

FUNG SCHOLARS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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IV. REMARKABLE MOMENTS

Feature

My Accidental Gap Year

Ralf LIN
(FS2009-10, Peking University)



Upon graduating from Peking University last July, I was accepted into a graduate program at the University of California, Berkeley, which would start in spring. At the same time, I was extremely privileged to be offered two internships, so I worked as an assistant at an asset management firm and as a financial analyst at an investment bank in Hong Kong. Therefore I was able to make full use of my 9-month long break before going to the graduate school and that was supposed to be the whole story.

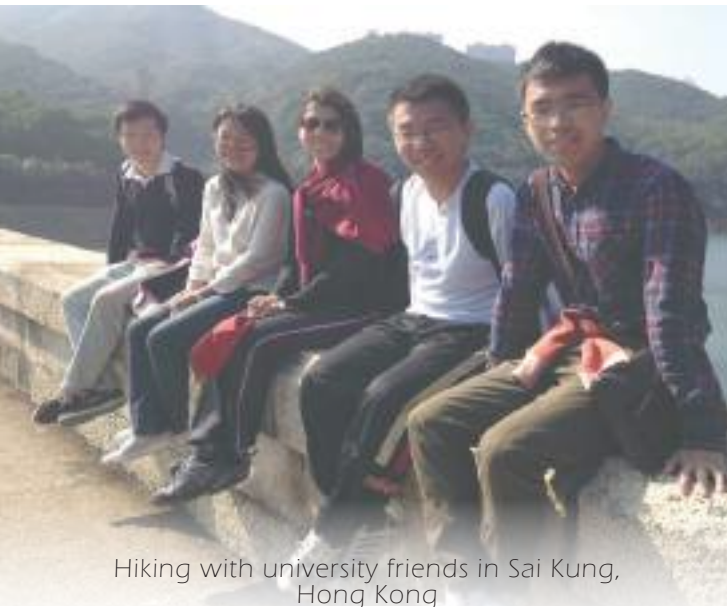


Ralf with his internship supervisor in Hong Kong

I never expected to take a gap year after college. After I graduated, I accepted a fulltime offer from my current employer instead of going to the United States for graduate school. This was far from my original plan, but this unexpected gap year has provided me with a variety of opportunities that have helped me decide what I want to do in the next few years.

Yet, the magic of this coastal city changed my plan. I had first visited Hong Kong when I went to the University of Hong Kong (HKU) on exchange three years ago with the support of the Fung Scholarship. It was my first step towards embracing the world outside mainland China, after which I went on another exchange program in the US in the spring of 2011. The attraction of Hong Kong was so strong that after my internships ended, I stayed on to work on a full-time basis, and I plan to continue working here for at least a few more years.

Even though it seems that this gap year came about as an accident and then changed my plans completely, I still recommend the gap year experience to everyone in college. This is because a gap year can provide you with much more diversified and even unexpected experiences, which could help you a lot in understanding what you really want to do and what you would like to devote your passion to. For example, my two internship positions came with entirely different responsibilities, and since gap-year placements are usually longer than summer internships, I had more exposure to daily operations, deals, and projects.



Hiking with university friends in Sai Kung, Hong Kong

Another reason I would recommend a gap year is that you sometimes need the luxury of having time to decide what you want to do. I am always being asked why I decided to withdraw my graduate school offer and stay with my current employer. I have full confidence in saying that the most important reason is that I understand and like what I am doing now and that I'm good at it. (Is there anything better than doing what you want to do and what you are good at? Of course not!) However, it's usually extremely hard to know what you want to do. You need to try various roles and jobs, and come to a conclusion after a lengthy process of trial and error.

Of course, your life is not entirely about your job, even if it might be a major part of it. During my gap year, I spent 25 days travelling solo in the UK, France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Travelling on your own is never relaxing, but more like an adventure. On one hand, you are forced out of your comfort zone when you encounter a new environment and you learn to embrace what you are not used to; on the other hand, travelling on your own means that you have as much flexibility as possible to understand the local culture in your own way.

At the start of my gap year, I met my mentor at HKU and she told me that she would visit the Bay Area in California in the summer. Thinking that I would be at Berkeley at that time, I promised to host her if she would come to visit me. After I decided to work in Hong Kong, this became a promise that I could not keep. When I discussed this with her just a few days ago, her reply was, "I am so happy that you have come to know what you want to do, and this is far more important than keeping the promise." Life is more unpredictable than what we expect, and the best way to live to the fullest is to live for today.



Dinner with other Fung Scholars in Hong Kong



Feature

A Year of Fulfilling and Challenging Dreams

LAM Hing Ha Helen
(FS2010-11, The University of Hong Kong)

Tianshan, Xinjian, China

Between earning a bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences and preparing for higher studies in the United Kingdom, Helen spent a gap year travelling alone in many countries and exposing herself to many new experiences.

