



Founded 1939

THE OBSESSION

LA SALLE COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



La Salle College

Old Boys' Association

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 Old Boys' Association

Dear fellow Old Boys,

It has been a hectic year. By the end of the term, after running all the OBA events and activities, Gordon Fong (1976), Vice President, and I had the honour of representing LSCOPA in attending the quadrennial UMAEL World Congress held at the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle in Beauvais, France. Together with Ms. Nikki Chan (representative of De La Salle Secondary School Alumni Association) and Mr. Larry Leung (President of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College OBA), we were the ambassadors representing the five Lasallian Alumni Associations in Hong Kong. Besides having the opportunity to further our knowledge on the Mission of Lasallian Alumni Association, we also had the pleasure of visiting Reims, the birthplace of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

The mission of UMAEL (World Union of Lasallian Former Students) is:

“to unite all the Federations and Associations of Lasallian Former Students in the world in order to achieve a true sense of belonging and help the Mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and from the values transmitted in the Lasallian school to build a society of greater justice and solidarity.”

Together with attendees from 26 different countries, we reinforced our mission, shared best practices, and followed the footsteps of how our founder heard the voice, got inspired and eventually established the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

I had the opportunity to once again learn about the mission of Lasallian Education and more importantly reflect on how we as an alumni association can play our part in helping our mother school to deliver quality education to our young La Salle boys.

Incorporating Faith, Service and Communion into our curriculum

is the core spirit of our Lasallian Education. In Hong Kong, especially with the recently launched HKDSE, La Salle College faces many challenges in upkeeping this mission. The LSCOPA can assist the School's provision of pastoral care by offering career guidance, job shadowing and interview workshops, etc. In order for us to be able to offer such assistance, we need help from fellow Old Boys. In order to unite and expand our alumni community, we organize different activities to keep ourselves united. And together, we come full circle by giving back to our mother school.

What did I just say? We should be helping the younger Lasallians. Why? Because we were brought up to help others and in particular our mother school. Why? Because our hearts were touched during our school days and we have become who we are today. And what is this? This is the La Salle Spirit!

For Lasallians, we have always said that we are something more. In what way? In Spirit, I would say.

To borrow a line from the Superior General of La Salle, Br. Robert Schieler, “we should transfer our knowledge from our head to our heart.” Fellow old boys, we have 83 years of history. We should work together towards one goal, to collect our knowledge constructively and transfer them to our younger generations, heart to heart. I believe this is how the LSCOPA and we as Old Boys can support the mission of St. John Baptist de La Salle. I am Proud to be a Lasallian.

Yours in de La Salle,

Leonard Chu (1983)
 President

Email: president@lscoba.com



ANNUAL PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER



The Annual Past Presidents' Dinner was held on Friday 15 May 2015 at the Hong Kong Club. The dinner is an annual event where traditionally the current LSCOPA Committee will meet with Past Presidents of the OBA for dinner. Bro. Patrick Tierney, Bro. Thomas Lavin, Bro. Steve Hogan and 15 Past Presidents and 13 Committee Members all gathered at the Harcourt Room. It was a good opportunity for the current committee members to update the past presidents with latest developments and for the past presidents to share their experience with the committee members. After the group photos

were taken, the post dinner party continued at the Club Bar in the Hong Kong Club and the current office bearers had the opportunity to buy a dram of whiskey for three past presidents, Lester Huang (1977), Charles Chan (1977) and Mark Huang (1985). Thanks to Immediate Past President Willie Wong (1984) for organizing this meaningful annual event.

HAPPY HOUR WITH MARYMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

On Friday 17 Apr 2015 we had another joint-association Happy Hour with Marymount Secondary School Alumnae Association at Street Meat, Wyndham Street, Central. More than 60 Old Boys and MSS past students attended the Happy Hour, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones! After a busy week (month!), what's more relaxing than a pint of chilled beer or a glass of white-wine spritzer, to wind down a whole week of work and stress. Special thanks to Louis Yeung (1995) who let us use the bar for this happy hour gathering. Stay tuned for the next Happy Hour gathering !

