

Fung Scholars Network Newsletter

April 2012

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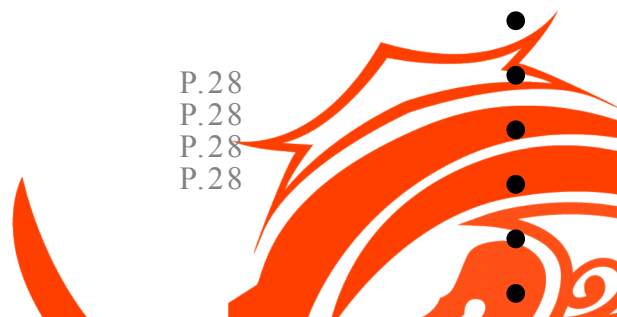
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International Vision

Global Network

Leadership



Planning for a Successful Career Path

Editor's note:

Perseverance, vision, passion, commitment, flexibility, diligence are all shared qualities in successful people today. However, possession of these qualities does not guarantee successes in your career path. Rather, you have to look for your goal and plan for the path to achieve it.

In this Feature, one Fung Fellow and two Fung Scholars were invited to share their experiences in career development. Although you may not encounter the exact same path as they did, their steps may inspire you in certain ways in your future planning.

Fung Scholars & Fellows is a network of more than 2,000 young future leaders. Every one of you has a different and unique path towards a fruitful and meaningful life. The Foundation encourages experience sharing among you to learn from each other.

The Fung Fellowship Changed My Life

By Janie YU

(FF2006-07 originated from Harvard University)

How time flies! It was almost six years ago when Harvard informed me that I had been selected as one of the first group of Fung Fellows. Without the generosity from the Victor and William Fung Foundation, I would not have been able to fulfill my graduate studies at Harvard, a dream since I was a little girl.

The road to Harvard was not easy, but the journey through Harvard was unexpectedly difficult. In addition to rigorous academic study (taking classes from Harvard Graduate School, Business School and Kennedy School), my life was filled with anxiety about my career path – should I pursue an academic or industry career,



Janie (left) meeting Vicky GUO (FS2009-10 originated from Harvard University) in the States.

what industry should I focus on, which country/city should I move to, and most importantly, how do I start looking for a job.

After looking at my strengths and reflecting hard on my weaknesses, I decided to leverage my knowledge and background to bridge the Chinese market and U.S. businesses. Prior to graduate school, I had zero business experience. So I knew it was critical for me to gain broad understanding of various U.S. industries. That is why I chose to start my business career in a boutique consulting firm where I gained invaluable knowledge about American business landscape through working

with clients from different industries.

The hands-on training in the small firm prepared me for my next job – leading international business strategy for Burt's Bees, the No.1 natural skincare brand in the U.S. Despite the domestic success, the same strategy does not apply for international markets, especially Asia, where consumer expectations are much higher. That's why I was hired to fill in the gap. While I was doing well managing Asian markets, my boss gave me a great piece of advice, "You should never be satisfied to be 'Miss Asia', and it's very important to break out the stereotype

by showcasing your global perspectives and how your Asia (or China) strategy fits into the global business trend." In two years, I led the company to enter new market not only in Asia, but also Europe and Latin America.

I recently joined Fung Capital, the venture capital fund that invests for Victor and William Fung. I am incredibly grateful that they empowered me to pursue my education and my career. As one of the "older" fellows, I try to help out younger Fung Scholars and Fellows whenever and wherever I can. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via the Foundation.



Insights through My Career Development Journey

By Norman Pai HO (FS2006-07 originated from Harvard University)

I completed my J.D. degree at New York University (NYU) School of Law, where I was research assistant at the US-Asia Law Institute, treasurer of the Federalist Society (NYU Chapter), and also a notes editor on the NYU Journal of International Law and Politics. I also currently teach part-time as an adjunct professor of history at Berkeley College and have taught Chinese language at NYU. Starting this September, I will be joining a US law firm in their Hong Kong office; my practice will focus on capital markets, corporate finance, and other general corporate matters. Below, I have listed some insights I have managed to pick up through my career development journey – I doubt any of them are revolutionary or new, but I hope they are helpful.

