

New & Fresh

China Earthquake: HKU Action

Members of HKU express the deepest concern about people in Sichuan who lost family members and livelihood because of the 512 Earthquake, and are still working hard reconstruction.

Under the leadership of Professor Chow Shew Ping, our Pro-Vice-Chancellor, a HKU Roundtable on Sichuan Earthquake was formed. This is a loose network of members of HKU who wish to contribute to the relief and reconstruction of Sichuan in the form of research, policy, service and education. Please check out its activities at the website "China Earthquake: HKU Action": <http://www.hku.hk/chinaearthquake>.

In August, The University of Hong Kong signed a memorandum with the Beijing Normal University (BNU) to establish a Catastrophe Management Initiative (CMI) which aims to promote collaboration between the two universities on research, policy recommendations and service learning in the process of Sichuan reconstruction.



(From left) Professor Cecilia Chan, Si Yuan Professor in Health and Social Work, Director of the Centre on Behavioral Health, HKU; Professor Chow Shew Ping, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, HKU and Dr. Braven Zhang Qiang, Research Professor, Institute of Social Development and Public Policy, BNU and Secretary-General, Wenchuan Earthquake Taskforce, jointly announce a partnership in a large-scale CMI in response to the Sichuan Earthquake.

What's on @ CEDARS (First Semester of 2008-2009)

Events	Organised by	Date, Time & Venue	Event Highlights	Contact	Website
Person Enrichment Workshops	CEDARS - Counselling and Person Enrichment	Sept 24 - Nov 22	Training workshops that address intellectual, emotional and social proficiency areas offered to help you enhance personal strengths	cedars-counselling@hku.hk	http://w3.cedars.hku.hk/counselling/programmes.php
Life Investment Series - Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence		Oct 2 1 - 2pm Room 302, Chong Yuet Ming Amenities Centre	Sharing session by Ms Mary Cheung (former Miss Hong Kong and a versatile artist). Ms Cheung will share with you her aesthetic concepts and attitude towards life through an exhibition of her works of photography.	cedars-counselling@hku.hk	http://w3.cedars.hku.hk/counselling/programmes.php
International Day of Peace	The University of Hong Kong and Rotary International District 3450	Sept 21 2pm - 5:30pm Loke Yew Hall	The International Day of Peace is a way to connect students of all ages with people and events globally to construct a peaceful and sustainable world. A Celebration Ceremony and Public Forum will be organised. Mr Khalid Malik, UN Resident Co-ordinator - China, will be the guest of honour at the event.	2857 8387 cedars-programmes@hku.hk	
Social Enterprise Summit - Innovations, Entrepreneurship and Social Change [社企民間高峰會 - 創新-企業家精神及社會變革]	CEDARS - Student Development	Nov 17 - 23	A series of events, including a symposium on "Social Entrepreneurship & Social Change", will be organised to enhance the development of social enterprise in Hong Kong.	cedars-programmes@hku.hk	

What's on @ HKU Student Societies (First Semester of 2008-2009)

Events	Organised by	Date, Time & Venue	Event Highlights	Contact	Website
Orientation Night	China Education Association (CEA), HKUSU	Sept 18 7pm CYM G01	All students who would like to know more about education in China and our association are welcome.	Lam Chi-ho (9243 6993)	
Hand-In-Hand Big Brother Big Sister Mentorship Scheme [大哥哥·大姐姐攜手成長計劃]	World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles-Hong Kong, HKUSU (World CARP)	From Sept onwards (for the whole semester)	To provide guidance to the youths academically and to serve as their guiding angel for their growth	Sharon (9644 2588) wcarphk@hku.hk	
Tea Gathering World CARP [迎新+聚舊] 茶聚		Sept 26 CYM G01	Meet new friends and know more about our society	Sharon (9644 2588) wcarphk@hku.hk	
Orientation Night	Union Choir, HKUSU	Sept 26 7pm - 10pm Venue: TBC	Newly recruited members can come and party with current members and know about each other.	Ada Ng (9767 3616) Vivien Ng (6874 6520) suchoir@hkusua.hku.hk	www.hku.hk/suchoir
18 th World University Students Assembly	World CARP, The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Oct 15 - 19 (reading week) Malaysia	International Youth Leadership Conference, campaign about eradication of poverty, cleaning up of rural area, building a school library and city tour	Sharon (9644 2588) wcarphk@hku.hk	
Mini Concert	Union Choir, HKUSU	Oct 31 Time: TBC Haking Wong Podium	Come and enjoy with us a delightful mini-concert, which will be a wonderful prelude to our Anniversary concert.	Dick Chan (6276 4236) Ariel Cao (6074 0581) Terris Lo (9582 0113) suchoir@hkusua.hku.hk	www.hku.hk/suchoir
Shoes-off Walkathon 2008 [赤足行2008]	CEA, HKUSU	Nov 1 2pm Haking Wong Podium to the Peak	The walkathon on bare foot to the Peak aims to raise fund for students who are in a deprived situation in the Guangdong Province in China to complete their high school education.	Lau Sum-sung (6208 2281)	
Annual Performance 2008 [週年音樂會2008]	Union Philharmonic Orchestra, HKUSU	Nov 22 8pm Shatin Town Hall	This is the most important concert of the year for the orchestra. The pieces include Brahms' Symphony no. 1, Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 4, etc.	Sam Kam (9325 8475) upohkusu@hku.hk	http://www.hku.hk/upohkusu
Winter Expedition Trip	CEA, HKUSU	Semester break. About a week to Huaiji County in the Guangdong Province	The expedition will provide students with an opportunity to experience the lives of students in deprived regions and to know more about their needs.	Harris Hung (9025 2693) Cheung Ka-po (9849 8328)	

