CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Centennial College celebrated the graduation of our second batch of graduates this fall. On 24 October, hundreds of students filled the auditorium and proudly donned their caps and gowns as they took part in the graduation ceremony. Mr Lau Ming Wai, Chairman of the Commission on Youth, delivered an address as the guest of honour. He encouraged students to stay curious and talked about the virtues of “productive stupidity.” “Don’t be afraid of being stupid,” he said, but rather stay curious as we continue on the lifelong journey of learning.

Graduate Representative Ms Kathleen Lee also gave a valedictory speech in which she expressed gratitude to teachers, parents and friends. “What I have found most meaningful about my time at Centennial College is what I have come to discover about myself,” she said. “Centennial College really allowed me to spread my wings and to challenge my limits.” We congratulate our graduates once again on their significant achievements and wish them every success in their future endeavours.
Our College is excited to announce the introduction of a new BA Major in Sustainability and Society.

Dr Stephen Ng, Major Coordinator, talks about the intimate relevance of the subject to our daily lives:

As I write this it’s almost Chinese New Year and I wish you another successful and prosperous year to come. But, hold on a second, what has happened to winter? Well, as many of you are aware this year, Hong Kong is under the influence of El Niño, which is characterised by a warmer and wetter winter. El Niño, in a nutshell, is a stage of a global climate phenomenon called the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which leads to warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and in turn also disturbs the climatic patterns of the western Pacific Ocean and, therefore, Hong Kong. This intensified climatic phenomenon combined with an increasing occurrence of severe weather, many believe, is largely due to climate change, a recently much-debated topic. Paris hosted the latest United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) from late November to early December last year. This conference brought together major government bodies and experts from all over the world to discuss measures in response to what many consider a severe threat.

The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement reached in response to climate change, was adopted at the same conference (COP3) 18 years ago in 1997.

In the shadow of the changing environment (many more now agree that it’s getting worse) and public concern about livelihood and security, the College has recently launched its latest new major, Sustainability and Society, under the Bachelor of Arts programme. Many may correlate sustainable development with eco-friendly practices, but the concept of sustainability is in fact much more than just being eco-friendly. The new major, aims to bring students a whole new inter-disciplinary approach in understanding the underlying principles regarding the three major aspects of sustainability – environment, society and economics – and from these foundations to build and formulate a comprehensive solution and action framework to tackle the corresponding deep and complex problems we are facing nowadays, from root to tip.

The first major core course, The Home Planet: An Introduction to Earth Systems (SCI4007), is now open for registration, not only to those who consider majoring in Sustainability and Society, but also to all other students, who are generally interested in natural science, to take as an elective.
What do a comedian, foreign journalist, plastic surgeon, executive coach, college lecturer and former police commissioner have in common? Change.

At the end of last semester, the TEDx CentennialCollege student club held its inaugural event entitled The Essence of Change. On 5 November, six special guests came to campus to share their ideas on the essence of change with an audience of 100 Centennial College students and members of the Hong Kong community.

TED is a global non-profit organisation that is devoted to spreading ideas in the form of short, powerful talks. TED stands for technology, entertainment and design, and the “x” in the title indicates an independently organised TED community event.

As organiser of the event, TEDx CentennialCollege student club designed the talk in line with the TED organisation’s global branding and operational guidelines. "Our student club members came together as a team to plan, manage and operate the TEDx talk within a two month period. With the kind support of the College, we were able to host this inaugural event to talk about the essence of change in Hong Kong and how the power of ideas can change attitudes, lives and the world, which is the core mission of TED," said event chief organiser Arun Surendran. “We hope that this event is the start of an ongoing discussion of important ideas within Centennial College and a continuing engagement with the wider Hong Kong community.”

The Essence of Change event featured a talk by each of the six special guests, question-and-answer sessions and an outdoor reception. Plastic surgeon Dr Jonathan Lau discussed the importance of continual professional improvement, which is relevant to all professions in his talk “New Technological Development in the Surgical Industry.” Renowned comedian Mr Vivek Mahbubani talked about the power of perspective and the liberating power of being able to change your mindset and expectations in “Change in Mindset to Turn Weaknesses and Approaching Change in Life with his talk on “Make a Change - Take Control.” BBC journalist and presenter Mr Andrew Wood analysed the role of technology in change and looking into the future with his presentation on "Change in the Way We Perceive the Future." Finally, former Centennial College Assistant Professor and now HKU Lecturer Dr Aditi Dubey-Jhaveri shared her thoughts and experiences on the importance of embracing change in her presentation on "Consider a Change in Career."

