



La Salle College Old Boys' Association Newsletter

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Dear fellow Old Boys,

We are all deeply saddened and horrified by the catastrophe in Sichuan, China. Our hearts are with the earthquake victims and the Committee members have come together in their own capacity to make a donation. The Association wishes to take this opportunity to call on all Old Boys to contribute generously to the relief efforts and direct their donations to the many channels in Hong Kong which are running donation drives for the victims.

My first term as the President of the Association is drawing to a close and it has been, as they say, a wonderful ride. Allow me to express my gratitude to all members for their trust and support and to the Committee members for their effort and sacrifices.

The first half term was dominated by events in celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of our Alma Mater, the Homecoming Global Reunion and the donation drive in support of the LSC Jubilee Fund. I am happy to report that the donation target of HK\$3million, pledged by Old Boys specifically for the College to employ more native English and Putonghua teachers, has been reached and surpassed with the bulk of the donations generated by the Old Campus Model, the Jubilee History Book "*Sons of La Salle Everyone*" and the Jubilee Gala Dinner. I thank you all donors for your support and generosity. The Old Campus Model is now prominently displayed in the Heritage Walk in the school while the Jubilee History Book has been published and is now available from the Association.

In addition to a host of our regular programs like Happy Hours, Professional Networking Dinners, Annual Spring Dinner, OBA Soccer League, Golf Day, Interview Workshop, Career Seminar etc, two new events worth special mention are the Mentorship Program and the Horse Racing Day.

The main objective of the Mentorship Program is to provide a platform for the young members ("mentees") to meet and learn from senior Old Boys ("mentors") in their own professions. The program enjoyed great success for both the legal and medical professions with enthusiastic participation by both mentors, who are happy to share their experiences, and mentees, who are eager to learn. While we thank all the mentors for their time and support, we hope to expand the program to other professions in future.

The once popular Horse Racing Day will be re-introduced on 28 June as the finale event of the Association for this term before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the College, the La Salle Diamond Jubilee Cup will be run as a Feature Race. **Only very limited seats are available** and so, please book your seats early to avoid disappointment. Please refer to the attached booking form (or you can download from our website www.lscoba.com) for details.

Last but certainly not least, the AGM is scheduled to be held on 18 July in the College. Please find attached the notice and all members are encouraged to attend.

I hope to see you at these events.

Yours in de La Salle,

Charles Chan (77)
President

The 17th Kowloon Group (La Salle) Marching On . . .

After series of celebrations for our 70th Anniversary, we will follow the strides of Pau Siu Hung SBS and Ng Siu Wing GSL (as pictured) to march on, striving for the better all the time. Hence, we warmly welcome:

- Students of the Primary and the College to join the 17th Group for a more fruitful life in La Salle. Just talk to your teachers for advice if you are interested;
- Old scouts home to help training our new bloods. Please contact Ng Siu Wing GSL at micngsw@hotmail.com if you wish to live up to once a scout, a lifetime scout;
- Old Boys to join our Committee as a means to serve your Alma Mater. For details, please contact our General-Affairs Officer Dennis Law at hennesy138@biznetvigator.com.

Kindly read the following article written by our Honourary Secretary Chow Loi to see what we are scouting for.

I hope parents are convinced that scouting is to drill your children for better health with better sense of responsibility for their studies, as proved by our brilliant scout Henry Keung, the TEN-A scorer for La Salle in the HKCEE last year. He is now the President of LSC Student Association with leadership so trained.



Scouting is also one of the curricula recognised for admission to universities, and for this additional merit parents should encourage their children to do **something more** outside the classroom. Join the La Salle Scouts!

With God's Blessings, the 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group's **fame may grow**.

Nelson Lee (58)

Chairman, The 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group Committee

The Glorious 70th Anniversary of the 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group

2007 was a very special year for La Salle. It was blessed with multiple important milestones. First, it was the 75th anniversary of the La Salle College; second, the 50th anniversary of the La Salle Primary School; and finally, the 70th anniversary of the 17th Kowloon Group. Under the leadership of the Group Committee, the Group had conducted a series of successful activities to commemorate her 70th anniversary. These activities included (a) ceremonial parade, (b) participation in the 21st World Scout Jamboree 2007 in U.K., (c) reunion banquet spring dinner, and (d) publication of a commemorative booklet.