The list is not exhaustive. Please visit the CEDARS website (<http://cedars.hku.hk>) and the websites of student societies for the latest programmes on the campus. Student societies interested in promoting their activities in Dialogue please contact CEDARS-Student Development at cedars-programmes@hku.hk.

dialogue



Issue 01 2008 - 2009



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New & Fresh

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The Vice-Chancellor's Message to New Students

Welcome to HKU! I would like to take a moment to introduce you to university life and offer you some ideas on how to make the most of your time with us.

First, about your new life at HKU. You are all high achievers and coming to study at HKU is obviously a very exciting thing, not just for yourself but for your parents and teachers. But adjusting to a new environment can be stressful, and at HKU, you will be challenged, stimulated and tested as never before.

For example, some of you were likely to have been the first in your class, in your school or even in your region, but here you may not be considered "number one" any more. This is one of the difficult challenges some of you may face at HKU.

Academic excellence should not be compromised – so remember to study. Having said that, acquiring knowledge in a specialised field is important, but only a part of university education. At HKU, we want you to receive an all-round education. You will quickly discover that there are a wide range of unique learning opportunities here at HKU, so take advantage of them.

Some would also say that life is about getting ahead, about winning, but university education is about more than just making yourself competitive. The HKU experience is about raising the bar for yourselves, and in doing so facing challenges and pushing yourselves beyond what you thought you could be.

As HKU students, you are expected to do better than ordinary people. You are expected to think independently, critically and deeply. Freedom of intellectual thought and personal expression are things that HKU has always stood for.

But you are also expected to be honest to yourselves, to hold the highest moral standards, and to be responsible individuals. Think about how you can develop good relations with your fellow students, teachers and hall-mates. Think about how you may contribute to the community, especially our neighbours in Western District. Think also about what you may do for the less privileged people near you and across the world.

I have nothing against being competitive, but being competitive also means having a sense of leadership, being forward-thinking, daring to try something new, taking on new challenges and being a pioneer. Let me give you a few examples to illustrate why HKU students are so outstanding.

My first example is about what our students did when they learned of the devastating earthquake in Sichuan, back in May. I was away in North America giving a lecture and when I called back to find out what HKU could do, I was told that our students had already initiated fundraising activities, even ahead of our faculty and staff! What's more, this all happened during the exam period!

Many of our students have also joined service or advocacy-learning projects in remote areas in China, and in other countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Ghana and Cameroon. They applied what they learned in the classroom to improve the conditions of the less privileged in these countries.

For instance, a group of our MBA students carried out a study on microfinance in the poorest villages in Tanzania, and then submitted a proposal to the Tanzanian Government last year. Other students who have participated in these service-learning projects have even started their own NGOs to launch projects on poverty, climate change, fair trade and AIDS, both inside and outside Hong Kong. One of our medical students created a new sponsorship programme that cares for orphans in Cameroon by paying for their educational fees.

HKU students of course are also keen creators of new knowledge and pioneers of knowledge application. Another of our medical students won the "Rising Star Award" from the International Liver Transplantation Society in 2007, after only his third year of study. He discovered a molecular link between the small grafts and higher tumour recurrence in patients who have received liver transplants from live donors. This finding has significant implications for the development of targeted therapies for liver transplant patients.