Eric Chow (2000)



A VISIT WITH THE LION CITY LASALLIANS



A visit with Francis Kwong (1975), Lucas Ng (1976) and Anthony Chang (1983) of the Singapore Chapter in March 2015. When the old boys get together, we always talk about the good old days.

Leonard Chu (1983)



SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENT 2015

This event was held on Friday 29 May 2015 with 29 Old Boys participating at the Green Bay Golf Club (深圳碧海灣高爾夫俱樂部) which is only 35 minutes away from the Huanggong border. Debutants included William Chao (1982), Clement Lam (1998), Calvin Lee (2000) and Joe Wan (1997), and they received a warm welcome from other fellow Old Boy golfers both on the coach and during the lunch after the round. We were blessed with good weather after two weeks of heavy rain and the course condition was acceptable other than the slow putting green condition. After the round, we all enjoyed the camaraderie amongst the fellow Old Boys with the beer and laughter during lunch, and we sang the school song following the prize presentation before heading back to Hong Kong.

The winners were as follows:

Champion

Charles Chan (1977)

Second

Robert Cheng (1976)

Third

John Ribeiro (1978)

Best Score

Robert Cheng (1976)

Best Front 9

Adrian Chan (2003)

Best Back 9

Leonard Chu (1981)

Nearest Pin

Tony Cheung (1977)
Robert Cheng (1976)
Henry Lam (1983)
William Chao (1982)

Longest Drive

Joe Wan (1997)



We have to thank Leonard Chu (1983), Henry Lam (1983), Alvin Choi (1997) and Clarence Yau (2001) for our tournament co-ordination. Happy golfing and please continue to support future golf events!

Thomas Tung (1977)

MR LO WAI-CHUNG APPOINTED COMMISSIONER OF POLICE



Congratulations to Mr. Lo Wai-chung, Stephen (1979) on becoming the Commissioner of Police. This challenging post requires the highest ability in Leadership, Integrity and Professionalism. We are very proud to have a Lasallian at the helm of such an important post. We wish Commissioner Lo the very best in his new appointment.

BOYS OF COURAGE IN CAREER SHIFTS

“We are Lasallians!” and “La Salle is something more!” are some of the slogans we chant all the time. But in real life, here are two old boys who have assimilated this “Something More” spirit into their lives.

During our school days, many of us played plenty of sports, and some of us were actually quite talented. But I trust that very few parents have actually encouraged their children to become a professional athlete or sportsman. Parents almost always urge their children to become some sort of a professional, such as a doctor, an accountant or a lawyer. I have seen many instances where students or young Lasallian graduates have struggled between the dilemma of pursuing their own dream career or following the route that their parents have laid out for them.

In this newsletter, I would like to introduce two Lasallians who might offer you some insights on how they chose their own path.



Andy Cheung (1983) – After he graduated from LSC, he furthered his education at the University of Manchester, UK, with a degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering, where he met his wife as well. After his graduation, he embarked on his Corporate career, just like any other graduate of his generation. He returned to Hong Kong in 2008 and started working for the then Cable & Wireless company as an Engineer. He immigrated to Sydney, Australia in 1991 and started a career with IBM which spanned 17 years. He progressively moved up the Corporate ladder, promotion after promotion. It was like any parent would have come to expect of their children. By the age of 39, he took up the challenge offered by his company and worked as an expatriate in Beijing, China. After sealing large commercial IT services deals, one after another,

he ultimately held the position of General Manager, Strategic Outsourcing of IBM Greater China Group! Hang on, but what has that to do with Sports?

Here comes the interesting part – at the age of 46, he had seen enough and finally got tired of the high stress spiral of Corporate executive work. He thought better of health and family life and left his job in China and returned to Sydney. He had no further plan at that stage. He took a career break, searching for what he should be doing in the second half of his life (人生的下半場). It then came naturally to him to follow his three-decade long passion – photography, as the next career. As a Lasallian, when you have made a decision, you stick with it and go all the way. He took up the specialisation of professional sports photography shooting, primarily for tennis tournaments. He worked his way through the processes of Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) and became their accredited member after two years of continuous development. With his International Sports Press Association Press Card obtained along the way, he attended many ATP/WTA tennis tournaments as well as Grand Slam events as an accredited photographer. In May 2015, he was awarded second place in the “2015 AIPP NSW Documentary Photographer of the Year” in recognition of the quality of his professional photographic work and his eye for fast actions and emotions.