The Parade: It was a major investiture event for 59 scouts and 7 venture scouts held on 27 October 2007 at the College. The ceremony was attended by over 200 scouts and their respective leaders. The cub scout pack, the scout troop, the venture scout unit and the rover scout crew all turned out in numbers in supporting the event. We were honoured to have Pau Shiu Hung SBS, the Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of Hong Kong, to officiate at the ceremony along with many other important guests: Lai Kwok Wing, Kowloon City District Commissioner; the Principal and the Vice-Principal of La Salle College, the Headmistress of La Salle Primary School, Rev. Bro. Joseph and parents.

During the event, our Chairman, Nelson Lee, gave a vivid account of the success of the Group over the last 70 years with nearly 10,000 scouts invested. The Principal later commended Mr. Pau for his contribution to the scout movement in Hong

Kong. In response, Mr. Pau was proud to declare himself a seventeen-year-old among the strong tradition of this Lasallian family. He reminded the scouts to always observe the Scout Promise, and by embracing it, our lives would be forever enriched with peace and happiness.

Among many spectacular performances were the sharp and tidy foot drill and the grand melody performed by the marching band of the Hong Kong Island Group 221 of the Correctional Services Department during the procession. They proudly demonstrated their confidence and ever ready willingness to accept social responsibilities as scouts.

The event closed with the presentation of the Golden Bauhinia Badges to the cub scouts and long service awards to the boy scouts and the venture scouts. Scouters received Wood Badges and the venture scouts were presented with the champion prizes in football competitions.

The 21st World Scout Jamboree 2007 in U.K.: Nine scouts led by their scout leader, Martin Wong, represented the 17th Group at the Jamboree held in July/August, 2007. Eight of the scouts received subsidies from the Committee and one scout received subsidies from the Scout Association. The occasion provided an excellent opportunity to broaden their vision in scouting through the participation of both on and off-site daily programmes. Joint activities held with fellow scouts from all over the world totaled more than 40,000 scouts including 675 from Hong Kong. Indeed, the camping offered the scouts a

spectrum of exposure to different culture and friendship.

In a related issue, we were delighted to learn that one of the selected scouts, Master Henry Keung who obtained ten Grade A scores in the HKCEE, 2007 examination illustrated that scouting life in La Salle can also strengthen one's academic achievement.

Reunion Banquet Spring Dinner: This dinner was held on 23 February 2008 in the auditorium of La Salle College and was the highlight of our celebration. About 234 guests attended the event with more than 167 scouts and leaders from all the troops combined. This included Rev. Bro. Alphonsus, Rev. Bro. Joseph, Rev. Bro. Vincent, Charles Chan, President of LSCOBA, Dr. Bernard Kong, Lai Kwok Wing, K.C. District Commissioner, Cheung Lai Ching and Au Yeung Kwok Wai, K.C. District Asst. Commissioners, past scout leaders, old Lasallians and parents.

The Principal and Vice-Principal of La Salle College both thanked members of the Group Committee led by Nelson Lee and the two Vice-Chairmen, James Chiu and Karl Ng for their unfailing support of the Group as well as the overall scout movement in La Salle.

Nelson Lee spoke of the Group's 70 years of success with many splendid events and happy memories. He was grateful to the school authority for placing an exclusive chapter – The Glorious 17th – describing the detailed development of the



Flag Raising Ceremony

Group from the long history in the Jubilee Yearbook entitled "Sons of La Salle Everyone". The seventeneers were notably renowned as scouts of courage and scouts of daring, full of manliness and will to defend Hong Kong during the Japanese invasion in 1941. He thanked the Group Scout Leader, Ng Siu Wing, as well as all the other scout leaders for a job well done. With two seventeneers appointed chief commissioners of Hong Kong, he encouraged the scouts to strive for this honour a third time in the future.

Guest speaker Pau Shiu Hung SBS encouraged the scouts to honour the Scout Promise in their daily routines by doing their best and helping others in need. He enlightened the audience with the history of the founding of scout movement from U.K. to the U.S.A. by William D. Boyce in February 1910. As a recipient of the kindness of the scouts himself, Mr. Boyce recalled how deeply touched he was by how an unknown scout so willingly helped him to locate his destination even on a foggy street in London in 1909. The boy then refused his tip, explaining that he was merely doing his duty as a scout.

At the close of this grand event, Rev. Bro. Alphonsus presented souvenir to Messrs. James Chiu, Thomas Law and Allan Li for their 20 years of dedicated service in the Committee. The festivities ended with a lucky draw with 32 wonderful prizes donated by the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen.