On the applied side, a team of five engineering, law and business students created an innovative electronic system for people to exchange name cards through their mobile phones. This creative and environmentally friendly idea won them the championship of a business plan competition hosted by Transcomos Inc.

HKU students also set a very high bar for themselves in other areas. Four HKU students and recent graduates are among the 34 athletes representing Hong Kong at the Beijing Olympics. Their determination has proved to others that one can excel both in academic work and sports.

My last story is about Billy Yau, a HKU student in Education, who took part in an immersion programme in Queensland, Australia. There, he lived with a host family, attended classes and took part in various student activities. So what's so special about that? Well, Billy is visually impaired, and found himself living in a culture that was not only unfamiliar, but that also expected individuals – physically-challenged or otherwise – to do things for themselves as much as possible.

Now, how inspiring is that? But we also have other students like Billy – who are not afraid of challenges and are willing to chart unknown territory. In fact, there is no shortage of pioneering spirit here at HKU. And there is never a shortage of students who dare to dream large, stand tall and make a difference.

Now that you have joined HKU, you have an opportunity to make a difference and help create a better tomorrow for everyone. So seize every opportunity, live intensively and don't be shy. Give your best, every minute.

Once again, welcome to the First and Foremost University of Hong Kong.

Cover Story



Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor

Respective journeys of freshmen

Expo Kwan Pui-chun
International Business and Global Management, Year 2

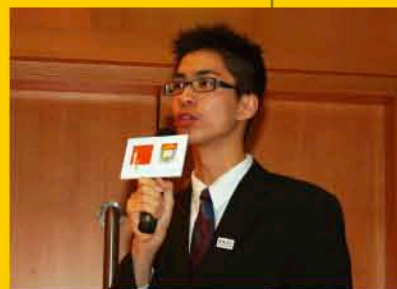
It is the beginning of another academic year again. A new batch of freshmen are setting off on their respective journeys at HKU with a considerable number of questions. Course registration? Hall residence? Student societies? Those are only part of what people call the "five must-dos" in University, which most freshmen will somehow navigate safely, despite all kinds of uncertainties and worries.

To ensure a smooth start, freshmen naturally look for their predecessors' advice. Which lecturers give higher grades? Which hall is less harsh? Which society has more romance opportunities? When it was my time, I did not even ask one question. Although kindhearted advice might make life easier in the early stages, to me it seemed a pity that the valuable opportunities learned from trial and error would be missed. To some extent, such assistance is exactly what leads us to escape from challenges and become lazy.

My first year has already passed by, and I did suffer a busy first semester by taking "3M" – a nickname for the three project-based courses that business students traditionally avoid taking together. Willingly or not, I was crazy enough to act as group leader in each of those projects, and I suffered through them! It also turned out that I only went through two of the five must-dos, having studied and worked part-time. Nevertheless, the more important part to me is that I did enjoy the process. Because of my unique experience inside and outside HKU, I have gained what is needed for me as a learner in University.

That is why I wrote in the first paragraph "their respective journeys at HKU" instead of "their journey". University is a community for different learners to explore and walk different paths, in terms of academics as well as many other aspects. It is not the same as primary or secondary school, where everything is arranged, like a single set meal, without many choices. So I will suggest to every freshman that you try out your own way. Make your journey extraordinary!

This reminds me of a famous Latin phrase by Horace: *Carpe diem*, or in English "Seize the day". Dear freshmen, do not stay in your comfort zone and do not waste your precious moments in University, but enjoy.



Expo acts as a MC at a university event.



As an "ILOPer" this year, Sally has an internship in Austria, where she joins a traditional Austrian festival and appreciates the local culture there.

Sally is one of the four HKU students to take part in the 6th ELSA Moot Court Competition on WTO Law.

Start with an open mind, a mainland student says

Sally Xu Huichao
Laws, Year 4

To me, the essence of university life lies in experience and exploration. Throughout the past three years, I have participated in various activities such as choir singing, the photography society, a summer internship at Walt Disney World, summer school in Paris, Moot Court Competition on WTO Law and Intensified Learning Opportunity Programme (ILOP) etc.

Luckily, all these activities have been made available through the University. It is how we avail ourselves of these opportunities that makes the difference. My most important motivation is not "to win", but rather "to try". For a mainland student facing an unfamiliar environment, an open mind and the willingness to accept and appreciate differences are essential pre-conditions. Hardships are inevitable, but there is always a way through, and what lies beyond is priceless. There are times when I can hardly manage everything properly, but whenever my busy life comes to a pause, I look back and realise with surprise how efficient I have been. Gradually, I have learned to live independently, make decisions, be responsible and determined, and embrace different cultures.