For more information on the TEDx CentennialCollege event, please log on to TED.com.
EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES WITH OUR U.S. PARTNERS

In November 2015, Centennial College welcomed visitors from one of our partner institutions in the United States, Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. Eleven MBA students, accompanied by Professor Richard Benedetto, the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, and Professor Warren Jaferian, the Dean of International Education, were in Hong Kong for a two-week study tour to learn about management in the global environment. They met with business executives and attended a workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility at the University of Hong Kong as well as seminars at Centennial College. Our visitors also toured interesting landmarks such as the Po Lin Monastery and took sightseeing trips to Mui Wo, Po Toi island and Aberdeen. Harry Hong, one of our students, was actively involved in hosting our visitors. “I am very glad to be a volunteer in welcoming our visitors from Endicott College,” he said. “Although the exchange tour lasted for only two weeks, friendships were built and fond memories were created. During our many conversations we talked about politics, business and cultural relations between the West and Asia. Interacting with foreign students also gave me the best opportunity to learn English and improve my communication skills. Even now, I still cannot forget how exciting the experience was!” Another student who made our visitors feel warmly welcomed was Nancy Yiu. “It’s my pleasure to give the Endicott students memorable experiences here and a chance to explore Hong Kong culturally,” she said. We look forward to future exchanges with our partner institutions!

MY SEMESTER ABROAD AT LESLEY UNIVERSITY

by Wong Chi Chun, Jonathan

It has always been my dream to study abroad, and finally my wish came true when Centennial College made a student exchange partnership with an American institution, Lesley University. I chose Lesley University because its campus is located at the heart of Boston’s Cambridge area, right next to Harvard University. Harvard Square was a great place to visit because there is a wide variety of shops and restaurants. From there I got to experience the richness of the historical and cultural heritage of Cambridge.

Lesley University offers a wide curriculum of courses. Students can study Psychology, Childhood Education, English Literature, French, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, History, Geography, Economics, Counselling, Creative Writing and much more. I was very grateful to be able to enroll in interesting courses that meet my learning goals. The learning environment in America is somewhat different from that in Hong Kong. At Lesley, students were expected to do advanced readings before attending classes, where they initiated group discussions with teachers. This was the part I found most uncomfortable, but finally I participated in discussing with teachers during lessons. It was quite a new experience for me as a foreign student.

Apart from attending lessons, I spent most of my weekends sightseeing. I visited museums such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Harvard Art Museum, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard Museum of Natural History and Harvard Semitic Museum, as well as historic sites such as Salem, Massachusetts State House, Freedom Trail, Old North Church, Paul Revere’s House and Quincy Market. I also took the opportunity to visit world-class institutions, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, Tufts University and the University of Massachusetts Boston.

During my semester abroad I also found new friendships. I met students from other foreign countries including France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Iceland, Sweden, China, Switzerland and Puerto Rico, and I got to become friends with someone from Hong Kong too! With these new friendships I did not feel alone in Boston any more. All in all, studying in the United States was a life-changing moment in my college life. I have learned to live independently and have grown to become more confident. My experiences abroad also changed the way I view Hong Kong. It seems to be different now from when I left a semester ago. Is it because I’m in a different part of the world again, or have I changed and become a different person?
MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME BEGINS ITS THIRD YEAR

The Mentorship Programme held its third Inauguration Ceremony at the Centennial Campus on 4 December 2015. In addition to marking the launch of this year’s programme, mentors from the 2014-2015 programme were recognised with a certificate of appreciation and mentees in last year’s programme received a certificate of accomplishment.

In his opening remarks, Professor Malpas encapsulated the importance of the mentor-mentee relationship in the programme: “Good mentors will not only encourage their mentees to keep improving and breaking out of their comfort zone, they will also give life-rewarding tips and options, very often from their own experience.” He also spoke of how the Mentorship Programme builds character as mentees “need to realise that you are the one who takes charge of yourself, and you make your own choices and own decisions.”

During the event, mentor Ms Rosanna Choi, partner of CWCC CPA Limited, and her mentees Ms Felicia Mun and Mr David Choi shared their experiences from the 2014-2015 programme. In an onstage discussion of their experiences, Ms Choi said, “I learned from my mentees how to listen to youngsters today.” Ms Mun and Mr Chan also felt that their experiences were very helpful and what they gained from the programme exceeded all expectations.

The Inauguration Ceremony also featured musical performances by Philo Chan, Vickie Chau and Chau Tsz-lun followed by a reception where the mentors and mentees had an opportunity to socialise and get to know one another.

MEDIA AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAREER SEMINAR 🎓⏰

How can aspiring young entrepreneurs start their own business in Hong Kong’s competitive environment? This October, three successful entrepreneurs were invited by the Office of Student Success to share with students their experiences in a career seminar. Ms Kiki Tam, known for her music and television performances, talked about using her strong online presence to promote her Korean fast food outlets. Ms Anita Cheung and Ms Yubi Wong, both former newscasters at Cable TV, shared their reflections on building their own start-up business in speed dating. The duo launched HK Romance

Dating after recognising a huge demand for matchmaking services in the city. Their inspiring talks encouraged students to be more creative, thoughtful and adventurous.
A NEW JOURNEY
By Curtis Cheung

Every student has a reason for enrolling in Centennial College. Below are reflections by new students on their first semester at Centennial.