In 2012, Helen spent two months going from country to country in Europe. She attended a field course in Cyprus to fulfill her graduation requirement, and she also fulfilled her dream of seeing Europe: she backpacked all over Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, and Italy. She found herself in many different cultures,

and among all the places she visited, she likes Turkey the most. "European countries are too relaxed for me. I'd been missing the hustle and bustle typical of Asian countries, and that's what I could find in Turkey."

To gain some working experience, Helen returned to China to complete some internships. She spent two months in Dunhuang Academy assisting in the preparation for the archaeological exhibition "The Year of Chinese Culture in Turkey", and another two months in Tibet as a research assistant for a lecturer in architecture at Tibet University. Helen had always been enthusiastic about archaeology in China and the two internships helped her gained

"I want to travel around the world. Look at the world map; the places I've been to are just a small fraction of the world's many destinations."

insight, knowledge, and technical skills in the field to prepare for her further studies and a career in archaeology.

Although the internships were very intense, Helen did not put her travelling dream aside. She went to the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu to see the historical Buddhist drawings in the caves; to Tianshan, Xinjiang to enjoy the pristine and heaven-like landscape, to the Potala Palace, Tibet to learn about the history Buddhism history; to Jiuzhai Valley, Sichuan to experience the power of nature. “I recommend every friend of mine to go to Jiuzhai Valley at least once in his or her lifetime. Even though this UNESCO-recognized heritage is always flooded with tourists, you will be so overcome by the breathtaking scenes that you will ignore the people and only appreciate the beauty of nature,” she says.



Jiuzhai Valley, China

“Throughout my three years in university, I couldn’t write anything under ‘working experiences’ in my resumé. It was time to build my profile.”

After six long months abroad, Helen finally went home. She had made up her mind to acquire new skills and working experience in Hong Kong. She has been working on a short-term basis for the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority and New World Development Company Limited, and she will soon take up an archaeology-related internship at AECOM. During her leisure time, she cooks and compiles successful recipes into an archive. “I am also learning accounting, soap-making, and how to play the piano. I want to start learning archery, belly dance, and vocal music soon,” says Helen. She also spends time with her family and friends. She first experienced camping with her friends and she is planning to go again this year. “This gap year is allowing me to come into contact with so many new things within a short period of time. The courses I have attended help me understand what I like and dislike. This makes me wonder how much time I wasted when I was in college,” she adds.

“I’m glad that I am using my time well while taking a break from school.”

Helen will resume her studies in the coming September as a graduate student at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. To prepare for this, she has been taking a short-term archaeology course in Hong Kong. In the future, she hopes to pursue an archaeology-related career, possibly in China.



Santorini, Greece

Foundation Updates

by WONG Yu Shan Cassie (FS2011-12, Hong Kong Baptist University)



Establishment of Local Chapter – Fung Scholars (Shanghai Chapter)

The Shanghai Chapter was set up on 9th March 2013. The visions of the Chapter are “4Gs”, namely Grow, Give, Globalize and Gather. The role we wish to play is one which enhances the bonding of Fung Scholars. We hope to gather and formulate the senior Fung Scholars’ experiences and insights to help equip all the fresh Fung Scholars with essential skills to serve the community.

Two events were successfully organised upon establishment. On 24th March 2013, a Career and Further Study Sharing Session were held at Fudan University. Three speakers from Fudan University were invited to share their tips and experiences at the events. Ms HU shared the tips on application of overseas post-graduate programs. Ms ZHOU provided useful advice on



application of internship and career planning, followed by YUAN Shuyi Mia(FS2011-12, Fudan University) who talked about how to prepare for the pre-admission tests and interviews for overseas universities.



Last but not least, inbound Fung Scholars Katie EDMUNDS(FS2012-13, Oxford University), Hannah CALDWELL (FS2012-13, Oxford University), Steven NEOH(FS2012-13, Oxford University) and , Astrid LIM(FS2012-13, National University of Singapore) shared their experiences and opinions about China. It was an informative and inspiring sharing from the speakers and the participants were able to further their understandings on different post-undergraduate career paths.

In February, the Local Chapter organised a gathering for a Singaporean Fung Scholar, Astrid, who is currently on exchange at Fudan University for one semester. The gathering provided an opportunity for the Fung Scholars to experience new cultures, meet new people and see more of the world.

My Exchange Experience in Shanghai

by Astrid LIM (FS2012-13, National University of Singapore)

Astrid LIM (FS2012-13) is currently having her exchange program at Fudan University for one semester. She majors in Economics at National University of Singapore.

