A New Balance in China
Sharing Their Wisdom

The Business and Economics Association HKUSU recently visited The Hon Charles Lee Yeh-kwong, GBM, GBS, OBE, JP and The Hon Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, GBS, JP.

An Honorary Graduate of HKU, Mr. Lee was a founder of Woo Kwan Lee & Lo, a major Hong Kong law firm. His public service has included membership of the Executive Council, and chairmanship of the Council of the Open University, Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, Exchanges and Clearing Limited, and Arts Festival Society Limited.

Describing Hong Kong’s competitive edge and comparisons with Shanghai, Mr. Lee cited our city’s strong rule of law and independent judiciary, the absence of foreign exchange controls, simple tax regulations, low taxes on corporate and personal earnings and good infrastructure. These attract many people – especially financial professionals – to Hong Kong. On the other hand, Mr. Lee queried whether Shanghai’s Free Trade Zone was truly free. “Although Shanghai has advantages, it may take years before it catches up with Hong Kong as a financial hub.”

However, Mr. Lee said Hong Kong should not be complacent. Its limited land and resources and high property prices reduce its appeal to overseas investors. “The general atmosphere doesn’t welcome Mainland investors. This is curbing the investments of Chinese companies and state-owned enterprises in Hong Kong.” He added that the educational system did not cater well for the children of expatriates either.
As for the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF), Mr. Lee expressed concern about the huge financial burden of supporting Hong Kong’s ageing population. "Like any kind of investment, the MPF involves risks. There are only three ways to prepare for retirement. These are saving from your salary, the MPF and social security," he said.

Finally, Mr. Lee mentioned two aphorisms from the I Ching that had influenced his life. They are "never settle for less" in terms of one’s expectations about oneself, and "be lenient and merciful" when dealing with others.

Also emphasising Hong Kong’s competitive advantages, Mr. Tsang, the President of the Legislative Council, said he always believed in building a better Hong Kong, and he felt we shouldn’t relax. Instead, we should work together to do more to excel and improve continuously in an era of growing competition.

He commented that the government should participate more in areas such as housing, which is very expensive, and that the educational system should be further upgraded. Referring to the economy, he asked: "Why do we have to limit ourselves to the service industry? The service industry is often severely affected by external economics. I would prefer for us to discover new industries through more creative and serious experiments and research, like South Korea does. This will push Hong Kong’s development forward."

Mr. Tsang began his career as a teacher. "But after teaching for several years, some friends influenced me to become active on social issues. Gradually, I became interested in the development of Hong Kong and the Mainland. I established a political party and was elected as its chairman."

Asked about his motto in life, Mr. Tsang cited the famous Serenity Prayer. "It says, God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to distinguish between the two. To me, the most important words are ‘wisdom to distinguish between the two’."
Thirty-five pairs of mentors and mentees and faculty members were at HKU to inaugurate the 2014 FBE Mentorship Programme in January.

This faculty-based programme provides a platform for students to enhance their transferable skills and professional knowledge, and gain support in their career development through one-on-one relationships with mentors who possess considerable experience in the business sector.

Apart from learning from the achievements of their mentors, the programme helps mentees establish and clarify their personal and career goals, understand the expectations of potential employers, and develop the skills needed to excel. It also enables them to extend their business and personal networks.
Mentors’ sharing:

Dr. Kate Kwan
[MFin, 2003]

“This might sound like a joke, but true story. Even though I am a ‘senior’ alumni leader, given my ‘younger than real age’ look, I encounter situations where I could see the real-self of the young people that I met. Very often, they expect senior leaders to be old and different. While my age and position at a well-known investment bank confirm my seniority and being “old”, quite often youngsters misunderstand and think that I am one of their peers. There was a time where I joined the Orientation Dinner for MFin and MEcon programmes, and one of the students tried to snatch my seat. I frankly did not mind that because I took that as a compliment of being able to ‘look’ young. However, a world of advice to younger generation: (moral of the story) do not judge a person by the look, Steve Jobs never worn suits in presentations and yet he was so successful. Similarly a person looks young doesn’t mean he/she is not important. Respect everyone including your peers. At the end of the day, if you just stay at where you are, and if others take their chance and move forward, you will be behind your peers very soon.”

Mr. Francis Cheng
[MBA, 2008]

“The HKU FBE Mentorship Programme provides a unique opportunity to establish rapport with Gen-Y mentees and mentors. It is an effective platform in enhancing mentors’ understanding about the way of thinking of university students and also in exposing the mentees to the working culture in real business environment and dynamics in a number of industries. I highly appreciate the initiative of this programme.”

