



北美風沙
The North American Lasallians
APRIL 2022



Highlights for this issue:

Overseas Network Group Update - pg 2

La Salle Academy (NYC) - pg 6

The Fourteen FIFA World Cup Since 1966 (part 3)- pg 9

【體壇尖子】花劍港隊「二哥」蔡俊彥- pg 11

Lasallian Shop by LSCOBAs - pg 16

Overseas Network Group Update

As the global pandemic is easing, social activities are gradually coming back to normal.

A special gathering took place in **Toronto**, with a number of newcomers and a few very special guests from afar.



From left: Kenny Fong (17, HKOBA director), Chris Fong (94, NA Lasallian Newsletter), Ms. Alice Sitt (former LSC teacher in the 90s), Ms. Janet Yuen (former LSC teacher in the 2010s), Danny Au Yeung (67), Jevons Au (98, Vancouver chapter director), Kevin Kwok (88, Overseas Network Group)





LSOBA branded lai see envelopes are crowd pleasers.



We were honored to host a big group of young old boys who called Toronto their new home over the last few years.



Presenting HKOBA branded surgical masks to Ms Sitt and Ms Yuen

Shortly after the **United Kingdom** announced “Living with Covid”, twenty-two old boys, ranging from veteran Eddie Chan (70) to young Sam Tsang (22), had an amazing lunch event in London China Town to celebrate Chinese New Year. Thank you, Eddie, to arrange a special private room to allow these ‘naughty’ La Salle old boys to talk and sing our school song loudly together with karaoke technology.





"The UK Chapter wants to wish everyone well and world peace in these unprecedented times. The world is changing fast, the UK La Salle old boys feel proud to continue our long-established tradition to gather and demonstrate our spirit no matter where we go. We will concert our effort to make the UK Chapter grow stronger in the years to come."



Monthly dim sum gathering in **Edmonton**. Johnny (90) and son Marco (25) Yeung, and also Antoni Fonny (90) recently called this prairie city home.

And the smaller cities/regions are not quiet either! In our [December 2020 special edition](#) we featured contact persons for old boys chapters/groups in 12 overseas cities/regions. We are delighted to add two more:

- **Calgary:** Marcus Mak (95) marcusmak@gmail.com
- **Guangzhou:** Kam Cheuk Bun (83) cbkam@finevantage.com

Over the last few years, more La Salle old boys have wanted to study and live overseas. It is a blessing that we can unite many of our old schoolmates and make new connections even when we are far away from Hong Kong. There were plenty of delicious Chinese food and wine throughout the three gatherings in three places. However, the most precious thing we enjoyed during the event was the conversation, sharing joy and life experiences amongst old boys, this was priceless. Our overseas network has never been stronger!

La Salle Academy (NYC)

New York / East Coast Chapter

Philip Chan (81)

A dinner meeting was organized in Washington D.C. last November for a few local old boys, Samuel Mok, Michael Chung and Philip Chan, to meet with Brother Thomas Casey, President of La Salle Academy of New York City, during a business trip of the latter to that area. Our honorable senior La Salle old boy Samuel Mok is a well-known figure in New York and Washington D.C. for his strategic management advisory consulting and community and grassroots organizing activities, and Michael Chung is the founder of his own company. Over dinner, Michael expressed interest to work with La Salle Academy to provide summer internships for some students who want to work in his IT company near the D.C. area. Samuel also expressed great interest in helping La Salle Academy improve Asian enrollments and endowments.



Brother Thomas Casey enjoyed reading the copies of *The North American Lasallians* that had been emailed to him in the last three months. He was also personally connected with Brother Henry Pang, former Principal of the La Salle Primary School during his visit to Hong Kong decades ago.

Our New York & East Coast member, John Jean, made invaluable effort in liaising with Brother Thomas Casey via email and a follow up in-person visit to the latter's Manhattan office. Samuel Mok will continue to build the relationship between LSCOA New York & East Coast Chapter and La Salle Academy-NYC, and he is looking forward to converse with La Salle Academy administrative staff to this end.

Over the years, Philip has made several donations to La Salle Academy and is part of the plan to establish the La Salle Academy Computer Club. The funding will provide opportunities for students to work on projects involving various aspects of computer science such as coding, robotics, 3D printing, cyber security, and artificial intelligence. Philip's role will be a resource for the club participants to guide them in conceptualizing, developing, and implementing their projects. Students will be welcome to work on individual projects and group endeavors. The moderator will be present for the weekly one-hour on-site club meetings and provide remote availability on a limited basis at other times. They will also maintain contact with Philip, the funder of this club, for professional counsel.

