



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

P6A - 1955-1956	F4B - 1959-1960
F1A - 1956-1957	F5B - 1960-1961
F2A - 1957-1958	F6A - 1961-1962
F3A - 1958-1959	F7A - 1962-1963

B. Class Photographs, a selection



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

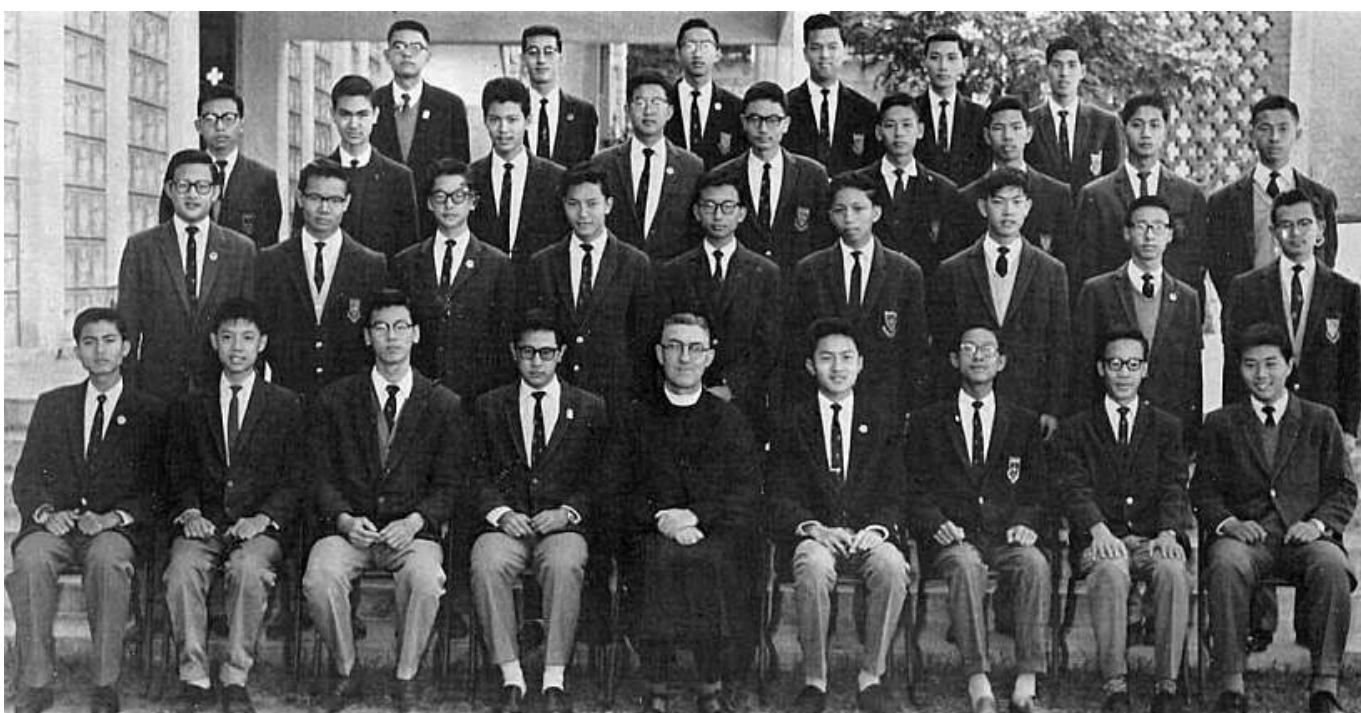


FORM II A.

