



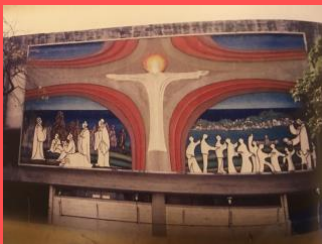
北美風沙

The North American Lasallians

FEBRUARY 2022



Highlights for this issue:



La Salle College, from 1932 to 2022 and beyond- pg 2

Hilton CHEONG-LEEN (40), CBE, JP 張有興- pg 3

Class of 76 45th graduation virtual celebration- pg 7

一劍入魂 前傳- pg 8

International travel during COVID Time- pg 11

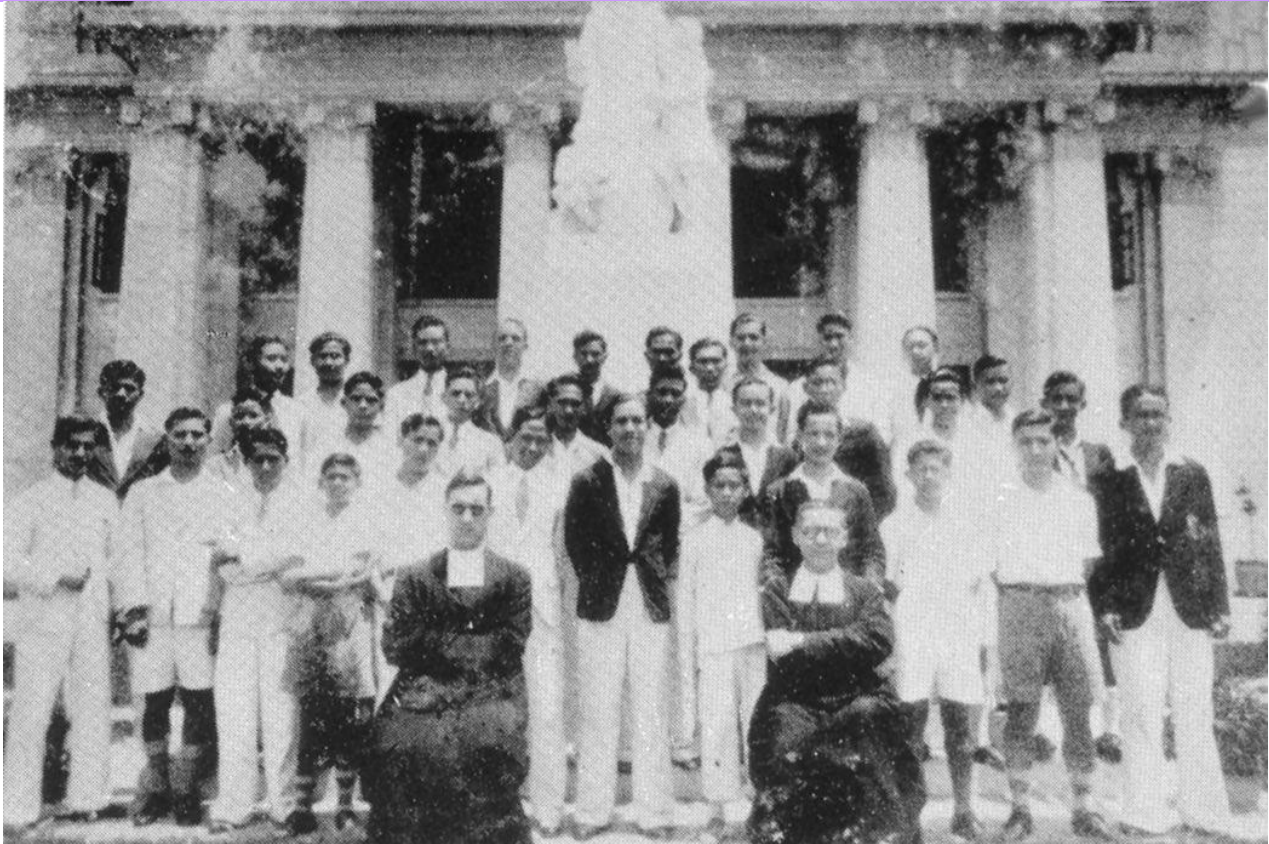
The Fourteen FIFA World Cup Since 1966 (part 2)- pg 16

Updates from HKOBA- pg 18

Old Boys Gathering around North America- pg 18

La Salle College, from 1932 to 2022 and beyond

La Salle College FB page



La Salle College formally opened her doors to students on January 6, 1932. January 6, 2022 was the 90th Anniversary of our school's establishment.