From executive management of a MNC to a professional sports photographer, this is one career change that Andy embraces without regrets. He treasures family time and understands the importance of the balance between work and life and put that into execution. At the end of the interview, Andy stressed one important point that he would like to share with fellow young Lasallians: don't get trapped by 高薪厚職 and sacrifice, 剎那的光輝不代表永恆 is very true. Of course some of you young ones would strive for that, no matter what you are being told. Yet do not give up your fundamental principle against a big pay cheque.



Alvin Choi (1997) – Alvin was always a strong athlete during his school days at LSC. He was individual champion in interschool cross country running and 1,500M when he was in Form 6, and he was also in the school's tennis team. After graduating from LSC, he went to HKUST and earned a BBA in Professional Accounting. Logically, he started working at Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), a Big 4 audit firm - a typical story of a talented athlete whose family wanted him to become a professional accountant.

Influenced by his father, Alvin started playing golf when he was in Form 5. In the beginning, he was not too keen about it. But after his first two years in university, his interest in golf totally blossomed. Yet, in order to concentrate on his academics to prepare for graduation, he had to put his golf clubs aside.

All along, Alvin knew that being an accountant was not a lifelong career that he could excel in, and so after one year at PwC, a light bulb lit up in his head! He wanted to turn professional in golf! So he quit his job as an accountant, and went to the San Diego Golf Academy to earn a 2 year diploma. He was qualified with a club fitting certificate, teaching certificate and a golf complex operation certificate.

Understanding that the resources available for touring professional golfers are limited in Hong Kong, Alvin concentrated his efforts as a teaching professional and from 2005-2013, the number of students under his tutelage grew very rapidly, and he became a very successful golf coach.

As the number of driving ranges in Hong Kong decreased and Alvin had to find a way to continue making a living, he spotted a niche market specialized in delivering coaching services for the low handicappers who wanted to sharpen their game further. This venture required a hefty investment in simulators and high speed cameras, and coupled with a newborn baby, the Lasallian “Never Say Die” spirit kicked in.



Alvin bit the bullet and invested into opening his own golf and fitness training centre in Chai Wan. He further acquired additional qualifications from Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) and American Council on Exercise (ACE). Now, besides professionals in private golf clubs in Hong Kong, Alvin has become one of the very few golf training experts in both body fitness and swing techniques.

In a truly “Something More” spirit, the accountant-turned golf training expert is enjoying every moment of his job and has no regrets looking back at the less travelled path he has taken!

Leonard Chu (1983)



HONG KONG LASALLIAN FAMILY DINNER

The Hong Kong Lasallian Family Dinner was held on 9 May 2015 at the Beas River Country Club of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. 40 Brothers from the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD) Chapters, including Hong Kong (China), Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and around 20 members of the Hong Kong Lasallian family gathered to talk about the latest Lasallian Education commitment. Thanks to Past President Nicholas Ng (1965) for organizing this wonderful dinner.

CLASS OF 1976 40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

An organizing committee has been formed to coordinate the 40th Anniversary Reunion activities. The dinner has been set for July, October, or November 2016. A post dinner two day trip is being studied. Custom-made souvenirs will also be ordered. Many 1976ers from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia will return to Hong Kong for the occasion. For more information, please write to vote4wai@yahoo.com.hk

William Wai (1976)

CLASS OF 1985 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

If you studied Primary 6 in La Salle Primary School in the year 1979-1980 and/or Form 5 in La Salle College in the year 1984-1985, you are cordially invited to join the 30th anniversary reunion celebration on Saturday 17 Oct 2015. We have prepared a series of exciting events like multiple reunion dinners, a group tour to Taiwan, and friendly soccer and basketball matches. Custom-made souvenirs will also be ordered. If you are a 1985er and you have not been notified of the event yet, we sincerely ask you to join us in this rare reunion opportunity. We have already invited many 1985ers from Canada, the United States, Australia and Mainland China to return to Hong Kong for the occasion. So you will be able to meet with many 1985ers from La Salle College and La Salle Primary School again. Of course you will also have a chance to visit the beautiful campus of our Alma Mater and meet with former teachers too. For more information, please write to lasalle85er@gmail.com.