Mentee’s sharing:

Miss Jackie Connor
[B Econ & Fin, Year 2]

“My mentorship experience can be summarised in a whatsapp message: ‘I’m in the mood for cheese sticks.’ If taken literally, I should perhaps add that my mentor and I were also in the mood for parmesan fries, diet coke, and tea in the evening after we finished our respective jobs. Yet, the true meaning lies in the nature of our messages and meetings. Like the shape of our food, sticks, we are frank, sharp, and to the point. We have outlined goals and crafted agendas. Yet, like fries, which are commonly eaten with friends and family, we were casual. We discussed family, the news, politics, and I even was able to visit his synagogue. Hopefully by the end of the year, we’ll be able to successfully claim to have a bond like the gooey cheese that connects the two halves of each cheese stick.”
BGS Inducts New Members

Ninety-one students, one faculty member and two chapter honorees were inducted as members of BGS during the Beta Gamma Sigma HKU Chapter Induction Ceremony 2014 held in the Convocation Room in April, 2014.

After welcoming those present, Professor Eric Chang inducted Professor Patrick Chau, Director of School of Business, Padma and Hari Harielra Professor in Strategic Information Management and presented the chapter honoree plaques to Ms. Vivian Lau, the CEO of Junior Achievement Hong Kong, and Mr. Weber Lo, Citi Country Officer & CEO, Hong Kong and Macau, Citibank N.A.

When she addressed the student inductees, Ms. Lau discussed the meaning of integrity. As she described it, the word meant complete, whole, integrated, uncorrupted, and of sound mind. More than simple honesty, it is about being very righteous in our souls as well as in our actions. It is the key to enduring success. Ms. Lau stressed that integrity was not something you possessed or didn’t possess; rather, it was an amazing development journey and a personal choice. She encouraged BGS members not to expose their hearts and souls in ways that could leave them open to attack.

For his part, Mr. Lo pointed out that there were three mega-trends in the world today: globalisation, urbanisation and digitalisation. These are transforming the business world and the ways many sectors managed their businesses. Mr. Lo urged members to prepare for opportunities that would allow them to stand out in a challenging world. He believed that opportunities had always been and would always be around, but they would be reserved for people who were well prepared. Opportunity favours well-organised minds.
Events

Banking on the Future

The 2013-2014 University of Hong Kong – Citibank University Banking Course was held from January to April.

A total of 49 second-year students from the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) and non-FBE students who are pursuing a major or minor offered by the FBE enrolled for the course, which is now in its tenth year. Four of them – Jennifer Elizabeth, Aaron Teng Liu, Luvina Wei Lu Yao and Alex Chak Long Yuen – were awarded Outstanding Achievement Awards, which came with a summer internship at Citibank Hong Kong.

Speaking at the ceremony, Professor Shew-Ping Chow, HKU’s Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (University Relations) commented that the course had been successfully developing and producing talent in the financial services sector.

Mr. Weber Lo, Citi Country Officer & Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong and Macau said, “What makes this banking course unique is that it is being taught by our [Citi’s] senior bankers, who are best qualified to provide an insider’s view of the real banking world. Their unparalleled knowledge and experience make the course all the more relevant to those students who are interested in pursuing a career in banking.”

CEO Forum

A Frontrunner In The Corporate World

Mr. T. Brian Stevenson, Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), a non-executive director of the MTR Corporation and an advisor to British Telecom in the Asia Pacific region, was the guest speaker at the CEO Forum in April.

During his presentation and an interview with the moderator, Professor Ali Farhoomand, Mr. Stevenson described the innovative strategies HKJC has adopted to keep it at the forefront among similar organisations worldwide. He also spoke of its many charitable initiatives to benefit the community.

A keen sportsman, Mr. Stevenson is the President of the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union. Among many appointments in the private and public sectors, he has served as Chairman of the Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries, a director of Ocean Park, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Securities and Future Commission, as well as a member of the Public Service Commission. He is a chartered accountant, a fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Accountants of which he was President in 1996 and a member of the Scottish Institute of Chartered Accountants.

This rich experience made Mr. Stevenson’s insights about the business world and career development especially valuable to the audience.
BEST Students Start Elite Programme

The 2014 University of Hong Kong – New World Group Business Elite Students ("BEST") Programme kicked off with an Inauguration Ceremony attended by Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, the then Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Hong Kong, and senior executives of the New World Group in January, 2014.