La Salle Academy follows the tradition of St. John Baptist de La Salle, who instilled a spirit of prayer and reverence in his students, beginning the school day and pausing regularly to acknowledge, "Let us remember that we are in the Holy presence of God."

John Jean (76)

In mid-December of 2021, I visited La Salle Academy here in NYC and met with its President, Brother Thomas Casey. We were connected by Phil Chan (81), another member of the New York Chapter currently residing in Maryland.

I was greeted by Brother Thomas at the entrance upon arrival. A student then gave a tour of the campus and a highly informative description of the student body. I then had a nice chat with Brother Thomas and a couple of the current students, including one from the junior high school my daughters had attended. It was an enjoyable trip.

La Salle Academy in New York City was founded by La Salle brothers from France in 1848 and has been serving young boys of first and second generations immigrants since. This reminded me of St. John Baptist de La Salle saying, "Education for all." Currently there are three La Salle brothers still serving at the Academy.

Since its founding in 1848, La Salle Academy has provided educational, spiritual and athletic opportunities to young men of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Spanning the alphabet from Albania to Vietnam, the homelands of the parents of the Academy's students number over 50 countries. The school's ethnic diversity breakdown is as follows: 43% Latino, 22% Black, 16% Asian, 13% White, and 6% Multiracial. Students travel to the Academy from across the five boroughs of New York City, as well as New Jersey and Westchester County in New York.

La Salle Academy provides a college-preparatory education with a special outreach to those most in need. The Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education. With an average class size of 18, the student to faculty ratio is only 10:1. Over 80% of the faculty possess master or higher degrees.

In addition to teaching the New York State mandatory curriculum, the Academy also offers honors and Regents courses, Advanced Placement courses, and a dual-enrollment program with St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. Through this program, students have the opportunity to enroll in up to five courses that will earn them both

high school credits from the Academy and college credits from St. Francis College. Such courses currently include Creative Writing, Sociology, U.S. History, Government, and Spanish Culture and Literature.

For the most recent graduating Class of 2021 consisting of 68 students, the college acceptance rate was 99% with over \$12 million received in college scholarships and grants. Graduates have gone on to attend Boston College, Fairfield University, Howard University, Manhattan College, NYU, Syracuse University, Villanova University, and many more. Thus far in 2022, the Academy already has one student accepted by Stanford University and another accepted by Colby College – both on full scholarship, thanks to their acceptance and match in the QuestBridge Program.

Aside from the college-preparatory curriculum, La Salle Academy provides numerous co-curricular offerings.

La Salle Works is a paid and unpaid internship/apprenticeship program available to all students. By enrolling themselves to this program, students earn amazing opportunities to pursue their interests and prepare themselves for college and the professional world. This program also teaches students how to prepare for a job interview, produce quality resumes and develop personal networking skills.

La Salle Mentors is a program that allows students to meet and connect with the Academy's mentoring network, which consists of distinguished alumni and friends, on a monthly basis after school throughout the academic year.

La Salle Works and La Salle Mentors are currently on hiatus due to the pandemic, but the **Guest Lecturer Program** has continued throughout the pandemic through virtual lecture sessions on Zoom. Professionals from the La Salle community and beyond participate in this program to "lecture" a class and provide them some insight on their professions and careers. Should you find interest in participating in this program, please contact Brother Thomas Casey at TCasey@LaSalleAcademy.org or 212-475-8940 ext. 238.

Each summer, La Salle Academy hosts the **Cardinal Readiness Program (CRP)** for incoming freshmen. The purpose of the program is to ease the students' transition into high school, both academically and socially. It consists of a series of daily periods: English, Math and Study/Transition Skills. There is also a recreational component.

While talking to the students, I could feel that they were filled with the La Salle spirit, no less than we are from our Alma Mater in HK.



Brother Thomas visited HK twice and he showed me the calligraphy written by our Brother Henry Pang, addressing “杜馬士 修士”, and undersigned by “彭亨利 修士” with Brother Henry’s seal. Brother Henry had to look up how Thomas was translated in the Chinese bible to write this. This masterpiece is displayed by Brother Thomas in his office at the Academy.

Brother Thomas would like to connect our Old Boys Association in New York with La Salle Academy. Some of the ideas that we talked about included professional career talks, summer job opportunities, La Salle boys in HK, etc. All these are good opportunities for us to contribute back to the Christian Brothers community.

Upcoming Events

The Academy will be hosting two upcoming events. All LSC alumni are welcome to join.

- Cardinal Classic Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 16th at North Hempstead Country Club in Port Washington, NY. The link to register is www.LaSalleAcademy.org/LSAGolf22.
- 30th Annual Scholarship Benefit will be held on Thursday, June 9th at Tribeca Rooftop. That link will be available soon.