Embarking on my student exchange program at Fudan University has truly been a fulfilling experience thus far. With only a couple of months left before I return to Singapore, I have enjoyed learning about the rich Chinese history and culture through travelling, and understanding the locals'

lifestyles through my daily interaction with them. With the assistance from the Fung Scholars in Shanghai, I also settled in quickly and comfortably in my new home for a semester.

Before I arrived at Shanghai, Tammy LAM of the Victor and William Fung Foundation connected me with the Fudan University Fung Scholars, who warmly welcomed me over email and Skype. Mia YUAN (FS2011-12, Fudan University), my key contact person in the School of Management, offered me valuable academic advice and tips about Shanghai's lifestyle and climate. This allowed me to be well-prepared for my stay in Shanghai, perhaps a bit too well-prepared that I lugged a total of 35-40kg of baggage through Changi and Pudong Airports.



Astrid

Upon arrival, I was warmly invited by Mia to meet the Fung Scholars in Shanghai over a sumptuous lunch of Sichuan cuisine and traditional Chinese delicacies. I was impressed by the Shanghai Chapter's close-knitted community, especially since many Scholars hailed from different provinces and studied different courses at Fudan University. During my stay in Shanghai, I also participated in the Shanghai Chapter's Sharing Session, learned about the experiences of other Fung Scholars who had just returned from their Exchange Programs. It was an enjoyable experience interacting with the helpful Fung Scholars, who generously shared tips on campus life and Chinese cuisine. For example, LIU Xiao Rina (FS2012-13, Fudan University) introduced me to the famous Lanzhou la-mian (蘭州拉麵) and spicy hot pot (麻辣湯) eateries that local students often visit, and shared with me tips on travelling in China.



The sincere hospitality and warm welcome extended by the Fung Scholars have helped me to adapt quickly to a new study and living environment in Shanghai. It was indeed a wonderful opportunity to be able to connect with the Fung Scholars and I look forward to enjoying my remaining 2 months in China, travelling and gaining a better understanding of the Chinese history and heritage.

ACT Now!

The events organised by the Shanghai Chapter were successful. We are looking forward to the support from all the Fung Scholars for future events organised by the newly established Shanghai Chapter.

Contacts of the Shanghai Chapter

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Don't hesitate to share with us your opinions!

Fung Scholars Community

Mainland-based Fung Scholars
at the University of Hong Kong
by WONG Yu Shan Cassie (FS2011-12, Hong Kong Baptist University)

I. Pre-departure Gatherings in Beijing

At Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, and Peking University, the new batch of Fung Scholars participating in the exchange programs to the University of Hong Kong (HKU) gathered before departure. Along with the programs' returnees, they shared information about studying and living in Hong Kong while building up contacts with Fung Scholars within the universities.

Tsinghua University — 9 Jan 2013



Summary of the Event

Returnees shared campus life of HKU, from credit transfer issues to course recommendation, and different aspects of Hong Kong lifestyle like food, culture, entertainment, etc.

Renmin University of China — 11 Jan 2013



Summary of the Event

Returnees talked about their general experience during the exchange period and discussed with participants the potential problems they might encounter, including visa application, transportation, shopping, etc.

Peking University — 13 Jan 2013



Summary of the Event

Participants learnt more about the Victor & William Fung Foundation and different aspects of the exchange program like hall life, examination, and transport between Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

The new batch of Fung Scholars found the gatherings useful and informative. They commented that they could better prepare for the exchange study with the information gathered, which they did not know how to obtain otherwise. The gathering also allowed the Fung Scholars at the same universities to get to know each other before leaving for Hong Kong.



II. Welcoming Gathering @ HKU

On 2 February 2013 Saturday, a Welcoming Gathering was held at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) for the newly selected Fung Scholars from the mainland China. They all came to HKU for the second semester of the academic year 2012-13 for academic exchange.

In the gathering, three Fung Scholars, Yi Junyuan (FS2012-13, Zhejiang University), Ralf LIN (FS2009-10, Peking University) and Sally YANG (FS2007-08, Harvard University), shared their exchange experience and career development with the new cohort of Fung Scholars.

The Fung Scholars Hong Kong Chapter also gave a brief introduction of their committee structure and the upcoming activities followed by a variety of fun ice-breaking games organised by the Fung Scholars from Zhejiang University.

Over 40 newly selected Fung Scholars attended the event that day, including Fung Scholars from Peking University, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Sun Yat Sen University, Tsinghua University and Zhejiang University.

The event ended with a networking session with refreshments, wherein attendees mixed and mingled with the three Fung Scholars presenters and the Local Chapter. The attendees agreed that the gathering helped them to understand more about the upcoming excitement in the exchange program and that of living in Hong Kong.