Chow Loi (62)

Hon. Secretary, The 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group Committee



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Class of 78 Reunion

Dear fellow classmates of 78, this year marks the 30th anniversary of our class. To celebrate the 30th reunion, we plan to organise a tour of the school followed by a reunion dinner at the Clear Water Bay Country Club on Saturday, 8 November 2008. Please mark your diary for the event. For the golfers, we will also organise a game of golf the day before the dinner in Macau.

We are pleased to note that 79 classmates have confirmed that they would or may attend. We are still getting in touch with about 70 classmates who have not responded. For those who have not responded yet, your confirmation of attendance by email to henrytai@jupiter.com.hk will be much appreciated. Please continue to spread the word about this reunion.

In the meantime, we would like to solicit your help. We are gathering photos of our school days in preparation for the function. We have set up a gmail account class78.30anniversary@gmail.com and would greatly appreciate it if you could go through your photo albums, scan the photos and email them to that account.

For the overseas chapters, we would greatly appreciate it if you could spread the word about this reunion to members of your chapter.

30th Anniversary Reunion Organising Committee

Dominic Tse	Lorenzo Loh	Henry So
Paul Law	Joseph Leung	James Chau
Henry Tai	Paul Wrobel	Hubert Chak
Peter Young	Raj Budhrani	Simon Tu
Albert Ng	Ricky Ko	

Olympic Spirit comes to La Salle

On 2 May, the Olympic flame, symbol of the Olympic Games spirit, passed through Hong Kong in a historical Olympic Torch Relay. Among the 119 torch bearers were three Old Boys, namely John Chan (59 Form 7), Ronnie Wong (70) and Yu Sum Yee (01), and a La Salle College Form 2 student Chiu Chung Hei. Chiu Chung Hei, the youngest Olympic torch bearer in the relay, shares his historical experience in the following article:

I am Chiu Chung Hei, 13 years old. It is my honour to be nominated as one of the Beijing 2008 Olympic torch bearers representing Hong Kong. Hong Kong is the first stop of the Olympic Torch Relay within China. Being a member of the torch relay team, I have the privilege to experience the Olympic Games values and spirit at a more profound level.

Words could not possibly describe my anxiety about the arrival of the relay day, 2 May. I woke up especially early on that morning to prepare myself for the torch relay and arrived at the meeting point at 9:45 am. A role call was conducted by the officials and an Olympic torch was handed to each of the torch bearers. Along with our personal assistant for the day, we boarded the coach heading towards Hong Kong famous landmark, Tsing Ma Bridge.

I was scheduled to participate in the observatory section of the Tsing Ma Bridge. While I was waiting for the torch bearer, Mr Hung, before me, my heart was racing at a

million beats per minute. I was so excited and nervous that I could hardly breathe. Before I realised, Mr Hung was already right in front of me. I raised my torch slowly and it was then lit by Mr Hung's torch. The transfer of the flame signified the start of my torch relay journey. I held the Olympic torch up high and started heading towards the observatory.

The short 200 meter run felt like ten thousand kilometers long. On the way, I saw teachers and students from different schools and other bystanders cheering and swinging the Chinese national flags. Everyone was cheering "Go Beijing", "Go Olympics". The experience was amazing. We were all there to celebrate the coming of the Beijing Olympic Games 2008. At that moment, all of my nervousness disappeared. The only feelings that remained were delight and elation. As I stood on the top of the observatory looking at my fellow citizens, my heart was blazing as strongly as the flame of the Olympic torch. Deep down at the bottom of my heart I wished for a very successful Beijing Olympics and the spreading of the message of world peace around the world just like the Olympic Torch Relay did. With my goals set on participating in the 2010 Youth Olympics and the 2012 London Olympics, I will give my very best effort to contribute to Hong Kong, China.

Chiu Chung Hei
 La Salle College F.2B



Happy Hour

The Association organised a Happy Hour gathering on 5 June in the Marina's Club, TST. Mark Huang, author of the school's history book published last year shared on the topic "A snapshot of La Salle's History", supplemented by over 80 photos of the campus and school life in the various periods of the school's history.

Besides some 40 Old Boys from the 1940s to the 2000s, the gathering was also graced by several seasoned teachers, among them, Chiu Siu Lai (40), Henry Lau (40), John Au (57), Woo Ho Wai and also Tsang Mui Cheung (a.k.a. "Headboy"), our former long surviving school office staff and his better half.



