Beyond the Classroom

Professor Johannes Chan welcoming the new Dean

What do students do in summer?
Message from the Dean

Welcoming the New Dean

After two years of global search, I am glad to report that the University has appointed Professor Michael Hor as the next Dean. My term has been further extended to 30 June 2014 and Professor Hor will assume Deanship on 1 July 2014. Professor Hor is currently professor of law at National University of Singapore, and is one of the most accomplished academics in Singapore known for his outspoken criticisms of Singapore criminal law. Michael has spent his sabbatical leave with us before and is familiar with Hong Kong. Some friends have expressed a concern about how he would handle politically sensitive issues. When he was asked during his meeting with the Faculty how he would handle Benny Tai in relation to his involvement in Occupy Central, his response was that as long as Benny or any colleague is pulling his weight in teaching, research and administration, what he or she does outside the Faculty should not be the business of the Faculty.

I have known Michael for over a decade. He is a man of humour and sensitivity, and a person of high integrity. He is more familiar with ASEAN jurisdictions, which will fill a significant gap of expertise in the Faculty profile. Despite his familiarity with Hong Kong (and his fondness for the food here), he is less experienced in dealing with China. No doubt he will need a lot of advice and support from colleagues and friends, and I hope you would continue to lend him as much support as you have been giving to the Faculty.

I may also take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable support and guidance over the last 12 years. The Faculty and the University have undergone almost unrecognizable changes in the last twelve years, and I am privileged and honoured to have been able to lead the Faculty over an eventful decade and be part of all these changes. When I first took over the Deanship in 2002, the law school was largely a local teaching institution, with barely 50 academic staff, a handful of administrators, and about 800 students. Over the years we have grown into one of the best law schools in the world, with almost 80 academic staff from all major jurisdictions, over 40 administrative and research support staff, and about 1,700 students, including about 100 PhD/SJD students. The credit should go to all members of the Faculty. I should also pay tribute to all my predecessors, the late Professor Daffyd Evans, Peter Rhodes, Professor Peter Wesley-Smith, and Professor Albert Chen, who have laid down a good foundation for us. The community has also changed a lot and expects, rightly so in my view, a lot more from the Faculty and the University. Among other things, as a public institution, the Faculty/University has to be more transparent and accountable. As a leading university in this part of the world, we are subject to much more scrutiny than other institutions. And at a time of great constitutional changes, I always believe that the law school is more than an educational institution. As an academic institution, it has the privilege, and indeed, the responsibility, of transcending vested interests and partisan politics to make full use of our knowledge to protect fundamental rights, to express our views without fear when these rights and values are endangered, to uphold justice, fairness, and the rule of law. I am sure
that the Faculty will continue to play these roles. It is our mission; it is our destiny.

The nature of Deanshup has also changed considerably over the years. It is a far more challenging and complicated job that requires a lot more than just academic credentials. From the time when the Dean was just managing teaching, the position has evolved into something more akin to the CEO of a public institution who is expected or has to pretend to know everything about vision and missions, strategic development, human resources management, budget planning, development planning, community partnership, fundraising and development, external relations, image building and branding, let alone research excellence, admissions and recruitment, and teaching quality, and even building construction and management! How well I have done is better left to the judgement of others, but it is true that I have learned a lot in the process, the most rewarding part of which is the experience of having worked with many wonderful and inspiring people. I could not have done all these things without the strong support of so many colleagues and friends. I am also glad that the Faculty has a wonderful team of administrative staff. Without their tireless efforts and contribution (which are usually unrecognized) the Faculty would be a very different place. To all of you, I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

A Myth: What did our students do in summer?

Long gone is the myth that academics enjoy a long leisurely summer. These days, summer is as busy as anytime during the teaching semesters, if not more so. We run two summer programmes, plus a number of short courses (7 on offer this year). There are also common core courses (all students have to take 6 one-semester courses from four areas of inquiries, namely, arts and humanities, science and technology, global study, and China study), and some of them are offered in summer. There is indeed a formal summer semester! We have therefore decided to focus on what our students do during summer. You will in this issue find that apart from working as an intern in a law firm or a barrister’s chambers, students have engaged in all kinds of interesting and innovative social projects, both in Hong Kong and overseas. We are trying to make summer experience educational and rewarding, and the summer experience forms very much of an extended curriculum in their study. I hope you will enjoy learning about the students’ summer experiences.

