In Memoriam – Lau Ping-Yuen, Gabriel

劉炳元

(July 17, 1942--April 16, 2013)

Studied at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1955-1963

A. Years at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1955-1963

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P6A</td>
<td>1955-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1A</td>
<td>1956-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2A</td>
<td>1957-1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3A</td>
<td>1958-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F4B</td>
<td>1959-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F5B</td>
<td>1960-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F6A</td>
<td>1961-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F7A</td>
<td>1962-1963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Class Photographs, a selection

P6A, 1955-1956 – 2nd row from top – 2nd left

FORM II A.

F2A, 1957-1958 – 2nd row from top – 3rd left
F3A, 1958-1959 – top row – 8th left

F5B, 1960-1961 – 2nd row from top – 2nd right
UPPER SIXTH ARTS

F7A, 1962-1963 – 2nd row from top – 2nd left
### C. Class Lists, a selection

**FORM I A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### F1A, 1956-1957

**FORM III A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>史家和</td>
<td>陳月清</td>
<td>陳楚華</td>
<td>陳宇 │ 陳文敬</td>
<td>陳文華</td>
<td>陳文龍</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文興</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td>陳文信</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### F3A, 1958-1959
FORM 4B (1959–1960)

1. Au-Yang Siu Lee 歐陽兆里
2. Chan Hoi Cheong, Francis 陳浩昌
3. Chan Yin Kee, Gabriel 陳賢基
4. Chang Liang Mo, Patrick 張良武
5. Chen Chia Hua, Bobby 陳加華
6. Chow Hing Ming 周慶銘
7. Choy Tak Fun, Robert 蔡德勳
8. Han Wai Chung, Ambrose 韓華峻
9. Ho Chue Kwong 何曙光
10. Ho Kar Wing 何家榮
11. Ho Sau Yip 何守業
12. Kong Chi Keung, Stephen 江自強
13. Kung Yum Sing, Francis 譚振祥
14. Lai Shiu Cheong 黎紹昌
15. Lai Tat Chung, Brendan 黎達沖
16. Lau Ping Yuen, Gabriel 劉炳元
17. Leung Po Man, John 梁保民
18. Leung Siu Tat, Carmelo 梁少達
19. Loh Wai Tau, Lawrence 洛衛祖
20. Luk Chung Man, Danny 陸仲文
21. Ma Shing Choy, Louis 馬成才
22. Ng Chun Bong, Peter 吳振邦
23. Ng Ping Cheung 吳炳祥
24. Pan Cheung Ming, John 潘鈞銘
25. Pang Chi Kee 彭志基
26. Sun Sai Chong, Victor 孫世翔
27. Tang Ka Yiu, Michael 唐家猷
28. To Hin Leung 杜顯亮
29. Tung Shiu Tien, Michael 董瑞天
30. Tung Sai Tung, Joseph 董瑞傑
31. Wang Hok Cheong, David 王學章
32. Wong Pak Cheung 黃伯翔
33. Woo Chan Ah, John 吳振亞
34. Wu Tse Wai, Frederick 吳子恵
35. Yeung Chi Kau 楊子考
36. Yu Chi Hung 茹建雄

F4B, 1959-1960

LOWER SIXTH ARTS (1961/62) 大學預科文科一年

1. Au-Yang Siu Lee 歐陽兆里
2. Chan Hoi Cham 陳浩湛
3. Chan Hwang Cheun 陳宏川
4. Chow Hing Ming 周慶銘
5. Choy Siu Ying, Ernest 蔡兆樺
6. Fan Kay Yam 范家任
7. Ho Kar Wing 何家榮
8. Hui Man Kong 許文江
9. Lam Sing Kiu, Augustine 林星橋
10. Lam Wing Cheung, Stephen 林水章
11. Lau Ping Yuen, Gabriel 劉炳元
12. Luu Shak Wah, John 劉石華
13. Lee Chuen Kam, Martin 李傳錦
14. Lee Chung Kwan 李埜軍
15. Lee Sze Too, Raphael 李士滔
16. Li Che Kin, Timothy 李自愷
17. Li Fu Ping, Denis 李轡平
18. Loo Pok Wing 廖撝榮
19. Miu Kwok Yan, Albert 謝國仁
20. Poon Hon Wai, Peter 潘漢偉
21. Po Hu Yung, Peter 石如鴻
22. Shek Ru Hung, Robert 曾龍光
23. Shung Nai Kwong 王學章
24. Tong Hok Cheong, David 吳伯翔
25. Wong Cho Yim Terence 黃祖賢
26. Wong Pak Cheung, David 吳振亞
27. Yang Lung Philip 俞昂麟
28. Yu Fong Ying 余晃英
29. Chan Din Kwan, Francis 陳鼎鈞
30. Ho Shu Ying 何樹英