A collaboration between the Group and the Faculty, the programme enabled students to understand the strategic management of a conglomerate through classroom lectures, discussions and site visit led by executives from the Group. They were also able to explore real-life application of management models by participating in corporate visits, study trips and corporate sustainability events.

This year, 45 students graduated from the Programme and received certificates of achievement at a ceremony officiated by Professor Peter Mathieson, HKU President and Vice-Chancellor, and Mr. Adrian Cheng, Executive Director and Joint General Manager of the New World Development Company Limited. Three of them – Howard Cheung Ho Hung, Norman Lap Man Yau and Zak Ankai Zhang – were presented with Outstanding Achievement Awards.
Alumni, graduating students and new students of the EMBA-Global Asia Programme all gathered together at a reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in May, 2014. Distinguished alumni of the HKU Business School, London Business School and Columbia Business School also joined the networking reception.

Professor Roland Chin, Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor of HKU gave welcoming remarks. Professor Chin emphasised that alumni were the backbone of the Faculty, and he encouraged alumni to return to their alma mater and share their experience and knowledge with new students. He also highlighted the value and strengths of the EMBA-Global Asia tripartite partnership that synergised knowledge and experience exchange. With alumni and current students representing more than twenty countries, the audience was a mini-United Nations.

The conversations and interactions were lively and everyone had a good time in the evening as they congratulated the graduates, welcomed the new class, reconnected with former classmates, and met new friends. We hope this will become an annual tradition as each year in May an EMBA-Global Asia class graduates and a new class begins the programme.
The talented amateur artistes of the Meng Foundation took centre stage to showcase their talents and raise funds for a worthy cause in the “Love & Dreams” 2014 New Year Charity Concert held in the Wu Wenzheng Lecture Theatre at Fudan University, Shanghai, in January, 2014.

Consisting of current IMBA students and alumni, together with Fudan IMBA teachers and staff members of the Programme Office, the cast attracted an audience of 300.

The internationalisation of the Renminbi (RMB) was the subject of an IMBA Guest Talk by Professor Frank Song, Professor of Finance and Director of the Centre for China Financial Research at HKU, which was held in the AIA Hall at Fudan University in March, 2014.

Hong Kong serves as a major offshore market for the Renminbi, which is an essential step in its internationalisation. Professor Song shared his views on the difficulties that were emerging in this process, and the event ended with a Q&A session in which the audience, who included members of the public, interacted with Professor Song and benefited from his expertise.
Student Achievements

HARVARD  China Thinks Big Competition

Date of competition: December 17, 2013
Organiser: Harvard College Association for U.S.-China Relations (HAUSCR)
Winners:
First Prize
Mr. Chu Lap Tung, B Econ & Fin, Year 2

Second Prize
Miss Leung Jessica Wing Tung, BBA, Year 2
Miss Yeung Chee Wing, BBA(IS), Year 3
Mr. Yeung Chi Sun, BBA(Acc & Fin), Year 3

EY  Young Tax Professional of the Year 2014 (Hong Kong Round) – Champion

Date of competition: March 8, 2014 to April 3 or 4, 2014
Organiser: Ernst and Young
Winner: Miss Chan Lok Ling Loretta, BBA(Acc & Fin), Year 3

HKICS  Corporate Governance Paper Competition & Presentation Award 2013

Date of competition: September 13, 2013 & September 19, 2013
Organiser: The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries
Winners:
Champion (Paper Competition)
Mr. Lau Lai Kang Tommy, LLB/BBA(Law), Year 4

1st Runner up (Paper Competition & Paper Presentation)
Miss Chen Hoi Kei Emily, BBA(Law), Year 3
Miss So Wing In Janice, BBA(Law), Year 3

2nd Runner up (Paper Presentation)
Miss Li Po Hing Afra, LLB/BBA(Law), Year 4
Miss So Wai Kwan Sophia, LLB/BBA(Law), Year 4
**KPMG Cup Case Competition 2014 - Champion**

Date of competition: April 26, 2014  
Organiser: KPMG  
Winners:  
Mr. Cheung Ka Yu, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 2  
Miss. Deng Peisi Bess, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 2  
Mr. Lau Philip, BBA(Law), Year 2  
Mr. Yu Siaoang Shawn, BBA(IS), Year 3

**McDonough Hilltop Business Strategy Challenge 2014 – Honourable Mention**

Date of competition: February 5-8, 2014  
Organiser: Georgetown University  
Winners:  
Mr. Chan Ka Ki Karl, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 3  
Mr. Kwan Ho Man, BBA(Law), Year 3  
Mr. Lee Ho Ching, BBA(Law), Year 3  
Ms. Xia Luying, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 3