1. You don't have to have a linear, straight path to your career.

My path to a law career, and to law school for that matter, was certainly not straight. I studied Chinese history as an undergraduate, and after college, I was not really sure what I wanted to do; I was strongly considering becoming a historian. Thus, I spent a year completing a master's degree, studying pre-modern Chinese intellectual history (my thesis, broadly, was on conservative politics in the Northern Song Dynasty) and spent a year in Beijing, teaching Chinese history and doing research. Then, I realized I wanted to go to law school, as I was intellectually attracted to the textual and analytical rigor of law as a field (especially given my history background) and also drawn by the practical opportunities law provided. While my path to law school and a law career was not linear, I have no regret as to taking some time off before law school after college – the time in graduate school and in Beijing helped

clarify my interests and also made me a more mature person.

2. Ideally choose a career in which you have academic and intellectual interests and passions.

I feel very fortunate and privileged to be joining the legal profession and a specific law practice area which simultaneously holds both professional and intellectual, academic appeal to me. The hands-on, practical deal work associated with corporate and capital markets practice in Asia is fun, but I also get very much excited when working with the actual securities laws from various jurisdictions that are implicated in a cross-border deal. I love working with the particular law in question, reading it, analyzing it, and thinking through its policy implications and background, as well as how its intended purpose and actual effect



fits into the broader themes and goals of corporate law and securities regulation. Law appeals to me also because it is constantly changing, especially in the field of securities regulation, where market and political developments frequently bring about changes or alterations to existing law; at the very least, people debate about proposed legislative changes, which makes working in this area intellectually meaningful. I do not get bored. Thus, the point here is, choose to be in a profession which excites you academically, no matter if it is consulting, accounting, finance, or law, for example. Think of yourself not as just joining a profession per se, but rather, an intellectual world, and seek to keep yourself updated – read newspapers, read practitioner pieces, attend conferences, read academic articles in your area, etc. – it will make you a better and happier professional.

3. Keep up your other academic interests and seek to integrate them into your career.

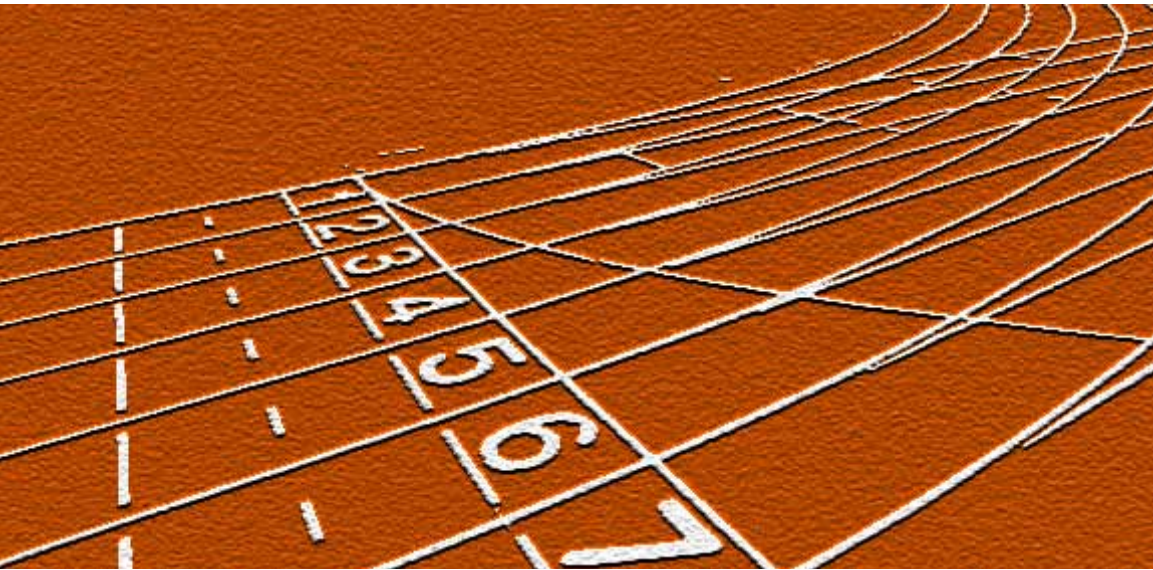
Even though I will be starting a law career, I have not forgotten my previous training and interests in pre-modern Chinese history. While in law school, I have written and published articles on Chinese pre-modern legal history, as well as traveled to conferences to present papers, trying to keep up my research interests in that area (my friends have joked that I spend more time in the 12th century than the 21st). Even though the legal philosophy of Zhu Xi (one area in which I have written) on its face does not have anything to do with Hong Kong capital markets, keeping up my academic interests in Chinese legal history, I think, will make me a better lawyer in the future as it continually deepens my knowledge of cultural and historical China, which I think is a skill that is needed when