F2A, 1957-1958 – 2nd row from top – 3rd left



F3A, 1958-1959 – top row – 8th left



FORM V B, 1960 - 1961

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

1. Auyang Siu Lee	歐陽兆里	21. Lai Tat Chung	黎達冲
2. Cha Mau Sing	查懋聲	22. Lam Sing Kiu	陳星橋
3. Chan Chiu Yin	陳昭賢	23. Lam Wing Cheung	林永章
4. Chan Hwung Chuen	陳宏川	24. Lau Ping Yuen	劉炳元
5. Chan Ming Lee	陳明利	25. Lee Ping Hon	李秉漢
6. Chan To Ming	陳道明	26. Lee Sing Lim, P.	李成林
7. Cheng Che Keong, M.	鄭志强	27. Lee Wen Hao	李文浩
8. Cheung Chi Keung	張志强	28. Leung Woon Chuen	梁煥泉
9. Chiu Wah Kwong	趙華光	29. Lie, Francis	李應平
10. Choy Siu Ying	蔡兆瑛	30. Liu Kwok Chi	廖國治
11. Fan Key Yam	范己任	31. Lo Kwong Chi	羅廣熾
12. Fok Kee Sau	霍其秀	32. Ng Ping Cheung	吳炳祥
13. Fung, Frank	馮 暈	33. Poon Hon Wai	潘漢偉
14. Fung Ding Keong, D.	馮定強	34. Poon Tak Ming, J.	潘德明
15. Ho Chue Kwong	何曙光	35. Sun Sai Chong	孫世昶
16. Ho Ping Kwong	何秉光	36. Sun Tai Keung	孫大強
17. Ho Shu Yip	何守業	37. Tse Chung Sang, P.	謝松生
18. Ip Kam Hung	葉錦洪	38. Tse Ting Cheung	謝鼎祥
19. Kwan Ying Wai	關英偉	39. Wu Tse Wai	吳子惠
20. Lai Ping Kuen, M.	黎炳權	40. Yang Yu Hum	楊虞鑫
		41. Yu Wan Sang	余雲生

F1A, 1956-1957

FORM III A

1. Chan Hwung Chuen	陳 宏 川	21. Lau Ping Yuen, G.	劉 炳 元
2. Chan Man Bun, K.	陳 文 彬	22. Lee Wen Hao	李 文 浩
3. Chan See Ching	陳 士 菁	23. Leung Ting Chu, F.	梁 廷 柱
4. Chan Yin Kee, G.	陳 賢 基	24. Leung Woon Chuen	梁 煥 泉
5. Chang Wei Liang, W.	張 偉 亮	25. Li Che Kim	李 自 儉
6. Chen Chia Hua, B.	陳 加 華	26. Loo Pok Wing	盧 樸 榮
7. Cheung Chi Fong, B.	張 子 方	27. Ma Kai Fai	馬 啓 輝
8. Cheung Po Kai	張 寶 綺	28. Man Chung Keung, A.	文 仲 強
9. Chiu Hoi Kow	趙 起 蛟	29. Ng Ping Cheung	吳 炳 祥
10. Chow Cheh Ming, J.	周 哲 民	30. Ng Sheung Yee	吳 尙 義
11. Choy Chun Chiu	蔡 鎮 潮	31. Ng Siu Kim	吳 小 儉
12. Choy Siu Ying, E.	蔡 兆 瑛	32. Poon Hon Wai, P.	潘 漢 偉
13. Fan Key Yam	范 己 任	33. Shen Chi Hung	沈 志 洪
14. Fok Kee Sau	霍 其 秀	34. To Hin Leung	杜 顯 亮
15. Fong Wang Bun	方 宏 濱	35. Tse Tak Fu	謝 德 富
16. Ho Sau Yip	何 守 業	36. Tseung Chun Hin, A.	蔣 振 憲
17. Hui Tak Cheung	許 德 祥	37. Yu Fong Lun	余 舫 麟
18. Lai Cham Chiu, J.	黎 湛 劍	38. Yue Fong Ying	余 晃 英
19. Lai Tat Chung, B.	黎 達 冲	39. Wong Chi Hok, B.	黃 志 鶴
20. Lai Tin Wah	黎 天 華	40. Wu Ho Mun	胡 可 滿

F3A, 1958-1959

FORM 4B (1959-1960)

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

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	18. Li Che Kim, Timothy	李自儉
2. Chan Hoi Cham	陳海湛	19. Li Fu Ping, Denis	李輔平
3. Chan Hwung Chuen	陳宏川	20. Loo Pok Wing	盧樸榮
6. Chow Hing Ming	周慶銘	21. Miu Kwok Yan, Albert	廖國仁
7. Choy Siu Ying, Ernest	蔡兆熯	22. Poon Hon Wai, Peter	潘漢偉
8. Fan Kay Yam	范己任	23. Shek Ru Hung, Robert	石如鴻
9. Ho Kar Wing	何家榮	24. Tsang Nai Kwong	曾龍光
10. Hui Man Kong	許文江	26. Wang Hok Cheong, David	王學章
11. Lam Sing Kiu, Augustine	林星橋	27. Wong Cho Yin Terence	黃祖賢
12. Lam Wing Cheung, Stephen	林水章	28. Wong Pak Cheung, David	黃伯翔
13. Lau Ping Yuen, Gabriel	劉炳元	29. Yu Fong Lung, Philip	余昉麟
14. Lau Shak Wah, John	劉石華	30. Yu Fong Ying	余晃英
15. Lee Chuen Kam, Martin	李傳錦	31. Chan Din Kwan, Francis	陳鼎鈞
16. Lee Chung Kwan	李重軍	32. Ho Shu Ying	何樹英
17. Lee Sze Too, Raphael	李士滔		

F6A, 1961-1962

D. Reunion Photos, a selection



2001, HK Reunion – 3rd left



2005, Vancouver Reunion – standing - 2nd 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 – 2nd right

E. Obituary, from the Lau Family



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.