Be it failure or success, what I value most is the process itself. There is always something that one can learn from every experience, more or less, depending on one's attitude. The stage is ready for us – step on and grab the chance!

Tips:

Keep an eye on your study, but don't set it as the only goal of your university life. Reasonable efforts do pay off.

Find your interests, but be ready to try new things that may not attract you at first.

Allocate your time ahead properly. It is good to try different things but also important to live a balanced life.

The future is always full of good or bad surprises. Get used to unexpected challenges. You never know where your limits lie.

Dear Students,

Welcome, and welcome back to the University of Hong Kong! I hope you had a fruitful and relaxing summer. I would like to congratulate the new students for your marvellous achievement in gaining admission to the University of Hong Kong. I am sure that you will make the best use of the precious educational opportunities which the University provides for you in the next few years.

The University is committed to producing "well-rounded graduates with lifelong abilities to provide leadership within the societies they serve" (Vision of HKU). It emphasises whole-person education so that our students will become "graduates of distinction committed to lifelong learning, integrity and professionalism, capable of being responsive leaders and communicators in their fields" (Mission of HKU).

In order to help the University achieve such a vision and mission, a few offices of the University are committed to devoting their efforts to provide an inspiring co-curricular education programme. The aim is to build a humanistic, student-centred, supportive, and intellectually and culturally rich campus environment in which students can be engaged in meaningful cultural and intellectual exchange. We work closely with various academic and non-academic departments of the University, as well as local and overseas organisations to bring together the co-curricular programmes and other learning experiences of yours at HKU.

Among these offices, the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) provides internship and career education schemes, person enrichment workshops, service learning and global citizenship projects, seminars and workshops, etc. The residential and non-residential halls also represent a very useful platform for students to live together and learn from each other. The General Education Unit provides 20 non-credit courses and forums to enable our undergraduate and postgraduate students to obtain a fuller understanding and appreciation of life, arts and culture, local and global issues, economics, and politics. You may also register with the Uni-Adventure and Uni-Sports programmes of the Institute of Human Performance, and the health education classes and workshops offered by the University Health Service.

My colleagues in CEDARS also try our best to provide a refreshing physical environment for students to learn and grow, and help them to meet their daily needs so that they can concentrate their efforts on learning. Please also read the news about financial aid, accommodation, counselling, support for international students and other areas of student support.

The Dialogue, which is the official newspaper of the student affairs sector, plays a very crucial role in achieving the above goals. It serves as an open platform for students and staff to exchange ideas and experiences in their endeavours. It will showcase our students' achievements and communicate to you the latest learning opportunities and developments in areas of interest to you. I hope you will consider Dialogue an intellectually stimulating and informative publication.

If you have any thoughts, feelings or comments that you would like to share with us during your time at HKU, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 2859 2306 or by email at dosa@hku.hk.

Best regards,

Albert Chau
Dean of Student Affairs



Dr. Chau introduces the resources available to students on the campus.



Welcome Address by the Dean of Student Affairs

Ideal of University

Alison Lam, Takka Wong
Journalism, Year 3

There are a few telling questions that trouble all freshmen, regardless of their nationality. What are my goals as a university student? Should I merely study hard and graduate with first-class honours? Should I find internships to increase the chance of future employment? How about an exchange programme or a vigorous hall life? With the numerous options available all of a sudden, the answer can be far more complicated than most people might imagine.

It will be much easier to succeed if one can clearly visualise the goals and targets. With this in mind, CEDARS hosted an induction programme with the theme "Ideals of University", aiming to let freshmen understand how to get the most out of their valuable university years.

In the two-day intensive programme, freshmen explored everything from personal growth and career planning to sociopolitical issues such as globalisation. Professionals from a wide range of fields were invited to inspire our curious freshmen. The highlights of the programme included a taste of the university's traditional high table dinner and a group outing to get in touch with the local community.



The induction programme had a successful kick-off with all participants cheering.

Freshmen discussed their career personalities and options under the guidance of their instructors.



Groups explored the campus, stopping at various landmarks such as The Pillar of Shame and the statue of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.



Students posed as the Pillar of Shame to voice their concerns for democracy and social justice.



Freshmen used role plays to demonstrate what they had learned from the discussions and campus tour.



Freshmen were both nervous and excited about their first high table dinner.