PCLL Admissions

It is likely that controversies surrounding PCLL admissions will go on for a while. Even the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Education has convened a meeting recently to discuss the issue! It has been widely circulated in town that admission to the PCLL is extremely difficult. While competition is keen, which is natural for any good law school, there is a total of about 1,300 applicants for PCLL in the last few years, and the three law schools together offer a total of about 650 PCLL places. Thus, the admission rate is about 50%, which is reasonable compared with other jurisdictions. The admission standard is set by the professional bodies. It has been suggested that even students with a 2(!) honour’s degree from a reputable law school from the UK would not be able to obtain a place in the PCLL. While there may be isolated cases of such, part of the reason is that there has been serious grade inflation in the UK. For many law schools in the UK, it is indeed more difficult to get a 2(!) than a 2(!)!! We are aware of some law schools producing over 80% or even 90% of 1st class and upper second degrees in their graduation cohort. For many UK law schools, the first year results are not counted towards their final degree. As a result, some students do not take their first year study seriously, and their final degree is based primarily on their final year or the final 2 years’ results. Yet the subjects that they study in the first year are of fundamental importance, such as contract, tort, and criminal law. While most overseas applicants have a 2(!) degree, we do take into account their performance in the core subjects (as defined by the professional bodies), and unfortunately some of those applicants who have achieved a 2(!) honour’s degree have done poorly in these core subjects.

The Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training has decided to conduct an overall review of legal education. The Law Society has at the same time commissioned a consultancy study on the desirability of introducing a common entrance examination for solicitors. The proposal will have far-reaching consequences for legal education and access to the legal profession, and will no doubt require the most careful consideration and discussion.

Stop Press: Double Degree Arrangement with Cambridge

We have just entered into some separate double degree arrangements with Cambridge University and the University of New South Wales. It is exciting that we will be able to send some of our best students to these top universities, and we are discussing with Harvard, Yale and Oxford on a visiting student arrangement. Not only will this provide excellent opportunities for our students, but that it is also a testimony to the international reputation and recognition of our degrees at HKU. Under these arrangements, our students will be able to read a postgraduate degree at one of these prestigious universities during their undergraduate years, which means they can earn 2 degrees within 4 or 5 years. However, the students will have to pay the tuition fee of the host institution under these arrangements, and we are trying to raise funds to support the needy students who would otherwise not be able to benefit from these excellent opportunities. For more details, see page 28.

Professor Johannes Chan SC (Hon)
Dean, Faculty of Law
December 2013
**Events**

1. Mr Allan Chiang, SBS, Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, giving the keynote speech at the “3rd Asian Privacy Scholars Network Conference” on 7 July 2013.

2. Professor Friedemann Pfäfflin from Ulm University Clinic, Germany at the Conference “The Legal Status of Transsexual and Transgender Persons” on 6 September 2013.

3. Participants of the 2013 Asia-American Institute in Transnational Law jointly organized by the Duke University School of Law and the Faculty of Law.


5. Professor Huang Huikang, Chief of Department of Treaty and Law of PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Member of UN International Law Commission, gave a talk on “Certain Hot Issues of International Law in China’s Diplomatic Frontiers” on 25 September 2013.

6. Seminar “Access to Justice and the Challenge of Self-Representation” by Professor Dame Hazel Genn, Dean of Faculty of Law, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, University College London, on 4 November 2013.

7. Ms Sou Chiam, CEO of the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre Ltd at the Financial Dispute Resolution Forum on 19 June 2013.

8. Assistant Professor Amanda Whitfort (middle) and a multidisciplinary team presenting “A Review of Hong Kong’s Wild Animal and Plant Protection Laws”, which reviewed the effectiveness of the five key ordinances in protecting wild native species in Hong Kong at a press conference on 17 September 2013.

9. Centre for Comparative and Public Law (CCPL), Journalism and Media Studies Centre of the University, and Media Defence South East Asia jointly organized the conference “Media Law Policy in the Internet Age” on 18-19 October, featuring an opening keynote speech “Law Reform Now: Free Speech, Reputation and Media Intrusion” by Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC (Photo 9).


11. Ms Amy Kwok, SHKP-Kwoks’ Foundation Executive Director (fifth from the right, front row) with recipients of the Fourth SHKP-Kwoks’ Foundation-HKU Law Scholarship on 11 June 2013.