F. Eulogy at the Memorial Mass on April 27, 2013, by Joseph Lau

[Opening]

Dear family and friends:

My name is Joseph Ting Kwong LAU, the son of Gabriel Ping Yuen LAU. Thank-you everyone for your love and support during this difficult time, especially those of you who have traveled from all over Canada to be here.

Throughout his life, my Dad was not a man who enjoyed (or would allow) people fussing over him. When he retired 9 years ago, after a 40+ year career, he refused to have a retirement lunch or party. On his last day of work, he was ordered into his Director's office to accept a plaque for service to Canada. He quietly and discreetly left the building afterwards. His actions, and doing things exceptionally well, were always reward enough.

So Dad, please forgive me as I spend a few moments sharing some stories of your wonderful and full life.

[Early Life]

Ping Yuen LAU was born to Fook Cheung LAU and Lin Tai WONG on July 17, 1942 in Hong Kong. As the youngest of 7 siblings and a boy, he was favoured by his parents.

My grandfather would bring my dad for dim sum lunch on a daily basis, even though this was during World War 2. One morning, baby Ping Yuen was being uncharacteristically fussy. Grandfather, annoyed and upset, finished his cup of tea and said "Fine, then we don't eat today!" Eerily, shortly after they left, that restaurant was bombed.

As a traditional Chinese family, there was a large extended family living together, including nieces and nephews not much younger than my father. Their most important tasks according to my Grandmother? Fetching late night snacks (most often congee or wonton soup) for Dad. Please note that tipping the delivery person was not the social custom at that time. To my cousins, I hope you snuck in a sip of that soup before delivery.

Dad was a bright and energetic boy, who spent his days running around playing in the streets of Hong Kong. One might say that my dad, although a very quick learner, was not the most studious. At the time, all final exam marks for every student were published in the daily newspapers, and strong marks were critical for entering a good secondary school. After a particularly challenging set of entrance exams, Dad thought it would be best to run away for a short while. When the newspaper was published, Dad realized that home was much better than the streets. My dad would claim that he always paid attention in class, so his test scores and good luck got him into the prestigious Wah Yan College in Kowloon, which was founded by Irish Jesuits. This was the foundation of his strong Roman Catholic faith, and why he later chose the Christian name Gabriel.

[Work Life]

Upon graduation, my father joined the Hong Kong Police Service as a Police Interpreter, translating various Chinese dialects into English. Following the footsteps of his late eldest brother, Paul Ping Wing LAU, he came to Canada on January 17, 1965 on special assignment as a translator working for Citizenship and Immigration. He first lived in Montreal, Quebec in a boarding room affiliated with a Catholic Church on Dorchester ("Now renamed Rene Levesque!" my Dad excitedly pointed out every time I mentioned Montreal). His excellent work transformed that one year assignment into a wonderful life in Canada.

Looking for more opportunities for advancement, my Dad decided to settle in Winnipeg. My father took great pride in doing things the right way, and his impeccable work was recognized by management. He often worked on special assignments. In November 1978 (shortly after I was born) my father humanely and efficiently processed 200 of 1000 Vietnamese refugees for entry to Canada who had been denied landing in Malaysia. Despite the fact that there were not many minorities in management, he retired as Assistant Manager / Operations Co-ordinator for Citizenship and Immigration - Manitoba and Nunavut regions. He was quietly very proud of what he had achieved and still kept his business card in his wallet as a memento.

My Dad officially retired in 2004. Later, he took several short term contracts at Canadian embassies and consulates in Beijing, Singapore and Hong Kong. He joked that since he

was unemployed, he REALLY needed that money. It was actually so that he and my mother could economically travel to exotic locations such as Macau, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan and all over mainland China. Plus he was really proud of his fancy red diplomatic Canadian passport.