Mark leading Old Boys down memory lane



Old and young Old Boys listening attentively



Mark discussing St Joseph's early development

Mark started off the casual presentation (ie beer in one hand) with the founding of St Joseph's College, and then to the development of the St Joseph's Branch School in TST (interestingly, only a 5 minute walk from the Marina's Club). He then shared on the interesting political position of La Salle's plot (immediately north of Boundary Street, thus resting on land "leased" rather than "ceded" to the British), the opening of the school (Dec 1931), the German Internment in La Salle (1939) and the Japanese attacks (1941). The talk continued on to the reopening of the school after the war (1946), the Perth Street days (1949-59) and then to the return to La Salle Road, and ended with the demolition of the old campus (1978) and the opening of the Quad.

There were frequent questions and sharings from the attendees, and some of the projected photos prompted the seniors to run to the screen to identify a friend or a teacher, and often a nickname from some 50 or 60 years ago. For many attendees, especially the younger Old Boys, the talk offered an insight into the school's rich history in a light and fun manner.



Senior Old Boys and Uncle Mui Cheung check out the matriculation class photo of 1941

The OBA aims to organise Happy Hour gatherings every few months, likely to be accompanied by speakers who can share on topics that are of common interest to Old Boys and teachers. We hope to see you at the next gathering.

Mark Huang (85)
Heritage Subcommittee

ROUND TABLE DINNER

About 55 Old Boys and 8 current La Salle College students attended the Round Table Dinner organised by the Professional Network Committee on Friday, 9 May at the World Trade Centre Club, 38/F World Trade Centre in Causeway Bay. The topic of the talk was "Investments in properties and funds, is it for you?"

Dr. Leung Ka Tung, Tony (71 Form 7), of L&D Associates fame and one of the major real estate agents in Hong Kong in 1997, provided reminiscence about the Hong Kong real estate agent business from the 1970s up to the present moment. He explained that properties in Hong Kong are traded as commodities and as such could be very difficult to get rid of during property downturn amid panic selling.

His view for the coming year was for bearish sentiment. But when asked whether we should sell our properties, Tony reminded us that we should seek permission from our bosses, ie our wives, first.

Pong Po Lam, Paul, recipient of "World Outstanding Chinese Award" and founder of Pegasus Fund Managers Ltd, a renowned financial institution in Hong Kong, elaborated on the effects of bad debts on US financial institutions. He then offered an in-depth analysis of the various emerging markets before concluding that Taiwan has the best indicators for short to medium term growth.

President Charles Chan presented souvenirs to the two speakers at the end of the talk. A group photo was then taken and the school song sung, as usual, in the highest spirit.



Dr. Tony Leung talking to Old Boys



Attentive Old Boys listening to Paul's talk



Group photo at the end

Gordon Fong (76)
Alumni Development Subcommittee



President presenting souvenir to Dr. Tony Leung (left), and Paul Pong (right)

LSC Interview Workshop

Held on 4 May, this workshop was jointly organised by the OBA and the school's Careers Team to assist the F.7 boys in preparing for their upcoming university admission interviews. 24 Old Boys (including 4 undergraduates) came back to the school to share their professional expertise and career experience with the students.



Architecture

Albert Ng 78
 Michael Ng 78

Engineering

Ir KC Ng 70
 Ir Patrick Chan 77

Social Sciences

Mark Huang 85
 Philip Yeung 93
 Timothy Tam 94

Business / Finance

Raj Budhrani 79
 Duncan Mak 81
 Dennis Wong 81
 Johnny Mok 81
 Nelson Tang 81
 Alan Tam 82
 Willie Wong 84
 Raymond Chung 97
 Wilson Wong 04
 Yip Ka Lok 04

Law

Dominic Wai 80
 Vitus Leung 80

Medicine

Dr Michael Chan 84
 Dr Henry Kwok 84
 Dr Herman Liu 85
 Fergus Wong 04
 Gilbert Chua 05

About 80 students attended the workshop, which lasted from 1:30 – 5:00 pm. The program started with a presentation on general interview skills by Florence Chow (Assistant Careers Mistress). All students then attended one or two mock group interviews conducted by the Old Boys. Altogether, we had 19 interview sessions for architecture, business & finance, engineering, law, medicine and social sciences.