**QP Case Analysis Competition 2013**

Date of competition: November 23, 2013 (Final presentation day)  
Organiser: Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants  
Winners:  
Champion  
Mr. Chan Ka Ki Karl, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 3  
Ms. Cheung Yik Wung, BBA, Year 3  
Ms. Chow Lok Yan Jessica, BBA, Year 3  
Ms. Tian Yajing, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 3  
1st Runner-up & Best Written Report  
Ms. Wang Chuhang, B&Econ&Fin, Year 3  
Mr. Deng Dian, B&Econ&Fin, Year 3  
Mr. Zhang Jialun, BScs, Year 3 (Best Presenter)  
Ms. Zou Jingtian, B&Econ&Fin, Year 3  
2nd Runner-up & Best Written Report  
Ms. Zhang Jingxiao, BBA(Law), Year 2  
Mr. He Zhuoren, B&Econ&Fin, Year 2  
Ms. Huan Yongbei, BBA(IS), Year 2  
Mr. Li Bolun, BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 2
Dr. Wensheng Peng, Chief Economist of China International Capital Corporation Limited (CICC), shared his insights on a new balance of China’s economy at a public lecture jointly organised by the Faculty of Business and Economics at The University of Hong Kong and Beijing - Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre in March, 2014. The lecture is also supported by Chinese Students and Scholars Association at The University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Peng began the lecture by posing three challenges facing by China: slow economic growth, unbalanced economic structure and financial risks. These challenges have strong linkage to the change in demographic structure and institutional reform. One of the reasons for slow economic growth is a drop in labour force population growth. Dr. Peng pointed out that there was a sign of aging working population in China, and this would affect China’s innovation. Secondly, after China joined the WTO in 2001, it triggered a series of positive effect and accelerated economic growth. However, the unleashing of dividends has been captured over the past decades and GDP growth slowed down again. Lastly, the pressure of real estate bubble is also squeezing the real economy.
Regarding the challenge of structure imbalance, Dr. Peng attributed it to income inequality, which has resulted in over-investment and under-consumption. Over-investment increased the demand for materials such as steel and cement and caused tertiary industry to fall behind the secondary industry. This further leads to pollution and extra pressure on resources consumption. According to Dr. Peng, the basic factors of imbalanced structure arise from the combination of financial repression, tax distortion, and social welfare insecurity, declining demographic dividends and rural labour force. Dr. Peng compared China with Korea and Japan in terms of urbanisation and the release of demographic dividends. Unlike Korea and Japan, urbanisation and the dividends from demographic change came at the same time in China. The imbalanced structure will challenge China’s economy in the face of disappearing demographic dividends and declining rural labour force.

Finally, Dr. Peng talked about financial risk. Besides fast credit expansion and Renminbi appreciation, Dr. Peng said high leverage ratio in corporate and government sectors also posed challenge to a sustainable economic growth in China. He then put a lot of emphasis on real estate bubble and held a pessimistic view towards the housing market in China. In his view, strong investment demand and loose currency policy would fuel the housing bubble. He stressed that the level of supply and production efficiency were the two critical factors in promoting long-term economic growth. He believed that government intervention and economic reform were needed to promote efficiency and fairness.

Sponsored by Social Science Academic Press, each member of the audience who spoke at the Q&A session moderated by Professor Zhigang Tao was given a complimentary copy of Dr. Peng’s new book.
Scholarships Open Up New Vistas For Me

Rita Chow
[BBA(Law), 2013]

Receiving the Zonta Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships and studying at Oxford University in the UK are two incredible privileges that I am deeply grateful for.

Both the International and District Zonta JMK Scholarships are milestones in my years of study. They have opened up new avenues in my professional development. Apart from the joy and honour of being chosen as one of the 12 international scholarship recipients among other worthy candidates worldwide, I am encouraged to step forward to commit myself passionately to the Hong Kong community. I am also offered a chance to increase my business and legal knowledge. These prestigious accolades have given me a glimpse of what I can attain with high aspirations, courage and perseverance.

The Zonta JMK Scholarships programme was established in 1998 to encourage undergraduate women to enter careers and seek leadership positions in business-related fields. Ultimately, it seeks to influence business decisions that positively affect women by increasing their numbers in executive positions in the field of business management. Women enrol in a business programme and who demonstrate outstanding potential with initiative, ambition and commitment to pursuing a career in business are eligible for the Scholarships.