The group learned about corporate social responsibility from Mr Kwan Chuk-fai, Assistant to Managing Director, Director of Corporate Affairs of New World Development Co Ltd and also a HKU alumnus, during the company visit session.



Another group gained insights into heritage conservation by visiting a community museum.



A mainland student showed deep interest in the old-fashioned postal boxes used in the past.



In a role play, two boys pretended to be homosexual job seekers to demonstrate the importance of anti-discrimination employment.



Mr Kwok Wing-kin, President of the university's Student Union, told freshmen how various student movements have shaped the Hong Kong history.



All student instructors and helpers were appreciated for their efforts and enthusiasm.

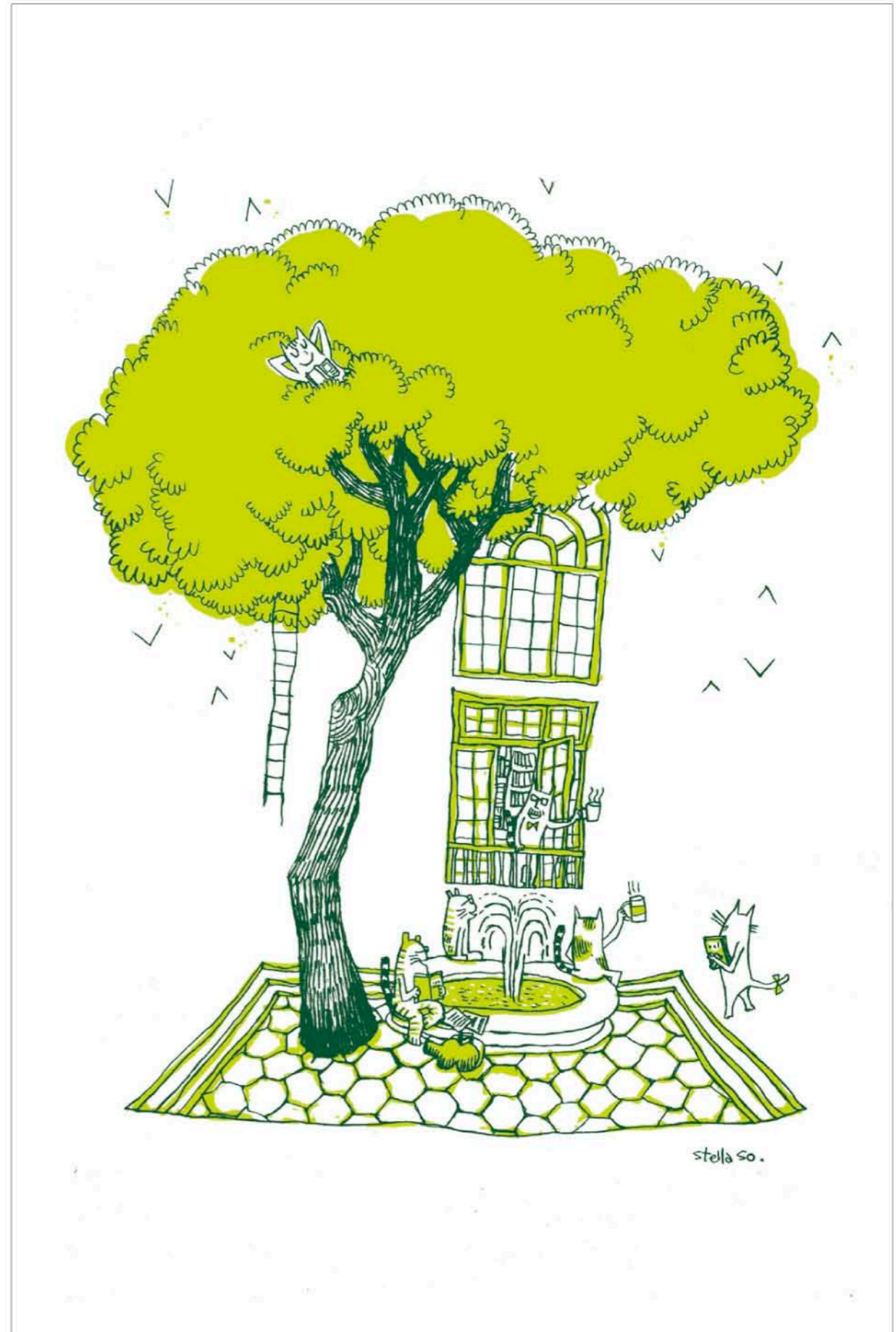
From student instructors and freshmen

Pinky, a third year Government and Law student, felt happy to recall her freshmen days by becoming an instructor. She explored local issues like heritage conservation and poverty with her students. Pinky believes that students learn best through immersing themselves into the local culture – such as "Yum Cha" in a tea restaurant, or experiencing fortune telling in a traditional temple.