Roger Lee (1985)

MUSIC BOARD



Results of the 67th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival 2015

Our boys have displayed their exquisite musical playing in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival held in March 2015 and have received encouraging results and praises from adjudicators and audience alike. Results of the different group contests are as follows.

Chinese Orchestra (Senior Class)

| | School | Set Piece | Mask |
|-----|--------|------------|------|
| 1st | LSC | 弦上秧歌 - 王丹紅 | 92 |
| 3rd | DBS | | 86 |

「音色乾淨，樂曲層次色彩分明，流暢，力度佳，細膩」
- 林秋岑教授

「樂曲處理感染力強，完整；強弱變化，樂句處理都是很好，音樂演奏很美，印象深刻」
- 楊軍先生

Symphony Orchestra (Senior Class)

| | School | Set Piece | Own Choice | Mask |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------|--|------|
| 1st | DBS | Romeo and Juliet - Tchaikovsky | Symphony No 2: 4th movement - Brahms | 90 |
| 2nd | DGS | | Scheherazade: 4th movement - Rimsky-korsakov | 88 |
| 3rd | LSC | | The Mastersingers of Nuremberg Overture - Wagner | 86 |

“Some beautiful technical work in strings [in Romeo and Juliet]...Work on creating even more dynamic and character contrast in soft sections ... Opening [in The Mastersingers]: even loud sections need to be sensitive to the Harmonic subtleties of stress.” - Prof Peter Visentin

“A very well balanced opening [in Romeo and Juliet] + mostly well in tune...A good range of dynamics was shown [in The Mastersingers], though beware not to force f (as opposed to ff) which should be thought of as “full” rather than simply ‘loud’.” - Mr John Reynold



Wind Orchestra (Concert Band - Senior Class)

| | School | Set Piece | Own Choice | Mask |
|-----|--------|---|---|------|
| 1st | DBS | The Planets, Op 32 No 4 - Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity - Holst | Fantasy Variations on a Theme - James Barnes | 94 |
| 2nd | LSC | | Machu Picchu-City in the Sky - Satoshi Yagisawa | 87 |

“There was good detail + lots of dynamic commitment ... Some good solo contributions from the woodwinds just before the big time ... Textures were a little cloudy at the start [in Machu Picchu], but things settled well and there were musical lines woven later, and a good range of dynamics was heard.” - Mr John Reynolds

“The overall sound was most convincing with tempo changes clearly defined ... The conclusion [in The Planets] displayed good balance between the sections with an exciting musical climax achieved...A brilliant , exciting opening [in Machu Picchu], performed with authority ... Percussion was very effective maintaining rhythm drive and direction” - Prof Malcolm Weale

String Orchestra (Intermediate class)

| | School | Set Piece | Mask |
|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 2nd | LSC | Divertimento in F, KV138 - Mozart | 83 |
| 3rd | DBS | | 82 |

“Excellent dynamic range with unusual but quite intriguing dynamic contrast ... a nice tempo with nice flowing melody & accompaniment” - Dr Angela Yeung

Treble Choir

Class: Church Music - Foreign Language - Age 14 or under

| | School | Set Piece | Mask |
|-----|---|--|------|
| 1st | DBS | Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven - John Goss Dona Nobis Pacem - Sherri Porterfield | 88 |
| 2nd | LSC International Christian Quality Music Secondary & Primary School (Secondary) | | 85 |
| 3rd | DBS Sacred Heart Canossian College | | 84 |

“Mainly good tone production, well maintained intonation ... Musical, clear, sensitively-shaped phrases” - Ms Soo Hiang Quek

Class: Foreign Language - Boys - 1st Division - Junior - Age 14 or under, treble voice only

| | School | Set Piece | Own Choice | Mask |
|-----|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------|
| 2nd | LSC Wah Yan Kowloon | Rolling Down to Rio - Edward German | Ripple Effect - Stephen Hatfield Gergely-Jrs - Zoltan Kodaly | 87 |

“Mainly well-balanced + blend across the ensemble ... Mainly well executed, clear, articulation and diction” - Ms Soo Hiang Quek