The story of La Salle begins in 1917 when the Brothers of St. Joseph's College opened a junior school on Chatham Road, near Rosary Church. Kowloon was expanding rapidly at this time and demand for school places was rising. Br. Aimar, then Director of St. Joseph's, realized that a new school building was necessary. He acquired a piece of land on Boundary Street in the late 1920's as a site for the new La Salle College.

On November 5, 1930, Sir William Peel, the Governor of Hong Kong, laid the foundation stone of the new building. By December 3, 1931, the work on the building and the playgrounds was sufficiently advanced to allow the opening of eight classes under the management of 5 Brothers from St. Joseph's College and 4 Assistant Masters, Messrs. Charles Dragon, Francis Chan, James Ng and Benedict Lim, from the Chatham Road School. 303 students were present on that day.

On January 6, 1932 came the formal inauguration; seven Brothers headed by Rev. Br. Aimar as Director, took over and a few days later 40 boarders occupied their quarters in the west of the building. There were then 540 students in 14 classes.

For seven years the College thrived under the wise guidance of Br. Aimar. The students achieved excellent results in the Matriculation Examinations, the laboratories were getting into shape, four Tennis courts and a full-sized football pitch were built and the lovely statue of St. John Baptist de La Salle that now stands in front of the College was erected. The number of students increased to 805 in 1935 and 1060 in 1939.



Hilton CHEONG-LEEN (40), CBE, JP 張有興

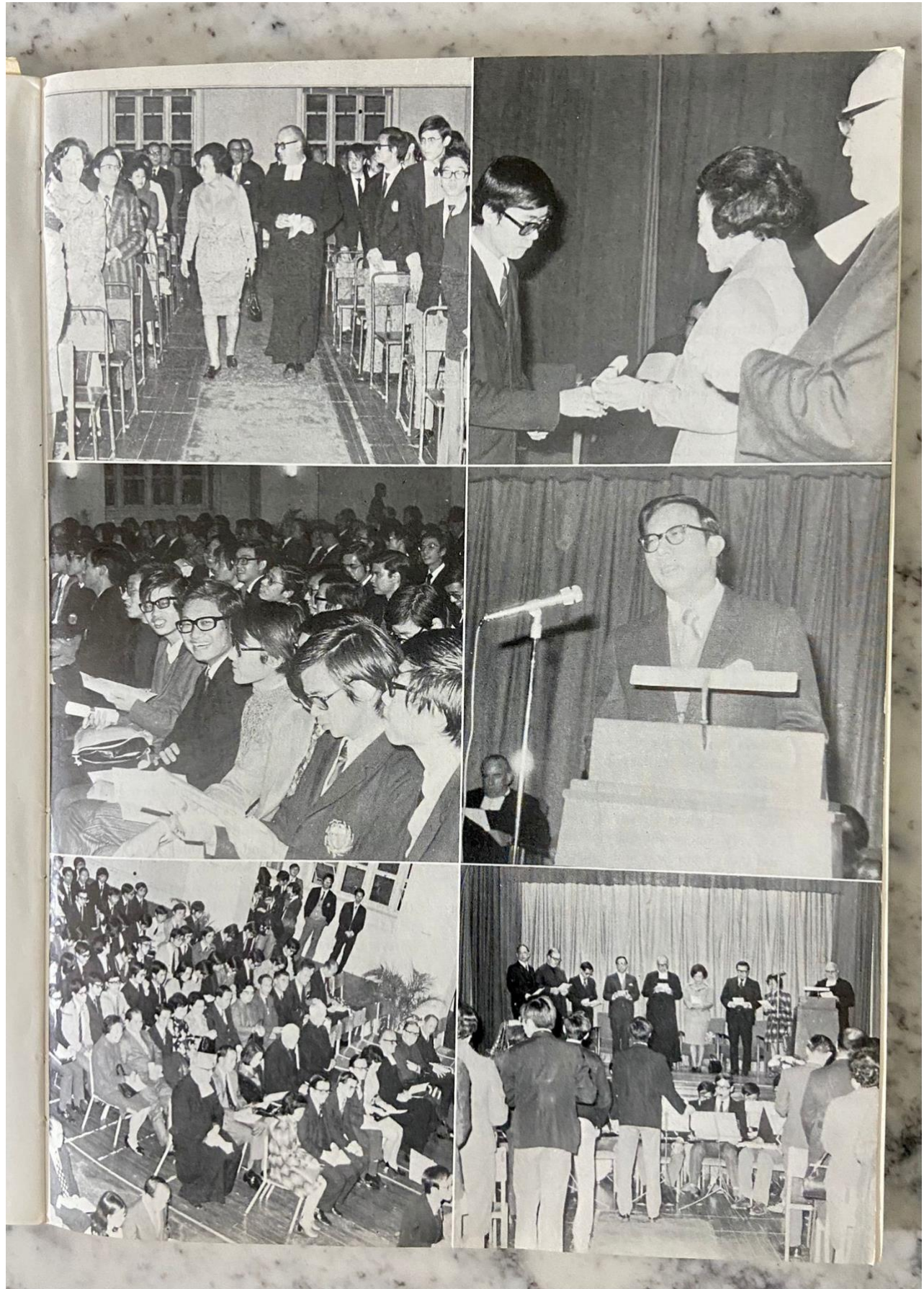
Mr. Hilton CHEONG-LEEN (Class of 1940), CBE, JP, Hong Kong politician and businessman, passed away at the age of 99, on Jan 4, 2022.

