



北美風沙
The North American Lasallians
FEBRUARY 2023



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LSCOCA Southern California Chapter - 2023 Year of the Rabbit Spring

Dinner 兔年春茗

年初七 - 與全球舊生網上拜年



Homecoming from Overseas

Christopher Liu (77), UK

I became a Lasallian when I joined La Salle Primary School way back in 1969. Primary school was quite calm with obligatory football injuries, and the excitement of annual class picnics complete with bean guns. Somehow, I got through to La Salle College. I loved cycling to school as did my classmate Lester Huang (77). We had somewhere to park and hide our bicycles. My hair grew longer, my myopia got worse, the flare bottom trousers got more severe, and my results were bad especially for Chinese. I decided I ought to make a new start and left for boarding school in England after completing Form 3. Brother Michael was Careers Master and sent quite a few of my cohort to Prior Park College, an Irish Christian Brothers school. And so I stayed on and have been in the UK for over 47 years now. After the first few years, I had lost touch with my classmates. It is only through social media that we have been reconnected in the last decade. Following the pandemic, I really wanted to return to HK to see my family and my 77 classmates. I also really wanted to attend the 90th anniversary celebrations.



Christopher thumbing an archived issue of The Lasallite school magazine from where he was at school

When Brian Ho (73) returned to Hong Kong, I was appointed Convenor of the UK Chapter of LSCOPA. There were very few permanent members then. Most were transients, students at boarding school and universities, and old boys in earlier careers working for a few years in the UK before returning to Hong Kong. One such person is Norman Wong (02, vide infra) whom I got to know when he was at a nearby boarding school. He subsequently became the Chapter's secretary until he returned to live and work in Hong Kong. The scene has changed. In recent years, there have been many new immigrants and we have now close to 150 old boys in our chapter's informal WhatsApp group. Once the weather improves, it will be time to organize the next meet up in London. We made a one-minute film for showing at the 10th December dinner. <https://youtu.be/bSAC9pBMWmA>

In 2022 I managed to return to HK twice after an interval of nearly three years, because of the pandemic. In July and August, I already had a number of amazing gatherings with my 77 classmates. I also visited our alma mater's "new" buildings for the very first time. I met Kent Lau (99) and Paul Liu (88) for breakfast and visited the school with President Kent. Whilst it did not echo with me, as I never studied or spent time there, it was impressive and buzzing with energy. I met swimmers, athletes and basketball players, including Brian Tsang (03), the son of my classmate Steve (77). The November and December trip was very tricky as the date for the dinner was fixed very late on and was moved. I had to reorganize my diary quite severely to be able to make 10th December, the official date of La Salle College's 90th anniversary celebrations.



With President Kent Lau (99) near the entrance gates of La Salle College



With Brian Tsang (03)

That wasn't the only date I attended La Salle functions though. I met with my 77 classmates and alumni from other years many times. Two occasions were particularly memorable. The first was a dinner with my classmates on 8th December, the day before my 63rd birthday. We were all merry with free-flowing champagne and wines. When the dessert came, they were enormous 壽包 with a lit candle. I was so overjoyed I offered to pay for everybody, but the offer was declined. The birthday buns were large and delicious, and I shall never forget the surprise party. The other memorable occasion was attending a WG dinner. For the uninitiated, WG stands for Whisky Guzzlers. It is a club founded by a few of my 77 classmates. To join, you need first to be a Lasallian, second a whisky aficionado, and there can only be two members from each year. There is an exception for 77ers when there can be unlimited numbers. The dinner was a Black Tie (tuxedo) affair, and we tasted maybe nine whiskies, paired with our food. There were two special whiskies. They were privately bottled single cask single malts. Brother Jude and I had the privilege to open the two bottles – it was a world premiere! Only Lasallians can purchase these numbered bottles with profits donated to the La Salle Foundation.



Group photo take at the Whisky Guzzlers formal dinner



With fellow LSC77ers and Brother Jude at Whisky Guzzlers



A dinner with fellow LSC77ers at 張公館, a celebrated restaurant owned by twins Bobby and Billy Cheung



The surprise 63rd birthday party



With fellow LSC ophthalmologists who attended the 10th December dinner. Three are two here who are father and son ophthalmologists

What of the dinner on 10th December? It was a very joyous and significant occasion indeed. Due to pandemic rules, there were very few places available, so attendance was by invitation. Different age groups were represented. Teachers as well, past and present. It was for all to see that a lot of work has gone into its preparation. I did not get to visit the school in the afternoon, but Norman went. After enjoying a sumptuous dinner and singing the school song, Norman and I caught a cab home. I left for the UK at the crack of dawn the following morning.