Senior Choir
Class: Foreign Language - Boys- 2nd Division - Senior

| | School | Set Piece | Own Choice | Mask |
|-----|--------|--|-------------------------|------|
| 1st | LSC | Embraceable You - George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin | Danza! - Linda Spevacek | 91 |

“Expressive sensitive conveyance of the emotional qualities of the music ... Accurate rhythm, well-coordinated across the ensemble with convincing movement in Danza!” - Ms Soo Hiang Quek

Martin So (2004), Lyon You (2009), Owen Chan (2010), Hilary Lee (2013)
Music Board

Class: Choir Finals (2nd Division) - Boys' Choir

| | School | Title | Award |
|-----|--------|---|---|
| 1st | LSC | “The Best Secondary School Boys’ Choir in the 2nd Division” | The Hong Kong Children’s Choir Trophy Brother Cassian Memorial Prize of \$700 |

OUR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN THE SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL



Our boys have been phenomenal in the Schools Music Festival in recent years. Numerous winner's flags have been won and put on display. Speaking of which, one last piece of the puzzle remains - Competition Class N244 - the Symphony Orchestra.

DBS has retained the crown for a number of years and this year was no exception. Having watched their performance of Brahms Symphony No. 2 - IV. Allegro con spirito first-hand, one may wonder how on earth their velvet strings and sonorous winds managed to put on such a solid display. Dresden Staatskapelle, one of the finest professional

orchestras in the world, delivered the festival opening performance of the Hong Kong Arts Festival 2015. They also happened to coach the DBS Orchestra right before the Music Festival competition. But surely it would be more than that?

DGS was a serious title contender and eventually came second. Their own choice was the strenuous Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade - IV. Festival at Baghdad - The Sea - The Shipwreck. Those of you classical music lovers will know that all eyes were upon the concertmaster, who had to play the notoriously challenging and sensuously winding violin solo representing the character of Scheherazade the storyteller. It was all or nothing. And there was a teenage girl who rose to the occasion with such perfection. Her violin harmonics echoed in the concert hall long after the very last notes. How breathtaking.

Our boys put up a good fight and came third. We picked Wagner's The Mastersinger of Nuremberg - Overture as our own choice. Our traditionally formidable woodwind and brass section put on one of the best performances in recent years while the string section did very well. It was a pleasure to see that our string players have improved considerably and tribute must go to our newly appointed strings tutor and Old Boy John Sit (2008). We are getting ever closer and I am sure there is more progress to come.

Martin So (2004) Music Board

LA SALLE COLLEGE OLD BOYS' CONCERT 2015 SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2015 | TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Dear fellow Old Boys, Lasallians and friends,



Following the highly successful Old Boys' Concerts in the past two years, we are delighted to announce that the Old Boys' Concert 2015 will be held on Sunday 13 September 2015 at the Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium. Once again, our Old Boys Wind Orchestra, Old Boys Chinese Orchestra and Old Boys Symphony Orchestra will be performing on stage. We sincerely invite all of you to come and enjoy a great evening of La Salle music.

Old Boys' Concert 2015 is going to be a memorable event that unites the hearts of generations of Old Boys together. Tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis at HK\$200 and HK\$120, with half-priced concessionary tickets available for selected groups. Details can be found in the attached ticket ordering form.

Your continuous support is vital to the success of La Salle's music development. We welcome your generous patronage of the event by placing an advertisement or a complimentary note in the concert programme booklet. Details can be found in the attached advertisement and sponsorship form.

We sincerely welcome all La Salle musicians to be part of our Old Boys' Concert. If you are interested in performing in the concert, please contact us with your name, graduation year and details of your instrumental or singing experience by email (musicboard@lscoba.com), on our Facebook page "Lscoba Music Board" (www.facebook.com/MusicLSCOBA), or on our website (www.mblscoba.wix.com/home).

For enquiries, please contact Mr Martin So (2004) or Mr Lyon You (2009) at musicboard@lscoba.com. See you this September!