PP Hilton was the 6th President of the Association and served from 1954 to 1957. At that time, the College building was occupied by the British Military, and classes had to be held on Perth Street. PP Hilton was a key figure in campaigning for the release of the College building back to the Brothers.





PP Hilton received the Distinguished Alumnus award in 2016 in recognition of his contributions.



PP Hilton was the 1973 Speech Day guests of honour

PP Hilton's good work was not confined to the Lasallian community; he has contributed to Hong Kong in innumerable ways. A prominent civic leader, he was an elected member of the Urban Council of Hong Kong for a consecutive, record-breaking 34 years from 1957 to 1991. His hard work earned him the special title of "Hong Kong's mayor" after he became the first ethnic Chinese chairman of the Urban Council in 1981. He was remembered for his advocacy for 9-year compulsory education and argument against child labour in Hong Kong. He was also the first unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong on May 1, 1973, appointed by Governor Sir Murray MacLehose.

PP Hilton was born in Georgetown, British Guiana in 1922 to a Chinese immigrant father. He came to Hong Kong with his family when he was nine.

We would like to express our deep respect for PP Hilton, and offer our condolences and prayers to his family.



Both he and O Sales took intense interest in the welfare of La Salle and HK and served both arenas as exemplary Lasallians and Hongkongers. They are indeed model Lasallians we can all learn from.

Class of 76 45th Graduation Virtual Celebration

William Wai (76), John Jean (76)

The Class of 76 held its first graduation anniversary celebration at its 25th back in 2001 in HK. During the celebration, it was agreed we would have an official celebration every 5 years. Hence, we celebrated back in 2006, 2011 and 2016.

2021 marked our 45th graduation anniversary and planning started in 2020 pending the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all know, with HK semi-locked down and all the gathering restrictions, plus the almost impossible quarantine requirements for international traveling, we decided to defer our 45th anniversary to be held in 45th+1.

In lieu of a formal face to face celebration, a virtual celebration was held before the end of 2021. We had over 20 classmates from various cities joining the virtual celebration, we all had a great time chatting for close to 3 hours.

