



Global Reunion San Francisco 2010

The website for the 2010 Global Reunion will be open to the public on September 1st, 2009. Registration will commence in November. Although we are still working on some of the details, the site will provide useful information on venues, schedule, entertainment and sports events. We will keep updating the site as we finalize our progress.

<http://www.lscobasf.com/reunion/index.php>

Class 1969 40th Anniversary Reunion

Date: November 3 - 7, 2009
City: Hong Kong
Contact: lamtatchi@netvigator.com (HK)
pxc8@hotmail.com (Vancouver)
thomaslylau@rogers.com (Toronto)
tombo328@aol.com (USA)

Please act now to register.

Class 1959 50th Anniversary Reunion

Date: November 10 - 16, 2009
City: Hong Kong
Please check inside for recently updated event page.

Serving in Uniform

In April 2009, we appealed to old boys who were serving or had served in the military forces to write about their lives in uniforms. The first article is published in this newsletter this month. Since the article is a good and lengthy one, we have broken the article into three parts. We welcome feedback from the readers and also welcome contributions from other old boys about their own lives in uniforms as well.

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communications among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, no article should be used as a tool for promoting personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit every single submission to make sure that no inappropriate content appears in every single issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscobaedm.org-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

Vancouver	Victor Leung (1977), José Antonio Yeung-Cardoso (1968)	Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Jimmy Chang (1966)	San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976)
East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965), Peter Lai (1967)	Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)

Reminders

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering
Date: noon Oct 2, 2009 (every first Friday)
Venue: Century Palace Restaurant
金漢龍廷大酒樓

Mike Lam Farewell Party &
Jimmy Chang Reception
Date: 6pm Sunday Oct 4, 2009
Venue: Shanghai Grill 大上海飯店
16336 - 111 Avenue

Southern California

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering
Date: noon to 2 pm, every first Sunday
Venue: Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., 3/F, Monterey Park
Cost: \$15 per person
\$10 Children and full time students

Walk for Hope 2009
Date: Sunday October 25, 2009
Venue: City of Hope
Please check inside page for more details

Toronto

秋季大食糊

Date: Saturday November 7, 2009
Time: 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm (mahjong games)
8:00 pm - 10:30 pm (dinner)
Venue: Seafood Delight Chinese Restaurant
Charge: \$39/person
Please check inside page for more details



Chapter News

Southern California

Annual General Meeting

Eddie Shek (1985)

Over 20 members attended the 2008-2009 Annual General Meeting of the LSCOA Southern California Chapter on July 18, 2009 at the Blue Ocean Seafood Restaurant in Alhambra. Directors and Officers presented annual activity report, annual financial report, and membership statistics for an event-filled and successful 2008-2009 term.



2008-2009 Highlights

- 217 members from classes of 1930s to 2000s
- Gatherings
 - July 2008: Dinners with ex LSPS principal Mr. Fung
 - August 2008: AGM & Dinner
 - December 2008: Christmas mixer and Mahjong Tournament
 - February 2009: Spring Dinner
 - May 2009: La Salle Day Mass
 - Monthly dim sum
 - Soccer team practices and tournaments
- Community Services
 - November 2008: Walk for Hope
 - April 2009: LA Foodbank volunteering
- Blood and platelets drive



Membership Statistics

- 217 total members
 - Currently residing in or have resided in Southern California
 - From class of 1937 (William Yang) to class of 2008 (Matthew Wong)
- facebook group has 69 members primarily from classes of 1980s-2000s
- Significant number of younger old boys moved back to HK after graduation



The presentation of the 2009-2010 mission and strategic plan sparked much enthusiastic discussions on approaches to further the Chapter's mission - (1) build and maintain ties between LSC old boys in Southern California, (2) build global LSC old boys community, and (3) spread LSC's good name ("Strive that her fame may grow").

In addition, the proposed by-law amendment to set the term of office for Directors to 2 years was voted on by members and approved by a majority vote during the AGM.

After the AGM, almost 50 members, family, and friends enjoyed a good time over a sumptuous seafood dinner and fine wine. We even reconnected with a "long-lost" old boy who happened to be dining at the restaurant that night.



2009-2010 Mission

- Build and maintain ties between LSC old boys in Southern California
 - Through diverse events for different interests
 - Mobilize members to help fellow old boys in times of need
- Build global LSC old boys community
 - Collaborate and communicate with other LSCOA Chapters
- Spread LSC's good name - "Strive that her fame may grow"
 - Through community service and charity work
 - Collaborate and communicate with external organizations



Members actively participating in discussions during the AGM



Walk for Hope 2009

We are proud to inform you that the LSCOBA Southern California Chapter will again participate in the Walk for Hope to Cure Breast Cancer. This is the 5th straight year of our Chapter's participation. Last year, 19 old boys and family together raised over \$2,000 to help fund City of Hope's breast cancer research, treatment and education programs last. We hope to break our record this year with your participation. Please join us for a walk through the heart of City of Hope's Duarte campus for a good cause and enjoy the entertainment, sponsor booths and giveaways.