Martin So (2004) Convenor, Music Board

OLD BOYS' PASTIME

In this issue of Old Boys' Pastime, I am writing about "Toys for Big Boys". These are not ordinary toys, these are the special collection of Leslie Chiang (1984), a successful business man and toys collector. After completing college in the USA, Leslie went to work for Chevalier (HK) Group in the trading department where he learnt the art of negotiations. Then he became one of the top real estate agents in a well-known real estate agency in Hong Kong. He also owns an indoor tanning studio which serves many well know local actors and actresses. Currently, he owns a real estate company and collects Star Wars and Comics Heroes costumes.

Ray (R): How did you get the idea of collecting toys?



Leslie (L): When we were kids in the 70's and 80's, the biggest movie/TV franchises were the Star Wars and Japanese cartoons such as Mazinger-Z(鐵甲萬能俠), Ultraman(超人). I really enjoyed watching these programs as I was growing up.

(R): Please tell us, what are the favorite items in your collection?

(L): My favorite one is the 1:1 size of the Storm Trooper from Star Wars, the 1:17 Mobile Suit Gundam (高達), the Masked Rider (幪面超人) and the Shocker (囂囂兵) costume.

(R): Please share with us how you started your collection?

(L): My first collection was Gundam. It is a very rare item. I know they are currently selling it in Aeon Shopping Center for around \$39,000 but I got it for \$1,000 only.

(R): Why?

(L) One day when I was shopping in Causeway Bay, a Japanese hobbies shop was about to close down. I went inside and saw this Gundam standing at the entrance of the shop. After talking to the owner of the shop, I found that he was looking for a Star Wars pachinko machine which I happened to own one. I then persuaded him into trading the Gundam with my pachinko machine. He agreed and the deal was made.

(R): Was the Star Wars pachinko costing \$1,000 only?

(L): No, of course not! I once had some indoor tanning lotion for sale in a shop in Times Square in the form of consignment. The cost of the lotions was \$1,000 and I was selling them at \$7,000. Unfortunately the shop lost all my consignment and of course they had to compensate for my loss. It just so happened that the shop owner had a Star Wars pachinko machine on display and I offered to take the machine as compensation and the store owner agreed. The original price of the machine was \$12,000!

(R): Did you trade for all the items in your collection?

(L): Part of the Masked Rider (幪面超人) costume was made by me. I bought the mask and the belt from Japan. I asked someone to tailor make the jumpsuit. I made the chest paddings and they were the most difficult ones to make. I had to try different materials in the process. In the end the satisfaction was bigger in making my own costume than just buying it from a store.

Ray Sun (1985)



The following is an excerpt from Chapter 6, "Post War Euphoria", from the "Sons of La Salle Everyone, A History of La Salle College and Primary School, 1932 - 2007" book.

The background to this chapter is that La Salle College was closed due to the Japanese attacks on 8th December 1941, and their three-year-and-eight-months occupation of Hong Kong. The Brothers were forced to leave La Salle College, and they escaped to Indo-China (present day Vietnam).

Upon the surrender of the Japanese in August 1945, the Brothers in exile in Indo-China began planning to return to Hong Kong. They were however caught by internal unrests in Indo-China, and it was unsafe for the Brothers to leave their houses, let alone travel abroad.

Brother Cassian's Records in the Community Diary:

Home Coming

The return to Hong Kong following the Japanese capitulation in August 1945 was not as easy or immediate as we had imagined. Indo-China was now caught up in its own war and the Nationalist movement which the Japanese had encouraged and promoted since 9th March now assumed enormous proportions. All the towns where the Brothers had schools became immense concentration camps. No European Brother dared to leave the house for fear of being taken hostage.

It was the arrival of the French troops that finally made communication possible once more. Some Brothers managed to return by air. Brother John, director of St Joseph's who had heroically endured the four years of occupation, gave welcome to four Brothers from La Salle who made the return journey in March and in May.

... La Salle College was now requisitioned by the British Military authorities and turned into a hospital for the Indian regiment.

After several efforts and some influence in high places, notably the Director of Education Mr. T Rowell and the Honourable Leo d'Almada e Castro we were able to regain possession of our classes in August 1946 [one separate account stated the date as 7th August]. From the hospital we managed to get some tables and benches, but furniture in general was in a most lamentable condition.