Professor Christopher Liu OBE PhD
LSC1977, UK Chapter Convenor

Homecoming from Overseas

Norman Wong (02), UK

As part of the 90th anniversary celebrations, an Overseas Old Boys Homecoming tour of the La Salle College campus was organised for attendees of the celebration dinner. Upon arrival, I was taken by surprise by the very warm welcome by Brother Thomas, Principal Tong, and LSCOPA committee members, as I was originally expecting a quick tour of the school. Brother Thomas and Principal Tong praised everyone for the effort to bring together and support fellow Lasallians across the world before a bespoke and concisely guided tour commenced.

Similar to Christopher, I left for boarding school in the UK after completing Form 3, but I was fortunate enough to receive my early secondary education in this state of the art campus. I was delighted to see the facilities have received continuous improvements to upkeep the top notch standards, including a STEM laboratory with 3D printers, a design & technology centre with computer-aided design, and an aerospace laboratory with a full scale flight simulator, which would significantly enhance students' educational experience. Another remarkable new addition is the Heritage Centre on 1/F, which Mark Huang (85) kindly walked us through in detail the history of La Salle College, reminding everyone that La Salle's prestige did not come easy, it is the achievement of collaboration and unconditional support from generations of Lasallians, and the upkeep of such spirit is vital to the continued success of our alma mater, amplifying lyrics of the La Salle school song.



Singing school song. Brian Ho (73) in the middle, Norman Wong (02) on the right



Aerospace laboratory with a full scale flight simulator

Norman Wong MA (Cantab)
LSC2002, Past Honorary Secretary, UK Chapter

Homecoming from Overseas

Victor Leung (77), Vancouver

With over three years of COVID lockdown and various travel restrictions, meetings between and amongst overseas chapters and HKOBA committees were limited to only virtual meetings via social media platforms. Although I normally return to HK almost on an annual basis to visit my mother, I did not have time to meet up with fellow committee members of HKOBA during my last visit. There was just insufficient time to do anything else after a 14-day mandatory hotel quarantine. But my recent visit to HK was different, thanks to the relaxation of the HK self-quarantine 0+3 requirement. With more free time on hand, I was finally able to meet up with Kent Lau (99), President of HKOBA, and other HKOBA committee members. As well, I was also able to participate in the HK Master Athletics Competition for the very first time.

Dinner Meeting with HKOBA Committees

Despite not being able to meet in person during the last three years, the current HKOBA Committees are no strangers to the Vancouver OBA Chapter and myself, for we have met on many occasions via Zoom meetings and the Whatsapp OBA Global Network Group. I also became much more acquainted with Paul Liu (88) for he is the key liaison person between the HKOBA and Vancouver Chapter. With a common interest in photography, Paul and I are also connected as members of the Whatsapp OB Photography Group.

After learning about my trip to HK, as well as other overseas chapter representative travel plans to HK at around the same time, Paul tried to arrange for a dinner get-together with different overseas chapters' representatives and members of the HKOBA committee members, including Kent Lau. But my original plan to meet up with everyone had to be cancelled at the last minute, as a precautionary measure, when I learned that I might have been in close contact with a COVID-positive person. That, unfortunately, was life in HK during the COVID era and we were not completely out of the woods yet!

To make up for the missed dinner gathering, Paul kindly organized a follow-up dinner the following week with Kent, a few other HKOBA committee members, and Kevin Kwok (88), the current President of the Toronto OBA Chapter. At the dinner, we also ran into Dr. Christopher Liu (77), President of the UK OBA Chapter, who happened to be dining at a different restaurant in the same building. The make-up dinner gathering was truly appreciated for I knew how busy Kent and the HK OBA committees were during that time. It was amazing that, despite their already hectic professional lives, they did manage to go around organizing and attending different 90th Anniversary Celebration events. At the dinner, I learned that Kent had just had a new baby. Instead of staying home with his baby and family, he was busy running around supporting various LSC functions! In fact, I told Kent that I met him about a week ago at our LSC Athletics team training and group photo-taking session when he was accompanying Bro Thomas to cheer for the Athletics team in preparation for the Master Athletics Competition.