After each interview session, the Old Boys evaluated with the students their performance and advised them on how to improve at the real interviews. There were also discussion on career prospects and the undergraduate Old Boys shared their interview and study experience with the students.

According to the feedbacks from the participating students and the Careers Team, the workshop was very helpful. We would like to thank Cecilia Tang, Florence Chow, Hesione Leung and the following Old Boys for their time and effort in making this program a very successful one:

Stanley Shum (79)

Student Affairs Subcommittee



Inside the LSCOBA

In this final chapter of insiders' guide to LSCOBA operations, we look at the China Affairs Task Force, the Heritage Subcommittee, the School Liaison Task Force, the Young Member Section Task Force as well as the Recreation Subcommittee.

China Liaison Task Force



In 2006, I, together with members of the OBA and students of LSC, had the opportunity to visit the La Salle Study Centre (LSSC) run by Bro. David Liao in Changjiao Meizhou China, a remote village in the mountainous northeastern Guangdong region. Bro. David Liao from Malaysia was the Brother Visitor of the region until Brother Thomas

Lavin took over. There was an article on this subject in an earlier newsletter (Vol.25 No.4, June 2006) and I will not repeat the details here. Suffice to say that this study centre epitomizes the Lasallian way of serving the community with a spirit of faith.

In May this year, I met up with Bro. David again in Hong Kong and we talked about the recent happenings in LSSC.

He also talked about the concern of the Beijing Central Government on the education of children whose parents are migrant workers working in factories across the country, especially those in the coastal southern provinces such as Guangdong. Bro. David suggested to the Christian Brothers to find ways to provide education opportunities to these children of poor migrant workers. The Brothers were receptive of his idea and Bro. David was asked to explore the possibilities. The Brothers felt that his work in Changjiao has been successful but the scope of his work at LSSC has reached its limit. The Brothers would like to explore the possibility of founding a Lasallian school in Mainland China which is much harder than it sounds under the existing education ordinances in China which makes it almost impossible for the La Salle Brothers as a religious order to own and run a private school in the Mainland.

To further explore this subject, Bro. Thomas, the current Brother Visitor, visited LSSC in Changjiao in January this year and stayed for two nights. He was briefly introduced to the local culture and was invited to lunches and dinners hosted by villagers and parents. The Party Secretary and District Administration members also honoured him with a dinner. Bro. Thomas was referred to as the "white skin smiling visitor". Bro. Thomas spent time with the LSSC students, which numbered more than 300 currently, and was particularly impressed by a lot of them who spent time talking with him in English. Later, Bro. Thomas and Bro. David traveled to Meizhou to meet the Bishop of Meizhou and had lunch there. It was a good meeting for the Bishop

as Bro. Thomas promised to raise RMB100K to help the Bishop put up a new school in his home village of Wu Fa where he is the Chairperson of the School's Board of Governors.

As explained previously, the LSSC is NOT funded by the Christian Brothers (partly because of political

Heritage Subcommittee



Heritage can be defined as a legacy or tradition transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor. La Salle College possesses a unique heritage brought down through the generations by the Brothers, teachers and Old Boys. The Heritage Subcommittee was formed with the view of discovering, receiving, and preserving the traditions and legacies of the school and

acknowledging the people who formed it.

The first Heritage Subcommittee was formed in 2003 and headed ably by Peter Kam (77). Among the events held were annual visits to the Brothers' mausoleum in Happy Valley and memorial masses for deceased Brothers, teachers as well as alumni. A Heritage Musical Concert was held in 2005 with Old Boys and students musical performances. In 2005, I received the baton from Peter. With some research work done on the school's Perth Street years (1949-59), I presented a talk to Old Boys at a Happy Hour gathering, which many Old Boys enjoyed, showing that there was a strong interest in the Old Boys community for such "old stories" and history of the school.

In the same year, OBA requested the Heritage Subcommittee to embark on a new undertaking – to write a book on the history of La Salle College for its 75th Anniversary in 2007. The Subcommittee accepted the challenge. I had previously carried out research into the school's history for several years, but had not seriously thought of presenting the material as a book. With the support of many Brothers, teachers, Old Boys

School Liaison Subcommittee

I am grateful and honoured to be appointed as the OBA Committee member responsible for the liaison between the OBA and the school. I have been teaching in the school since 2002 as an Old Boy teacher. In 2002, there were no more than ten Old Boys teaching in La Salle. In recent years, a few more Old Boys came back to teach in our Alma Mater and we now have eleven Old Boys serving as teaching and supporting staff in La Salle. Besides the regular staff, we also have several enthusiastic Old Boys who help train students of several school teams, particularly the sports teams.