On returning to the campus soon after returning to Hong Kong, the Brothers found the main building occupied by the Indian 15th Indian Casualty Clearing Station [CCS] and had been used as a hospital since January 1946. The Annex [in the current La Salle Primary School grounds] had billets for Indian Troops RIASC of some 200 men. Records recovered from the military files some 50 years later showed that after the surrendering of the Japanese, between 15th September and December 1945, the College building was occupied as a Japanese Prisoner-of-War hospital for Japanese soldiers.

As to the Annex, one would recall that it provided twelve temporary classrooms in 1939 when the main school building was taken over by the Military as a German Internment facility. Even though there were these twelve rooms, to have 200 army personnel residing on the grounds did not offer much space, not to mention the absence of extensive facilities for bathing and lavatories.

Getting back La Salle

In one correspondence from the, Rev. Henry Valtorta, Vicar-Apostolic on 9th April 1946 to Brother Director John, it can be seen how eagerly the church was to reopen Catholic schools in the colony. The letter stated:



1946-47 Staff photo, with LSC's new Principal Brother Cassian seated in the middle

"My dear Brother John,

It has been suggested to me, in view of the great need of Catholic Schools for boys in Kowloon, that I approach you and ask you whether you think it advisable that I, too, should personally join you in insisting with the Military Authorities for the release of the building of La Salle College so that it may be made ready for the opening of the next School term in September. Do you think this is advisable?"

Brother John replied that arrangements were being made already, and he was confident that school would reopen by September 1946.

Apparently, the negotiations did not proceed as smoothly as Brother John had expected. From the Catholic Church records, the next correspondence on file for La Salle College was a courteous but unmistakably strong letter from the Vicar-Apostolic was address to the General Officer in Command in Hong Kong, Major-General Francis Festing on 8th June.

"My dear General,

It is after much thinking that I am daring to approach you concerning a subject which has given me much anxiety during the past few months; it is the reopening of La Salle College, the largest of our Catholic schools in the Colony, and the only one whose buildings have been totally or partially requisitioned uninterrupted since September 1939.

"I understand that the Brothers have approached the army Medical Authorities over the matter and so far have received no satisfaction. In consider the re-opening of La Salle College next September as absolutely imperative, and that steps should be taken at once in order that the main buildings and the Annex of the College be released and placed at the disposal of the Brothers without further delay. If military necessities should require the temporary maintenance of a portion of the buildings under the Medical Department I have no doubt that we could come to a satisfactory mutual agreement, provided I be in [a] position to assure the parents of our Catholic boys that they may send their children to La Salle College at the beginning of September next.

"With the fervent hope that this my earnest request will be considered favourably, and calling for a special blessing from Almighty God on you and all your men,

*I remain,
my dear General,*

*Yours sincerely,
Henry Valtorta
Vicar-Apostolic of Hongkong.*

By 4th July, the Military agreed to release four rooms on the rear bottom floor of the college and the adjacent bathroom and toilets of the college as the Brother's quarters, but they were unwilling to release more. While the Brothers warmly welcomed the news, it offered little time for the Brothers to restore the college to become suitable for classes in a month's time.

Brother Cassian, who then became the new Principal of the college after Brother Amiar's passing, records:

"We went ahead at once with the task of putting things in order. Desks were retrieved from the Maryknoll Sisters, as well as beds, cupboards and other items. Everything in the stores was in a lamentable condition. Repair work got underway at government expense. Also repaired was the extensive damage to the playing field and other facilities resulting from lack of maintenance. The entire cost rose to \$31,205, of which the department of education paid half."

School Reopens

Amidst the restoration still happening in school, classes recommenced in early September 1946.

On 9th September 1946, the school re-assembled in the school hall, 590 students in all classes from Class 1 to 8 [Primary 5 to Form 6], after an absence of almost five years. Furniture was still lacking, and students had to make do with sharing desks and chairs, three boys to two chairs and one twin desk. New arrivals and returning students slowly filed in and by mid October, 16 classes were full. The boys had emerged physically much thinner, as they have lived through a terrible crises either in Hong Kong or on the mainland China. Those whose family escaped to Macau fared a bit better, as Portugal was not at war with Japan.

