



St. Louis Old Boys' Association Limited (SLOBA) 2023-2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Aaron LEE Loong-Kee

2nd March 2024

Dear Aloysians,

2023 marks the 62nd anniversary of the St. Louis Old Boys' Association. As we emerged out of the Covid impact, our social life evolved to a new normal with certain parts getting back to pre-Covid and other parts entering the new world of complex geopolitics, challenging macroeconomics, Generative AI, etc... that led to new perspectives on mental, physical and social lives. That said, networking and bonding between human beings remain our safe harbour, and our interactions with friends and families resumed. As such, SLOBA also resumed its activities and has been working closely with Old Boys and the school to organise events and activities. With God's blessings and the support of Old Boys and the school leadership, SLOBA has been able to get back to where it used to be while breaking new ground in organising new events for Old Boys and students.

A. ACTIVITIES WITH OUR FELLOW OLD BOYS

1. After the government loosened social distancing rules in late February 2023, SLOBA worked with the school authority to organise our 95th-anniversary dinner. The dinner took place in a restaurant in Shek Tong Tsui on 29th April 2023. It was the first celebration dinner post-Covid, attended by the school supervisor, school principals of both the Secondary and Primary sections, students from both sections, Old Boys, and honorary guests. SLOBA quickly filled 42 tables with reservations from Old Boys who graduated in different years, ranging from the 1950s to the 2010s. A total of 550 Old Boys, teachers, honorary guests, and students attended this long-awaited dinner gathering, turning it into a night to remember.
2. Since the easing of Covid restrictions, SLOBA has sponsored several class reunions since June 2023, as some classes have reached multiples of five-years milestones. Many Old Boys residing overseas have returned to Hong Kong for their class reunions. SLOBA's president, vice president, and some council members attended several reunion dinners, including those from the Classes of 1963, 1968, 1973, and 1993, in July and November 2023. SLOBA representatives took the opportunity to present SLOBA activities to Old Boys at each reunion dinner, keeping Old Boys updated on SLOBA's direction and activities.
3. In addition, SLOBA representatives also participated in the annual class reunion of the Class of 1969 in October 2023, without providing sponsorship.
4. We organised an internship program for junior Old Boys who graduated from St. Louis School within the past five years. The program provided opportunities for those junior Old Boys to intern at a local accounting firm owned by one of the senior Old Boys. Other internship opportunities were also available in the healthcare and legal fields. The internship program is no longer limited to Summer but is now all year around.
5. SLOBA VP Andrew Yuen and some Old Boys presented in front of Fr Joseph NGUYEN Tinh-Phuoc (Father Phuoc), Salesian Society Regional Councillor for East Asia – Oceania, on 5th



November 2023, at the Tang Keng Po School. It was the first time SLOBA presented our activities and organisational structure to the newly appointed Regional Councillor. A sharing session later took place at St. Louis School, allowing Father Phuoc to gain a deeper understanding of SLOBA's works and support with the Old Boys and the school.

6. We hosted a poignant Requiem Mass for the Month of All Souls on 18th November 2023 at St. Louis School chapel. It was a moving occasion that provided a heartfelt opportunity for our Old Boys and their families to return to their Alma Mater. Together, we gathered in remembrance of departed loved ones, offering prayers for their eternal rest. The event not only allowed for reflection and solace but also served as a joyful reunion, as Old Boys reconnected and witnessed the growth of the school that played a significant role in their lives. It was an event filled with reverence, camaraderie, and cherished memories.
7. Homecoming Day 2023 took place on 28th October 2023, with a special theme of ball games. Over 150 Old Boys from the classes of 1982 to 2003 attended the half-day soccer and basketball events.

B. SUPPORT TO ST. LOUIS SCHOOL AND STUDENTS:

1. We partially sponsored and sent representatives to attend the first post-Covid S6 graduation dinner in June 2023. The graduation dinners were called off in previous years due to the Covid social distancing rules but finally resumed in 2023. 120 students along with their teachers, guests of honour participated in this magnificent event.
2. We fully sponsored and organised the first Young Achievers Awards (YAA) dinner, and the ceremony was held on 4th July 2023. The dinner ceremony aimed to recognise and celebrate our students' efforts in winning public competitions and bringing honour to St. Louis School. A special award pin, designed by one of the school teachers, was made for these young achievers and presented during the dinner. SLOBA had the honour of inviting two prestigious Old Boys, Mr. HO Fai (何輝先生), a well-known sports commentator, and Dr. TONG Siu-Sing (湯兆昇博士) both graduates from the Class of 1984, to be the Masters of Ceremony for the dinner.
3. With the help of several Old Boys, students from S4 to S6 attended Job Shadowing sessions at seven different organizations in July and August 2023. These organizations include:
 - Admiralty Chambers (Barristers Chambers)
 - Dr. David CHIU's clinic (Paediatrician)
 - Dr. TANG Shun-Cheung's clinic (General Practitioner)
 - Victor & Partners (Physiotherapy)
 - Zung Fu (Mercedes Benz) dealership and maintenance facility in Hong Kong
 - Ikea in Shatin
 - The Island Shangri-La Hotel
4. SLOBA counter is once again set up at the S1 Information Day on 11th November 2023. The display of the 90th Anniversary Publication and 95th Anniversary souvenirs captured the attention of many parent visitors.