Walk for Hope to Cure Breast Cancer is a national family-oriented, non-competitive walk that raises funds to support breast cancer research, treatment and education programs at City of Hope. You'll make new friends and qualify to win prizes. For more information, please see the Walk for Hope Los Angeles home page

http://nationalevents.cityofhope.org/site/PageServer?pagename=5435_Landing

Date: October 25, 2009 (Sunday)

Time: 8:00 a.m. – Registration
10:00 a.m. - Walk Begins

Location: City of Hope
(1500 E. Duarte Road,
Duarte, CA 91010)

Distance: 5k walk or 2k leisure walk

Parking: Complimentary parking at Santa Anita Park. Shuttle busses will be on hand to take you from Santa Anita Racetrack to City of Hope.

We have registered a team called "LA SALLE COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION". You can join our team as a walker or donate by sponsoring our team members through our team's web page at

http://nationalevents.cityofhope.org/site/TR/Walk/General?team_id=4090&pg=team&fr_id=1115

We hope you can join us for this meaningful event. Even if you are too busy to join, you can still donate via our team page. Please contact us at info@lscobasc.org if you have any questions. Thanks!



Sing Tao Daily article on our participation last year



Toronto

Toronto Chapter Annual Picnic

About 150 old boys, families and friends attended the annual chapter picnic on Sunday August 30, 2009 at Thomson Park in Scarborough. Although it was mostly cloudy, rain remained only a threat and not reality.

Members of the organizing team arrived at the park at 10 am. By 11 am food was ready to be served. As usual the suckling pigs were the centre of attraction. From the barbecue were fish balls, corn, pork chops, chicken wings and hot dogs. There was also plenty of salad for a balanced diet.



This year we were graced with the presence of Mr. Joseph Fok and Mrs. Geraldine Fok (a.k.a. Miss Tsang). Mr. Fok, also an old boy, taught at LSPS from 1956 to 1960, then taught at LSC for a year before leaving the LaSallian family. Miss Tsang taught at LSPS for 16 years before she left in the early 80's. Many old boys were thrilled to meet their "childhood idol" Miss Tsang after many decades.

In addition to the Fok's, a handful of 65ers from out of town also attended the event – Andrew Mok from Montreal, John Lau from Hong Kong, Chris Tse from Connecticut, etc.

All had an enjoyable time. We must thank Paul Khoo (71) for his careful and efficient planning, Felix Leung (85) and Carol for organizing the meat supply and for attending to the barbecue most of the time, George Fung (51) for bringing his custom designed and built BBQ stove, Kevin Kwok (88), Chris Fong (94) and all the young si-dai's for helping to make this a successful event again.



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Former Chapter President Michael L.F. Yuen (74) composed a poem in commemorate the occasion.

ODE TO THE SUCKLING PIGS

未見劉郎抱翠紅
妾身似火火如熊
成灰肉燼遲來晚
三個豬頭兩個同

(Peter Lau (69) was very late. By the time he arrived, most had gone. When he saw the only food left – the two roasted pig heads, he promptly bagged them and departed with them. Hence the last line of the poem.)

Hong Kong Joint School Golf Tournament 2009

On Sunday September 13, 2009, 83 alumni from 12 Hong Kong secondary schools met at Maple of Ballantrae Golf Club, just north of Toronto, for a fun round of golf. The weather couldn't have been better – sunny, blue sky, with just a gentle breeze.

Eight old boys represented LSC in two foursomes, and they again demonstrated that "La Salle is something more" by achieving very good results. Philip Wong (67) got the "Closest to the Pin" award and Peter Chin (81) received the "Low Gross Award" with a score of 83. Several other old boys came close to the top, with Charles Li (74) scoring a total of 85, John Yeung (73) scoring 86 and Kenneth Hon (73) scoring 87. The LaSallian golfers had such a great time that Charles was enthusiastic about organizing our own golf tournament next year.



Congratulations to the winners!



L to R: Richard Chan, (79) John Yeung (73), Kenneth Hon (73), "Closest to Pin" winner Philip Wong (67), Low Gross winner Peter Chin (81), Charles Li (74), Louis Chan (61), Vitus Chan (76)



Life Update

風雨同路廿五載、空巢双伴樂永生



K.B. Ng (1976), former President of Toronto Chapter (2003 – 2005), and his keeper Sylvia celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by renewing their wedding vows at Richmond Hill Christian Community Church on Saturday, September 5, 2009 in the presence of the Lord and over 200 friends and families. The story between K.B. and Sylvia started when they were still teenagers and they have successfully maintained their romantic relationship for over 30 years. They have 2 sons. Congratulations, K.B. & Sylvia!

All are invited to visit their anniversary website at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/kbng/> to watch video clips view more photos.