F6A, 1961-1962
D. Reunion Photos, a selection

2001, HK Reunion – 3rd left

2005, Vancouver Reunion – standing - 2³ left
2005, Toronto Grand Reunion – BBQ - top row - 1st right

2005, Toronto Grand Reunion – wine tour – 1st left
2005, Toronto Grand Reunion – joint dinner – 1st left

2005, Toronto Grand Reunion – gala dinner
2008, Vancouver Grand Reunion – 1st left

2008, Vancouver Grand reunion – 2nd left
2011, HK Grand Reunion – with wife Lin

2011, HK Grand Reunion – 1st right
2011, HK Grand Reunion – 1st right

2011, HK Grand Reunion – 2nd left
2011, HK Grand Reunion – 1st left

2011, HK Grand Reunion at a teahouse restaurant – 1st right
2012, Toronto Reunion – standing – 2\textsuperscript{nd} right
GABRIEL PING YUEN LAU

July 17, 1942 -- April 16, 2013

Peacefully with his family by his side, on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, Gabriel Ping Yuen LAU passed away suddenly at the age of 70. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Ho Lin of 39 years; daughters Deborah (Dan) and Cynthia (George); son Joseph; grandchildren Steven and Tristan; sisters Yip Chee and Yip Kam; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Lin Tai and Fook Cheung; and brothers Ping Wing, Ping Foo and Ping Wah.

Gabriel was born in Hong Kong. A proud graduate of the famous Wah Yan College in Kowloon, he began his career with the Hong Kong Police Service in 1963 as a Police Interpreter. He moved to Canada in January 1965 and began an honourable and distinguished career with Citizenship and Immigration. Working in various roles of increasing responsibility across the country (including Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec), he decided to settle in Winnipeg to raise his family. After over 40 years of service, he retired in 2004 as Assistant Manager / Operations Coordinator at the Citizenship and Immigration Centre at The Forks.
Gabriel was known for generosity, always helping others, his intelligence, and keen sense of humour. He enjoyed spending his free time taking care of his grandchildren, playing with electronics and computers, watching NBA basketball and poker tournaments on TV, taking dance lessons with his wife, and going for Mall walks later in life. One of his passions was traveling to exotic locales such as California, Las Vegas, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Mexico, Cuba, Macau, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan and all over mainland China.

Special thanks to the wonderful staff at Mercy Hospital in Devil’s Lake, North Dakota and Altru Health System in Grand Forks, North Dakota for their care and compassion.

Viewing will be held at 9:30 a.m. with a Funeral Mass to follow on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 10:30 a.m (St. Vital Catholic Church, 1629 Pembina Hwy).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gabriel’s memory to Winnipeg Harvest.
I am one of the students who owe it to Fr Moran for what we are today.

I do not remember if I was in form 2 or form 3 when Fr Moran was teaching us the Bible. He taught us in Cantonese. He told us when he first came to Hong Kong, he was sent to the seminary in Cheung Chau (?) where he learned Chinese for several years (?) Though he had an accent, Fr Moran knew a lot of Chinese words I did not know. He often told us he preferred listening to soccer games broadcast in Chinese because the Chinese sentence structure was more direct and he could easily grasp the situation in hand.

When I was in form 3, Fr Moran tried to help me, a lost sheep. Every morning at 7 or 7:30 for at least 30 minutes for several months, he would take the time to teach me catechism in a private room. I was subsequently baptized. I also remember Fr Moran taught us grammar. When he was teaching a particular part of speech, he would want us to use it a lot in our composition. This time, he was teaching us the gerund. In a composition, I practically and profusely used all kinds of gerunds, in my estimation, 90% of the sentences having gerunds. As a result, I got an unthinkable 100% for my competition. As some of you may remember the way he pronounced some words with an accent. He pronounced immediately "immejiately"; obediently, "obejiently"; and literature "literarchore". Sometimes when we laughed, he tried to soften his accent. Fr Moran used to hand out candies/chocolates to commend students if they had done well in a test or dictation. I guess a lot of us were happy recipients.