Ms Alexa Lam, JP, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Securities and Futures Commission graced the LLB Graduation Ceremony 2013 with her presence as our Guest-of-Honour. For the first time we had the Ceremony at the Grand Hall of the Centennial Campus and various new features were introduced, including a mini-orchestra, and live close-up of each graduand on stage. Ms Lam’s speech is re-produced in full below.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean, Esteemed Faculty, Distinguished Guests, Graduands, Family and Friends, a very good morning to you all. For the Class of 2013 of the Law Faculty of the University of Hong Kong, today is a very special day. I am greatly honoured to be here, to share your special moment.

It has been many years since my own HKU graduation. Our graduation was at City Hall. It was graduation day for all faculties. The Law Class of 76 was small – there were only 50 of us. But as our individual names were called and we marched up to the stage in train to receive our diplomas, that magic moment lives on in my mind to this day.

Now, I know that I stand between you and the formal ceremony where you will experience your magic moment. You will also listen to what I have to say, out of politeness and unflaging courtesy. I have to confess that I was quite anxious about what to say today. It has been 37 years since I graduated from this University, so I may be a little out of touch about a graduand’s aspirations, feelings and concerns.

I did something quite rare. I sought the advice of my younger son who graduated two years ago. I asked him what up and coming
young professionals like all of you would find useful and interesting to hear.

And here’s what he told me. He said Mom, don’t talk like a serious regulator. And whatever you say, don’t try to be profound! You are speaking to fresh graduates. They will need at least a few years of experience and soul-searching to fully associate with what you say regarding real life. So leave them with only the key messages that you want them to remember. I thought that was pretty sound advice. So I will try to do just that.

I have three key messages for you today.

1. PASSION

My first message is passion. You must have passion in what you do. I am not talking about liking or enjoying the social status that comes with being a lawyer. I am also not talking about that big pay cheque or sensational brief that you dream of collecting from your employer or client. I am talking about something deeper and much closer to your heart. I am talking about truly believing in what you are doing. This is what makes you want to go to work when you get up in the morning. It makes you feel excited and believe you can succeed in anything you put your mind to.

This is about learning to derive deep and lasting satisfaction from your work, enjoying the result and just as importantly the process. During your quiet moments, when you reflect on your life, on what you do, you can smile to yourself and honestly say, “I am proud that I did this, what I’ve done has given someone else a bigger meaning.” That someone else could be your client, or it could be the people in your community, or your country, or you could truly be helping the world. The choice is yours.

You should enjoy the intellectual process of being a lawyer. Having been trained in the dialectics of legal thinking, you will know the process of law; the intellectual debates, the discipline of cutting through a very complex set of facts, breaking them down into individual components, distilling from these components the crux of the problem, and then applying the appropriate law to resolve the problem.

As the law is rarely clear cut for all situations, you need to develop your skill in distinguishing the law to legally favour your client’s position.

For those of you who are passionate about the practice of law, you have found your calling. Be true to it. Uphold the majesty behind the law at all times, for it is often the bedrock of harmonious society. For others who may ask, “Is law all that I’m going to do for the rest of my life? Or is there something more profound waiting for me?” Do not be afraid to question. Explore these thoughts as they may lead you to other career choices in which you will find deeper fulfillment.

2. THE POWER OF CHOICE

This brings me to my second message, that you have the power and freedom of choice.

When I was still at school, I never imagined myself becoming a lawyer. In those days, the study of law was not the first or even the second career of choice that would please your parents. How was one supposed to feed oneself just by arguing on behalf of others? Wasn’t it far better to learn about bookkeeping, business, medicine or even cooking? But I was hungry for the intellectual challenge and decided to take the path less travelled.

One of my most memorable experiences at university was participating in a moot competition presided over by none other than Lord Denning. Lord Denning was Master of the Rolls at the Court of Appeal for 20 years. He had a formidable reputation for legal creativity and his willingness to override stuffified precedent in the interests of justice. Seeing him in the flesh and in action brought the legend to life. He was as bold as his judgments, with a sharp wit and an endearing personality. I was captivated by his whole persona. I told myself that I will practise law, which I did until 1997.

1997 was a major turning point for many of us in Hong Kong. It was a poignant metaphor for change. I was practising law in Hong Kong at that time. I decided that I wanted to involve myself in work that had a broader meaning; work that would benefit and impact a wider spectrum of people in Hong Kong. I joined the Securities and Futures Commission and devoted myself to public service. The last 15 years have given me the most rewarding career experience.