L to R: Felix Leung (85), Christina & Peter Leung (52), Chris Fong (84), Stafford Yu (92), Kevin Kwok (88), K.B. (76) & Sylvia Ng in front of Paul Khoo (71), Alex (77) & Cindy Wai, Gregory (77) & Karen Pao, Jimmy Chang (66)

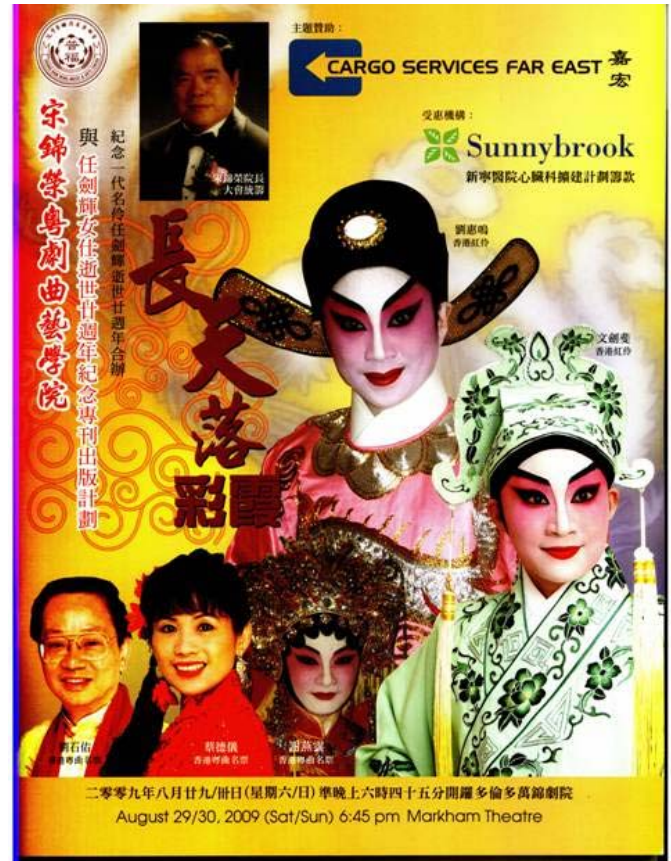


John Lau (1965) Performance

John Lau 劉石佑 (1965) came to Toronto with his partner Lanzy Choy 蔡德儀 to perform in two charity concerts organized by Song Kam Wing Music & Art Centre (宋錦榮粵劇曲藝學院) of Toronto to raise funds in support of the expansion of Schulich Heart Centre at Sunnybrook Medical Sciences Centre. The concerts were held on Saturday August 29 and Sunday August 30 at Markham Theatre. Both concerts were completely sold out

John is the CEO of a major logistics company in Hong Kong. He and Lancy started Cantonese opera singing over ten years ago and have become recognized by their peers as achieved singers. They have performed in many charity concerts in Hong Kong in recent years. Last year they went to Montreal to perform at a local Chinese community charity concert in Montreal.

Nearly 100 old boys, friends and families, some travelling from Hong Kong, Vancouver, Montreal and Connecticut, attended the two concerts. Former LSPS teachers Mr. Joseph Fok and Mrs Geraldine Fok (a.k.a. Miss Tsang) also came from Vancouver as guests of John and Lanzy. Most of the elders who had been listening to Cantonese opera singing for many decades complimented the couple for their exceptional performances, some even remarked that they liked John's own classy style. Well done, John and Lanzy!



Floral baskets from the Toronto old boys



After the Sunday night performance,
L to R: John Keung (65), Audrey Chang, John Lau (65), Lanzy Choy,
Mrs. Fok (Miss Tsang) & Mr. Joseph Fok



Class of 65 Mini-Reunion

Taking advantage of John Lau's performance, the class of 65 organized a mini reunion in Toronto over the weekend of August 29, 2009. Aside from John Lau from Hong Kong, Andrew Mok came from Montreal and Chris Tse came from Connecticut. Other local 65ers who attended the gatherings included Jack Lo, Chow Wai Keung, Arthur Ho, John Keung and Michael Mau.

Late night snack gathering on Friday August 28, 2009



Dim sum lunch gathering on Saturday August 29, 2009





Story Behind

The History and Formation of La Salle Old Boys Association Southern California Chapter

Founding of the Chapter

The La Salle College Old Boys Association Southern California Chapter (LSCOBA-SC) was founded and registered itself as a non-profit organization with the California Secretary of State in 2001. Our story started when Dobbin Lo ('70) ran into Edward (Eddie) Yu ('68) and Andrew Yip ('83) at a social function in Los Angeles back in early 2001. The idea of forming a Southern California Chapter came up after Dobbin realized that Eddie's office got three LaSallians (Kin Wu ('70) and Dennis Chan ('73) in addition to Eddie), and Eddie discovered that Dobbin knew quite a number of his La Salle classmates in the south land.

This group of die-hard LaSallians met the very first time on August 16, 2001 in Alhambra. At the meeting, directors and officers of the Association were elected. Dobbin Lo was elected as the first President and Eddie Yu was elected as the first Vice President.

Founding Directors and Officers

President/Director	Dobbin Lo ('70)
Vice President/Director	Eddie Yu ('68)
Treasurer/Director	Andrew Yip ('83)
Secretary/Director	Kin Wu ('70)
Director	Dennis Chan ('73)
Newsletter Editor	John Tjon ('56)
Technology/Historian	Charles Tsang ('83)
Activities	Peter Chan ('67)
Public Relations	Benjamin Ng ('62)

On October 6, 2001, about 100 old boys answered the calls and gathered at Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant in Monterey Park for the first-ever formal LSCOBA-SC Gathering Dinner held in Southern California.