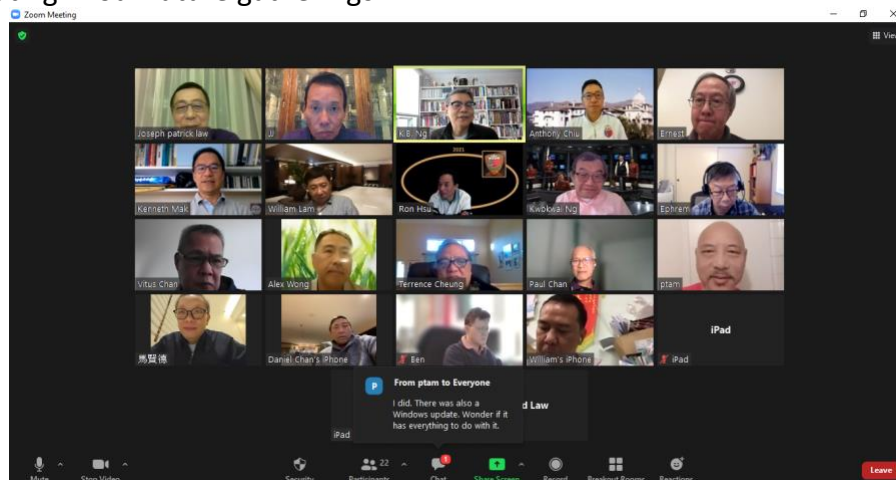
William Wai kicked off with the welcome message thanking all those who attended and K.B. Ng who set up the Zoom meeting. Even though the pandemic prohibited us to have a global reunion, we'll organize one in some future time, be it deferred to our 45th+1 or 45th+2.

After chatting for a while, we took turns to provide quick status updates of ourselves. It was interesting that about half were retired, and a few still working were pondering what to do after retirement.

After each classmate provided his status update, John Jean facilitated on the wrap up discussion. The following were agreed:

- We'll organize a global reunion in HK, be it in 45th+1 or 45th+2.
- To deal with travel restrictions, regional gathering will be organized, with at least one in HK and one in North America.
- Given that we had such a wonderful time chatting with each other, we'll have a virtual gathering on a 3 to 4 months frequency.
- For virtual gathering, we should look for a mutual convenient time for all locations, esp. to accommodate classmates in Australia/New Zealand

It was an enjoyable virtual gathering, and we all had a wonderful time catching up. Let's hope we have more classmates participating in our future gatherings.



一劍入魂 前傳

Chris Fong (94)

去年東京奧運，香港運動選手屢創佳績，張家朗首次在劍擊項目奪冠之際，全城鼓舞。

另一香港代表蔡俊賢 Ryan 是校友，本屆奧運成績比不上張家朗，但是成績也不錯。

其實許多喇沙仔都知道曾俊華在學校默默傳承劍擊多年，但是劍擊始終是小眾運動，坊間甚至校友認識甚少。

出色的運動員從來都有賴多年點滴訓練和傳承。以下幾張照片都是 2009 年在新加坡拍攝的。劍擊作為一個小眾運動從來都是師兄教師弟，一代一代相傳。這一次幾位師兄兼師父帶一班中二至中四劍擊手，遠赴星加坡，性質有點不同；除了平時訓練之外，更是寶貴的 **team building** 及比賽體驗，讓師弟見見世面，亦為日後這班師弟大展身手奠下良好基礎。



一眾小劍擊手在香港機場合照 認得前牌右二嗎？



小劍擊手和師兄在新加坡合照 也有身在新加坡的校友出席及支持



當年的蔡俊賢在新加坡 Under 12 Foil Champion 得獎

練劍比賽之際，當然要探望一下當地的喇沙朋友 Rev

Brother Gregory Lim

六十年代在喇沙小學下午校供職，在新加坡退休，就住在這學校。

新加坡一行，對喇沙劍擊的成績大有裨益 一眾師弟在 A B C grade 連續兩年拿下學界總冠軍 (2010, 2011)。





International travel during COVID Time

Victor Leung (77)

As a frequent commuter between BC and Alberta, I am no stranger to travelling, even during COVID time. In a normal year, I would also travel to Hong Kong (HK) at least annually visiting my 92-year old mother. But like most fellow Lasallians, I had not done any international travel during the Pandemic until last November. After 2 years of lockdown, I felt I needed to return to HK to visit my mum. For this reason, I took advantage of the short window of travel re-opening window and planned for my trip to HK last November. I soon learned that doing international travel during COVID time, especially to HK, was very tricky. It required very careful planning to ensure all the stars to be fully aligned to complete the travel. I thought readers may be interested in learning how I had planned for my trip to HK.



