Union Church, Kennedy Road, Hong Kong. The newly wed met during a high table dinner held at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) last year. Eugene is a lawyer specialising in corporate finance and securities law. He is also a part-time tutor of the HKU PCLL program. Irene is an investment trader.

RIP DAVID CHEUNG (63)



David Cheung of class 1963, a loyal Committee Member of LSCOBA for many years, passed away early Wednesday morning, 20 January 2010. David suffered from cancer, which was discovered in the middle of 2009.

David was extremely proud to be a Lasallian, and he had been a loyal supporter of Lasallian affairs for many years. At 11 years old, David left Pooi To Primary School and entered LSC's P.5 in January 1956 (at that time LSPS was not yet opened). The School was then located on Perth Street. He repeated P.5 in September the same year as the academic standard of his former school was different from La Salle's. In September 1957, David entered the new LSPS on La Salle Road as a P.6 boy. David entered LSC F.1 in 1959, which was still occupying the Perth Street

Campus, and so he had to move from LSPS on La Salle Road back to Perth Street, his second move in as many years. In F.2, he returned to La Salle Road campus as the School moved back to La Salle Road after the British Army released the building back to the Brothers. Always bubbly and talkative, David used to share that he had a very confused childhood, as he didn't understand why he had to move school (campus) all the time!!

For the preparation of the 75th Anniversary history book, David offered the OBA many stories and personal memories of the Perth Street days, like opening an umbrella in a leaking classroom during heavy rain, folding paper boats and setting them off in a flooded classroom, burning the grass of the hill behind the school etc. David studied all the way to F.7 in LSC, and then left HK for studies in North America.

David was a globe-trotter and visited dozens of countries worldwide in all continents, including many very exotic destinations. David had been a columnist for a travel magazine in which he shared his travel tales. In addition to traveling, David had achieved some outstanding episodes in life that few could match. Besides finishing many 100Km Oxfam Trailwalkers and half marathons, he also completed the Sower Action 2,800 kilometre walk from HK to Beijing, raising funds for China's needy school children and in the process wearing out three pairs of shoes.

A few weeks before his unexpected death, David happily went on his last earthly trip to Vietnam. He returned to HK on 16 January and recommenced work two days later. He was still working on 19 January but unexpectedly passed away the next morning. This guy truly lives life to its full, and with no regrets. The LSCOBA Committee observed a minute's silence for David in its January meeting.

David, who turned closer to God in his final days, was a bachelor and lived with his father, stepmother and one of his younger sisters in Kowloon City, the same place he called home since at least his 1950s La Salle Perth Street days. Seeing David's love for LSC, his family dressed him in his Old Boys tie for his funeral.

Our condolences and prayers to David's family, in particular his father and sister Candice. Further, on behalf of the College, we thank David's family for being most generous in donating over 300 volumes of travel, history and pictorial books of David's collection to the School library.

Mark Huang (85)

LSCOBA Newsletter Vol. 29 No. 3 April 2010

Coordinator: Patrick Ho (87)

Contributors:

Chow Loi (62)
Charles Chan (77)
Terence Mak (97)

Roy Lie (70)
Stanley Shum (79)
Eric Chow (00)

Edmand Wong (74)
Chan Kwong Fat (80)
Ricky Chow (03)

Gordon Fong (76)
Mark Huang (85)