La Salle Dinner, Monterey Park, October 6, 2001



Table 1

La Salle Dinner, Monterey Park, October 6, 2001



Table 2

La Salle Dinner, Monterey Park, October 6, 2001



Table 3

Helping Build A Global LaSallian Community

On July 20, 2002, the Southern California Chapter celebrated 70th Anniversary of La Salle College and invited Rev. Brother Thomas Lavin to be our guest of honor. The apex was the Grand Banquet which was attended by over 220 guests. The La Salle spirit ran high when the School song was sung. Brother Thomas then gave a moving speech, touching on the history of the school and informing us as to its present. The speech ended with the climax of cheering *LSC* (La Salle College). The entire audience chimed in and we felt



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amalgamated as a single unit. Southern California Chapter also invited San Francisco Chapter to compete for the very first Brother Thomas Cup soccer match.



Welcoming Brother Thomas in July 2002



LSC 70th Anniversary Banquet at LA in July 2002



During his visit, Brother Thomas first introduced the concept of a "Continental Soccer Cup" to the Old Boys - his idea was to create



First NA Cup in 2002

an event that would catalyze the growth of interest and awareness in all the overseas Old Boys Chapters by having reunions at the venues of host Old Boys Chapters through a popular sports activity. This leads to the subsequent North American Soccer Cups and global reunion events.

Brother Thomas returned to Los Angeles 2004 upon his retirement. At the celebration banquet, he talked about his four decades of devoted services to the La Salle organization and shared his vision on his retirement. He was presented with numerous certificates of appreciation for his dedication and contribution to education. Brother Thomas proclaimed, "The Chinese American community has really seen a school and its alumni which is definitely something more."

In July 2005, the Southern California Chapter took the initiative and organized the first ever LSCOPA World Conference –



AGM 2003

Receiving the Torch, Building a New Era - in Los Angeles. While there have been global old boys reunions around North American Soccer Cups previously but 2005 marked the first time there was a conference where topics of interest to global old boys are discussed in a structured manner. We had the honor to invite Dr. Paul Lau and Mr. Ting Por Cheung to be our Guest of Honors. In addition to the World Conference that was attended by 400 old boys and their families and friends, five overseas Chapters participated in the 4th North America Soccer Cup Tournament.



2005 World Conference Program Book



Dr Paul Lau performing



Presenting souvenir to Mr. T P Cheung

In September 2007, the Southern California Chapter commemorated LSC's 75th Anniversary of La Salle College with a celebration dinner and the LSC 75th Anniversary Soccer Cup. Chinese Stars Soccer Association emerged as the champion after 8 weeks of intense but friendly competition. LSCOPA Southern California Chapter and St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Center won the 1st and 2nd runners-up respectively.



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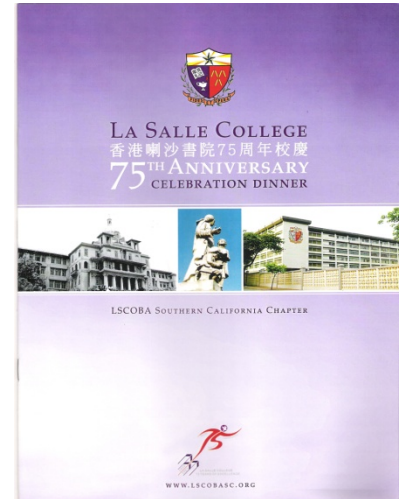


Mr. Francis Fung dinner reception



75th Anniversary Dinner at LA (Nov 3, 2007)

In July 2008, Mr. Francis Fung ('61), former Principal of La Salle Primary School, visited us in Los Angeles. Over 20 old boys, some of them classmates with Mr. Fung, got together to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Fung over a couple of dinners. Mr. Fung shared some inspiring words and many stories of LSPS with us.



2005 World Conference



2005 World Conference



2005 World Conference



Spring Dinner 2003



Mahjong Tournament 2006



Spring Dinner 2007

Building Ties Between Old Boys in Southern California

Today, the Southern California Chapter has over 200 registered Old Boys members from graduating classes of 1937 to 2008. We have developed into a diversity organization not only severing Old Boys in Southern California but also participated in volunteering and charity to spread our alma mater's good name – to "strive that her fame may grow".

Activities and events enjoyed by our members include:

- **Monthly Dim Sum Gathering.** Since the inception of this event seven years ago as a weekly gathering after soccer practices, the Dim Sum luncheon has become a monthly function that brings together old boys from different graduation years. On the first Sunday of every month, old boys, their families and friends gather to enjoy dim sum, socialize with their buddies and reminisce the good old days at La Salle.
- **Soccer practices, Games, and Tournaments.** LaSallians are passionate about sports, and soccer in particular. Our soccer team participates in soccer tournaments, and meets every Sunday morning to practice, keep fit, hang out, and have fun.
- **Annual Spring Dinner.** Our largest event of each year is the Spring Dinner where old boys get together to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Most recently, in February 2009, over 140 old boys, family, and friends celebrated the year of the ox at our 8th annual Spring Dinner. 80 old boys, from the class of 1940 to the class of 2005, enjoyed lion dance, music performances, games, raffle drawing, karaoke, and of course the food throughout the evening.