working in any profession in Greater China and Asia more generally. The key is not to separately compartmentalize your various academic interests and your ultimate professional title – rather, think of them as integrated and complementary. Most importantly, keeping up your other academic interests makes you a happier, healthier person.

I know these tips are quite broad, but I have found that they have been great pieces of advice which I have gleaned from my experiences over the years. I am very thankful for the opportunity to share them here and for the Li & Fung Scholarship provided by the Victor and William Fung Foundation, which really launched me on this career journey since my sponsored exchange in 2006.



Norman was giving a presentation at Singapore Management University (Photo credits to Jamie KO).



Endurance Will Pay Off

By Yaki WO

(FS2007-08 originated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

It feels like ages since I shared my experience at the Fung Scholars Leadership Conference in 2008. Happy am I that much of what I said back then is materialising.

I am now working in London at a private philanthropic foundation's climate change team. My role is to devise strategies to make transformational impacts through grant-making and support my seniors in grant

programme management. We support the work of amazing NGOs and progressive governments in large-scale energy transformation, low-carbon national development, smart urbanisation and air quality improvements.

It was not easy to get to this point. A year after graduating from university, I was awarded an FCO scholarship to do a Masters in Environment and

Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Without any solid work experience in the environmental field, I took up two internships while in London, both unpaid - in a place as competitive as London, it is almost a given that Masters graduates need to do an internship or two to get a foot in.

The financial crisis and my



non-EU citizenship made things worse. I did some freelance jobs to keep things rolling and at one point I almost thought I should start making coffee at Starbucks. My endurance paid off one day, when my professor at the LSE recommended me for a paid internship at my current organisation - they needed someone who could read, write and speak Chinese, had knowledge and interest in climate change and urbanisation issues - I got the internship and, nine months later, I was given a permanent contract.

My plan is to stay in London for another few years. It is a precious learning opportunity. Even when I was 'just an intern', I travelled with my colleagues and met with senior government officials and experts in China, South Africa and at the European Commission. In addition, being in London means access to inspiring talks and discussions - and you never know who you would bump into at Chatham House or the Parliament. On the other hand, being involved in our China programmes means that I am not detached from developments at home, if

anything, my understanding of Greater China has deepened hugely.

Having said that, I am still looking forward to the day when I am back in Asia and be able to work with the young great minds as eager as I am to make changes - surely including all the Fung Scholars!



Make a Difference (MaD) Forum 2012

Date: 6th – 8th January 2012

“Make A Difference” (MaD) is an annual youth leadership development forum organized by The Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture (HKICC). MaD inspires and empowers young people to be the change-makers. Renowned guests and speakers from different countries shared their success stories related to creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

The Victor and William Fung Foundation highly recommended this youth forum to Fung Scholars, and as a token of encouragement, the Foundation sponsored a total of 25 Fung Scholars with MaD full tickets. Let's see what the participants thought of this inspiring event.

Anni CHAN
(FS2010-11 originated from City University of Hong Kong)

“Life is long, world is big.”

Apart from making new friends, MaD forum equips me with a positive and optimistic attitude in life. Though I do not have a detailed career plan yet, I will keep exploring and hope I can follow my heart to do what I desire in the future without others' interference.



Brian CHOW Ho Chun
(FS2009-10 originated from Lingnan University)

This is an unforgettable experience.

I do find MaD provides an excellent platform to make friends with foreigners and met people you never thought before. I would like to join MaD next year to further improve myself.

Helen LAM
(FS2010-11 originated from The University of Hong Kong)

We can Make A Difference!

Let us step out from our comfort zone: feel differently, think differently and do differently. All we need is a chance to prove ourselves. All we need is the courage to take action.

LEE Pan
(FS2009-10 originated from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

MaD 2012 is more than an exciting event.