III. Lamma Island Trip

On 13th April 2013 Saturday, 33 mainland-based Fung Scholars in HKU joined a trip to the Lamma Island. Besides exploring a different side of Hong Kong, the trip also serves as a platform for the participants to interact and get to know each other better.



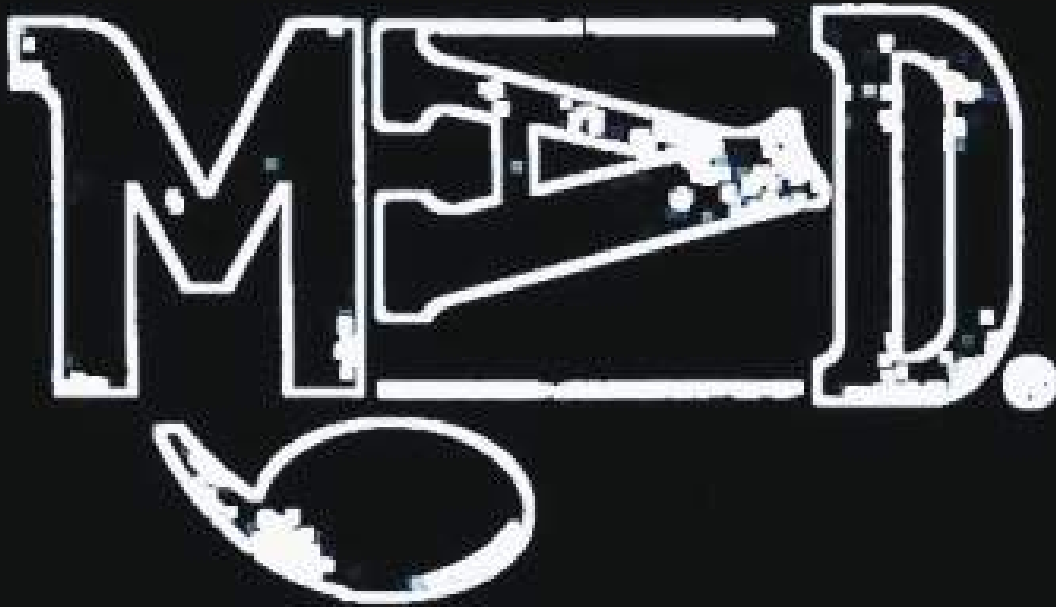
The journey started at the famous local restaurant called Lin Heung Tea House, where mainland Fung Scholars had a chance to taste traditional Cantonese food. Then the group went to Lamma Island and hiked around the hills of the island.

After enjoying the refreshing air and the breathtaking natural landscape, the participants gathered again on the Hong Sheng Ye beach for activities like football and swimming. The trip was successfully held not only because the activities were found meaningful to them, it is also because the participants could learn more about the culture and the undiscovered parts of Hong Kong. The Fung Scholars had so much fun together.



Fung Scholars Community

by TONG Chun Wai Hugh and WONG Pui Shan Willa
(FS2009-10 & 2010-11, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)



The Foundation sponsored 25 Fung Scholars to attend a 3-day “Make a Difference” (MaD) Forum 2013. The theme this year was “Call to Action”, the starting point for CHANGE and ACTION.

MaD is an annual youth leadership development forum organised by The Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture (HKICC). The event inspires and empowers youngsters all over Asia to create positive personal, economic, social and environmental change.

The 3-day event featuring talks and interactive activities, bringing together an exciting line-up of international changemakers and over 1,600 youngsters from Asia and beyond. The Foundation also sponsored Professor Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University to make a closing remark. Professor Zimbardo is an internationally recognized as the “voice and face of contemporary psychology”. The participated Fung Scholars gained wonderful and fruitful learning experience at the forum.”



"Passion and love to one's job and work is the key towards happiness and refreshment for everyday's work"

LAU Wai Yi, Zoe
(FS2011-12, Hong Kong Baptist University)



"I hope I can put what I experienced and learned in MaD 2013 into work and be a RIPPLE who makes a difference"

YEUNG Wai Shing, Jim
(FS2011-12, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)



"It is not about the length of his life, but rather the impact he have on others during the course of life"

NG Kwok Leung, Leonard
(FS2011-12, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)



"MAD provides us a nice platform to share ideas or dreams with each other"

KO Suet Lai, Shirley (FS2009-10, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)



"To satisfy the rapid population growth, redeveloping the old area seems a must. However, the livelihood of the villagers should not be ignored at the same time."

KAN Chui Yee, Tracy (FS2012-13, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)



"Everyone could be hero in everyday life, in the home, community and even the nation"

CHOW Ho Chun, David
(FS2009-10, Lingnan University)



"Mrs Song save the soap for her son. In her eye, this is not only soap, is love."