In my role as regulator, I participated in guiding Hong Kong’s securities industry through the Asian Financial Crisis, solving the problems created after the HKSAR government’s intervention in the stock market in 1998 (where the government ended up being a substantial shareholder of Hang Seng Index companies), completely revamping Hong Kong’s securities law to position the Hong Kong market for the new millennium, working with Mainland China to open the Mainland capital market, managing the meltdown in the Hong Kong market when Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008 and now helping Hong Kong take a leading role in the RMB internationalization story.
I am proud to have played a role in these historic and momentous events, just as I am humbled by the opportunity I have to serve Hong Kong. This is my passion. I am sure you will find yours.

The HKU Faculty of Law has been a breeding ground for distinguished legal professionals in Hong Kong. Among them are Secretaries for Justice, the Chief Judge of the High Court and a former Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal. Outside the legal profession many of our alumni also hold prominent roles in other sectors. Among them are the Director of Broadcasting, the Chief Editor of Ming Pao, and a popular lyric writer for Chinese pop music.

A law degree is a solid platform for careers in politics, academia, and business. In the U.S., over half of the Presidents have been lawyers. 40% of Prime Ministers in Australia came from the legal profession. Among those who were trained as lawyers are political and spiritual icons such as Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

As you can see, the choice of careers can be fascinating, but only you can decide what is the right path for yourself. And remember, being a lawyer equips you to be who you are, but does not define you.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ACCOUNTABLE

My third message to you is, you must be accountable. As a lawyer, you have very real obligations and responsibilities.

The HKU law faculty ranks top in Asia and 20th in the world according to the 2013 QS World University Rankings. As the recipients of what is probably the finest legal education available in Hong Kong, you will be held to the highest standards of integrity, sense of justice, and professionalism.

In the eyes of the general public, lawyers are the public face of the Hong Kong system of justice. As such, public perception and trust in Hong Kong’s legal system falls squarely on your actions and deeds. Your professional ethics will be put to the test in your everyday dealings with clients, judges, and your peers. Temptations abound and will present themselves to you. Show your mettle and brush these temptations aside. At the end of the day, when you look yourself squarely in the mirror, it is your own conscience that you have to wrestle with. Keep that conscience clean!

Your clients rely on you to deliver frank and unbiased legal advice. The courts rely on you to serve with candour and fairness. Your peers depend on you to deal with them with courtesy and in good faith.

My sincere advice to you all is - rise to the occasion, maintain your integrity at all times and deliver what is expected of you, and always go the extra mile to be helpful, to be unscrupulously honest, and to be measured and fair to all.

Those are my three key messages.

CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT

Before I leave you, let me just spend a couple of minutes to share with you my thoughts on competition in the legal space.

It has been said that competition in the legal field has become fiercer than ever. The rising interest to join the legal profession in Hong Kong is a result of various factors. One of those factors is Hong Kong’s unique position as the only place in China that has a common law regime. Today when all eyes are on the Mainland economy, Hong Kong is in the best position to capture opportunities from Mainland China, and thus attract the best talent from around the world.

This means that we will continue to see an increase in the number of legal practitioners not just from Hong Kong but also from Mainland China, and further afield such as the U.S., U.K., Australia and other common law jurisdictions who are in search of new opportunities in Asia.

So the question is, how can you keep ahead of the curve and stay competitive? My advice is to keep an open mind and be as versatile as possible. Try not to pigeon hole yourself into traditional or classical areas of legal practice before you have even started on your career.

In my 15 years at the SFC, I have come across colleagues from a great number of disciplines – law, accounting, finance, economics, business, mathematics, engineering, government, politics etc. I have found that lawyers are among those professionals with the sharpest analytical skill and the most logical mind. These are strengths which you should continue to empower by always being hungry for knowledge.

Keep yourself as current as possible on broader developments not just in the legal field, but also what is happening in Hong Kong generally and the rest of the world. Due to the open nature of the Hong Kong economy and financial market, what happens in the world ultimately affects Hong Kong. Try to anticipate and prepare for possible eventualities. Read as widely and as much as you can.

You all have unique strengths and abilities. Hone those strengths and abilities, remember to find out what your passion is and live it. I wish you all true happiness and I would like to conclude with my heartiest congratulations once again.