Another incredible experience for me was to be chosen as a visiting student in Law at Oxford University, with the support of HSBC Overseas Scholarships. I felt driven to spend a year studying at Oxford by the same ambition that inspired me to enrol at HKU: to achieve “impossibilities”. I wish to increase my capabilities by meeting the best scholars in an international setting.

As the world’s top education institution with unsurpassed learning resources, the University has always been a place where I have dreamed of challenging myself as a student. Its established status in legal education has led me to focus my year of study there on such subjects as Competition Law and Labour Law. I have a strong interest in these areas, and I wish to gain an international perspective that I can refer to during my future practice in Hong Kong.

Living and studying in the UK has allowed me to immerse myself in a new and exciting culture, and to gain exposure to challenging and invaluable opportunities that are unavailable in Hong Kong. It is deeply heart-warming to be able to accomplish my goals and develop myself among some of the world’s brightest brains at this elite institution.

To meet tight assignment deadlines, I usually spend my weekends reading in the libraries, drafting essays and preparing for tutorials. The University’s one-to-one tutorial study system has put me on a steep learning curve through self-study and intense interaction with respected scholars. Despite this challenging process, the outcome is undoubtedly worthwhile, and it is a
constructive way to build up my personal perspectives on critical issues.

Besides my studies, one of my most memorable experiences has been my commitment to my college hall, during which I have had to work with foreign staff members to manage events in a professional western dining setting. On top of gaining practical knowledge of entrepreneurship, this work experience has strengthened my client servicing and teamwork skills in a multicultural and multilingual environment which are essential for developing my career in the future.

During the Easter break I was able to fulfil my dreams by travelling for 40 days on a tour of nine European countries: Italy, France, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany.

Being awarded the JMK Scholarships and studying at Oxford University both serve as ideal foundation for me to achieve even bigger goals when I graduate from HKU in 2015. Although I am not yet certain about what my exact position in the world will be, I am determined to contribute to Hong Kong’s business and legal sectors, and to work towards the creation of a sustainable community that will advance the interests of its citizens by aligning them with the city’s growth.
Learning About China’s Economic Development

A group of FBE students have participated in the China Economic Development Study Tour in Guangzhou organised by the Sun Hung Kai Properties-Kwok’s Foundation and the Hong Kong United Youth Association. This one-week tour featured various site visits of museums and the mainland infrastructures, lectures at Sun Yat-sen University and social networking activities.

Tommy Kwok Leung CHAN
BBA (Law), Year 3

“The experience enhanced my understanding of the mainland’s social, political and economic development.”

Joseph Hui Yat CHAU
B Econ&Fin, Year 2

“Looking back at the eight-day study tour, I can sum it up in two words: ‘fruitful’ and ‘joyful’ learning about a city’s economic development should not be restricted to books and theories. Seeing and experiencing a city’s atmosphere is an even better way to understand it.”
Jin Hao CHEN  
BBA, Year 3

“The study tour was fun and enriching. It was an extremely rare opportunity for us to interact directly with Chinese official. His profound knowledge of philosophy and management made the dialogue with the Mayor of Fo Shan interesting and rewarding.”

Hooi Jia NG  
BBA(Acc&Fin) Year 3

“As a Malaysian, I felt ashamed about my lack of an in-depth knowledge of my own country. Other than increasing my familiarity with Chinese culture and Guangzhou’s development from a small village, the study tour also made me realise just how important culture is.”

Louisa Luying XIA  
BBA (A&F), Year 3

“Besides the knowledge and experience we gained, the friendships I developed with other students were the study tour’s greatest benefits for me. I learnt a lot and enjoyed the study tour immensely, and my friends have really lit up my life.”
Fulfilling Experiences at Student Leadership Forum

Two FBE students joined Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) members from around the world at the BGS Student Leadership Forum. The Forum was held in St. Antonio, Texas, USA, in February, 2014.

Brian Chu  
[BBA(Law), Year 3]

A Dream Come True

“Although it lasted only a few days, the Forum meant much more to me than just “a few days in San Antonio”. In fact, it was a series of marvellous events with lots of great people.

I went without any preconceived ideas, and I was delighted to find the Forum was just what I have been longing for for years. It was a dream come true. I’m interested in American-style leadership literature as leisure reading, and I’ve been captivated by its ideas. And I had always wanted to receive face-to-face leadership training.