Many of the new students interviewed found life at Centennial College challenging and stimulating in different ways. For instance, year-one student Anthony Sze, majoring in Integrated Business still vividly remembers his first month in school.

"In the first month, I had a difficult time adjusting to the new environment; luckily, I made some good friends in the first week. They were very important to me as they were good helpers to address my problems in school."

Anthony Sze
Year One, Integrated Business

Unlike Anthony, first-year student Christina Chin found that it was the end of the term that was unforgettable, as it helped her grow up.

"It’s my first finals period; and with all those papers and exams, it almost killed me. Ha! But, hey what doesn’t kill me makes me stronger. It helped me have a better understanding of my university life."

Christina Chin
Year One, Language and Communications

First-year student David Mok enjoyed the active learning culture at Centennial College and was inspired by the teaching and learning environment.

"I love the learning environment here! The lecturers ask us to express our own opinion in class. My favorite subject is English. I can improve my English through interesting teaching. For instance, the lecturer asks us to participate in drama in the classroom."

David Mok
Year One, Gender, Media and Culture

Let’s wish them all the best in their learning journey at Centennial College.

ACCOUNTING INTERNS

This semester a new group of third-year Professional Accounting majors embarks on their chosen career in the ACC 5012 Accounting Internship program. This year marks the third-year of the program in which interns receive on-the-job training and gain exposure to the accounting profession. After taking eighteen credits in the fall semester, many of the interns began working full-time in early January. They are stationed at eleven different employers—including Big Four accounting firms, top-ranked local firms, corporations and government organisations—and they are working in the areas of accounting, auditing, financial services, China taxation, finance, auditing and risk management. The interns will return to campus to complete the internship program with a final month of classes from 25 April to 28 May.

"Life at Deloitte is full of challenges as well as learning opportunities. The more I work, the more I acquire new skills, and the more certain that I am growing in audit."

Cassidy Wong
Intern at Deloitte

"I am gradually integrating into the new environment at Nova Capita and getting to know the people there. I have learned some basic accounting skills so far and am responsible for payments and cash expenses at a company called e-kong. My supervisor used to work in the Big Four, so I am learning a lot of accounting knowledge from her when I ask questions about work."

Carrie Chan
Intern at Nova Capital Advisor Limited
STUDENT CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Campus Crusade for Christ

Centennial College is a community of diverse faiths. One of our student societies is the Centennial College Campus Crusade for Christ, also known as the CCCCC. Let’s hear about this student fellowship from its members:

When Centennial College was founded, some of us hoped to build a platform for gathering Christian students and together we established the student fellowship. We want to spread positive energy, love and care on campus. Most importantly, we want to share our Christian faith with fellow schoolmates. We have since organised various activities. This fall, we organised discipleship groups and monthly prayer meetings for our members to pray and enjoy fellowship together. We also launched the “Black Memo” series, a publication that contains our personal reflections on issues college students are facing. In November, we held a small concert to share music, our own stories and the Christian faith with fellow students.

Samuel, a Year-3 student and an active member of the fellowship, talked about his decision to join the CCCCC: “I heard about the CCCCC for the first time on registration day. I felt that its members are different – They do not just hold meetings for believers but actively reach out to share their love and care for other students. I was encouraged by them and decided to take part in the CCCCC.”

Public Speaking Club

The Public Speaking Club held an on-campus Leadership Training Workshop on 23 October. Seventeen members participated in the workshop designed to boost their confidence and improve English language and leadership skills. The workshop included an ice-breaking activity, practice job interviews, tug-of-war, team-building and leadership games.
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Office of Student Success (OSS) has a number of stimulating and fun events on schedule in March and April.

March 2016
• Running Man x Centennial College: Event & Exhibition*
• Clay Making Workshops*
• Art Exhibition*
• Overseas Travelling and Accommodation
• Information Booth
• Integrity Exhibition

April 2016
• Self-understanding Workshop
• Healthy Budgeting Workshop
• Integrity Short Video Show
• Music Sharing Session

*The Programme is under League, an event-based platform funded by the OSS. The aim is to increase the opportunity for Centennial College students to organise events for those in need.

Please scan the QR Code below for updates on the upcoming events or check out the OSS website at https://success.centennialcollege.hku.hk/news.php

Centennial College Essay Writing Competition

“What role might Hong Kong play in supporting ‘Global Sustainable Development’?”

Group:
Secondary Groups (Chinese / English Essay);
Form 4 students or above in any secondary school

Closing date:
31 March 2016 (Thu)

Prizes:
1st Prize: HK$5,000
First runner-up: HK$3,000
Second runner-up: HK$2,000
Merit: Book coupon of HK$500

For competition details, please refer to www.centennialcollege.hku.hk

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: Bill Moriarty
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