[Family Life]

On December 15, 1973 my father married my mother, Ho Lin FUNG. Growing up in the Lau household meant two things: lots of good food, and lots of heated discussions. To the outsider, our intense verbal sparring mixed with extreme eating may have seemed like chaos, but to us there was never any doubt how much Mom and Dad loved us. My Dad expressed his affection through his actions. Before my mother graduated from nursing, he was the sole breadwinner of a young family of 5.

The year was 1982, and Cabbage Patch Kids were the very expensive MUST HAVE toy. My sisters Deborah and Cynthia begged and begged, so my father worked many double shifts to get them one each. Upon seeing my sisters with their new toys, I began to cry and cry. Despite my Dad's insistence and protest that "Boys don't need dolls!", after I shed many tears he eventually relented and worked even more extra shifts for his 4 year old son.

On May 21st, 2008 my first nephew Steven was born. My second nephew Tristan was born on January 13th, 2010. My father became a grandfather and little did he know it at the time, he would soon be starting his second career as a nanny. I was surprised that my dad became an expert diaper changer, and could now identify Thomas the Tank Engine characters. During weekdays, from 2009-2010 he took care of Steven. From 2011-2012, he took care of both Steven and Tristan, until my sister Deborah was able to find spaces in day care. To illustrate Dad's superhuman stamina, when I was home for Christmas, he asked me to care for Steven for only 2.5 hours. When my dad came home from his appointment, I was so exhausted I hid in my room and slept for the rest of the afternoon! Steven, Tristan, I want you to always remember how much Gong-gong loves you and wants you to behave and study hard.

In any situation, my Dad was always eager to help. Before Google Maps put him out of business, Dad would always write detailed instructions with carefully hand drawn maps wherever we needed to go. If we had to deal with an electrician, a plumber, or construction workers, he was always the first person we turned to for advice, or to be around to "supervise". In addition, my father was an extremely careful person with excellent math skills, and he would happily fill out any paperwork and meticulously prepare taxes for family members. He would always make sure he got full value out of the tax software he purchased.

[Hobbies]

If not for his strong Catholic values, with my Dad's English and math skills, I believe he could have very easily been a money launderer for the Triad. He enjoyed trading stocks

and would often call me excitedly to tell me about his latest investment. He also liked to engage in complicated foreign currency exchanges, and LOVED applying to credit cards to borrow money at 0% interest, or to get free electronics.

Dad loved electronics (particularly Chinese knock offs) which according to him "Yes, might not be the exact same, but it's only 1/3 the price of the genuine Apple product. And it came from the same factory!" He would spend hours upon hours tinkering to get some "hidden" feature working with his new smartphone, which after careful examination might not actually work. One of his favourite things to do was playing slot machine games on his iPod, his only genuine Apple device. (It was a gift.) He would not spend the money on himself, but kept on asking my Mom if he could buy her a genuine \$800 iPad.

[Closing]

My father's sudden passing came as a shock to all of us. He was a healthy, vibrant man who exercised daily and was not taking any medication. Recently, my dad said that when the time came, he wanted his death to be quick and with dignity. He did not want to suffer and be a burden, especially to Mom, who he loved completely and would never want to cause any hardship. Throughout his life, and in the end, he was efficient. While we are all devastated by the loss, this is exactly how he wanted to leave this world and rest in the peace of Christ.

Some words that best describe my father, Gabriel Ping Yuen LAU.

Devout Catholic. Loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather. Faithful Friend. Proud Canadian. World Traveler. Computer Expert. Animated Mall Walker. Helpful. Generous. Grateful. Organized. And Efficient.

Dad is watching over us from above, and even though this is a Mass, as usual he has surely already snuck several peeks at his latest smartphone, so I have clearly been talking too long.

Thank-you.

G. Gabriel Lau on Fr Moran

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.

(from “In Memoriam – Fr John Moran, S.J.” in the WYKAAO website)

H. 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 <WYKAAO> 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 Auyang ('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, modified Apr 27, 2013:

悼劉炳元兄

驚聞噩耗顫身心

八載同窗少斯人

張家界里風景美

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!

余晃英敬輓 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 Niagra 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 ('60), 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 wrote on April 23, 2013:

We've read the obituary at WYKAAO. The word 'gentlemanly' is exactly the one we would use to describe Gabriel.

May he rest in peace. Our condolences to Lin & Gabriel's family.

York Chen ('62) wrote on Apr 24, 2013:

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.

Ho Kar-Wing ('61) wrote on Apr 25, 2013:

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 27, 2013