The Forum sessions were comprehensive. They covered leading yourself, leading others, and being led. I was particularly impressed by an interactive session called “The Power of Your Influence: Leadership Skills that Make a Powerful Difference”. The speaker put us into a hypothetical scenario where we were hunting in a jungle. As leaders, we had to make decisions that would enable us to achieve the results we most desired within a highly dynamic situation.

It was so much fun, and we learnt that, as leaders, the decisions we make when we are entrusted or entrust others to do something have a big effect on all the other stakeholders. An in-depth understanding of this great influence is crucial to our success as effective leaders.

The Forum also trained us to be ethical leaders. The ethical leadership session was short but powerful. In a step-by-step case study, we put on the shoes of a CEO. The idea that “good people make bad decisions” is a thought-provoking one. Unethical or bad decisions are not usually made by bad people but by ordinary people. I learnt to be more cautious when I make decisions myself or when I audit the decisions of others.

Also, leadership is not something you can acquire solely through training sessions. The Forum was a precious opportunity for us to learn different leadership styles from brilliant students from around the world. All the students were the smartest in their own schools, and they radiated leadership and confidence. What impressed me the most was their determination to pursue their dreams. A student proudly told everyone in the room about her dream during a sharing session, even though it was quite a personal one. Her courage to share and pursue that dream was really admirable.

The weekend was short, but the limited time was a catalyst for students to communicate more deeply. We shared our goals, life stories and even views about the world or the places we live in. The local students came from different parts of the US, and they had unique insights about local affairs that I had never heard before.

I found it especially encouraging to know that another young student from miles away around the globe had been sharing a very similar life goal as mine for many years. Meeting all these great students was a mind-opening experience. It was really a pleasure to represent my university in exchanging ideas with them.

The Forum speakers were as committed and friendly as the student participants. They were always around after the sessions or during meal breaks. One of my best conversations at the conference was with one of the speakers, an Organisational Behaviour professor from the University of Texas at Austin. It happened on the bus trip to a Texas ranch for a social event. He discussed how a leader can use the theory of different personalities in various ways and in different settings. His consulting experience made his sharing unique and much more practical than anything I could learn in a purely academic Organisational Behaviour course.

All in all, the Student Leadership Forum was a very precious experience. As one speaker put it, “The inspiration from the conference may not impact you hugely right afterwards, but it will sow essential seeds of leadership in your future.”
Angel NG  
[BBA(Acc&Fin), Year 3]

Fresh Inspiration about Leadership and Life

"I was honoured to have the chance to travel to San Antonio, Texas, with my schoolmate Brian to meet up with other top students from around the world and represent my university at this year's Student Leadership Forum.

It was a remarkable journey, especially as it was the first time I had been to the US. The comprehensive three-day programme consisted of workshops, talks and interactive activities. It gave me fresh inspiration, not just about leadership, but also about life.

The first speaker when we arrived was Tim Clipson, President and Co-Founder of Life Inc. He mentioned three essential elements we had to keep in our lives: to read, to write, and to reflect, with an emphasis on the last. During our days there, instead of being led, we were leading the activities by giving speeches in groups, talking among ourselves about what leadership meant to us, and what kinds of leaders we wanted to be. Guidelines were given, and we were also given plenty of free time for us to think and present our thoughts.

For example, in an opening activity, we were provided with materials such as cards, tapes and scissors, to build our own "Models of Leadership" with exactly six leadership traits we considered ultra-important. We learnt about so many leadership skills through this activity, and it provided a chance for us to reflect on the most critical ones in life.

Nearly half of the activities were group ones. We were asked to play a game in which we had to figure out ways to cross a 12 x 12-square maze without touching certain squares. It was a common game I had often played at other events. Yet this time it was a brand-new experience for me because, in the past, my companions had mainly been from the same culture. Now, I was in the minority among a big group of Americans who were more proactive and very willing to speak up and think out loud. We came up with some great ideas together, and we engaged so deeply in the game that we even took off our shoes when we were doing the markings! I enjoyed working with these new friends a lot, and learning from their good qualities.

My favourite session was on the last day. It was a full-day workshop entitled "Learning to Read the Signs" and "Own Who You Are", conducted by Alyssa Preston, a professional communication architect. She kicked off the workshop by telling us about her personal life and the "signs" that popped up at different times that led to changes of her path.

The workshop was not just about listening to Alyssa. We each figured out our own problems in life, who we wanted to be, and how we could achieve that. I was especially impressed by one session when we had to use only pictures, not words, to express our vision and our fears. For myself, I have always wanted to be both a career coach and a fighter for women’s rights in Asia’s male-dominated countries. My vision impressed the other members of my group when it was presented to all the participants in the forum. I was also deeply touched by the stories of others and the dilemmas they faced in their lives.