As convenor of the School Liaison Subcommittee, my duties are not confined to just bridging between the OBA and the school. Communications and information exchanges between the OBA and the school, staff and students are also very important. My predecessor, Perry Chiu (90), had done a marvelous job serving the OBA and the school and enjoys the highest regard for his contribution. As a new Committee member, I anticipate endless challenges and excitement ahead.

considerations) and is supported entirely by donations from alumni of Lasallian schools. Those who wish to support this very worthy cause can contact me at president@lscoba.com for further details.

Charles Chan (77)
Convenor, China Liaison Task Force

and students, the book was finally completed in time for the grand finale event of the celebrations in December 2007.

Even though the La Salle history book has been completed, the research into La Salle's history is far from over. As the saying goes, "The more you know, the more you realise you don't know". Through our research, the Heritage Subcommittee, together with Brother Patrick Tierney and Paul Tam, a teacher from St Joseph's Primary, identified at least 40 topics regarding La Salle's history that the school is still unclear about. Some of these are simple questions that require some light digging and asking around; some others may take weeks or even months to research into; and yet some answers may unfortunately never be found.

Personally, taking part in the OBA Heritage Subcommittee has been an immensely rewarding experience. Among other effects, I am more appreciative of the little things that are often taken for granted today. For instance, when I look up to the stone cross at the far end of today's soccer field, or when I drive up College Road, I can't help but think of the cross resting on the school Dome in the early 1930s, or think of the hill that Brother Aimar bought, flattened and built the school on in the late 1920s.

Help Needed!

The Heritage Subcommittee needs all the Old Boy power to continue the research. I therefore take this opportunity to call on any Old Boy who has interest in taking part in the discovery of La Salle heritage to contact me. The research experience will give you a new perspective to being a Lasallian. No skills required, just a passion for La Salle! Please drop me a line on email heritage@lscoba.com.

Mark Huang (85)
Convenor, Heritage Subcommittee

Besides liaising with the school, strengthening the ties between the OBA and the students is also of paramount importance. La Salle is always proud of its strong brotherhood tradition and in this regard, the OBA is inevitably playing a vital role. To nurture this tradition among the young students and instill them with a strong sense of belonging even after they graduated is one of the many missions of the OBA. Only if the students perceive spiritually and conceptually their own identities as Lasallian and see themselves as members of the great Lasallian family could the Lasallian spirit be realised and flourished. As an Old Boy as well as a teacher, I see it as a mandate for me to carry out this task with no reservation.



Jimmy Sin (78)
Convenor, School Liaison Subcommittee

Young Member Section Task Force

Recruiting fresh and young members ("YM") has always been one of our main objectives as we believe that an excellent future can only be assured by a solid foundation established in younger generations. The Task Force's main aim is to organise activities with our younger members in mind. Most of the OBA activities offer special discounts for YM and we also offer them opportunities to build professional networks via informal gatherings such as visits and dinners.



Below are some of the activities organised by the Young Member Section Task Force:

Mentorship Program 2007/08

The Task Force, working closely with the Alumni Development Subcommittee, established the Mentorship Program this year. It comprises of a group of professional senior Old Boys who serve as mentors and are individually allocated to the participating YM mentees who are all current university students. The mentors and mentees meet regularly to share professional knowledge and experiences in their respective sectors. Besides formal dinners, there were also

informal meetings and casual events such as the BBQ lunch and happy hours.

Professional Network Visits/Dinners

Understanding that most YM are uncertain about their future career, the Task Force works closely with the Alumni Development Subcommittee to provide YM with more career support to help them gather as much career information as possible as well as develop knowledge and network in the industry. YM are normally invited to join the Professional Network gathering at a discounted price.

School visit on the date of release of HKCEE results

In the past few years, we went back to the school on the HKCEE results release day to provide support and advice to the Form 5 students on their important date.

End of Summer Boat Cruise

The boat trip saw the participation of around 40-50 YM, their friends and families. They attended the excursion to Sai Kung in the evening and thoroughly enjoyed the various on-board activities including squid-catching and karaoke!

We will certainly try our best to organise a wider range of activities and attract more YM to keep the OBA blooming. If you have any suggestion, feel free to email president@lscoba.com.