5. SLOBA council members attended the Class of 2022-2023 Speech Day on 16th November 2023. The SLOBA Award was presented by SLOBA President Aaron Lee, while the Father Deane Achievement Award was presented by Vice President Andrew Yuen at the ceremony.
6. The S6 mock interview was conducted on 16th December 2023. Our Co-Op member, Ivan Leung, worked closely with the St. Louis School career development team and their teacher advisors. With the support of over 15 Old Boys from various walks of life, they provided interview skills and advice to over 40 S6 students. SLOBA also sponsored a lunch gathering after the mock interview.
7. We sponsored and co-organized the "聖類斯中學乒乓球友誼邀請賽 2024" on 3rd February 2024, inviting eight other primary schools to attend. Dominic Leung, our Welfare Officer, led the charge by inviting some P6 students from primary schools in other Hong Kong Districts to come and play with our St. Louis School Primary Section students. The event provided networking opportunities for these P6 students and allowed them to visit our school campus while allowing us to promote our school at the same time.
8. VP Andrew Yuen, together with past President Allen Chan and Co-Op Alex Wong, Juno Tsang and his wife, cooked for the second time at the S6 farewell lunch on 23rd February 2024, serving 92 departing S6 Students. President Aaron Lee and Co-Op member Ivan Leung provided additional support by contributing 16 pizzas from Pizza Hut. At the farewell ceremony after the lunch, 92 S6 students received SLOBA membership badges as their welcoming gifts to become new members.

C. SUPPORT TO OUR CLERGYMEN:

SLOBA continues to support our clergymen, leading to the organization of several unprecedented events in 2023 and 2024.

1. After several severe rainstorms and Typhoon Signal 10 in September 2023, which caused a mudslide at the backyard slope of the Salesian House of Studies in Shau Kei Wan, the "柴灣修院山坡 supporting group" was formed. SLOBA VP Andrew Yuen, serves as the coordinator of this group and works closely with Father Domingos Leong Teng-Tok 梁定國神父 who oversees the maintenance work. Father Leong is also the new Provincial of the Salesian Province of China (中華會省新省會長). The team has recruited Old Boy experts from the fields of architecture, civil engineering, and law from St. Louis School, Salesian English School, and Tang Keng Po College came together to provide support and care for the slope maintenance works of the Salesian House of Studies. Our Old Boy, Mr. John Wong (香港建築師學會前會長王寶龍) advised on the building structure safety near the mudslide site.
2. SLOBA Co-Op Mr. Alex Wong, along with Father Bogadek's caring team and SLOBA VP Andrew Yuen planned an unprecedented outing for Father Bogadek to visit the Braga House (慈幼少懷之家) on 27th January 2024 and meeting with Father McKenna and Father Fedrigotti.
3. SLOBA continues to manage the ABC Fund (Anthony Bogadek Caring Fund). All donations to the ABC Fund are kept in a separate pocket of the SLOBA account, and funds are only dispatched upon request by the ABC Fund committee.



D. SLOBA – Loss of our loved ones:

Unfortunately, we have had to bid farewells to some priest and school staff in the past year.

1. SLOBA council and past presidents attended the memorial service of Fr. Joseph Lee Hei-lung (李海龍神父) on 6th November 2023. Father Lee was the physics teacher to many Old Boys who graduated in the 60s. He was also remembered at the Requiem Mass for the Month of All Souls on 18th November 2023 at St. Louis School chapel.
2. SLOBA council, Co-Op, and past presidents attended the memorial service of 黎陳慧珍女士 (珍姐) on 5th January 2024. 珍姐 worked for St. Louis School for over 20 years and helped look after Father Bogadek until her retirement in 2021.

Thanks to the efforts of Council members, Co-Op members, School Leadership, together with the support from many Old Boys and partners, SLOBA has been able to achieve a relatively fruitful comeback in the year of 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the time and energy put into making St. Louis School a better community than it was yesterday.

For 2024, as SLOBA continues to execute many of the successful activities in 2023, a few initiatives will be on our agenda that we would like fellow Old Boys to note:

- The Alumni Manager Election will take place in 2024, and preparations will begin soon. Mr. John Po, a two-term past president of SLOBA, is the current Alumni Manager for the St. Louis School IMC.
- The Young Achievers Awards (YAA) will be organized again in July 2024, and we are inviting Old Boys to sponsor the event.
- Preparation work for the student job shadowing and internship program has begun, and we would invite support from Old Boys to further broaden the program.

Looking forward to a more medium-term perspective, we would like to continue to modernise SLOBA with more digital initiatives, broaden our reach and relevance to Old Boys and the school, and kick-start our preparation for the 100-years anniversary of St. Louis School. As we identify more opportunities to improve our St. Louis community, let me take this opportunity to ask for more support and involvement from Old Boys who would like to get Involved!

Sincerely,

Aaron Lee
SLOBA President since 2023

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