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- **Annual General Meeting.** Directors and Officers of the Chapter meet with members every year to present annual activities report and financial statement, as well as plan for the next year.
- **Annual Picnic.** In September 2009, we will be having our 8th annual picnic where old boys, their family members and friends will enjoy great food, wonderful company, and a fun day out.
- **Christmas Mixer with MahJong King Championship.** Old boys and family get together every Christmas for a fun night out at our Christmas mixer and Mahjong Tournament. We look forward to crowning the winner of the next MahJong Tournament our 5th "MahJong King".
- **La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass.** On May 17, 2009, the Southern California Chapter organized La Salle Day Thanksgiving Mass. The objective was threefold: to celebrate the Feast Day of St. John Baptist de La Salle (founder of the Christian Brothers), to pay tribute to our Brothers and teachers, and to foster friendship among Old Boys and their families. 80 people attended the mass, including Brothers from Cathedral High School and over 40 old boys. We plan to organize the La Salle Day Thanksgiving mass again next year and make it a new tradition for our Chapter.
- **Walk for Hope.** Over the last 4 years, we have raised a total of close to US\$10,000 to help fund City of Hope's breast cancer research, treatment and education programs. We have formed a team and will be participating in this meaningful event in October 2009 again.



Walk for Hope 2006



Annual picnic 2007



75 Anniversary Soccer Tournament



Global Reunion Edmonton 2006



Global Reunion New York 2008



2009 Spring Dinner



2009 La Salle Day Mass



Choir at 2009 La Salle Day Mass



2009 La Salle Day Mass



Serving in Uniform

Many thanks to the great support from William who has responded to our pledge for articles about lives in uniforms. William has written a good and informative one allowing us to learn more interesting facts about the world (especially the military) in the second half of the 20th century. William also shares with us some of his thoughts towards the wars. We have divided the article into 3 parts to be published between October 2009 and December 2009.

Editorial Board

We Few LaSallians in Uniform

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother.*

William Shakespeare, *Henry V*

A Personal Journey: From the 17th Scout Troop (La Salle) in Kowloon to Canadian Peacekeeping in Yugoslavia (Part 1)

William Lai (1961)



Receiving Queen's Scout Certificate



In Bosnia-Herzegovina

Prologue

I always had an inkling that my true calling was somewhat different from my eventual profession. Through some fortuitous circumstance, however, I was able to satisfy some of that missed vocation via an avocation.



The Hong Kong Years

A family connection

Like most kids in Hong Kong, I did not grow up in a military family. But I was told at a very young age that there was some family connection to the defence of Hong Kong during the Second World War.

As a young girl, my late mother was adopted by an Englishman who was working in China. The family, including my mother, moved to Hong Kong some time before the war broke out. When the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong became imminent, this English gentleman, also a former British navyman, volunteered for the British defence forces. Unfortunately, he was captured and interned in a prison-of-war camp. He died there as a POW. He was later buried at the Stanley Military Cemetery. My mother used to bring me and his other young children to sweep his grave there every so often. Remembrance Day was a significant day for our family and I remember going to the annual ceremonies at the cenotaph in Hong Kong Central. After the war, my mother worked for the British Forces Hong Kong Headquarters for a number of years, and soldiers and barracks were a familiar sight for me as a child, though we were not a military family as such.

Uniforms in Hong Kong

I do not recall the military as a prominent factor in the everyday life of Hong Kong, though we were aware that the British Forces were there and sometimes we saw them on parade such as at Remembrance Day ceremonies. I had seen The Gurkhas march and they were a fearsome lot. But I don't remember seeing any recruiting posters or recruiting campaigns when I was in school or university. A military career was not an option. We were vaguely aware of something called the Hong Kong Regiment but it was not well publicized at all. In any case, that was not where one could have a full-fledged military career.

Another association that I can remember about uniforms in Hong Kong was that the movie theatres had signs that said tickets for servicemen in uniform were half price. As a young frequent movie-goer, I thought that advantage alone would make joining the army worthwhile.

The most prominent military force in Hong Kong was actually the United States Navy. Anchored American warships seemed to be a permanent fixture in the Hong Kong Harbour. Hong Kong was a Rest and Recreation (R&R) destination for the US forces and personnel from the 7th Fleet constituted a large proportion of the revellers. US sailors were a common sight in the streets of Hong Kong where the legend of Suzie Wong arose in this environment.

Hong Kong was also a popular R&R spot for American soldiers during the Vietnam War. Some of the years at the height of the war coincided with my years at the University of Hong Kong. I lived in Kowloon and had to take the Star Ferry daily to go to class at HKU. I remember seeing American soldiers on the ferry quite often. One day (and I don't know why this particular scene has stuck in my mind for all these years), there was this American GI in his combat uniform holding two young ladies, one in each arm, ambling down the ramp towards the ferry in somewhat of a boisterous manner. The threesome was evidently very happy, laughing and having the time of their lives, or so it seemed. And, I thought, being in uniform had other benefits than a deal on movie tickets.

With the US navy were these gigantic aircraft carriers which could not be accommodated inside the Hong Kong Harbour. These carriers would be moored just outside the harbour and the sailors would be ferried to shore for their leave. In the mean time, the enterprising Hong Kong ferry services would organise paid ferry tours to sail around these carriers for people to have a closer look at these naval marvels. I had been on a few of these tours. In comparison, the British carriers were much smaller and could be berthed at the navy docks in the Admiralty area. Through a friend, I had an interior tour of one of these carriers. Thus, those of us who grew up in Hong Kong in those years became quite familiar with these navy ships. Years later in Canada and the States, some of my North American friends travelling with me found it surprising that I wasn't "wowed" by the sight of huge warships. To me, that's nothing new.