Eric Chow (00)
Convenor, Young Member Section Task Force

Recreation Subcommittee

Here comes my favourite line in the school song....

*"Come whatever kind of weather,
Come the stormy days along,
When the Old Boys get together,
They will always sing this song."*

The Recreation Subcommittee aims at organising events for fellow Old Boys to "get together". We all work hard at school and at work, so we deserve to play extra hard in our leisure time. That's Lasallian - we work hard and we play extra hard!

Throughout the years, we have organised numerous activities for our members. The traditional events include the Annual Spring Dinner and the Annual Christmas Ball, where Brothers, teachers, Old Boys and their families can all get together and celebrate with happiness and high festive spirit!

The following are brief introductions to some of the OBA activities organised by the Recreation Subcommittee:

Annual Christmas Ball

Christmas! The Recreation Subcommittee organises dinner party every year for our members to come together and enjoy this annual festival. In December 2006, the members (nearly a quarter of the attendees were young members) had an enjoyable evening at Café Deco on the Peak. The integration between the generations pushed the festive Christmas spirit higher than ever, and added a magnificent post-modern elegance to this traditional annual event.

Annual Spring Dinner

The Spring Dinner has always been a must-attend annual gathering for many Old Boys. What's more enjoyable than sharing stories of good old days and updating classmates with each other's latest happenings and future plans? The morale is always especially high in the Spring Dinner when the Old Boys exchange fond La Salle memories amongst each other.

It is a tradition that the Spring Dinner takes place on the Final Day (Day 3) of the Inter-School Athletics Meet, during which Brothers, Old Boys, present and past teachers, students and athletes all gather around and enjoy the dinner in a relaxed environment. The venue is always overflowed with joy and happiness of the Old Boys. Arm-wrestling, beer competition, cheering for the school's Athletics Teams, singing the school songs are all popular activities during the dinner.

New Activities

The Recreation Subcommittee strives to include a wider variety and more diverse range of events to attract more members (especially the Young Members) to take part in the OBA activities. We try extra hard to organise events to bring all the Old Boys back together again and our recent efforts include:

Young Members Happy Hour

This is another opportunity for Old Boys and the young members to meet with each other in an informal setting. Since last year, regular Young Members Happy Hour gatherings have been held for Old Boys to gather after work

and reminisce the good old days in La Salle.

Chinese Valentines' Poolside BBQ Party

Over 60 participants, both young and old, enjoyed the serene night with traditional lanterns, lantern riddles, BBQ food and special games in celebration of the Chinese Valentine's Day.

The Subcommittee welcomes all ideas or activity suggestions from you and all OBA members are welcome to email any suggestion and comment to president@lscoba.com. Hope to see you all in the forthcoming LSCOBA activities!

Eric Chow (00)
Convenor, Recreation Subcommittee

Journey into The History of La Salle

The school history book "*Sons of La Salle everyone – A History of La Salle College and La Salle Primary School – 1932 - 2007*" compiled by the Heritage Subcommittee contains invaluable information on the history of La Salle. Let's embark on a brief journey into the past in one of the chapters, titled "*In Search of Pastures New*," and trace the history of how Brother Aimar acquired the La Salle site.

The Negotiations

As early as October 1923, Brother Aimar wrote to the Hong Kong Colonial government requesting ten acres of land to erect a large boys' school with boarding facilities.

In now declassified internal government correspondence, the then Director of Education, E. Irving stated his view of Brother Aimar's request to his colleagues, drawing comparisons with schools that were developed around the same time:

If they erect buildings for 800 boys including 300 boarders, I don't think 10 acres is too much. The Diocesan School is getting over 20. The new site for Q.C. [Queen's College] is 12 acres.

In the same correspondence, Irving continued,

I am not form [sic, should be 'for'] any opinion as to how long it will be before they are able to get 800 boys. But they usually seem able to succeed in doing what they set out to do.

As to the locality, a remark made early in internal government documents gives some hint as to why such a rural location was granted. A.G.M. Fletcher, the then Colonial Secretary in Hong Kong commented on 10 November 1923 in internal government correspondence,

10 acres seems too much unless they go further afield.

Brother Aimar worked closely with the most senior ranks in the Colonial government authority. One of the many letters

from Brother Aimar to the Governor Sir Cecil Clementi, dated 22 April 1927, reads:

May it please Your Excellency to recall that in February 1926, I had the honour to accompany you on a visit to our present Kowloon School and to the proposed site for our future College.