David, another instructor studying business and information systems, discovered that freshmen are very eager to learn new things. He says the induction can allow freshmen to grasp the meaning of university life and things such as the high table dinner.

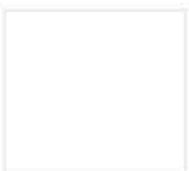
Freshmen gave similar responses, saying that the programme helped them understand social issues and university cultures. Vivian, who majors in accounting and finance, gained insights into the social issues of Hong Kong through the programme. She stresses that caring about society is just as important as studying hard.

Yau, another freshman in electronic engineering, thinks it is important to know the university before commencing studies. He was extremely surprised by the formality of the high table dinner, and described it as "amazing".



The illustrations by renowned artist Stella So reveal the important aspects of university life – “Meet, Drink, Think”. On the flagship cotton bags at the concept store “HEA”, where these illustrations are used, you may find more revelations about university life.

The store, run by the Centre of Development and Resources for Students, is situated in Room 408, Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong.



The Main Building, established in 1912, is the oldest structure of the University of Hong Kong. With its fascinating post-Renaissance style, it is regarded as a landmark of the University.



Inside the Main Building of The University of Hong Kong is a place of tranquility. Spending an afternoon reading, sipping coffee and chilling out with friends there may be the best refreshment for students.





Us at Beijing Olympics

Becoming a part of the Olympics – HKU hosts the pre-Olympic training camp

Alison Lam
Journalism, Year 3



Mr Timothy Fok Tsun-ting, President of Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor, meet the Olympic athletes at HKU.

Some said that the only way to get closer to their revered athletes is to watch the Beijing Olympics in person. Others crowded around the television screen, hoping to catch a glimpse of their favourite athlete striving for gold. Members of HKU, however, enjoyed the privilege to observe the training sessions of over 130 athletes from 10 national teams around the world.

Australia, Denmark, Fiji and seven other national teams chose HKU as their pre-Olympic training venue, with most athletes competing in swimming or track and field events. The university's Institute of Human Performance (IHP) was thrilled to receive the athletes, and contributed huge efforts to make their stay fruitful.

Professor Bruce Abernethy, Director of the IHP, said that the pre-Olympic training camp was initiated because it matched the university's ethos. Serving the community, promoting global vision, enhancing international exchange and stressing "whole-person" education are all values upheld by HKU. Students were encouraged to experience the Olympic spirit and obtain global insights by being friendly hosts.

One world, one dream

Keith Chan Kay-fung
Business Administration(Law), Year 2

At 8pm on August 8, 2008, the dream of 1.3 billion Chinese people came to life as racial and ideological boundaries were shed and the world united in an explosion of fireworks that echoed around the globe.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of other observers on the streets of Beijing, I swelled with pride at how far China had come. The 29th Olympic Games was a truly magnificent showcase of breathtaking architecture, first-rate facilities and, most importantly, the unique culture and passion of the Chinese people.

I was one of 299 volunteers selected by the Beijing Olympic Games Organising Committee from over 7,000 applicants in Hong Kong. I felt honoured and excited, not only because I was now part of the most prestigious sporting event in the world, but also because it was a historic and symbolic first time for the Games to be hosted in my motherland.

Most of these positions were taken up by volunteers, and I soon learned that every post was a significant link that was held together the organisational structure as a whole. My responsibility was to control access to the athletes' zone in the Wrestling Stadium at the China Agricultural University (CAU), making sure that only athletes and their coaches could enter. I was trained to deal with a variety of simulated scenarios that could pose difficulties in my line of duty, for example the procedures when athletes are injured and need to be hospitalised.

There were 19 other Hong Kong volunteers at the CAU, with the rest from the CAU or inner Mongolia. I partnered with a CAU student from Guangxi and was very touched when she saw me off at 5am when I returned to Hong Kong. We all strived to serve the Olympic community to the best of our ability, and I learned greetings in different languages in hopes of making passing athletes more welcome and at home.

During my time off duty, I travelled all over the capital. Almost everywhere I went, even inside the trains, there were live broadcasts of the Games. Banners with the slogan "One World One Dream" were omnipresent. From time to time, I bumped into people with Chinese ensign stickers on their faces – even foreigners! The highlight of the trip was when I entered the National Stadium (aka the "bird's nest") to watch the track and field events. Being physically present in the stadium, the glorious Olympic spirit, the exhilaration of the vast audience and the immense, thick pressure of competition were almost tangible.