Meeting with HKOBA Committee Members (left – right):
Stanley Shum (79), Raymond Lu (73-Vancouver), Paul Liu (87), Kent Lau (99), Kevin Kwok (88-Toronto), Victor Leung (77-Vancouver), Brian Tsang (02), Kennon Tam (98)

HK Master Athletics Competition

I heard about and was encouraged to participate in the HK Master Athletics Competition a few years ago. But I did not have the courage to compete again in the field after fully retired from track and field over 45 years ago. However, I could not resist the temptation to give this challenge a try when I learned that the competition was to take place during my stay in HK. With some arm-twisting from Kevin Kwok and Fernanda Ho (wife of late Humphrey Ho '69), I registered for the men's (60-64 category) 400-meter race. Those who registered for the competition had all gathered in LSC the week before for some last-minute training and group photos. I was very happy to be able to have my very first practice experience in the LSC track. I also met Brother Thomas, Kent Lau, and many old teammates (going back to the late 70s).



Group photo of the track athletes competing for the Master Competition



Overseas athletes competing for the Master Game

With very little time available for training, I came close to withdrawing from the race due to a couple of hamstring injuries during practice the month prior. I realized I could risk another injury when trying to run at full speed. My strategy then was to finish my race without injury. But the pressure was on for me not to finish too badly, especially when I was wearing the spike shoes from Humphrey Ho, lent to me by Fernanda when she learned that I was having trouble securing my own spikes for the race. I managed to finish 5th at the race and was only two seconds short from scoring a medal. Not bad for an old guy with almost zero training!



Photo with my long-time coach Bro Thomas



Spike Shoes from Humphrey Ho (69)

HK OBA has certainly made a very admirable effort trying to strengthen the connections between HK and the overseas chapters. It was a very rewarding experience to be able to meet up and say hello to fellow brothers in HK finally. Although we will continue to have plenty of opportunities to meet up in the virtual social media platforms, nothing can replace the good old-fashion personal handshake. Thanks HKOBA for your kind hospitality!

Homecoming from Overseas

Kevin Kwok (88), Toronto

隨着香港防疫措施日漸放鬆 劉教授 Victor Leung Chris Fong 我等人 抓緊機會返港 並參加九十周年大小活動 大家都很有興奮

我文筆不及劉教授 Victor Leung 兩位 唯有多圖多真相 同大家分享！



當日九十周年籌委會成立不久 承蒙 La Salle Foundation 主席鮑 sir (60) 向本刊供稿 小弟作為晚輩 當然要親身道謝



廖教授提及的 Whisky Guzzlers Club 小弟有幸參與



多謝本屆舊生會一眾幹事安排許多大小聚會



難得世界盃同時舉行 當然要通吓頂飲番幾杯



好難得其他屆嘅聚會 都肯受小弟玩 溫哥華 Peter Choy (73) 替我們 tag 名



LSC Athletics Club 兩日比賽及晚宴



Parents Teachers Association



感謝 Brother Thomas 唐校長 舊生會會長 Kent Lau (99) 和幾位幹事 抽空見我們幾位海外舊生
席上第一件事 就係向上海和南加州舊生致謝 上海的 Jim Yip (87) 和香港的 Calvin Mak (01) 線上出席



La Salle College Athletics Club



跟幾位同屆同學及老師 Becky Lam 合照 份外親切



2 England convenors, Brian Ho (73) and Christopher Liu (77); Overseas Network Group Paul Liu (88) and me



多謝一眾老師春風化雨多年



From left: Mark Huang (85), Alan Cheung (91) LSCAC team Captain, Charles Chan (77), Toby Leung (79), me and Nelson Law (85)



Immediate Past President Herman Bo (89) and friends



12月11日開放日墟區！



PTA 前主席 Willie Wong (84) Thomas Wong (77) 與眾同樂



90周年紀念品製作精美 當然要熱烈推介

LSC 90th Anniversary YVR Local Celebration Dinner

Victor Leung (77)

With the gradual easing of social gathering restrictions in Hong Kong, La Salle College (LSC) was finally able to host our 90th Anniversary Gala Dinner on December 10, 2022, after one full year of delay. However, unlike previous big milestone celebration dinners that could usually accommodate a large crowd of old boys and guests from across the world, this year's dinner celebration was only restricted to 240 guests, in accordance with the HK Government COVID Social Gathering Restriction Order. Guests at the dinner were selected by invitation only.