CHEUNG Lap Kin, Ross
(FS2008-09, Hong Kong Baptist University)



"Hero is not role model. Make a difference from the smallest but closest unit is already a great hero."

LAI Ka Yi, Grace (FS2010-11, Hong Kong Baptist University)



"Even people are from different origins, humanity and love can connect people"

WONG Oi Ching, Marie
(FS2011-12, Hong Kong Baptist University)



"Image what other people will do, then not do"

Chan Pui Yan, Anni (FS2010-11, City University of Hong Kong)



"Everyone can actually become hero by understanding the power of the situation over their own behavior as well as how to surpass these influences and act heroically"

KWOK Ying Kit, Alan (FS2011-12, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)



"MaD is a worthwhile event that inspires teenagers step by step, letting them taking the steps forward in achieving their goals or realizing their dreams"

CHAN Yau Yung, Abi (FS2012-13, Lingnan University)



"Let us rethink what element of the city we want, how we identify the problems and find the solutions."

YIP Tsan Pong, Willy, (FS2009-10, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)



"Journey of INSPIRATION gain!"

KOK Man Chun, Sam (FS2012-13, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)



"As long as teenager has the innovation, ambition and creativity, we can always make a difference"

WAN Ho Yin, Bruce (FS2011-12, City University of Hong Kong)



"他們用生命、知識改變世界，研究、發掘我們的未知與潛能，成就和建造人類更好未來"

LO Ching Kam, Kevin (FS2006-07, City University of Hong Kong)



"It will never be too weak if only one person is striving to make the world become better, because everyone may have the heroic power that exceeds his own expectation"

HO Kai Yee, Cleo (FS2007-08, Lingnan University)



"This is a place for me to think about social innovation, ideas and action"

WONG Pui Shan, Willa (FS2010-11, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)



“ We can perhaps even change the course of history of China. I suppose that's what "Make a Difference" is about after all ”

“ I think it changed kind of my life attitude. It inspired and motivated me to make a change. ”

“ The theme of MaD 2012 was "what is on your mind". MaD 2012 really taught me how to re-observe and re-think my city. ”

“ I would highly recommend this event to people who are ambitious to do something great but don't know where to start. ”

“ The technique I learnt is especially useful for me as my work involves client relationship management and I have to consistently help clients to solve various problems. ”



Famine 30 with World Vision

Hong Kong Chapter

by NG Kwok Leung Leonand
(FS2011-12, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

7 April 2013

In April, the Victor and William Fung Foundation sponsored 7 Fung Scholars participated in Famine 30 organised by World Vision at Hong Kong Aberdeen Sports Ground. 2 Fung Scholars took part in the 8-Hour Famine while another 5 joined the 30-Hour Famine.

During their fasting, there were a series of meaningful and interactive events for them to learn more about the situations of the less fortunate people.

In one of the workshops, many stories were shared. There were children who were unable to attend school as they had to collect unwanted materials to support their families, new born babies that were suffering from illness that could otherwise be cured with the right treatment and citizens struggling for clean water to sustain healthy living.

“The activity has not only empowered me to keep joining more and more charitable projects in society, but also given me a new insight to make a positive change to the world in the future.”

LAU Wai Yi Zoe

(FS2011-12, Hong Kong Baptist University)

During another activity, participants were able to experience livelihood of children on streets. They have to collect straws and water bottle to compete with each other to gain a living.

Famine disaster may not seem to be something relevant to our daily life initially, but it is actually much closer to us than we thought. We look forward to participating in Famine 30 next year to continue supporting the cause!



Tree Planting Challenge with Friends of the Earth HK Hong Kong Chapter

by NG Kwok Leung Leonand (FS2011-12, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

21 April 2013

While many of us were still sleeping in bed on one Sunday morning, with the support from the Victor and William Fung Foundation, 6 Fung Scholars participated in the Tree Planting Challenge organised by Friends of the Earth Hong Kong.

They gathered at Ma On Shan station as early as 8 am and then took a shuttle bus to Ma On Shan Country Park. After getting to know each other in a brief mingling session, all of them were ready for action!

After collecting seedlings and planting tools from Seedling Distribution Point uphill, they carried boxes of heavy seedlings up the hill. Each of the participants carried 10 seedlings.

Upon reaching the designated planting ground, they dug pits using the planting tools and planted the seedlings into the new grounds.

At the end of the day, 60 seedlings were planted. While their action did not create a rain-forest, it is through these little efforts by everyone that makes our Earth a better place to live!

"Tree Planting Challenge" is a unique environmental activity that combines tree-planting, hiking and a challenge of self-endurance. All nature lovers are invited to experience the challenge of tree-planting work and spread the message to "Save Trees, Conserve Nature".