On a more serious note, it had been said that the presence of US naval power in Hong Kong did more in its defence than the British forces. The constant parade of US warships in and out of Hong Kong, it was alleged, served as a deterrent to any thoughts of taking the colony by force. Whether this notion had any merit, I'll leave to the historians.

Back to ordinary life in Hong Kong, the only opportunity for us to be in uniform was with the scouts. I became a Cub as soon as I entered La Salle Primary School and stayed in the 17th Kowloon (La Salle) Group until I obtained my Queen's Scout badge. I had written about my experiences in an earlier issue of this Newsletter (March 2008). I noted in that article that my scouting experiences with the 17th had life-long benefits and that the drills of the then 17th scout troop were second to none, including certain armed forces units. This scouting experience of mine contrasted sharply with those of my sons who also became scouts in Edmonton.



Compared to us Seventeeners, my sons' scout groups appeared more "loosey-goosy" and just did not have the same discipline as we did in the 17th. One possible reason could be that Canadian kids who want to pursue a more disciplined extracurricular activity could become Cadets, whereas we never had that opportunity in Hong Kong, and scouting served as a proxy to uniformed service.

A non-uniformed enforcement job

In the absence of a military career opportunity, I had thought of joining the Hong Kong Police Force (before it became "Royal"). But the physical requirements were quite tough and I did not think I had the physical qualifications; so I did not even attempt to apply.

What I did end up with, after graduating from HKU, was a Hong Kong government job with the then Department of Commerce and Industry (DC&I) as an Industry Officer of some sort (I don't remember the exact title). This job actually had roots in the uniformed services of the Customs and Excise Branch of DC&I. The functions of this job were previously carried out by uniformed customs officers with side arms. In that year, the government decided to civilianise that particular function and hired a bunch of university graduates, including myself, to do the same job without having to carry weapons and the perceived threats weapon would bring to the public they served. The job essentially involved the enforcement of import and export ordinances. The training was largely the same as the former uniformed members, which included searching merchant ships for drugs and contraband, arrest and detention of suspects, seizure of property and transports, and prosecution procedures, etc. Theoretically, after training, I had the power to halt international trade worth millions of dollars, to stop airliner and ocean liner traffic, and to arrest and detain people who I suspected were involved in trading irregularities, with all the wisdom of a 23-year-old.

I never wielded that power in real life, of course. My actual job posting was as the supervisor of a section that processed textile exports to the United States. There were two main enforcement issues with textile exports to the US. One was the textile quota system whereby restrictions were imposed on the quantities of textile goods that could be shipped to the US annually, and the Hong Kong Government was tasked with enforcing these quotas. Each exporter was supposed to ship its goods against the quota it held. But the method of calculating quota varied with the type of textile goods in question and sometimes DC&I and the shippers would reach different conclusions about quota consumed or required by a particular shipment. I was usually the one who would inform the exporters of their quota ineligibility. I was offered more than a few shirts to turn a blind eye on the rules and let illegal shipments through. I am glad to report that I bought all my shirts and other textile goods in the open market.

The other enforcement issue related to something called a Comprehensive Certificate of Origin, or CCO. In those days, the US had a trade embargo against what was then known as "Red China" and no goods shipped from Hong Kong to the US was allowed to contain anything from Mainland China. The Hong Kong Government was to enforce that requirement and our branch was responsible for that enforcement. Periodically, a manufacturer would be randomly selected for a site visit to ensure that there were no Chinese raw materials that went into the making of US-bound goods. But the problem was that many of these manufacturers also made goods for other countries which did not have an embargo against China and Chinese raw materials were allowed. Hence, they would have Chinese materials along side goods destined for the US on the premises. I remember being part of a team doing such an inspection and as soon as the Chinese goods were discovered by the leader of the team, reinforcements were called in and the shop-owner's office was thoroughly searched on suspicion of violating the CCO rules. That action scared the bejesus out of the small-stature shop-owner. I still remember the frightened look on his face and I felt sorry for the little guy who apparently was just trying to make a living. I don't think he was charged with anything as a result of this raid.

Back at the DC&I, my "office" consisted of a wooden desk and a wooden swivel chair with some high back chairs, also wooden, on the side of the desk. That furniture was typical in government offices in those days, but not only the Hong Kong Government, I was to find out later.

The new life in Canada

A fork or monkey wrench in the career path

The thought of a military career or even some form of military involvement had long left me when Vivien, my new bride, and I moved to Canada to pursue our graduate studies. I ended up with a doctorate in psychology from the University of Alberta. My first job after this professional training was as a psychologist in a local hospital.



Basic training at
Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia



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At some point in this job, I was given the task of managing the psychological test library. Part of the job involved reviewing and ordering new psychometric instruments. Most psychological tests are updated or revised every few years. In this particular year, one of the tests of vocational interest underwent a major revision which we ordered. Sometimes we would try out these revised tests to see what it would be like to take them before administering them to clients. After receiving the revised version of this vocational test, I thought I would give it a try and filled it out quickly. When the results came back, I was quite surprised to find that the scores of military vocational interest scales in my profile shot through the roof, much higher than the “psychologist” scale. I didn’t pay much attention to the actual results then as the purpose was to try out the test and not to test me. But the results did have me thinking and a few months later, I tried the test again, and again the results were the same, suggesting a high inclination towards a military career. With a sub-vocal mutter of “Oops”, I had a strong feeling that I was in the wrong line of work.