Good Luck! And may the Lord bless you all.
Meet our new staff

Mi Zhou joined the Faculty in September 2013, after serving almost two years in Pakistan with the United Nations. She comes from an interdisciplinary background and has extensive experience in post-conflict governance, migration, refugee and human rights law in Cairo, Cape Town and Kosovo. She held the Mellon post-doctoral fellowship at University College London between 2009 and 2011, where she taught, among other things, research and writing methodology, minority rights, and migration law. Outside the law, she spends her time reading novels, playing the piano and violin (though not at the same time), and eating.

Undergraduate Admissions Statistics (2013-2014)

Our programmes continued to attract the best students, as evidenced by the high admission standards. Out of 34 HKU programmes, our LLB, BSS(GL) and BA(Literary Studies) & LLB are ranked the top 3 in English (in that order); and BBA(Law) ranked the 5th. As for the 4 core subjects & best 2 electives in DSE, the LLB and BBA(Law) are respectively ranked the 2nd and 3rd following closely after MBBS. Further details are provided in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>English Language</th>
<th>Chinese Language</th>
<th>4 core subjects &amp; best 2 electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLB</td>
<td>6.63</td>
<td>6.01</td>
<td>6.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Literary Studies) &amp; LLB</td>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>5.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBA (Law)</td>
<td>6.31</td>
<td>5.81</td>
<td>6.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSS (GL)</td>
<td>6.47</td>
<td>5.70</td>
<td>6.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Conversion of HKDSE grades into scores:
Level 5** =7, 5* = 6, 5 = 5, 4 = 4, 3 = 3, 2 = 2, 1 = 1, unclassified/ others = 0.
Only 10 programmes in all HK tertiary institutions achieved an average score of 6 or above in 4 core subjects & best 2 electives, and 6 of them are in HKU, among which 3 are in law.

Hong Kong Legal Information on the Palm – HKLII and CLIC Apps for Android

In August 2013, the Law and Technology Centre launched its first mobile app for Hong Kong Legal Information Institute (HKLII), a free and popular bilingual legal information website containing legal information of Hong Kong, making HKLII available on mobile devices running Android.

A first glimpse of the CLIC App.

Features of the HKLII app include:
• comprehensive browsing through Hong Kong legislation, case law and other legal materials;
• quick search of over 300,000 documents;
• simple bookmarking and emailing functions for user-selected content.

Users can download and install HKLII app from this link:

Or by scanning this QR code:

The Law and Technology Centre is currently developing mobile apps for its other legal information websites designed for the general public, namely: Youth CLIC (CLIC for the youth) and Senior CLIC (CLIC for the seniors). The CLIC (Community Legal Information Centre) App for Android was launched in October 2013.

Professor Anne Cheung and Dr. Kevin Pun, co-directors of the Law and Technology Centre, hope that such mobile apps will help to promote knowledge exchange and enable the legal profession as well as the general public to access free legal information in a quick and easy way.
Congratulations!

Miss Sy Yi Ning, Melaney (LLB 2011, PCLL 2012) received a HK$300,000-scholarship from the SHKP-Kwoks’ Foundation for her LLM study at the University of Cambridge. For details of the SHKP-Kwoks’ Foundation, please visit http://www.shkpkf.org.cn.

Miss Melaney Sy (left) receiving a scholarship certificate from Ms Amy Kwok, Executive Director of the Foundation (right).

Mooting News

Third Asia-Pacific M&A Competition
August 19-21, 2013 (Beijing)

Team Members:
Wilson Lung (Team leader, PCLL),
Li Po Hing Fra (BBA(Law) 3)
Lo Hiu Shuen Christine (BBA(Law) 3)
Siu Kai Yan (BBA(Law) 3)
Li Lok Yi Angel (PCLL)
Cliff Yung (LLB 4)

Ranking/ Awards:
Best Written Proposal
Best Deal Team(s)
(tied with ChenchilU and PekingU teams)
Best Acquiring Team(s)
(tied with ZhenchilU)
Best adviser (Cliff Yung, LLB 4)
Best Team Member (Wilson Lung, PCLL)

Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot 2013 (Asia Pacific Regionals)
August 22-24, 2013 (Seoul)

Team Members:
Albert Chan (PCLL)
Anson Douglas (PCLL)
Holly Hoi Ching Cheng (PCLL)

Ranking/ Awards:
Champion Team
Best Oralist, Final Rounds
(Anson Douglas, PCLL)