Planning for international travel to HK is not easy during COVID time. All the stars must be fully aligned- including seeking clarification on HK entry/mandatory quarantine requirements, booking for plane ticket, and quarantine hotel stay. I felt like I was once again the hurdler I used to be back in the La Salle days and had to overcome multiple hurdles before reaching my finishing line.

Hurdle 1 – Clarifying Entry and Quarantine Requirements

With a goal-zero mindset, HK Government has established a very stringent COVID firewall for international travelers. First, only HK residents who are fully vaccinated and with valid travel documents are allowed to enter HK. Those who are non-HK residents or have given up HK ID or passport will be denied entry during COVID time. After allowing entry, travelers are mandatory required to stay in a designated COVID quarantine hotel from either 14-days or 21-days depending on one's vaccination status and the (risk) group category of the inbound country. Refer to the [HK Government Inbound Travel Guide](#) for more details.

At the time of my travel, I was very lucky that the HK Government site had listed Canada as Group 2 country which only required 2-weeks of hotel quarantine upon arrival in HK. (Canada was changed back to Group 1 requiring 21 days of quarantine at Day-7 of my stay in HK). But the 2-weeks requirement only applied to those who are fully vaccinated. At the time of my travel and even to this date, HK still has not stated whether they would accept mixed vaccination, and if yes, which combinations are allowed. Since I had received mixed vaccination, I was unsure how I would be treated upon arrival. Should HK recognize my mixed vaccination status, I would only be required to be quarantine for 14-days. Otherwise, I would be required to be quarantine for 21-days.

Prior to making any travel arrangement, I had written to the HK Department of Health seeking clarification on my vaccination status. Somewhat to my surprise, HK Government was very quick in responding to my inquiry. But as one of those typical government reply, they would not give me a firm answer and stated that the final decision on whether to accept me as fully vaccinated person could only be made by the immigration officer greeting me at the airport. With that soft approval reply and a timely issuing of a Canada Vaccine Passport verifying my full-vaccination status, I proceeded to make the rest of my travel arrangements based on a 14-day quarantine regime.

Hurdle 2 – Checking for Flight & Hotel Availability

On a normal visit, it is very easy to plan for one's trip to HK. There were multiple daily flights going from Vancouver to HK and hotel rooms were never a problem. But things are very different during COVID time. First, flights between Vancouver and HK were reduced from typical 2 flights per day from either Cathay Pacific (CX) or Air Canada (AC) down to 1 flight per week for CX and 4 flights per week from AC. To further complicate matters, the single CX weekly flight was known to have a high chance to be cancelled or rescheduled. Even the more frequent AC flights was not fully immune from flight cancellation. HK Government would ban the entire airline from entering to HK if the flights were found to have repeated (up to 3) cases of COVID positive passengers upon landing in HK. In fact, Air Canada was banned for 14-days from flying to HK two weeks prior to my travelling. As a precautionary measure, I decided to book my flight with AC for the chances of being rescheduled was lower.

But prior to making my flight ticket purchase, I must be assured that there was designated quarantine hotel room available during my traveling window for I heard that these hotels were getting quite full even though it was about 3 months before the peak Christmas traveling time. I was very surprised when I checked online at the designated hotel site in mid-September that every single room was fully booked during my travel window for early November. It was then that I recalled my sister who visited HK earlier that year had experienced similar problem. She was finally able to reserve her hotel stay by calling the hotels directly via phone. It turns out that the hotel online data is not always updated on a real-time basis. With help from my sister, I was able to locate hotel room slot during my travel window.