Coincidentally, one of my nursing colleagues at the hospital was an officer in the Canadian army reserves, known as the Militia at the time. He knew little of my personal background and certainly not the test results mentioned above. But one day, he asked me if I was interested in joining the reserves because they needed someone with psychological training. Though his invitation seemed interesting, I was hesitant at first because, again, I was under the impression that I would not have the necessary physical qualities. That impression turned out to be inaccurate as I found out more about the position in question. The then Northern Alberta Militia District needed a replacement for a Personnel Selection Officer (PSO). The position required that the incumbent be trained in psychology. The job was not a clinical psychology one, but one where psychological knowledge would be applied in the selection and placement of personnel into various positions. I also found out in the meantime that different military occupations (MOCs) had different physical requirements and that the PSO MOC had a lower physical standard than the more vigorous operational MOCs. The joke was that the PSO functions could be performed by the blind and the dumb, and I met the requirements for that position.

Instant Captain

Personnel Selection Officers in the Canadian Forces were (still are, I presume) considered as commissioned specialist officers in the same category as physicians, or Medical Officers (MOs), Chaplains, and other professionals. That meant a Direct Entry Officer (DEO), like me, would begin his/her military career as a Captain in the army (not to be confused with a naval Captain, which is the equivalent of a full colonel in the army). These specialist officers would still be required to undergo basic military training, or in more common parlance, boot camp. I did mine at Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia.

My class of basic training for specialists consisted of reservist inductees in the helping professions who had civilian jobs (on civvy street, as the reference to anything in the civilian world goes) parallel to their military MOCs, e.g. pastors, nurses, health administrators, doctors and me, a psychologist. The training was a less intensive version of what combat arms officers would go through. But the program did include a wide range of military subjects such as drills, military organization, administration, military law, military etiquette, certain basic military tactics, and, of course, small arms handling. The drills portion was a cinch for me. I was already familiar with the drills which were essentially the same as what I had learnt as a Seventeen-year-old. I mentioned elsewhere that the 17th Kowloon Group when I was there did a great job of doing these drills second to none. The basic training course reinforced that observation. The administrative/tactical portion of the course gave a first impression of the complexities of running a military organization and managing a battle. We did quite well in the small arms training. The instructors were amazed at how a bunch of civilian helping professionals (some would say bleeding hearts) could all of a sudden be so at ease and be so accurate with the implements of war designed to do the exact opposite of what they were professionally trained to do, i.e. to hurt people as opposed to helping them. On the more mundane front of daily routines, we learnt to hurry up and wait.

Finding the right stuff

After the initial training, my position was the District Personnel Selection Officer (DPSO) within the Northern Alberta Militia District Headquarters (NAMDHQ) which was housed in its own building in what was then called Griesbach Barracks. “Barracks” was actually a misnomer for the location as the compound consisted of quite a number of buildings and other facilities. It was an old army base. Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Edmonton was then an air force base, with two locations, at Namao and at Griesbach. There was no Regular Force army in Edmonton at the time, only reserve army units most of which were housed at Griesbach. I was given an office in the NAMDHQ building. The first thing that struck me as I was shown my new “military” office, was that it had a wooden desk, a wooden swivel chair and some wooden high back chairs all of which were identical to the furniture that I had when I was working at the Hong Kong DC&I. They even smelled the same. It was déjà vu for a while, and I thought this Canadian army place surely looked very colonial.

The job, for the most part, involved the assessment of the suitability of candidates for commissioning, and then serving as the advisor to officer selection boards. These officer candidates came from various programmes. Some were non-commissioned



members recommended by their superiors to become commissioned officers. Civilians with certain qualifications could also join up at the commissioned level. There were formal policies and procedures to follow in processing and testing these candidates. But they were also assessed for what was known as “officer-like qualities” or OLQs. We were looking for individuals with “the right stuff”, so to speak, people who had suitable leadership, organizational, and interpersonal skills, able to function under pressure with composure. Rambos need not apply.

Other aspects of the job were assessing the suitability of soldiers who wished to change from one MOC to another and determining the suitability of volunteers for overseas service. I had also served on a couple of national officer selection boards and substituted for Regular Force PSOs on occasion. In the mean time, there were ongoing training courses one was supposed to attend. These courses were of two types: general military courses which dealt with military matter in greater depth, and professional courses on personnel selection techniques. In order to be become familiar with the operational end of the business, I also attended a number of military exercises in places such as CFB Wainwright.