No forum is complete without leisure activities. Apart from the hotel where most of the activities were held, we were invited on an exclusive visit to Enchanted Springs Ranch, a stunningly gorgeous piece of Texas Hill Country that is frequently used as a movie set. There, we dined on traditional American Western food, and enjoyed an exciting shooting and whip performance. It was a wonderful experience.

In fact, the Forum was not just about spending three days in the US. We took away even more from it to share with others. There were over 80 participants there, and we did not know each other when we arrived. But after just three days all of us left feeling we had made some good new friendships. I believe the incredible teamwork we experienced contributed to that. I am amazed by the closeness of these friendships, and we plan to exchange visits to one another’s homelands in the future!"
Embracing Spring on Lamma Island

To mark the beginning of the spring season, alumni and friends joined together on a breezy day in March, 2014 for a tour on the picturesque Lamma Island. The tour featured a relaxing 2.5-hour Family Trail walk. We started at Yung Shue Wan where alumni bought homemade mango glutinous rice balls and ice lollies, and stopped by at the famous beancurd jelly kiosk before climbing up the mountain to the 71-metre Lamma Winds and Hilltop Pavilion. The tour was perfectly wrapped up by a seafood lunch.

Discover the Mystery of Sweet Delicacy

The Chocolate tasting workshop by Goossens Chocolatier, a famous Belgian brand, was successfully held in April, 2014. The professional chocolatier led our alumni to go through the sweet journey of 13 types of raw and handmade chocolates. While the chocolatier explained chocolate and coffee were used to be a classic combo, the happy crowd enjoyed a complimentary cup of signature coffee blended by award-winning barista.
HKUEFPA New Committee and High Table Dinner

The Fifth AGM of the HKUEFPA was successfully held in January, 2014 and a new committee was elected:

Chairman: Mr. Leslie Tay [M Econ 2013]
Vice Chairman: Mr. Derek Chen [M Econ 2012]
Secretary: Ms. Shan Tong [M Fin]
Treasurer: Mr. Geng Heng [PhD]
Immediate Past Chairman and Honorary President: Dr. Kate Kwan [M Fin 2003]
Student Affairs Officers: Mr. Sicong Lin [M Econ], Ms. Yueyue Tang [M Econ], Ms. Weina Jin [M Econ]
Alumni Affairs Officers: Mr. Kevin Tu [M Econ 2013], Ms. Sherry Luo [M Fin 2013], Mr. Shawn Yee [M Econ]
External Affairs and Marketing Officers: Ms. Wenting Jia [M Fin], Mr. Jefferson Sun [M Fin 2013], Mr. Zhipeng Cai [PhD]

The HKU Economics and Finance Postgraduates Association (HKUEFPA) and the School of Economics and Finance organised its 7th High Table Dinner at the Hong Kong Jockey Club’s Happy Valley Racecourse in April, 2014. More than 100 students and alumni from the M Econ, M Fin, MBA and PhD programmes joined the Dean, Professor Eric Chang, and other members of the Faculty for a wonderful evening of dining, networking and intellectual exchanges. The Guest of Honour, Mr. Roy Lo, Deputy Managing Partner of Shinewing (HK) CPA Limited, delivered a keynote speech about the impact of new regulations on Hong Kong’s capital markets.

Platform for Bright Minds

Three years after their graduation, Mr. Johnny Leung [MBA, 2010] and Mr. Tom Engel [MBA, 2010], have set up a social networking website “ContactAsia”, aiming at forging stronger social connections for Asia-based alumni from top business schools. A Local Key Contact network in Asia has already been established.

A sharing event - “Business Education & Entrepreneurship Story” was successfully held in March.

For more details on their events, let’s check out www.ContactAsia.net.
Mr. Zi Xiang CHEN  
(MEcon, 2013)

A team of top scientists and experienced management veterans that I formed has created Vitargent, which we aim to develop into Asia’s leading biological platform for innovative testing solutions to enhance the safety of everyday consumer products, such as food, cosmetics and drugs, and to protect the environment. Its core technology is a patented type of transgenic fish that light up with green fluorescence when it detects toxins. Up to 60 per cent faster and less expensive than traditional testing procedures, the procedure has been endorsed by international testing organisations, world-leading cosmetics groups, and various government departments. We have now expanded Vitargent’s offerings beyond transgenic fish testing to include other profitable service lines, including species identification, DNA sequencing, and genetically modified food testing and chemo-sensors.