It inspired me not only ways of thinking towards different social problems, but also provided a solid platform to throw out ideas, make friends from different cities and receive useful feedbacks from other renowned thinkers.



2012

Kevin LO
(FS2006-07 originated from City University of Hong Kong)

We run, we smile, and we experience together!

I joined Night City Challenge workshops. It is the best workshops in the MaD. In the workshop, five to six people from different locations and cultural backgrounds formed a small team to get as many points as we can by visiting several districts in Hong Kong.

Lawrence LUI
(FS2007-08 originated from Baptist
University of Hong Kong)

***Children are the most
powerful changer maker
of the world!***
.....

MaD 2012 has closed its curtain, but the discussion I made in the forum keeps flashing in my mind, particularly the ones with Hjalmar Jorge JOFFRE-EICHHORN and Kiran Bir Seth gave me some inspirations.

Dorothy MAK
(FS2007-08 originated from The Hong
Kong Polytechnic University)

***Your attitude is the key
to what you can take
from the event.***
.....

MaD is not about telling you how to be the 'Best in the world', but demonstrating how to be the 'Best for the world'. This is what the right direction for the youth nowadays.

Gary YEUNG
(FS2010-11 originated from City University of Hong Kong)

***Happiness makes the changes! Do what
you love to do!***
.....

There is a dangerous disconnect between ecology and economy which would sooner or later lead to the end of our days. But how should we change and in which direction? I believe it is a high time for all of us to do reflection. And we will soon figure out how to make such a huge difference!

LIANG Pui-kwan
(FS2007-08 originated from Lingnan University)

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go." -- T.S. Eliot

As an art administrator in drama education, I value this chance to learn Hjalmar's project in Afghanistan, a true way to facilitate the ordinary to speak out and to empower them to fight for what they want. Serving in Afghanistan is a harsh job; Hjalmar told us one of his colleagues is on exile because of doing forum theatre in village. Making changes is not only about ideas but courage as well.



Mia KO
(FS2011-12 originated from The Hong Kong Institute of Education)

(Technology Advance + Problem + Creative Thinking) X Hard Work2 = Solution + Positive By-Product

This equation, which is raised by Simon BENNETT, CEO of roll7, encourages me to realise my dreams and thoughts not with the fear of failure, but with the hope of the "positive by-product".

What's on your mind?

NG Kwok Leung
(FS2011-12 originated from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

The spirit is infectious.

One thing that surprises me, is the enthusiasm displayed by most of the participants, especially the Mainland participants. Even though these passionate teenagers are not well off, they are eager to help those who are less fortunate.

Ross CHEUNG

(FS2008-09 originated from Baptist University of Hong Kong)

'Things has been done in this way, can be done in another way'.
.....

Error is terrifying. But MaD told me that great things are done by experiment and error. I think true innovations and revolutions are mixture of misuse and distorting old order.

TIAN Mingyuan (FS2011-12 originated from Zhejiang University)

Great charity is done not only with a kind heart, but also with a clever and open mind.
.....

Among all the workshops, the most impressive one is the open chat with DENG Fei, an well-known journalist in China, who devotes himself to protecting women's and children's rights and interests in China via mainly the Sina weibo, something like a Chinese Twitter.

Tracy LUI

(FS2008-09 originated from The Hong Kong Institute of Education)

Beware of the beauty of finding gifts from the problems.
.....

Uffe ELBAEK told during the Opening Ceremony that as long as we can identify the problem, take the responsibility, learn from it and try to do things differently, finally, we may be able to visualize the positive outcome that we desire. I would say the message is simple but truly inspiring.

Vicky KUNG

(FS2010-11 originated from The University of Hong Kong)

Too much capitalism is destructive.
.....

What Chandran Nair said at the Opening Ceremony assured me, or perhaps, even, delighted me. I had had the very same thought as he has: China has to be different from the all capitalist US.

Willa WONG
(FS2010-11 originated from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

***I believe what I experienced is life-long and I
can really make a difference!***
.....

Doing something big seems impossible to one, but if we group
together, we can actually make a big difference.

Willy YIP
(FS2008-09 originated from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Let's make a different in 2012!
.....