Hurdle 3 – Aligning the Stars (Hotel and Flight)

After locating my hotel room for HK, I went back to my AC site trying to complete my flight ticket purchase, but only to learn that AC did not have flights to match the hotel room available window. The constant going back and forth between AC site and hotel reservation inquiries had delayed my original hotel reservation for 24 hours. As a result of that delay, the original hotel room that I had planned to reserve was already taken. So I had to go back to step 1 trying to locate rooms from a different hotel.

With help from my sister on one phone and me logging on the AC site on another phone, I was finally able to secure both my flights and hotel. Hurray, I have overcome another hurdle!

Hurdle 4 – Pre-travel COVID Test

Part of a HK inbound travel requirements is that all air passengers must receive a COVID negative PCR test clearance within 72 hours of travel. As normal COVID PCR test result would be available anywhere between 24 – 48 hours (for Vancouver), this would normally not a problem. However, this turned out to be a close call for me.

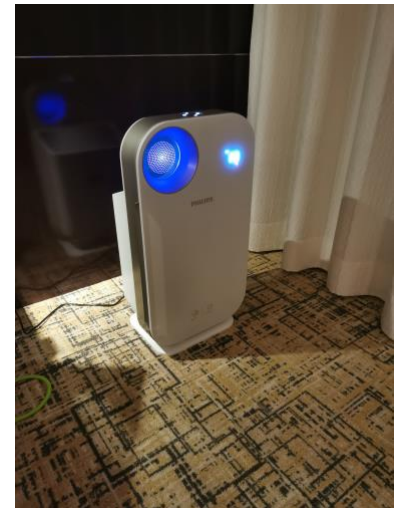
One of the reasons why AC was able to have more flights to HK than CX was the airline's home-based location. AC was able to overcome the HK mandatory aircrew quarantine requirement by using their Canadian crew to fly between Vancouver and a stopover location. The remaining flight to HK would be switched to a HK based local flight crew (from her Star Alliance partner) who has long quarantine exemption. For this reason, the normally direct flight between Vancouver and HK would be changed to a stopover flight with stopover either at Japan or Korea. Since my normal default stopover is Japan, I took this stopover option without given a more careful look at the detailed itinerary. It turned out that my stopover flight in Japan required plane change as opposed to staying on the same plane when stopping over in Korea. This small difference proved to be critical when comes to meeting my 72 hour COVID clearance window.

According to the HK Government site, the 72-hour COVID clearance window is based on the departure time of the last inbound flight flying into HK. Even though I was originally flying from Vancouver, I was treated as flying from Tokyo based on my connecting flight. In other words, I had lost 10-hours of air travel time plus the 16-hours time-zone difference between Pacific Time and HK Time. I suddenly realized that I might not have my COVID test result ready by the time of my travel, especially when my COVID result must be uploaded to the HK Government site, as well as show to the airline crew during my check-in. According to my COVID test provider's calculation, my earliest appointment to qualify me within that 72-hour window was an appointment after 16:30 on my test day. But the trouble was that the last COVID test appointment ended at 16:10! Fortunately, the test centre staff was very nice to accommodate me with testing after 16:30 that day. It was sure a very close call!!!

Hurdle 5 – Uncertain Environment

I received a call from my brother asking whether I could change my quarantine hotel a few days before departure. The quarantine hotel I was supposed to be staying had reported to have discovered the HK's first two cases of omicron, and it was suggested to be due to airborne transmission between hotel rooms. At this point in time, it was impossible to make any final accommodation change. So I had to take my chance and hope for the best for this travel. Also, because of these two identified cases, those who stayed within 6 rooms left and right to the infected hotel rooms had to be transported to Penny Bay to restart their 14-day quarantine. If this were to happen during my stay at this hotel, it would wipe out the entire purpose of my return to HK. It sure was stressful at the time!