Ms. Carmen Ka Man CHEUNG  
(MBA, 2010)

Deeply inspired by what I learnt in the Entrepreneurship class in the HKU MBA, I decided to quit my job and start a new business: the Our Gym Children’s Fitness Centre. This offers a baby gym, baby massage, kids’ yoga classes and birthday parties. We will enter the Singapore and Mainland China markets within the next three years. Please give us your support!
Mr. Zenki KWAN  
(MFin, 2003)

In March 2014, I organised a mountaineering trip to Sabah, Malaysia, together with Ivan Chan (MFin 2013, top right), Jessie Yiu (MFin 2013, top left) and two other friends. I am in the bottom row on the left. On day one, we climbed 3,300 metres up Mt. Kinabalu, Southeast Asia’s highest mountain. Then we woke up at 2:00 am on day two in order to spend another four hours to reach Low’s Peak in time to watch the sunrise at an altitude of 4,095.2 metres at 6:00 am. It was a life-changing experience in which all five of us developed a strong team spirit by overcoming many difficulties along the trail.

Mr. Jeff LU  
(MBA, 2004)

With my bachelor’s degree in Communication Engineering and more than four years’ experience with Alcatel-Lucent’s Chinese flagship company, I joined HKU as a full-time MBA candidate in 2003 and became active in its activities. After graduating with distinction in 2004, I took up various positions with increasing responsibilities in 3M, as well as Parker Hannifin. These mainly involved sales and marketing, business management, internal consulting and corporate strategy. I am now Senior Manager, Corporate Strategy and Planning, at 3M China and Hong Kong, and we celebrated the arrival of our first baby in April 2014!
Ms. Karen MOK (BBA, 2012)

Unlike my fellow classmates, I chose to start my career in aviation rather than in the finance industry. I was rotated to various departments during the first year of my Graduate Trainee programme, and I even got the chance to go onto the taxiway and wave goodbye to the pilots before their aircraft took off! Now, I work in the Commercial department, where I am mainly responsible for finding new business opportunities, and managing operators’ contracts and customer relationships. It is always fascinating to watch aircraft take off. It makes me wonder where I will be going next.

Ms. Wing Wing NG (MBA, 2011)

Although I enjoyed a good career path in the corporate world, my biggest dream was always to start and develop my own business. At the end of 2012, the chance to realise this dream came along when I met my business partner. Supported by our combined 40 years’ experience in the beauty and skincare industry, we have now developed our own formulas and launched a new brand of products. PUUR Skincare, this caters for acne and other types of skin problems, such as facial allergies. The process of producing our own products and establishing a new brand has been very different from working as a marketer in a company. It is complicated and sometimes frustrating, but it has been a really fun learning experience. We try, we learn and we grow! We hope our PUUR products will become even more successful in the years to come.

Mr. Joe TO (MBA, 1998)

I graduated from the MBA programme in 1998, and my daughter, Denise, was admitted to the LLB programme in Sept 2013. It will be a great pleasure to have two generations of HKU alumni in our family. Denise is enjoying her life at HKU, and she is actively involved in the HKUSU’s Law Association.
Mr. Alex Ho Hei TONG  
(MEcon, 2013)

I’ve just taken up my new position as a Cathay Pacific Airways Cadet Pilot, and I went to Adelaide, Australia, to start a 55-week pilot training course in May. I’ve always had a great desire to work in the aviation industry, especially as a pilot. I can feel the excitement of flying coursing through my veins, and I’m looking forward to taking to the skies soon!

Mr. Calvin Mingmin ZHANG  
(IMBA, 2013)

After selling my own start-up company to investors in August 2013, I left Shanghai to pursue my interest in advanced technology and relocate my family by joining Queen’s University in Canada as a chemical engineering master student. Thanks to the teaching, presentations, opportunities and training during the IMBA programme, up until March 2014, I had completed 3.5/4.0 master’s courses with an average grade of above A. I am proud to work as a Research Assistant in the lab and as a Teaching Assistant in Queen’s University, which requires me to give tutorials in front of about 100 fourth-year undergraduates.

School of Business

Marketing

Dr. Helen WANG

* Assistant Professor in Marketing
* PhD - W. P Carey School of Business, Arizona State University
* MBA - The University of Hong Kong
* BA - Southeast University, China
Faculty of Business & Economics
HERE WE ARE!

CONTACT

Let’s stay connected with FBE by updating your contact details in our database. Please send us your name, graduating year and programme, email, contact number and mailing address to fbealumni@hku.hk.