MaD forum gave participants a time to listen and think what our
society should be. It also gave me the opportunity to meet friends and
share ideas with each other. It is really an unforgettable experience.



Zenki KWAN
(FS2006-07 originated from The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology)

Nothing is impossible.
.....

I would like to sincerely thank Victor and William Fung
Foundation for sponsoring me to participate in Make a
Difference (MaD) forum this year. The 3-day seminars and
workshops have certainly inspired and motivated me to think
critically, to challenge the limit of myself, and to do something
differently and something good in the interest of society and
myself.





Welcoming Gathering 2012 (Spring)

Date: 13th February 2012

This was organized by the Victor and William Fung Foundation to welcome those newly selected Fung Scholars from mainland Universities who came to The University of Hong Kong for exchange study during the second semester of Year 2011-12.

There are a total of 48 Fung Scholars from six universities, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Renmin University of China, Xiamen University and Zhejiang

University.

ZHANG Zhi (FS2011-12) originated from Peking University was the Master of Ceremonies. Four Fung Scholars, including HUANG Jinqing (FS2007-08) originated from Sun Yat Sen University, LI Rui (FS2011-12), LUO Xiyang (FS2011-12) and TIAN Mingyuan (FS2011-12) originated from Zhejiang University, were invited to share their experiences of being exchange students at The University of Hong Kong.



Fung Scholars Community

The Hong Kong Chapter is calling for new members to join. Please contact Alex Chan (FS2010-11) via email at cusis.alexchan@ymail.com or Tracy Wong from the Foundation for any inquiries.

Post-exchange Gathering

**Kevin LO (FS2006-07 originated from City University of Hong Kong)
President, Fung Scholars (Hong Kong Chapter)**

Date: 17th December 2012

Returning Fung Scholars, who were Hong Kong-based, gathered to share experience and joy before the Christmas Eve. Activities included Memory Exchange, Flag Design, Lucky Draw and refreshments. Participating Fung Scholars shared their exchange experiences, and opinion on topics such as "The most important thing in your life?", "What do you think on yourself after 20 years?"

In this event, we successfully connected participants to share their unique

and precious experience about study abroad and strengthened connections between the participating Fung Scholars. In return, the HK Chapter committees also shared the experience of the establishment of Fung Scholars (Hong Kong Chapter).

All of the participants highly appreciated and recognized the importance of this kind of gathering in enhancing the Network's bonding.





Tai O Trip

By Anni CHAN

(FS2010-11 originated from City University of Hong Kong)

Relations Director, Fung Scholars (Hong Kong Chapter)

Date: 19th November 2011

The Tai O Tour was organized by the Hong Kong Chapter as a part of Fung Scholars Buddy Program. The Tour allowed Mainland China-based Fung Scholars to explore more about local culture of Hong Kong, apart from experiencing the modern image of the city, by understanding the history and background of Tai O. Through the Tour, it also aimed to enhance bonding between Hong Kong-based and Mainland China-based Fung Scholars, hence reinforcing the social network in a global

context.

The group visited most of the important historical buildings in Tai O, such as Tin Hau Temple and Yeung Hau Temple. The participants understood the history and background of this special island by walking through the old streets and seeing those stilt houses.

Another important objective of this activity was letting Fung Scholars from Mainland to obtain more peer support from the Fung Scholars and

Fellows Network. During the tour, they made new friends with Fung Scholar from both Hong Kong and their hometowns.

Language was not a problem between us as we communicated with heart. As a perfect ending of the tour, we all enjoyed a big lunch in a traditional local restaurant.



Feedback from participants:

"Although Hong Kong is a very modernized and developed city, the variety of culture is still important, and it's why we feel impressive when seeing very natural sight."

Kenan CHAI
(FS2011-12 originated from Fudan University)

"During this trip, the most important thing I acquired is the happiness and pleasure with my dear friends. On a journey, be accompanied by great friends is far more significant than the pure scenery."

Cherry YANG
(FS2011-12 originated from Nanjing University)

If you wish to get in touch with the Singapore Chapter Committees for any collaboration opportunities, please contact Alvin Chua (International Liaison) via email at alvin.chua.2009@smu.edu.sg

General Meeting 2012

By Jamie KO

(FS2009-10 originated from Singapore Management University)

Secretary, Fung Scholars (Singapore Chapter)

Date: 27th April 2012

The Fung Scholars Singapore Chapter successfully held their first general meeting in April this year, where Singapore-based Fung Scholars gathered to map out the calendar of events for the coming year, and nominated individuals to take on various committee positions to grow the Singapore Chapter.