Fr Moran hated the communists. In 1973 when I was in Hong Kong, I asked him to go for lunch at the YMCA across the street from our school. During lunch, he talked a lot about the communists and showed his dislike. Did this have anything to do with his former stint on the mainland?

In or about 1982, I told him in correspondence that I had misplaced my copy of the 1961 Year Book. He immediately sent an old copy to me. After that, we were not in contact, mainly due to my laziness. I was sad when I later learnt that Fr Moran had Alzheimer’s. He was not teaching but was still helping in the church. Often times when he was going to his room in WYK, he ended up in somebody else’s. Fr Moran subsequently passed on in the early 1990’s (?) and was buried in the Happy Valley Cemetery(?). I regret that I have not yet gone to pay respect.
G. Tributes & Memories

Philip Lee (’60) wrote on Apr 17, 2013:

For your information, Gabriel Lau, 61 Graduate (I believe his Chinese name is Lau Bing Yuen) has passed away while vacationing in the United States. He worked for Immigration Department until his retirement two or three years ago. He is quite a well known person in Winnipeg.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ho Sir wrote on Apr 17, 2013:

Very sorry to hear the sad news. Gabriel was at the dinner of 61 and the Cheetahs last October in Toronto.

He was a very nice gentleman.

I will upload the sad news to our <WYKAAC> site asap. I am sure many will miss him sadly.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Michael Lee (’61) wrote on Apr 17, 2013:

This is so very unexpected. I am sure we will all remember him and his family in our prayers.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Wong Hin-Shing (’61) wrote on Apr 17, 2013:

I’ve just returned home from a dinner and received this shocking sad news from Ho Sir, Philip (’60 grad), Fong-ying and Michael.

Our classmate, Gabriel Lau Ping-Yuen, passed away while vacationing in the States.

Gabe and Lin visited Toronto last October and we had a wonderful dinner gathering.
Gabe was always very gentlemanly and kindhearted, and was a very loyal WYK alumnus. He once proposed privately to me and a few other classmates about appealing to all '61 grads to donate the HK$6,000 to our mother school. (Note: He contributed $1,000 Cdn to the Fathers' Quarters fund.)

May he rest in peace, and my deepest condolences to Lin and her family.

--------------------------------------------

Lam Yuk-Ming ('61) wrote on Apr 17, 2013:

It was indeed a terrible shock when I got the sad news from Ho Kar Wing. It seems mortality is closer to us than we realize.

Ping Yuen and I met in Montreal in 1963 when he worked for the police as a translator then. It's a long, long time ago but it seems just like yesterday. We met from time to time since then and he occasionally called me for afternoon tea in Chinatown when he came to Vancouver to visit his family.

He is a very nice person, a faithful Catholic and God will look after his soul.

--------------------------------------------

Yu Fong-ying ('61) with May wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

It was as if I got an electrical shock when I read the sad news from Philip Lee and Mr Ho. It felt so close to home. I tried ringing Kar Wing and Gilbert Chinn immediately but both were out then. I felt dizzy.

Gabe Lau joined my tour group to Zhang Jia Jie right after the memorable reunion in HK in 2011. He and Lin were ideal companions. They had a lot of travelling experiences and watched over their fellow-travellers. They befriended my sister and brother-in-law and we had a lot of chats and laughter. We formed a mutual support group which made travelling a comfortable and enjoyable experience.

He passed Vancouver a couple of times, the last time I think after that trip and Kar Wing and him and me touched coffee cups in MacDonald's to while away some friendly time. Kar Wing has quite a few stories about Gabe's honesty and integrity which I will not repeat. They attest a man of deep religious faith, unassuming humility, and transparent integrity. When animated, he talked a lot.

When I asked him to write something in memory of Fr Moran, he penned a touching honest tribute and sent it to Hin Shing and me immediately. (See In Memoriam -- Father John Moran, S.J. in the WYKAAO website.).
I was 3 years in the same class as he. It was in F 6 and 7 that we got to know each other better. We reconnected after my immigration to Canada and during his not infrequent stopovers at Vancouver. I was told he retired at 60 (actually 62) and has been enjoying a quieter life and many trips abroad.

After the trials and joys of life, may you rest in peace, Gabe. We shall miss your friendly smiles. Our deepest condolences to Lin and the Lau family.

Chan Doming ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

It's shocking and sad to get it. It's also a surprise since Gabe had always been so healthy looking. Time is water in a flowing river.

Harry Aitken ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

It is indeed sad news. My deepest condolences goes out to Gabriel's family.

I shall be praying for his reposed soul. May he rest in peace.