To allow our local members to participate in the LSC milestone celebration, the Vancouver Chapter organized a 90th LSC Anniversary Local Celebration Dinner at a local restaurant on December 16, 2022. The dinner also served as the Chapter's Christmas social gathering with karaoke singing as part of the dinner entertainments. The celebration dinner turned out to be a very successful and welcomed event with a total attendance of 62 members and guests.

After an initial slow start where guests were shy to showcase their voices, the karaoke machine was put into full action with non-stop singing from our guests. The climax of the dinner came with traditional school song singing, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. Members were pleased to have the opportunity to participate physically in the important milestone celebration!

While photos of the dinner celebration is available at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/K5WpdoTpEjHQthuT9>, here is a montage of some of the posted photos:



Group photos of fellow members during the cake-cutting ceremony



The delicious 90th Anniversary Cake



Cake-cutting by Peter Tsang (53), a former LSC teacher and a Past-President of HKOBA



Christian Brothers from St Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School



Dinner before the karaoke singing



Endless karaoke singing and fun.....



Chinese New Year Dinner 2023- New York / East Coast Chapter

Please kindly reserve the date for this very special gathering and join everyone to welcome the **Year of the Rabbit**. Also, please do not miss our AGM where we will make an important announcement regarding the future direction of our chapter.

Date: February 11, 2023 (Saturday)

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (AGM), 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. (Dinner)

Place: Orchid Chinese Restaurant
730 Franklin Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 742-1116

Cost: \$50 per person

Menu: House Special

RSVP: Please kindly contact Peter Lai (67) at laip888@gmail.com, or text him at (609) 731-6880 one week prior.

Please do not miss this New Year gathering with all Old Boys' families and a very special treat from James Ng (66), as he has promised us an evening to remember.

年初七 - 與全球舊生網上拜年

Kent Lau (99)

海內存知己，天涯若比鄰。

不經不覺第三次主持 LSCOBA 的全球拜年活動。今年好高興見到舊生由世界不同地方登入分享，包括北美（三藩市、紐約、洛杉磯、華盛頓、多倫多、溫哥華、愛民頓）、英國、沙地阿拉伯、南韓、廣州等地。

Brother Thomas 開宗明義點出來年是「接棒之年」，同時勉勵舊生網絡應經常保持更新，讓喇沙仔更多接觸彼此，在大型活動上一起回來支持母校。

我在緊接的回應中作出三點呼籲：（一）全球舊生社群在學校「接棒」時必須團結支持，讓喇沙以更強大姿態邁向百年；（二）鼓勵 OBA 的海外分會需更多利用數碼科技促進與當地會員交流；（三）在疫情趨緩下逐步復辦面對面活動，也請舊生趁「逢十年大聚會」的機會回校參觀。近年學校和舊生會加強了這方面的合作，並理順返校（homecoming）活動的規格。各班舊生可以聯絡 OBA 及早安排。

再一次祝大家兔年如意、身體健康！多為母校出力！

LSCOBA Southern California Chapter – 2023 Year of the Rabbit Spring Dinner 兔年春茗

You are cordially invited to our 2023 Year of the Rabbit Spring Dinner 兔年春茗 on February 25, 2023 (Saturday).

We look forward to celebrating the Chinese New Year with raffle drawings and more with you, your family, and friends at the Spring Dinner in person after a few years of absence.

Date: February 25, 2023 (Saturday)

Time: 6-7pm Happy Hour; 7-10pm Dinner

Place: New Fusion Restaurant 新煮意 (1227 S Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007)

Price: \$70 per person (children under 12 free)

RSVP: Email Eddie Shek (eddie_shek@yahoo.com) or message any of the Directors (Ronnie Cheng, Anthony Lee, Ivan Kan, Johnson Chao, Eddie Shek) on WhatsApp one week prior.



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.

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The Chief editors appreciate Christopher Liu (77), Norman Wong (02), Kent Lau (99) and William Lai (66) for their contributions to this issue.

Chief Editors	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)