The Singapore Chapter intends to build upon the Foundation's, as well as the Fung Scholars Program's mission to provide greater room for Fung Scholars to build up and leverage the Fung Scholars & Fellows

network for opportunities to continue learning, growing and contributing back to the community after the scholarship is awarded.

In the coming year, the Singapore Chapter is dedicated to raising awareness about the Foundation and the Singapore Chapter in order to (i) capture and retain new Fung Scholars, and (ii) to reach out to and attract previous batches of Fung Scholars to join in the Foundation and Singapore Chapter's activities. Focusing on the key themes of

network, leadership and community as areas for development and growth, the Singapore Chapter will be planning activities related to the aforementioned themes to engage the growing family of Singapore-based Fung Scholars.



Pre-departure Gathering 2011 (Singapore)

By Jeremy POH

(FS2010-11 originated from Singapore Management University)

Treasurer and Administrator, Fung Scholars (Singapore Chapter)

Date: 30th December 2011

The inaugural Singapore Fung Scholars Pre-departure and Networking Session was successfully organized on 30 December 2011 at Singapore Management University's School of Social Sciences Seminar Room 5.1. The event was a great success, and the participants stayed behind even after the event was announced to have officially ended to chat with one another.

Through this event, Singapore Fung Scholars were able to get a better understanding of the Foundation, and were excited to learn about the

opportunities available to them. A number of Fung Scholars were preparing to embark on their exchange, and picked up several useful tips from earlier batches of Fung Scholars.

In addition, this event served as an initial gauge to find out how responsive Fung Scholars would be to the Foundation's activities, as well as the establishment of the Singapore Chapter. The response was very positive, and many Fung Scholars have indicated their interest in participating in follow up activities.



If you are interested in initiating a local chapter in the Mainland China, please contact Tracy Wong at the Foundation for discussion.

Lamma Island Trip

By **SHI Yijun**

(FS 2011-12 originated from Zhejiang University)

Date: 26th February 2012

Being part of the Buddy Program especially for mainland the China-based Fung Scholars, the Lamma Island Trip was successfully held on 26th February 2012 (Sunday). 33 Fung Scholars participated in the activity. It was organized by three Zhejiang University-originated Fung Scholars including LIANG Bo (FS2011-12), TIAN Mingyuan (FS2011-12) and SHI Yijun (FS2011-12).

During the Trip, the participants visited the landscapes and experienced

the local cultural heritage on Lamma Island. The participants enjoyed the trip very much and a lot of them stayed behind to go around other places on the island after the event was officially ended.

This event offered a very good opportunity for the mainland China-based Fung Scholars, who come from different universities, to get familiar with each other. And the participants have made a good use of the opportunity to make new friends. As a result, the linkages

among the mainland China-based Fung Scholars were strengthened.





One-day Leadership Training

Date: 30th April 2012

Five mainland China-based Fung Scholars, namely FU Wensi (FS2011-12 originated from Tsinghua University), ZHANG Lulu (FS2011-12 originated from Zhejiang University), FAN Jing (FS2011-12 originated from Tsinghua University), CHENG Yi (FS2011-12 originated from Peking University) and ZHANG Yuan (FS2011-12 originated from Renmin University of China), joined the workshop organized by the Youth Foundation. The purpose was to build up leadership skills for serving others. The message was: in order to better serve others, one has to understand oneself well.





Remarkable Moments

CHEUNG Wain-Yin, Wilson is currently completing his Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme, MA of Transcultural European Outdoor Studies, at the Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany, coordinator), the University of Cumbria (England) and the Norges Idrettshogskole in Oslo (Norway). He was awarded the Li & Fung Scholarship for an half-year exchange programme at the Hong Kong Baptist University in academic year of 2010-11.

***Reattach to nature,
pursue my own mountains***

Wilson CHEUNG

(FS2008-09 originated from Hong Kong Baptist University)

Let converting Dream into Action!

Embracing extreme alpinism, being lighter and faster, taking simple way ascend my summit, all are my core philosophy of life.