OBITUARY - SIR ROGER LOBO (1923-2015)

Old Boy Sir Rogério "Roger" Hyndman Lobo, a successful Hong Kong-Macanese businessman, who was an active philanthropist and politician in Hong Kong, sadly passed away on Saturday 18 April 2015, aged 91.

Lobo was born in Macao on 15 September 1923 to Pedro José Lobo, an immigrant from Portuguese Timor, and Branca Hyndman of a Scottish family who had been in Macao for four generations. Lobo spent his carefree boyhood days in the Portuguese enclave, and his father, a successful businessman and influential politician, was able to provide a comfortable life for young Lobo and his siblings. In 1941, the 18 year old Lobo made his way to Hong Kong and entered La Salle College to improve his English, for he wanted to go to university in the USA, but his English was not good enough. His studies in La Salle were unfortunately disrupted by the Japanese attacks in December 1941. On Hong Kong's surrender on Christmas Day of 1941, Lobo returned to Macao, which was a Portuguese colony, and was thus neutral territory. Lobo's war time days in Macao were safe, peaceful, and according to his writings, were actually comfortable and enjoyable. Being a Macao resident, Lobo was fortunate not to be part of the actual defense of Hong Kong. His cousin, Edward Hyndman, was the youngest La Salle College war dead (he was 16). Hyndman was killed in action after he joined the Hong Kong Volunteers using an inflated age of 18, so that he could take part in the defense.

After the war, and having an interest in machines, Lobo started working in the aviation center as a fitter-mechanic, and later he joined Macao Electric. Soon after, Lobo and a few friends became entrepreneurs, running a business that polished and sold rice, which did very well. Yet, besides being a young rice merchant, Lobo led another secretive life: working for the British intelligence, a topic he very seldom discussed until much later in life. Lobo was part of the British Army Aid Group, and secretly helped prisoners of war and China fighter pilots who were shot down to get back to China. Lobo and his friends would receive information from the BAAG, and at the scheduled time, he would fetch the men, arrange junks, check for the water's safety, and send them off on the boats to head back into China, so that they could continue fighting against the Japanese.

After the war, Lobo eventually settled in Hong Kong, and while carrying on with being a busy and successful businessman, he was very dedicated to various community and public causes. Politically he was a member of the then Urban Council, the Executive Council, and the Legislative Council (LegCo). He also dedicated a lot of his energy to community service and helping the underprivileged, especially the youth and children. He was also on many charitable committees: such as, Society for the Deaf, Society for the Blind, Caritas, and the Community Chest.

Lobo also contributed much to the Sino-British negotiations on the future of Hong Kong, and is probably best remembered for tabling what would later be known as the "Lobo Motion" in LegCo in March 1984, while the Chinese and British Governments were busy discussing the future of Hong Kong. In 1982, opinion polls showed that the majority of Hongkongers wanted the British governance of Hong Kong to continue, but most also understood that returning to Chinese sovereignty was a necessary and fully expected outcome. Most wanted the impact of the return to China in 1997 to be cushioned by a certain interval to allow China to reform. This is what has become today's "One country two systems" constitutional principle, and where Hong Kong's "capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years" (Hong Kong Basic Law Chapter 1, Article 5). Lobo saw the importance of the proposal to Hong Kong, and the Lobo Motion stated that "This Council deems it essential that any proposals for the future of Hong Kong should be debated in this Council before any final agreement is reached." At the end of the ensuing debate on the Motion, Lobo concluded, stating:

"The acceptability of any proposed settlement lies in whether people believe that its terms will be respected and will endure: Faith cannot be created by orders; Trust cannot be induced by the exercise of power; and no settlement which fails to engender trust can possibly preserve our stability and prosperity."

Lobo's deep devotion to public service of Hong Kong earned him an OBE in 1972, a CBE in 1978 and he was knighted in 1984. Lobo once said: I had big ideas about more democracy, giving the people more say, more localization. I think I was born before my time! (Source: "Macao Remembers" by Jill McGivering). Sir Rogério Hyndman Lobo, was a brave man who stood up for the underprivileged, the needy, and for the interest of the people of Hong Kong at a critical time. We are very proud to have an Old Boy of such noble character. May God grant unto our fellow Lasallian, Sir Roger Lobo, eternal rest in His kingdom. May God also bless his family.

Mark Huang (1985)