CHAN Lok Sum Florence (FS2010-11, Lingnan University)

"Tree planting challenge is not only a competition to see who can plant the seedlings at a fastest pace and in a correct way, but also a large event aims at arousing people's awareness of protecting our exhaustible natural resources."

LEUNG Kok Sum Jessie (FS2011-12, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

"At the end of the day if each of us can be more conservation conscious and energy efficient, we can help make the world a better place for all."

DIALOGUE IN THE DARK



Dialogue in the Dark Hong Kong Chapter

by CHAN Yuen Ting Annie (FS2010-11 & 2011-12, The Hong Kong Institute of Education)

On 26th May 2013, the Victor and William Fung Foundation sponsored 31 Fung Scholars to participate in the event of "Dialogue in the Dark" (DiD) in Hong Kong. The participants had a great time in this meaningful event – they experienced an extraordinary tour in absolute darkness led by the blind tour guides, and knew about the disabled and disadvantaged people.

"It allowed us to feel the world from different angle. The world became much simple but it was beautiful. Simplicity was sometimes equal to beauty.....This experience was very meaningful. It gave me a moment to refresh my mind. I really thank the Foundation for giving me such inspiring opportunity." – LI Pui Kei Christy (FS2012-13, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

"The room is completely dark that you cannot see anything. If you cannot see anything, why not just close your eyes and let your guide show you the new world and feel it?..... Our tour guide said, "Sight is what we see with our eyes, insight is what we gain without seeing". Scientific research shows that visual illusion can lead us to wrong judgment."

– KAN Cham Chung Kenneth (FS2008-09, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

"The DiD workshop was such a great opportunity to put ourselves into the shoes of others and embrace others with impairment in society..... I was amazed to see how other senses could magnify when our vision was temporarily unavailable.....On top of that, I can feel the support and rapport created throughout the process in our team. It was a wonderful experience after all." – CHAN Pui Yin Perdy (FS2009-10, City University of Hong Kong)

"I was shocked by losing my communication skills so drastically and the fact that our vision disabled tour guide could actually lead us very effectively. The concept of disability has to be re-contemplated after realizing such an effect when people are put into different situational settings."

– LAI Long Him Terence (FS2012-13, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

"I did not expect I could have great fun learning about the mechanism of Braille with a group of Fung Scholars. I was surprised by the tour guide, Ruby because even if she is visually impaired, she acts professionally and patiently to guide our whole team through the darkness and complete all the checkpoints. What I learnt most from Ruby is her attitude. Her sharing inspired me a lot that she reminded us everyone has his or her own unique obstacles."

– LAM Yeung Yeung William (FS2012-13, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

For more details, you may visit the official website of DiD at <http://www.dialogue-in-the-dark.hk/web/index.php>.

2012 YEAR END GATHERING

Singapore Chapter

by KHOO Wan Xi (FS2011-2012, Singapore Management University)

The 2012 Year End Gathering was held on 8 December 2012. The Fung Scholars Singapore Chapter welcomed the new batch of scholars who are embarking their exchange adventure next semester as well as scholars who have gone on exchange to share their experiences. The Gathering started with an introduction to Victor and William Fung Foundation as well as the background information of the Fung Group. Next, KO Weiling Jamie (FS2009-10, Singapore Management University) and POH Jun Xiang Jeremy (FS2010-11, Singapore Management University), founders of the Singapore Chapter, shared their motivations and experiences in starting the Singapore Chapter. Participants were given an overview of the past activities of the Singapore Chapter and were encouraged to join the Chapter's activities in the coming year. Finally, the presentation was concluded with an exchange experience sharing on North America, Europe and Asia to give the new batch of scholars a flavor of what lies ahead of them. Participants then had a round of introductions before breaking off for the networking lunch. All in all, it was a fruitful event. The Singapore Chapter wishes all the best for those embarking on their exchange experience next semester.



GENERAL MEETING

Singapore Chapter

19 JAN 2013

by LIM Chia Yeo (FS2011-12, Singapore Management University)



This is the second General Meeting organised by the Fung Scholars Singapore Chapter. The event was successfully held at Singapore Management University. 12 Fung Scholars attended the Meeting.

Objectives for the Meeting were as follows:

- Reviewing the proposed committee structure, and nomination of members to take on committee roles
- Discussing and finalizing the plan for the Chapter for the coming year
- Forming event committees to take charge of activities in the coming year

The objectives of the general meeting were fulfilled to a large extent. Activities plan for year 2013 has been finalized. In addition, the Chapter received numerous useful inputs and feedbacks on the activities for year 2012.

If you wish to get in touch with the Singapore Chapter Committees, please contact them via email or facebook page at fungscholars.sg@gmail.com for the latest update of the Singapore Chapter.