Training for war

I also took courses that would allow me to gain a deeper insight into the military ethos and to be able to communicate with soldiers in their milieu. While I was not at the “sharp end” (those actually engaging in combat) of the business, my clients were. Soldiers form into cohesive groups as their lives could depend on their ability to work together as a team. One can intellectualise about just and unjust wars in one’s spare time, but in battle, soldiers fight for and with those immediately around them, their band of brothers and sisters. But while cohesiveness is a great advantage, it also means exclusion or even rejection of anyone seen as outsiders. Someone who cannot understand or speak their “lingo” and appears to have no understanding of their perspectives would not be accepted, or seen as being able to help them. As a personnel officer, I would never be a member of any combat team or battle group. But I could do a much better job of reaching out to them if I had some of the knowledge and skills they had. It was with this purpose that I took extra courses, reaching the highest level possible course that my rank would allow.

The course was a senior commanders’ course which entailed distance learning with weekend lectures and weekly assignments for about six months, culminating in an intensive two-week classroom and field training in what was then National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario. The course covered a wide range of advanced military techniques and tactics, but basically was intended to qualify senior officers to conduct warfare at the brigade level. In theory, then, after passing this course I was supposed to be able to command a brigade in battle. In reality, the chances of me doing that ranged from zero to none. But I did acquire a very good understanding of the workings of military operations.

Contrary to some popular belief, these military courses don’t teach you how to “kill” people. A great emphasis was placed on achieving certain objectives and maintaining them. The commander, when conducting a battle, sometimes looks like a cross between a human resources manager and a traffic controller. For the most part, the operating principles, the planning, the strategies employed are not that different from those in other endeavours (with some exceptions). Whether the objective is to take Hamburger Hill (an actual incident in Vietnam) or to capture a certain market share of the hamburgers you are peddling, the principles are basically the same. It is no wonder that a proliferation of business literature has emerged based on Sun Tzu’s *The Art of War* (孫子兵法).

To be continued in part 2 ...

School News

Excerpts from <http://www.lasalle.edu.hk>

2009-09-05

Singapore Fencing Championships 2009 (5th & 6th September)

U-12 Foil Individual (Open)

1st Choi Chun Yin Ryan (F.1D)

U-14 Foil Individual (Open)

1st But Boris (F.2D)

2nd Choi Chun Yin Ryan (F.1D)

3rd Lee Marco (F.1E)

U-14 Foil Team (Open)

1st But Boris (F.2D), Tang Pui Tang Thomas (F.2B) , Cheung Tsz Fung Walter (F.2B) & Cheung Benedict (F.2A)

2nd Cheng Kwan Yiu (F.2A), Choi Chun Yin Ryan (F.1D), Lee Marco (F.1E) & Cheng Arthur Ka Hei (F.2E)



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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION CLASS OF 1959



Final Program

A reunion will be held in Hong Kong to celebrate the golden anniversary of the graduation of the class of 1959. Classmates and their better halves are cordially invited to attend. We look forward to a memorable and fun-filled reunion. The full program is as follows.

Tuesday November 10: Icebreaker Dim Sum lunch

12:30 p.m. at The Kum Tao Heen, 8/F, Hong Kong Scout Center, 8 Austin Road, Kowloon.

Wednesday November 11

Walk up and over Kadoorie Hill to LSC campus;

3:00 pm: Meeting with the current principal; campus tour;

Reunion banquet: 7:30 pm

The Royal Garden Chinese Restaurant, Royal Garden Hotel, 69 Moody Road, Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon.

Honour guests to include current principal Mr. Wong Yen-Kit and chairman of LSC school board Brother Patrick Tierney, former teachers Mr Henry Lau, Mr Chiu Siu-Lai, and Dr Walter Woo.

Cost: The estimated total cost for the lunch and banquet is HK800 per person, payable at the Icebreaker Dim Sum lunch. Paul Chu will confirm final cost at time of payment.

Post-Reunion Tour: 4-day tour to Xiamen, Fukien Province and visit to the Hakka Roundhouses

13 November: Hong Kong – Xiamen. Morning flight, afternoon visit Puto Temple “南普陀寺” and Xiamen University “廈門大學”

14 November: Xiamen – Nanching Roundhouse. Morning leave Xiamen for Nanching Roundhouse Group. “田螺坑土樓群” is situated at Nanching “南靖” county with the world famous 4 round and 1 square roundhouse group “四圓一方”土樓 and shivering roundhouse “東歪西倒”土樓

15 November: Nanching – Wing Ting
Morning leave Nanching for Wing Ting 永定 county where the Qushi Roundhouse Group “初溪土樓群” is situated. This is the most well preserved of the Roundhouse Groups in China and is listed by UN as World Cultural Heritage.

16 November: Xiamen – Hong Kong. Morning visit Kwulongyu “鼓浪嶼”, an island full of western architectural buildings and a piano museum. Free time in the afternoon to walk and shop at the Pedestrian “步行街”. Evening flight to Hong Kong.

Cost: The estimated price is around HK\$5,500.00 per person including flights by Dragon Air, 5-star hotels, meals, land transport, entrance fees, tour guide and tips. (The price may be reduced if there is sufficient patronage to reduce the air-fare).

For those who wish to join, the full price will be payable before 30th September 2009 (details to be confirmed later by John Li).

Those who have not already done so are requested to confirm their participation in the functions in HK.

Paul CHU 褚明晰 at (852) 9459-4465 e-mail paulchu802@yahoo.com.

For confirmation of participation in the post-reunion tour, please contact

John LI 李鳳翔 at (852) 9494-1681 e-mail johnfli@foandli.com