Side note: McSorley’s Ale House

As I left the Academy and went to pick up my car, I saw the sign of McSorley’s, the oldest and longest running bar in New York City. You may say it is the holy land for beer lovers in NYC. I had always wanted to visit it but never made it. Since I found out where it was, I went on my “pilgrimage” there a week later with my wife.

To my surprise, it only serves two beers rather than a large collection of beers, dark and amber, i.e., black ale and pale ale, both house brewed. They were delicious but as a stout drinker, I prefer the dark.



The Fourteen FIFA World Cup Since 1966 (part 3)

Danny Leung (71)

World Cup 1966 Football Is Coming Home (continue)

Famous or infamous quote:

- Ramsey predicted England would win the World Cup when he took over the team in 1963 and they did.
- Alf Ramsey labeled the Argentineans behavior as “Animals” after England beat them 1-0 in the quarter final. The Argentina’s captain Rattin was sent off after he complained too often to the German referee. The game was halted for over 10 minutes as the Argentineans protested. Rattin had to be escorted off

by policemen and ended up sitting on the Queen's red carpet! Argentina was the better team in attack even playing with ten men, but their dark arts, aggressive tackles, subtle off the ball fouls, complaints and won them few fans. With that comment, England paid the price every time they played in a Latin country for many years to come.

- Ramsey's team talk prior to extra time in the final: "You've won it once. Now you'll have to go out there and win it again" and the team made it happened.



Ramsey stopped the jersey exchange

Other off the pitch factors, controversies, rumors:

- The Jules Rimet trophy was stolen prior to the world cup but was recovered by a dog within a week. One of the thieves was eventually convicted.
- The FIFA president, the English Sir Stanley Rous, would want the cup to stay in England. In the event, all the England games were played at the Wembley Stadium as the host country had a definite advantage with a massive crowd support,
- Argentina cried foul play with its red card against England. Brazil did the same as the Europeans kept on chopping down Pele with no protection from the referees.

Did the winner live happily shortly after:

England lost to Yugoslavia by 1-0 in the semi final through a late goal but beat the Soviet Union 2-0 for 3rd place in the 1968 European Nation Cup. With an even better defense than 1966, the team lost to W. Germany in a heartbreaking quarter final in the 1970 World Cup after conceding a 2 goal lead with a 3-2 lost in overtime. There goes a truly golden generation in England football as they would miss out the next 4 major tournaments before appearing in the 1980 European Nation Cup again.



Chaotic moment during England vs Argentina

【體壇尖子】花劍港隊「二哥」蔡俊彥頹喪後重生 視張家朗為目標劍指世界頭 5

Source: topick.hk.net

戴上面罩、握緊劍柄，劍擊運動員的對壘總是引人入勝；步法進退有據，攻守在劍尖間轉換，分秒之間定勝負。香港劍擊運動員蔡俊彥 9 歲開始打劍，一試便愛上。他在喇沙書院劍擊隊中嶄露頭角，中三獲邀加入港隊，曾於亞青賽奪金、青奧會奪銀，可謂年少得志。去年東京奧運，他自覺打不出應有水準，經歷數月低潮，在自我懷疑、頹喪過後重新出發，劍指世界排名頭 5 的位置。

9 歲初試花劍 難忘學界與男拔對壘

蔡俊彥現年 24 歲，身材高挑，說話聲線略顯低沉，給人一種「酷酷」的感覺。在接觸劍擊前，他最愛踢足球，小四時在媽媽「強迫」下初試花劍，坦言最初感抗拒，「覺得很危險，但上一堂之後覺得好玩，很快便喜歡」。入讀喇沙書院後，蔡俊彥成為劍擊隊新星，在中二時便獲得打團體賽的機會，代表學校與男拔對壘。

學界比賽的熱血總是令人懷念，憶起當年與拔萃男書院的冠軍戰，蔡俊彥笑言「氣氛隨時強烈過打世界賽」，「喇沙和拔萃競爭很大，每逢兩所學校對壘就會有壓迫感，那時很怕應付這種壓力」。所幸得到喇沙舊生鼓勵，蔡俊彥鼓起勇氣應戰，終打出「超水準」表現，助學校奪冠。



「喇沙仔」向來對學校歸屬感強，蔡俊彥形容隊友間有「出生入死」的感覺，大家為同一目標努力，不分你我，替同校選手打氣。

“在喇沙劍擊隊算是人生最快樂、最滿足的時候，好慶幸和隊友們有過這樣的回憶。”