Fung Scholars Corner

“Confucian Jurisprudence in Practice: Pre-Tang Dynasty Panwen (Written Legal Judgments)”

at CUHK by Mr Norman P. HO (FS2006-07, Harvard University)
– 20 Feb 2013

I was recently invited to give a guest research at the Faculty of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). My presentation was entitled “Confucian Jurisprudence in Practice: Pre-Tang Dynasty Panwen (Written Legal Judgments)” and was based on the research I have been doing on panwen from the Chinese antiquity up to the Tang dynasty. Through my research, I hope to show that the legal system in ancient China was far more complex and diverse than most scholars have portrayed. Chinese legal history is not a story of solely codification or the absence of the rule of law, but rather of a tradition that drew on varied sources of law, such as codes, extra-legal institutions, customs, and what we might even identify today as “common law” elements, such as precedent and case law. More significantly, the preparation and promulgation of panwen and legal reasoning in the Chinese antiquity shows that using the law to solve various social problems and the careful, precise application of law to facts were valued by government officials and the state. Panwen can offer us a glimpse into how pre-modern Chinese officials thought about, worked with, and dealt with the law and legal problems on a daily basis.

It was a great privilege and a humbling experience to share my research with the students from the CUHK Faculty of Law. I am very happy that I am able to pursue my personal academic interests in Chinese legal history and legal philosophy even while I am working full-time at a law firm.



Norman is a graduate from Harvard University and currently works as an Associate at Morrison & Foerster. He shares his experience in a seminar at the Faculty of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

Donor Receives More In Return

by **KO Suet Lai Shirley** (FS2009-10,

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

What is HKYDC?

HKYDC stands for Hong Kong Youth Donor Club, which was founded in 2010 under The Hong Kong Blood Transfusion Service. It is an organisation which specifically aims to motivate young people donate blood to save the lives of other people. HKYDC has now become one of the Adult Volunteer Groups which is part of the official Red Cross.

When did you join HKYDC?

I joined HKYDC in 2010 through the "Blood Donation Promotional Ambassador Scheme 2010". We, the first batch of Ambassadors, have completed the required training and become Promotional Ambassadors. This year I am the Chairperson of the HKYDC committee with the overriding aim of promoting the message of blood donation to young people in Hong Kong whilst explaining the rationales behind.

How was your first blood donation experience?

To mark my 16th birthday, I decided to do something meaningful. I asked my father to come with me to the Shatin Blood Donation Centre to donate blood for the first time. Some people are afraid of needles but I was not worried at all. I remembered the wonderful childhood fairy tale of Sleeping Beauty in which Princess Aurora was pricked by a needle and put under a spell on her 16th birthday, too. In my case, I knew that I would not die from this. In fact, I thought that I would be able to help someone with my blood. I received a certificate for my donation and I have treasured this because it was such a meaningful and life changing experience.

Having donated blood for 5 times since 16 years old, Shirley, currently the Chairperson of the Hong Kong Youth Donor Club (HKYDC) committee, has pledged her support for recruiting regular blood donors and keeping the blood bank stocks full.

What inspires you to be a HKYDC committee?

Motivation mainly comes from my mother who brought me up to believe that giving is much better than receiving. Her motto in life perfectly matches with what Professor Behnam Tabrizi shared in the Fung Scholars Leadership Conference in 2012, "Real happiness is all about serving others". I cannot agree more on this as volunteering truly makes my life worthwhile. Being part of the committee is like making a promise to serve others on a long term basis. In other words, commitment to serving becomes continuous compared with the usual one-off service. More importantly, I have met other people who share the same mission and are all willing to lend a helping hand at the expense of their time and energy. I have been inspired by each and every one of them. People like them contribute to my own personal growth as well.



Remarkable Moments

by CHAN Yuen Ting Annie
(FS2010-11 & 2011-12, The Hong Kong Institute of Education)

On the first day of Year 2013, what was the difference between staying in a foreign country and in your home country? Some of our Fung Scholars enjoyed their special New Year day (1/1/2013) and had their remarkable moments overseas. In the following articles, **Randy, WenWen** and **Helen** had shared their precious moments.



"White-sand beach, clear blue sea, endless sunshine, beautiful East Caribbean - the best things in life are free. I wish I could stay here forever"

ZENG Wenwen
(FS2012-13, Harvard University)

"We made a time capsule with our wishes for 2013 in it. And we hid it at somewhere in HKU Campus"

LAM Hing Ha Helen
(FS2010-11, The University of Hong Kong)

On New Year's Eve, I was in New York City all pumped up for the big count down at Times Square. To my dismay, there were already a huge crowd in the afternoon – the entire area was cordoned off! To actually see the famous 'ball drop' in Times Square, I was told that I needed to queue for at least 8 hours in advance! People from all around the globe came to New York City just for this event. Police were stationed everywhere to ensure order.