Why I love mountaineering?

Mountain is my life; my life is mountain. Reaching higher altitude, thin air and low pressure push my adrenaline level higher – the moment of enjoyment. Why I still alive?

I see the fall-down tree still growth up, the dying flowers stay bright for next spring, and the frozen grassland survive from snow and become green later. Nature tells me I should stay alive in the harsh conditions.

Mountaineering is my life

Seven weeks before my master course in Europe, I visited Swiss Alps again. I spent very limited expenditure (about 500 US dollars, overall trip

included gifts and limitless postcards) to mount 4 peaks (Matterhorn, Mt Blanc, Dufourspitze and Mt Rysy in Poland) within the amazing seven weeks.

It was a crazy but impressive self-challenge journey! Unadorned life into the mountain: camping, hitchhiking, hunting, climbing, sleeping and melting the ice, all shaped me as a wild man. To be sure, I discovered how simple of living with one 50-Litre backpack in the



nature, carrying my dreams and hopes with passion of love, for discovering the blue prints of my soul.

Matterhorn: a milestone of mountaineer

With better skills, physical fitness and equipments, I became a summit Matterhorn under self-guided. Spending 3days for 1200m climbing, I got blind temporally because of water and air shortage. Lucky enough, my skills and knowledge help me to escape

from possible catastrophe. In Dufourspitze, I dropped into a crevasse in sudden and I lost my ice axe into it. Many hi-bye experiences from hell make me understand what the life should be. In the future, I wish I can find enough sponsorship to summit Mt Vilson in Antarctica and Mt Everest.

Hitchhiking: simply life & art of travelling

I met a lot of drivers with different background. I learnt

Remarkable Moments



insights and inspirations from them through dialogues. Although some of them were just hi-bye friends, most of them become part of my life. Life is a journey if you are willing to.

Dedicated to nature

I, together with a group of Biology majored students, have established a non-profit making organization, Ecobus (<http://ecobus.org.hk/>). In order to facilitate



Wilson



individual interaction with nature and enhance the environmental sense of belonging, we applied our eco-route-cycle philosophy, Enjoy-Care-Share, in a wide range of outdoor activities which are for the community. All efforts we made to attract citizens' attention on our natural environment and the "green" lifestyle significantly.

I have just completed my Master in Transcultural European Outdoor Studies (MA) in Europe. My degree focuses on the outdoor practice and the pedagogy of landscape. In the coming years, I will try my best to seek for more sponsorships for mountaineering to North Pole, Antarctica and Mt Everest.

Wilson



Xiaoqian is currently completing his PhD degree at University of Wisconsin-Madison in the USA. He was awarded the Li & Fung Scholarship for an one-year exchange program at the University of Hong Kong in academic year of 2009-10.

Living and Learning in the US

Xiaoqian XU

(FS2009-10 originated from Zhejiang University)

Madison is a small but typical American city, I can meet people who originate from all regions over the world but live as Americans. American lifestyle, in my view, means people could support their football team behaving wildly while they would spend family hours watching the old-style outdoor performances by the side of the peaceful lake Mendota each weekend. It seems life in America is really easy, however, can be divided into distinct pieces.

As a graduate student in Math, my social life is limited due to study pressure. For those who want to devote themselves to Math or natural science, life might be somewhat lonely. Whereas, it is meaningful, and in most cases pleasant, to meet

people from different culture. From the knowledge of other cultures, one can understand diverse academic styles. Let me give some examples here. For French, they have independent tradition for science, but sometimes not extremely understandable for people from other country; for Indian, they are strong at engineering, but not as good as Chinese in the theoretical science; for Russian, they are just united, hardworking, and good at abstract concept, like Chinese.

The most striking impression for me towards Americans is, actually, most American undergraduate students are poor in Math. I think the reason for that is the aim of their high school Math education is nothing

but knowing how to apply Math formula. On one hand, this is good for their future career life as there is barely necessity to know the definition of complex numbers in ordinary jobs. On the other hand, this makes trouble when they want to learn some advanced knowledge in science and even engineering skills. They can only use the formula but cannot deal with problems that are just slightly different from the textbook.

Learning and living in place other than mainland China has broadened my horizon. It makes me think about the academic and life style more objectively, as an observer.