The Olympics has a rich history of bringing sportsmen together in the spirit of "Citius, Altius, Fortius", which is Latin for "Faster, Stronger, Higher". The three words encourage athletes to triumph in their performance, regardless of the result. Behind the scenes, coaches and athletes greeted each other like old friends. As a witness of this camaraderie, it is my belief that one day the same spirit will shine beyond the sporting arena, and the future of the world will be brighter than ever.



Keith with "Fuwa", a mascot of Beijing Olympic Games.



Keith poses inside the Wrestling Stadium of CAU.

Hong Kong is a favourable venue for many athletes. With similar temperature, humidity and time zone to mainland China, competitors could train and adjust their body conditions comfortably before the actual Games. With its stunning opening ceremony and ensuing frenetic competition schedule in full swing, finding some quiet time in Beijing was difficult. This is why some track and field athletes with races in later weeks preferred to avoid the excitement and distractions in Beijing by staying in Hong Kong. For them, having a peace of mind was just as important as having a fit body.

HKU, among all universities in Hong Kong, was chosen for its comprehensiveness. Sports facilities were recently upgraded to meet international standards and athletes could stay in on-campus accommodation such as the Lee Shau Kee Hall which is in close proximity to the sports centre. Moreover, experienced IHP staff could grasp the needs of athletes, which included flexible training schedules, equipment requirements and special catering arrangements. IHP staff members like Assistant Director Mr Michael Tse, a rowing athlete himself, were able to put themselves in the athletes' shoes. The teams' stay made HKU a major pre-Olympic site in Hong Kong.

Although students couldn't get too close to the athletes due to security concerns, they were allowed to observe them training in the spectators' area. This way, they could see how world-class athletes train routinely and how they sharpen their skills. Indeed, one of the morning sessions was so popular that it attracted more than 150 spectators!

A few lucky members from the HKU Badminton Team and the Bachelor of Science Degree programme got to interact with the athletes when they became their tour guides. Professor Abernethy thought that students could learn from these role models, regardless of being a tour guide or just as spectators.

Besides training sessions, some Olympic teams also helped the IHP with its ongoing academic research in sports science. The Denmark badminton team contributed to research about movement perception. Team members watched video simulations of badminton move, and were required to guess the subsequent moves of their "virtual opponents". The IHP then studied how professional sportsmen make advanced predictions about their opponent's movements, and how accurate those guesses are. Reacting to another player's motion quickly and accurately is crucial to winning in sports such as basketball, karate and badminton.

Athletes left HKU in late August. But the Olympic spirit continued with the Paralympics held in mid-September, in which HKU once again hosted athletes from New Zealand and Australia. Athletes at the Paralympics allowed students to uncover the true meaning of equal opportunity and "One World, One Dream".

Now it is time for students and staff to get "sporty" themselves – especially after lying on the couch for days watching the television coverage of the Olympics! With facilities upgraded and sports lessons commencing in September, it is hoped that members of HKU will enjoy playing sports more than ever.

Olympic action

Chung Jah-ying
International Business and
Global Management, Year 2

My last two weeks as a volunteer in the Spectator Services division of the Olympic Equestrian Events can be summarised in just about one word: A.C.T.I.O.N.

A is for Atmosphere and the Ambience of the Olympic Games. It's a combination of feisty enthusiasm for one's national athletes, respectful appreciation of other competitors' skills and a genuine spirit of communication and learning between people from different parts of the world.

C is for the Challenges of dealing with and managing our guests, particularly the rowdy or discontented. It is easy to welcome spectators with a smile and direct them graciously to their seats, but it is a real test of patience to do the same when faced with an angry spectator or one who repeatedly ignores instructions. At this point, some give up, frustrated by the mistreatment. Others (I proudly include myself) keep their composure and usually win over the spectator, who is either impressed by the volunteer's persistence or just too exhausted to resist any further.

T is for the Tiring, 10-hour (and more) shifts and the Totally disrupted sleeping timetable.

I is for the colourful Interactions with foreign guests and local workforce that made this two-week experience truly unforgettable. Amidst the frenzy of photo taking, pin trading and serving our international guests, I found time to chat and learn a little bit about where they came from. I met guests from all over the world, including the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and South Africa. I also worked with a diverse group of volunteers and staff, each coming from different backgrounds: some retired, some businesspeople, teachers, police and social workers, but by far the most were students like myself.