中三獲邀加入港隊，蔡俊彥投放時間心力在劍擊，進步飛快，以 15 歲之齡在亞洲青少年劍擊錦標賽中奪得金牌。然而得到佳績後壓力驟增，以致翌年比賽失準，在 32 強便出局，令他信心大受打擊，「有段時間甚至覺得自己完全不懂打劍」。調整心態後再戰，他在 17 歲重回勇態奪銅，及後更在青年奧林匹克運動會中奪得銀牌。



停練劍半年苦讀入港大

運動員兼顧學業不容易，蔡俊彥坦言在校內成績一般，屬中下水平。加入港隊後，他每星期有 3 至 4 天課後須前往體院訓練，加上 2 日校隊訓練，差不多每天都在打劍。「如果你是個自律的人，絕對可以練習完，回家做功課然後睡覺，但會缺乏休息及玩的時間」。他直言那時選擇劍擊重於學業，

“到現在也是，揀死一樣做咗先，才做另一樣。這是我的兼顧方法，不會夾硬兩邊走。”

中六面對公開試，蔡俊彥決心考好 DSE，向體院請半年假，暫停練劍埋頭苦讀，終如願入讀港大會計系。原本他打算完成學位之後才轉做全職運動員，但細想之下不欲錯過運動員的「黃金年齡」，在大二毅然踏上全職路。「在青奧會奪銀之後，我覺得自己有潛力成為世界頂尖的水平，劍擊的野心及目標愈來愈大，想把握自己身體機能最發達的時候衝擊更多」。全職運動員訓練絕不輕鬆，他坦言感辛苦，但因方向和目標清晰，甚快適應。



奧運後歷低潮

去年東京奧運，蔡俊彥以奪牌為目標，最後於 16 強抱憾出局。他自覺表現不似預期，陷入質疑自己的漩渦，「為何練習有這個水準，但比賽沒有？想過自己會否是不適合比賽的運動員……」。回想奧運賽事，他自認當時太着重分數，

“不斷出現『我要追、我要追』的心態，但我應該專注在對手身上。盡量不要想落後多少，專注在當刻可以做的事。”

奧運過後，蔡俊彥有段時間感倦怠，覺得自己「可能得咁上下」，難以再進步。在內地集訓時，試過找藉口缺席訓練，維持不想打劍的狀態，甚至「諗都唔想諗」。教練明白他的處境，沒有強迫他出席訓練，亦在閒談間開解他。讓大腦喘息、放鬆過後，蔡俊彥慢慢想通進步的方法，重拾打劍動力。他指人總有頹喪的時候，只要不沉溺下去，容許自己頹廢一陣子亦無不妥。





劍指世界排名頭 5 視張家朗為進步動力

同樣代表香港出戰的劍擊運動員張家朗，早前在奧運個人賽奪金，近日又於花劍世界盃巴黎站奪金，現時世界排名第 2，距離「世一」只一步之遙。蔡俊彥明言自己從轉全職開始，一直想成為世界頂尖的選手，現時世界排名第 8 的他，劍指頭 5 位。

“張家朗絕對是我想超越的其中一位選手，我視他為動力、一個進步的目標。”

從 9 歲到 24 歲，劍擊在 15 年間從課外活動變成蔡俊彥生命中不可或缺的部分：

“劍擊教會我做人，令我變得成熟，我在學習的過程找到自信。就算他朝一日我不再做運動員，不再打比賽，我往後得到的東西都是劍擊帶給我的，都會和劍擊有聯繫。”

Lasallian Shop by LSCOBA



Please see [e-shop](#) for details.

About the North American Lasallians

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication & sharing among La Salle old boys in North America. It is not meant to be used as an instrument for promoting any personal agenda.

The editorial board reserves the rights to oversee and edit all submissions, to ensure all contents shall meet our publication standards, as well as appropriate for the newsletter's intended audience & global circulation. Our editorial board has the exclusive right to reject submissions deemed to be not in line, or incompatible with the purpose or spirit of this newsletter at our sole discretion.

Previous issues of the newsletter are available on HKOBA website at

<https://www.lscoba.com/north-american-lasallians-newsletter/>

If you want to communicate with the editorial board, please send email to

editors@lscob-global.net

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, please send email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscob-global.net-subscribe@lscob-global.net

If you want to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send email (with subject line: unsubscribe) to

newsletter-lscob-global.net-unsubscribe@lscob-global.net

The Chief editors appreciate Philip Chan (81) and Danny Leung (71) for their contribution to this issue.

Chief Editors	John Jean (76) Victor Leung (77) Kevin Kwok (88) Chris Fong (94) Ambrose Lee (98)
Editors-in-training	Alex Tsoi (2016) Kenny Fong (2017) Josh Raphael (2018) Edison Liem (2020)