When I saw Mr Fletcher in December, 1925, I asked for six acres as an absolute minimum. At the same time I pointed out that a site of six acres could not be regarded as sufficient for the requirements of a modern school of this size. ... Three and a half to four acres will be required for football, cricket and tennis grounds.

... A map from the mid 1920's shows that there were hardly any roads or structures around the La Salle site. There was but one house, which an early school document recorded:

Across what was later on to become 'La Salle Road' was a garden lot of some three acres which Brother Aimar had acquired from Mrs. Chan Kwong Min, the wife of the former Waichow war-lord; there was a small Chinese house on the grounds, in which the Canadian Sisters of Our Lady of the Angels, newly arrived in the Colony, resided temporarily. There was not a single house standing on the southern side of Prince Edward Road.

... After several years of effort on Brother Aimar's part, the British Government was finally prepared to grant the land, as stated in a letter in September 1926 from L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies from Downing Street, London to the Hong Kong Colonial Office:

I have the honour to inform you that I approve the proposals ... for increasing the area of land to be granted to the Christian Brothers as a new site for their present branch school in Chatham Road, Kowloon.



La Salle College as seen from the future Oxford Road, circa 1932, with sports grounds and slopes still being completed. Brother Aimar's 10 acres of hill bought in 1928 had then already become home to an architectural beauty. In the distance is the Kai Tak Airport with sea planes



La Salle from Prince Edward Road 1937

In a letter dated 23 November 1927, Brother Aimar finally received a notice from the Director of Public Works, A.E. Wright:

Kindly inform me whether you are prepared to bid the upset price for the lot on these conditions.

Finally, on 12 March 1928, about three months later, Brother Aimar replied,

I have the honour to inform you that I am prepared to bid the upset price.

Indeed, Brother Aimar added:

I shall be much obliged if you will arrange for the auction sale to take place as soon as possible.

Brother Aimar was a man in a hurry.

In the Government Gazette dated 10 April 1928, an announcement was made for the sale of the Crown Land by public auction.

On Monday, 23 April 1928 at 3 pm, at the uncontested auction, Brother Aimar acquired 10 acres (435,600 square feet) of land

for HK\$120,000. The per square foot price was under HK\$0.28.

Discover more about the history and tradition of La Salle with the school history book, available now from the LSCOPA Office for HK\$380. Please contact Nicole Lee at 2336 2985 for detailed information.

**Mark Huang (85)
 Heritage Subcommittee**



Mark standing beside the grave of Private Ronald Douglas Maxwell, an Old Boy who died in the Second World War in defense of HK at the tender age of 22. The grave is located on the grounds of St John's Cathedral (Anglican) in Central. Mark found information on Senior Maxwell's life story through his history research

Members Privileges

LSCOPA VISA Card Summer Spending Reward Program

Thank you for your continuous support to the "LSCOPA VISA Card" program. As a token of our appreciation, LSCOPA and Wing Hang Bank are jointly presenting you with the following exciting offers!* From 15 June to 31 July 2008, simply accumulate spending of HK\$2,500 or above with your LSCOPA VISA Card and you will be rewarded with the marvelous gift of a free pair of La Salle Cufflinks. Accumulate spending of HK\$4,000 or above to get an extra Pizza Hut Pizza!

Please keep spending with your LSCOPA VISA Card to enjoy a host of exclusive privileges. Should you have any queries, please call Wing Hang Bank Customer Service Hotline at 2543 2223.

*Terms and conditions apply, please refer to the LSCOPA or Wing Hang Bank website for details.

Lasallian News

Chester Ou Young (88) is proud to announce the birth of the adorable Caden on 2 May 2008 in Hong Kong. Chester and Jeanie are both elated with the safe arrival of their first born son.



Exclusive ZUJI Summer Travel Privilege

We are pleased to bring about an exclusive promotion from ZUJI for the Old Boys and La Salle community, details as follows:

\$250 cash coupon offer** for LSCOPA members, simply insert this code << lasallemis >> when booking your flight and hotel at www.zuji.com.hk. Promotion offer valid till 31 July 2008.

For demo, please visit http://www.zuji.com.hk/web/content/hk/local/promotions/2007/austcham/how_en.html#air.

**Terms and conditions apply. Minimum purchase of HK\$3,500. Please refer to LSCOPA or ZUJI website for details.

**Roger Lee (85)
 Credit Card Subcommittee**

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