



The View from Hong Kong, Dr Paul Murray (1965)

While we are into Week 8 of lockdown in the UK (with some easing in England), I asked Dr Paul Murray (1965) about his experience in Hong Kong, given that they have been through SARS previously and there is a cultural difference to our western approach of “individualism”.



“In Hong Kong, there is sense of collective responsibility and self-preservation too. This was evident during SARS when people masked up quickly and public sanitisation was energetically applied to handles, surfaces, lifts, etc.

"During the Coronavirus outbreak, there has been no lockdown here, personal hygiene

is paramount and everyone wears masks in public, and whilst borders are not entirely closed, travel is very restricted.

“Despite the sense that the worst is over, masks are still widely worn, though 'distancing' is more relaxed than a week or two ago. I'm working at the Airport Clinic and note there are some more flights mainly around Asia but also a few to UK, USA and Canada.

“I do believe that wearing masks routinely and early on has been a huge factor in controlling/limiting the severity/spread.”

To date, Hong Kong statistics from Worldometers.info state: 1,051 cases with 4 deaths and 168,291 tests.

If you would like to contribute a view from your part of the world, please let us know at: alumni@staloyisius.org

David McKenzie (1960) Travels through Technology

Looking back, I have been always interested in technology and, in particular, innovation. From age 12, computers already fascinated me, even if I wasn't sure exactly what they were. In 3rd year, working after school with one of the science teachers, we repaired a television, just a couple of years after transmissions started. A school trip to the STV Transmitter at Blackhill spurred me on and I knew I wanted to be involved in something that would combine technology and finding solutions.



David spoke to our S5 Higher Computing Class in December 2019

Joining IBM as a computer programmer, every day was filled discovering more about how computers worked, how to code and use them to change how we worked and how we thought; by age 23, I could code in 11 programming languages on 4 different computer architectures. I seemed to have a natural gift for working with this fast moving technology, and could see new ways that computers could change business.

By 1969, I was sent to North Carolina as part of the team developing advanced database and communications software, both firsts for that time. Then onto the European Manufacturing Centre in Munich, with my young family, where I spent a very happy 5 years, professionally and personally. This is where I made the bridge from technology to marketing and really understood how advanced technology could assist in solving intractable business problems.

A major step was when I joined the global team developing solutions to interact with images instead of text – aimed initially at engineers and called “computer graphics”. This led to a spell in New York where I was European Product Manager for Graphics Systems, bringing me into contact with the amazing team who had developed the IBM PC, the world's first Personal Computer, as we developed the very first workstations for engineers and scientists.

By the late 80s, I was privileged to lead the UK, and subsequently the European team, developing and marketing the latest range of powerful workstations and servers at the leading edge of technology. Able to use the emerging internet and run applications written for other systems, these were the forerunners of today's apps.

By the mid-90s, customers were asking about using emerging mobile phone technology instead of desk based workstations, resulting in me heading a new division in Europe, working with Nokia and others, which launched Europe's first mobile phone applications, and also led to some fun and interesting moments on BBC Tomorrow's World!

Looking back on 40 years of IBM, I may not have had a grand plan for my career, indeed some moments were haphazard. I believe it was the drive and passion for innovation in its best form that pushed my career enabling me to work on some of the most advanced IT projects of the 1980s and 1990s. Bringing skilled, motivated people together to work on complex issues, being outcome focused, solving real pressing problems to make people's lives better – is the thread that pulls my narrative together.

Brainteaser

Last week's brainteaser was "In which year was Rugby introduced to the College and under which Head Master?" The winner is Ennis O'Donnell with 1952 and Fr Lakeland. Congratulations, a St Aloysius' jumper is yours!

In John McCabe's History of the College (p165), tells that "in 1951, Fr Lakeland allowed the boys in the two top classes to have one afternoon every fortnight for games and when rugby was introduced to the school the following year, these periods were used for introducing and coaching."

This week's brainteaser:

What does our current Head Master, Matthew Bartlett, have in common with the College's longest-serving Head Master, Fr Eric Hanson SJ, who was Head Master from 1905-26?

Answers as usual to alumni@staloyisus.org. This week's prize is your choice of a St Aloysius' mug or tie!

On This Day ...

Happy birthday to any of our OAs who celebrate their birthday today, 13 May.

Other eminent Taurean personalities who share the same birthday are Selina Scott and Stevie Wonder.

Did you know that, on this day, in the year:-

- 1568 Mary Queen of Scots' army is defeated by a much smaller force under the Regent, the Earl of Moray, at the Battle of Langside.
- 1917 First appearance of Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal
Winston Churchill says "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat" in his first speech as Prime Minister to British House of Commons
- 1940 First-ever race of the Formula 1 World Drivers Championship is run at Silverstone, England and won by Giuseppe Farina of Italy in an Alfa Romeo
- 1950
- 1958 The trade mark Velcro is registered
- 1966 The Rolling Stones release "Paint it Black" in the UK
- 1981 Pope John Paul II is shot and critically wounded by Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca in St Peter's Square, Vatican City

Jokes of the Week

"A few decades ago we had Johnny Cash, Bob Hope and Steve Jobs. Now we have no Hope, no Cash and no Jobs.

Please don't let Kevin Bacon die!"

Bill Murray

Why on earth do people say things like 'my eyes aren't what they used to be.'

So what did they used to be? Ears? Wellington boots?"

Billy Connolly

Laugh of the Week

[Just One More Turn ...](#)

Reflections

He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven

*Had I the heaven's embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half-light;
I would spread the cloths under your feet;
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.*

W. B. Yeats

Today we mark the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Two of three children who witnessed the visions died in the global 'flu pandemic in 1919 and 1920 (aged 10 and 9) at a time when we did not have the medical knowledge, levels of care or the globally connecting technology that we all rely on today.

We gave thanks to the dedicated nursing staff on International Nurses Day on Tuesday 12th May, and keep in our thoughts and prayers those who are isolated, are ill, have lost loved ones, those in the caring professions, or who are involved in scientific research, and in positions of leadership around the world.

AMDG

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