Just before mid-night, I was hanging around Times Square (just to try my luck). As expected, the entire area was blocked with barricades. There were many performances (though I could hardly see any from my angle), and everyone was all hyped up.

The clock started ticking towards midnight, the count-down officially began.



"10...9...8..."

My friends and I looked at each other. We knew this would be the only time we have the opportunity to do this. We got to do something! And... we did it! As the police turned away, my friends and I climbed over the barricade and...

"3...2...1" and we saw the BIG BALL DROP!

The police spotted us and said, "**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**"

Best New Year ever! That was how I spent my new year in 2013. Cheers.

CHEUNG Wai Kit Randy
(FS2012-13, Singapore Management University)

Apart from unforgettable experiences on 1/1/2013, we have **Carol CHOI** and **PNG Mei Jiao** to share their invaluable exchange experience with us.

Exchange - Once-in-a-lifetime Experience!

by Carol CHOI

(FS2012-13, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

Going on exchange is an exciting experience. I have been studying in Stern School of Business at New York University (NYU) for four months. Soon, I will be leaving Manhattan, a place I have started falling in love with.

I live in lower Manhattan, near my exchange institution. I did not really like Manhattan when I first came here in late January - the weather was so cold (my fingers were frozen when I took out my camera for photos), the daylight was so short (basically all dark at 4:30pm) and the city was not within my imaginations (rats were all around the track and everything was prohibitively expensive, especially my rents!).



Travelling in Atlantic City with my exchange friend



Honda Civic Sedan Marketing Challenge in NYU

As I was not particularly fond of the city at first, I did a lot of sightseeing in other States during weekends or long holidays. I even went to some of these trips myself. I felt the sense of satisfaction after managing to arrive at those tourist attractions all by myself which I have never travelled alone before!

Although I was mostly not in Manhattan over the weekends, I attended most of my classes during the exchange and I do love the academic life in NYU. The courses are very interactive. I had a class with only 10 people. We were expected to read Harvard Business Cases before every class and discuss the case among ourselves for the whole lesson. So, you could imagine how much preparation you need to do beforehand and how involved you have to be in class! Also, I was amazed at how the students here are so attentive in class. I could barely see anyone texting their friends on their phones and using laptops for whatever purpose during class time! NYU students really work hard (and play hard)!

I started to stay in Manhattan for my last month and explore New York City. One exceptionally good thing about attending a college within the city center was that I could get around much more easily to do all my sightseeing, despite the unique fact that NYU does

not have a campus! The weather in spring is so lovely that I could just spend the whole day in Central park looking at the flowers in bloom! I began to realize that four months is too short for me to experience every aspect of life in New York City, and not even in Manhattan!

I really appreciate the generosity of the Victor & William Fung Foundation for providing me an exchange scholarship. With the scholarship I received, I could broaden my horizons through learning in a totally new academic environment, as well as, experiencing different cultures through travelling to various places during my exchange.

My Exchange Experience in the USA

by PNG Mei Jiao
(FS2012-13, Singapore Management University)

I am a 4th year Economics and Business student from Singapore Management University, and I went on exchange to Emory University in the U.S.A. during the Fall Semester of 2012.

Exchange has been such an amazing chapter of my life. The U.S.A. has a vibrant culture, and has given me many opportunities to play, to laugh, to learn – and in the process – discover more about the world and my personal values.

Studies wise, the quality of education at Emory is high, and you could choose classes taught by brilliant and inspiring professors. My professor of fixed income is an adjunct who runs a hedge fund, and my professor who taught economic development had many years of experience in this field. The industry experience that they brought into the classroom made their teachings very engaging and helpful.

Exchange also allowed much more space for travel and extra-curricular activities. There were students from many different countries on exchange here, and we did many things together, such as cooking, travelling, shopping, and watching American sports like baseball and football. Just sharing our lives with each other has taught me a lot, and broadened my mind. It has also made me more comfortable with people from different cultures, and with sharing my opinion. I really enjoyed the dynamism that emerges when people with different backgrounds come together to work and play.



Remarkable Moments

Cliché as it sounds, exchange is a wonderful journey of growth and discovery. Breaking out of routine and immersing myself in a new environment has allowed me to discover many things about myself. To all others who are wondering if they should go on exchange - grab the opportunity and go if possible! Think about what you want to get out of your exchange and be proactive – for example if you want to make new friends, do something like bidding for classes on your own, and taking the initiative to make conversation. Before you know it, your time on exchange would have come to an end. Have fun!

Upcoming Activities

23 November 2013
Fung Scholars Leadership
Conference 2013, Shanghai

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If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, please contact us.

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