Upon arrival, I noticed the environment had lots of improvement opportunities for COVID exposure control. During my stay at my hotel, I had nothing better to do than to do my own investigation of the hotel HVAC system for I am, after all, a subject-matter-expert in this field, and it was my personal health in question. As a conservative measure, I had borrowed a HEPA air purifier from my siblings in HK to improve the air scrubbing power of my room. Using simple visual check with a thin piece of toilet paper, I had also discovered other room and hallway ventilation deficiencies, which I had summed up and submitted my observations/recommendations to the HK Department of Health. It was a big relief when I was finally able to step out from the hotel after Day 14.



Being quarantine in a small, tiny space for 14-days may be stressful for some. I was fortunate enough to have two fellow 77ers also from Vancouver going through mandatory quarantine at similar time. Through WhatsApp chat and video calls, we kept each other company. I learned from them that they both had the urge to breach the quarantine at one point in time due to extreme stress and depression. I was lucky that I came prepared and had packed with me some basic exercising gear (skipping rope for cardiovascular workout and an exercise band for muscle toning). Together with my TV streaming equipment, I was able to survive the 14-day ordeal.

Despite the multiple hurdles and various logistics challenge, this trip was still worthwhile for it was sure a wonderful feeling being hugged by my mum after my release from the quarantine hotel. Nevertheless, doing international travel during COVID time is no easy task. It may be best to seek assistance from travel agency for your travel arrangement. Also, make sure you have all required hardcopy documents with you at all time.

Side Notes

Should one wish to travel to HK, make sure one has all related travel documents printed in hardcopy form and that have one's health declaration submitted online and with a copy of the health declaration QR code issued by the HK Public Health Department ready at all time. During my stopover in Tokyo, I met another traveler coming from USA who was in a panic mode when the Japan ground crews were asking for the HK Government QR code and hardcopy of his vaccine passport. He had everything with him online. But little did he realize that the WIFI reception at the Tokyo airport at the time was unreliable and he was unable to logon to his account to download the online files. Fortunately, I was able to assist him with my cellphone data login and helped him

retrieved his records as well as completing his HK health declaration at the very last minute. He came very close of not being able to board the connecting flight.

Airport or a Ghost Town

This Pandemic has certainly made a major impact on HK International Airport. We all know how busy the airport is on a regular day and travelers would have plenty of choice for eating and shopping. During my return trip to Canada, I was very sad to see that most of the shops and restaurants were closed with zero reopening plan in mind.



Restriction zone inside the airport is pretty much like a ghost time



The normally crowded Food Court is now a no-man's land.....very sad!

The Fourteen FIFA World Cup Since 1966 (part 2)

Danny Leung (71)

World Cup 1966 Football Is Coming Home (continue)

The Disappointments:

- The star-studded but defensive Italians, with exceptional players in Facchetti and Mazzola from Inter Milan's two times European Cup winner and golden boy Rivera from AC Milan, could only win once in the group stage. N. Korea, initially ranked last in the World Cup final tournament, beat Italy 1-0 in the final group match, thus knocking the two-time winners (1934, 1938) out. The Italians attacked from the start due to media pressure but they only needed a draw to get out of the group. A sit back and counter attack game would suit the Italians more but they engaged in a frenzy game with an all out attacking plan. They had a lot of chances and hit the woodwork but had to play with one player short at an early stage. One of their players tackled hard but injured himself and had to go off. The Koreans never stopped running and scored an opportunity goal. The Italians took a diverted flight home but the fans were smart enough to meet them at the airport with rotten eggs and tomatoes, stones, bricks and insults.
- An ageing Brazilian team packed with 6 of their two times world cup winning stars in including D. Santos, Gilmar and Garrincha, showed their lack of pace against the European countries. After losing to Hungary, the coach pressed the panic button by replacing the experienced goalkeeper Gilmar with the erratic Manga in the all important last group stage match against Portugal. Manga conceded three goals and Brazil was knocked out in the first round.

Other Shining Stars:

- No player could match the shooting and running of Eusebio in this World Cup. He created havoc in the penalty areas with his strength, powerful speed and cannonball goals. He was the 1965 European Footballer of the year; winner and thrice runner up in the in the 60's European Cup.