Bobby Chen ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

I'm saddened to hear of Gabe's passing!

Gabe is one of those friends with whom I was not close, yet I remember him very clearly and tenderly. At Wah Yan I was always afraid of being bullied (even though it seldom happened), and I was always on the lookout for kind souls to whom I could appeal for help -- and Gabe was one of my favorite targets. I always felt that I could rely on him to be fair and kind. That impression is so deep that, although we were never in touch after Lower Six until the 2011 reunion, I'm absolutely convinced that he has always been the same honest, reliable, kind-hearted person I knew as a schoolboy. I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to become re-acquainted with him in recent years, and now I won't have any opportunities in the future. But I know that I will always remember Gabe the same way. I was fortunate to have known Gabe, and this world was fortunate to have had Gabe!

My sincere condolences go to Gabe's family. We have all lost a wonderful man!

Claudius Seh ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:
Sad to hear another Wahyanite had left us. Although I don't know Gabe Lau at all, still he is one of us. My condolence and sympathy goes to his immediate family and friends. May he rest in peace!

---------------------------------------------------------------------

Philip Yu ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

The words expressed by Fong Ying, Hin Shing and Bobby about the sudden passing away of our classmate Gabe Lau really speak about my heart-wrenching pain, too for him and his family.

I met Gabe last October in Toronto with many good-looking guys like Gabe in a very meaningful and memorable gathering.

Even though I had hardly a word with him after all these years from and away Wah Yan, he does impress me as an upright man of incredibly cheerful disposition. He left an impression on me that can truly be identified one day in Heaven!

God bless Gabe and his family as we all wish them rest peacefully on earth as much as up above!

---------------------------------------------------------------------

Rodney Auyeung ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

Gang Tin Lo, "The Farmer", his classmates used to call him, and Gabe took it with a grin. If it carried the connotations of back-to-the-earth goodness and honesty, then the nickname was apt, as Gabe was a thoroughly good and decent man, with neither artifice nor pretension. Wah Yan would be proud to call him one of its own.

---------------------------------------------------------------------

Stephen Lam ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

I just returned from Ottawa and heard the sad news. What a shock. We met him at the reunion dinner in Toronto. Whenever he was in Toronto, we always met and had a nice chats about the good days in Wah Yan. We were close as we were in the same classes several years. I even dropped by to see him when I joined a tour across Canada passing Winnipeg. He even brought me home to visit his family. He will dearly remembered by his knowing the whole dictionary and his story ad a police interpreter. We all miss him. May he rest in peace.

---------------------------------------------------------------------
Martin Lee ('61) wrote on Apr 18, 2013:

It is a shock to hear the sad news.

He lived just one block from me when in Wah Yan. I saw him to and from school all the time.

We had dinner just a few months ago in Toronto.

My condolences to his wife and family.

-------------------------------------------------------------

Patrick Choy Chun-Chiu ('61) wrote on Apr 20, 2013:

Gabe and I were in the same class in Wah Yan (5B). After graduation, I met Gabe when he was transferred to the Canadian Immigration Department in Montreal in 1967. We met again when I moved to Winnipeg in 1979, and has been in touch with him since then. Gabe was a real gentleman, and he will be missed by all his friends.

-------------------------------------------------------------

Gilbert Chinn ('61) wrote on Apr 20, 2013:

I still remember during WY days Gabe was the most enduring one when we (4) Augustine Lam, Peter Lo and me hiked from Tai-Po, 馬料水 Train Station along the railroad track all the way to Sha-Tin Station from late afternoon to dusk.

Those days New Territories people had rumoured that there was a tiger roamed the area.

We were quite scared.

Gabe said, "Don't you worry. Tiger won't come to drink salt water." As most stretches of the railroad track were close to the sea water.

When we were inside a tunnel he took the lead and urged us run..."Don't get caught up by the train inside the tunnel."

My very sincere condolence to Lin and Family. To be with Gabe in WY days was fun and always on my mind.

-------------------------------------------------------------

Fok Kee-Sau ('61) wrote on Apr 20, 2013:
It is indeed shocking and sad to hear Gabriel's sudden passing away. We were classmates for a few years in Wah Yan and played football frequently. He was always a polite, honest and easy-to-get-along guy. It was a great pleasure to reunite with him in our 2011 Reunion. We and other classmates had dinner in an old style teahouse and spent an unforgettable and joyful evening. I got a couple of pictures and a video clip of him.

My condolences to Lin and the family. He will be missed dearly.