Nancy is currently studying at Harvard University, in undergraduate Class of 2013. She was awarded the Li & Fung Scholarship for an internship in China in summer 2011. She went to Guangzhou and worked at the Public Affairs Section, US Consulate General, Department of State, US.



“Welcome Back” to China

Nancy XIE (FS2011-12 originated from Harvard University)

“Welcome to China and welcome onboard to the team,” said the Consul General warmly as we shook hands on my first day. Yet, for me, it also meant a “welcome back” to China that brings my experiences to a full circle. I was born in Guangzhou and immigrated to San Francisco at the age of six with my family. After being a naturalized U.S. citizen for six years, I found myself interning in the very office where my family received our immigration visa interviews. Soon, however, I realized that this internship

requires much more than merely venturing outside the circle of my comfort zone.

On the job, I was given many similar responsibilities as a full-time Foreign Service officer. As a representative of the Public Affairs Office, I participated in a wide range of activities, from writing grants and budget proposals to drafting speeches for the Consul General; from hosting discussion forums at the Consulate to planning wine-tasting receptions and cultural outreach events at local museums. I gave

more than ten lectures and presentations at local universities, and attended section briefings with the Consul General and consulate-wide meetings every week. My office was very inclusive and embodied a great sense of camaraderie. I felt welcomed as a member of the team, which enabled me to further improve myself as a team player.

My deepest personal experience, however, was taking a glimpse of the “real” China through the



mountainous regions of rural Fujian. In July, my colleagues and I traveled to the coastal province of Fujian for a week to conduct some site-visits of local NGOs and companies. One such NGO helps to fund education for primary school students in impoverished rural areas, and invited us to conduct home-visits of these children's families. I was utterly unprepared for what I was about to witness: families of six crowded into tin-roofed shacks, with a brick hearth and a single light bulb; children and chickens frolicked in a playground of garbage dump and ruins. Many families earn less than 600 USD annually. These people have no addresses, no phone numbers, much less a social identity. As a Chinese-American accustomed to the glamorous

skyline of the Shanghai metropolis and the majestic walls of the Forbidden City, I could hardly believe that this Fujianese village is a part of the same China that I knew. Yet ironically, it also seemed to be a more real and tangible China.

From this internship, I have improved on my professionalism, my public speaking and my communication skills, and I have learned a great deal about the Department of State. Yet more importantly, I have gained a deeper, more personal understanding about China. I know that this experience will also continue to shape my last two years at Harvard. This semester, I come back to Harvard realizing how much I did not know about China. As a

Social Studies concentrator, I have now decided to write my thesis on contemporary Chinese society, focusing on social development and citizen activism. Furthermore, I want to continue to be engaged with China and greater East Asian region outside the classroom as well, as I plan to be more involved with the Asia Center on campus. Overall, this summer experience has given me a stronger direction in terms of academic and personal development at Harvard.

Upcoming Activities

Pre-departure Gathering 2012 (Hong Kong)

The Gathering is aimed at preparing the newly selected Hong Kong-based Fung Scholars for their exciting and stimulating overseas learning journey in the next academic year.

This year, the Pre-departure Gathering will be held on 30th June, 2012 (Saturday). If you are interested in joining the event to share your precious experience to your fellows, please contact the Foundation for further details.



Pre-departure Meetings (Mainland China)

In order to help those newly selected mainland China-based Fung Scholars who will come to Hong Kong for their exchange in the next academic year, the Foundation encourages you, the mainland China-based Fung Scholars who had been to the University of Hong Kong for exchange, to share your experience with your fellows before they head to Hong Kong.

Please contact the Foundation if you would be interested in being the organizers and/or sharing your exchange experience.

Fung Scholars Leadership Conference 2012

This year, the annual conference is expected to be held in autumn in Hong Kong. The Foundation will make an announcement with details in due course. Please stay tuned for any updates.



Local Chapters Establishment

Fung Scholars & Fellows is an international network. With the network's expansion, Fung Scholars Local Chapters are self-initiated platforms for Fung Scholars and Fellows originating from different regions/cities to get together and build up closer connection with other members.

Please contact Ms. Tracy Wong at the Foundation if you are interested in building up the local chapter in your own city.

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