Eusebio with a fierce shot

- Russia claimed its best ever fourth place finish with goalkeeper Les Yashin, nicknamed The Black Spider. He excelled in games against Italy, Hungary and W. Germany through his reflexes, acrobatic saves and good positioning. The best way to describe him was like an octopus leaping and fending off the shots directed to him.
- Franz Beckenbauer. A 20 year old German attacking midfielder burst into the scene with his four slick goals. His experience playing as a prolific striker in his younger days helped his ability to score goals.

Surprise Package:

- North Korea, with none of their players known to the soccer world, won the hearts of the locals with their fast, direct and short passing game. After drawing Chile and losing to Russia, they beat the

talented Italians by a lone goal. They were close getting to the semi-final but Eusebio had different ideas. Their contribution and fighting spirit to this World Cup will never be forgotten.

Memorable Games:

- Hungary beat the skilful but ageing Brazilian in the group stage 3-1 with an attacking display from Albert, Bene and Fargas. Brazil also attacked well without the injured Pele, suffering from some vicious fouls by the Bulgarians in the first game. It was a game between the Latino neat ball control and the swift attacking play of the Hungarians as actions sprung from one end to the other. The Europeans were too good for the Brazilians as the young Brazilian Jairzinho missed a few golden chances including a marginal offside goal.
- Nobby Stiles seriously injured a French player in a first round game. There were calls from the media and Football Association to suspend him in the semifinal against Portugal. Ramsey, forever loyal to his players, protected him by saying "No Stiles, No Play". Stiles ended up playing and effectively glued to Eusebio during the entire game. England eventually beat Portugal in the semifinal 2-1 in a game full of pace with very little stoppages. England had the better teamwork. Eusebio, despite of close marking, managed a few shots but Banks was equal to that and the woodwork also saved England. Charlton showed his class by scoring two winning goals with Eusebio scoring from a penalty. England had beaten the best attacking team in the tournament.
- In the most entertaining and exciting game of the tournament, North Korea surprised everybody to storm into a three goals lead after 25 minutes. Their naive and inexperience proved to be their downfall. Just like in the Italian game, they continued to attack after leading by three goals thus conceding a lot of space behind. Portugal exploited the opportunity to return five goals. Eusebio scored four including two penalties in this thrilling quarter final encounter. The Koreans ultimately paid the price of committing some reckless and unnecessary fouls in their own penalty box.



The only way to stop the Pele at his prime

Foul of the tournament:

Portugal beat Brazil 3-1 in the group stage and condemned the favorite to an early exit. Morais's double consecutive brutal fouls on an already hopping Pele was horrible to watch. The great man had to leave the field as no substitutes were allowed in a World Cup game at that time. Pele at his prime was the target of cynical fouls in his two games and vowed never to play in a World Cup again. He did return and the rest was history.

Updates from HKOBA

The LSCOBA will hold a Lunar New Year online celebration session with our overseas chapters, on the 3rd day of the Year of Tiger. We would also like to invite all Members, either in Hong Kong or overseas, to join us. Brother Thomas would join us too. I am sure we are pleased to have his blessing in the beginning of the year. Details are as follows -

Date: 3 February 2022 (Thursday) (Hong Kong Time)

Time: 22:30 - 23:30 (Hong Kong time)

Venue: Online (by Zoom)

Language: English + Cantonese

If you would like to join us, please register at <https://bit.ly/3nEmmsF> before 18:00, 2 February 2022 (Wednesday). We shall send you the Zoom link by email before the virtual gathering.

Looking forward to sharing with you the new year joy online!

* * *

La Salle Sports Socks are available for sale on [e-shop](#). HK\$99 per pair, with Adult size only.



Old Boys Gathering around North America

While the pandemic and lockdown has it is ups and downs, old boys across North America get together when it is safe. Let's pray all these madness will be over soon!



Southern California



Calgary



San Francisco Bay Area

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/>

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The Chief editors appreciate Charles Chan (77), Danny Leung (71), Francis Kwong (75), Ambrose Ng (89), Peter Choy (73) and Victor Lee (90) for their contribution to this issue.

Chief Editors

John Jean (76)
 Victor Leung (77)
 Kevin Kwok (88)
 Chris Fong (94)
 Ambrose Lee (98)