----------------------------------------

Yu Fong-ying ('61) wrote on Apr 21, 2013:

悼劉炳元兄

驚聞噩耗顫身心

八載同窗少斯人

張家界里風景絕

談笑添美再識君 (1)

樸誠得名莊稼漢 (2)

廉直持守譽友儕 (3)

感恩悟道虔信主 (4)

華仁校風拂楓林 (5)

兒孫成行退休樂

思君猶似昨同遊

炳元兄 安息!

余晃英敬挽 2013 年 4 月 21 日

注:

(1)2011 年九華 61 屆同學慶祝畢業金禧後, 炳元兄夫婦參加我、玉堅、我妹、妹夫已經報名的旅行團, 同遊張家界。
(2)花名「鄉下佬」或「耕田佬」。

(3)炳元兄在香港警察局任職時，不受賄金。

(4)從 Fr Moran 學英文及教義，接受洗禮。

(5)1965 年移居加拿大，任職移民局。

----------------------------------

Noel Hui Tak-Cheung (’61) wrote on Apr 21, 2013:

Even though I was in Form 3A class with Gabe, I did not recall ever talking to him that year. I obviously was not outgoing at that time.

I met Gabe in 2005 at our Toronto reunion and spent one whole day with him and his wife, Lin during our excursion to Niagara Falls. We rode on the same car during this trip. We chatted on different topics from religion to politics and even medicine. We had a great time together. I found him to be very knowledgeable and a true gentleman. My wife was very impressed with his manners.

We met again in Vancouver 2008 and we shared the same table and talked. He was always so polite. When we said goodbye, I told him we would meet again in 2011.

I did not attend the HK reunion and lost the last chance to say hello to him. I greatly regret this missed opportunity. I was privileged to have met Gabe at our golden years, and was startled at his premature sudden passing.

May the many caring thoughts/tributes from his friends and the loving memories of this wonderful man help Lin and his family through this difficult time of great sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

----------------------------------

Albert Lam (’61) wrote on Apr 22, 2013:

Gabe was in form 5 B with me. I don't remember a lot of events in those years with him at school. However we met several times at dinners whenever he visited HK. I thought he must be very capable and had special qualities to be admitted and trusted as a 官, ie official by the Canadian Government. I remember him as a soft spoken, kind hearted and helpful person. My deep condolences to his family.

***************************************************************************

Philip Lee
The Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M., LL.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, wrote on April 22, 2013

“While Gabriel and I graduated in different years at Wah Yan College Kowloon, I had the great pleasure of meeting him in Winnipeg more than forty years ago. In fact his wedding banquet was held at my wife’s restaurant in the seventies. We were able to bond as proud WYK alumni. He was a wonderfully kind human being. We worked together on many community projects. He was an active member of the community who devoted a lot time to the Manitoba Academy of Chinese Studies while working for the department of Immigration and Man-power of the Federal Government. I was saddened when I learned of his sudden passing. May he rest in peace.”

----------------------------------------------------------

Cynthia Yu and Joseph Tse, sister and brother-in-law of Yu Fong-ying wrote on April 23, 2013:

We've read the obituary at WYKAIO. The word 'gentlemanly' is exactly the one we would use to describe Gabriel. May he rest in peace. Sorry that we lost Lin's e-mail address. Our condolences to Lin & Gabriel's family.

----------------------------------------------------------

YorkLoon Chen travelling in ChengDu and Zhangjiajie wrote on April 24:

I have the pleasure meeting Gabe and his wife only in 3 occasions; i.e. reunions in Toronto, Vancouver and in HK as late as 2011. Gab never was in any of my classes in WYK. But he had left me with excellent memories in the last meetings. It's very sad to see such nice person leaving us so soon. He will be missed by all of us. May I offer my condolence to his family. May God bless him.

----------------------------------------------------------

Kar Wing wrote on April 24

I was quite shocked to learn of the passing away of Gabriel from Yu Fong Ying. No doubt depression immediately sets in. I still remember vividly those days in 1963 when Gabriel was working in Mongkok Police Station. He was initially working graveyard shifts there. I visited him at night there during his first few weeks on the job. He was at high spirit then but not very impressed with graveyard shifts. He thanked me for paying him visits and talked briefly about his job. These memories have been flashed back after learning the sad news.

May he rest in peace. He will always be remembered in my prayers.

----------------------------------------------------------

Compiled by Wong Hin-Shing with the assistance of Yu Fong-ying, April 23, 2013