O is for the Opportunity to watch and learn from top-calibre equestrian athletes from around the world.

The events opened my eyes to the international standard of riding, and inspired me to pursue my passion in show jumping with greater vision and determination. Hong Kong's performance, though not particularly outstanding, was a motivation for me. I hope to one day reach the Olympic standard and represent Hong Kong as a home-grown equestrian athlete.

N is for the New attitude, instilled in me by my work in Spectator Services, of confidence and grace.

I surprised myself with a natural politeness and initiative in my interactions with others. This new manner has opened me up to meeting new people while bringing me closer to those around me.

There was an overwhelming energy at the Olympic Games that invigorated volunteers with enough excitement to power us through our long, often strenuous shifts. I know I must leave the Olympics and most of its people behind me, but some things I will definitely take away: the courage to act, to take initiative and the confidence to face conflicts with a positive attitude.

Student athletes at-a-glance

There are four students and recent graduates who are among the 34 athletes to represent Hong Kong at Beijing Olympics.



Lau Kuo-ken, a graduate of Sports Science and Leisure Management, takes part in the fencing events.



Elaine Chan Yu-ning, majoring in Economics and Finance, participates in 50 metre freestyle. She meets Michael Phelps, an American swimmer who snatches eight gold medals at Beijing Olympics.

The two others are Chan Wai-kei and Cheng Man-kit who take part in sailing and equestrian events respectively.

HEA

better things for a better world

CEDARS opened a concept store named "HEA" to promote holistic life among students and staff. The store offers environmentally friendly products, fair trade food, books and CDs about the enhancement of physical and psychological health as well as handicrafts created by community groups in Hong Kong and ethnic minorities in mainland China. The unique "shopping" experience at the store will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on important world issues and ways to live a healthy and fulfilling life. Do visit "HEA" and shop for the betterment of yourself and the world!



◀ **Bottle** (HK\$45)
No lids can cover the creativity of the 15-year-old designer with autism, who turned this recycled glass bottle into a useful piece of art.

▲ **Stella So's bag** (HK\$54)
The colourful life of HKU, where friends meet, drink and think, may be too great to squeeze into this 100% cotton bag, but the sleek and stylish carrier with illustrations by renowned artist Stella So will certainly be roomy enough to swallow all your essential campus gears.



◀ **Red-white-blue bag** (\$40-120/ different sizes)
Just like the Hong Kong spirit, the famous home-grown red-white-blue bag, which comes in different sizes, will meet any challenges however big or small they may be.

▶ **Fridge magnets** (HK\$35)
While not everyone fancies Cantonese dim sum, no one can resist the temptation of these fridge magnets, hand-made by people with psychiatric disability.



◀ **Doy Bag** (HK\$47/ pencil holder & coin case | HK\$62/ iPod/phone bag)
Impress friends (and help save the planet) with these fresh, funky, and environmentally friendly accessory items made with 100% recycled juice containers, sold exclusively in Hong Kong by HKU.



▶ **Yunnan art craft** (HK\$35)
Share the simple tranquility of Yunnan Mountains by taking home these one-of-a-kind pouches, hand-made by women farmers who weaved and dyed the traditional colour fabrics themselves before embroidering the different designs.

(Photos by Cliff Lui, a HKU alumnus)

Come to Room 408 of Meng Wah Complex to check out more of the HEA goodies.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5:30pm

Friday: 9am to 6pm

Saturday: 9am to 1pm

Equal Learning Opportunities:
Funding For Those In Need

第一代大學生助學金 First-in-the-Family Education Fund



We are here to advocate **equal learning opportunities** among students by providing **funding support** to those in need.

The "First-in-the-Family Education Fund" (FIFE Fund) supports and encourages students to widen their horizons and embrace innovative thinking through taking part in a variety of learning activities outside the classroom, e.g. fieldwork, internships, study trips, overseas service learning and exchange programmes.

Awards

Each successful applicant will receive HK\$10,000 for participating in co-curricular activities approved or administered by the University.

Eligibility

- Local, full-time and full-degree first-year undergraduates, and
- Being the first-generation university students in the family, and
- Monthly household income of HK\$12,000 or less, and
- Household savings and assets of HK\$186,000 or less

Application

Application Period: 1- 30 September, 2008

Further Details and Online Application: www.hku.hk/fife

Enquiries

2857 8387 / fife@hku.hk (Centre of Development and Resources for Students)



香港大學
The University of Hong Kong