Internation Law Moot Court Competition Asia Cup 2013
August 27-28, 2013 (Tokyo)

Team Members:
Jeff Chan (LLB 4)
Fiona Chong (LLB 4)
Thomas Wong (PCLL)
Helena Wong (LLB 3)

Ranking/ Awards:
4th overall in the competition
(ranked 2nd for oral pleadings and
6th in the written pleadings)

The 4th Annual Hong Kong Human Rights Moot 2013
October 19, 2013
(Hong Kong)

Team Members:
Tiffany Wu (LLB 3)
Kimberly Chan (LLB 3)

Ranking/ Awards:
Champion

14th Internation Maritime Law Arbitration Moot
July 8-12, 2013
(Southampton, UK)

Team Members:
Megan Chan (PCLL)
Johnson Ng (LLB 5)
Anthony Lo (BBA (Law) 3)
Muran Zhu (BSS (GL) 3)

Ranking/ Awards:
Semi-final
Beyond the Classroom

Teaching and learning have never been confined to the classroom, especially in this age of globalization. The University and the Faculty have been sending students to different parts of the world to learn and to explore.
Do you know that there are seven species of sea turtles on Earth and almost all of them are classified as endangered? This question may seem unrelated to the study of law, but it was in fact a law module that inspired me to participate in a turtle conservation project in Malaysia this summer.

From Law to Volunteer Work
My interest in environmental protection led me to take up the International Environmental Law module last year. During a class discussion, my professor referred to an international dispute in 1998, which involved the U.S. imposing a ban on the importation of shrimp caught by trawling vessels that did not install Turtle Excluder Devices. The U.S.’s move to conserve endangered sea turtles was supported by the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organisation. Upon further research, I found that indeed six out of the seven species of sea turtles in the world are facing imminent extinction.

When planning a graduation trip with my BBA(Law) classmates this year, I proposed volunteering at a turtle conservation organisation instead of merely sightseeing. After checking out various organisations, my friends and I settled on the Juara Turtle Project (“JTP”).

The Juara Turtle Project
JTP is a conservation effort based in Tioman Island, Malaysia. Our stay at JTP lasted for a week from 3rd to 10th June 2013 and we lived in one-storey kampong-style houses that were built by the founders using refurbished wood. The activities that we were involved in required hard work, but were incredibly fun and fulfilling. We began by drawing up a duty roster to divide the workload among the ten of us, so that we could complete the assigned tasks in an organised and responsible manner.

Before dawn, we conducted beach patrols on Mentawak beach (the beach on which we stayed) and sea patrols on two other isolated beaches to look for turtle tracks. Although we had to wake up rather early to do so, it was a refreshing experience to stroll along the beach while admiring the rising sun. Beach patrols were also conducted every night – we seized the opportunity to go stargazing on a couple of nights after the patrols!

Whenever we found signs of mother turtles having laid eggs, we would collect the eggs before they were discovered by monitor lizards or poachers. We would then transfer the eggs carefully to a hatchery maintained by JTP. We also helped in releasing baby turtles into the sea once the eggs hatched.

In the day, our main task was to interact with tourists who visited the project site, raising their awareness about the threats faced by sea turtles and ways to conserve the environment. With the aid of information boards, we informed them of the dangers faced by sea turtles, including water pollution, irresponsible fishing methods (that injure or kill turtles which are caught as by-catch), and climate change. If these threats persist, one or more species of sea turtles might become extinct within the next 20 to 50 years. Therefore,
we encouraged them to adopt a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle that would eventually help slow down the rate of sea turtle population decline.

With our training in law school, we were able to pick up information quickly and deliver our message effectively to visitors from around the world. On top of that, we made use of other skills to help the organisation advance its cause. One of my friends, Janice Chow, is good at art, so she designed and painted a cut-out board to attract new visitors. Judy Lee, an expert at Photoshop, designed posters and stickers with that software for JTP to promote turtle conservation.

**Reflection at Dawn**

My deepest reflection came from the daily activity of picking up rubbish along Mentawak beach. The most common debris I saw comprised plastic bottle caps, plastic straws and Styrofoam bits. As I removed them bit by bit under the morning sunlight, I reflected upon the adverse impacts that human beings have on nature. According to the data from the World Wide Fund for Nature, only 1 in 1000 sea turtle hatchlings can survive to sexual maturity under natural circumstances. With increasing human interference, the number has dropped to about 1 in 10,000.

As sea turtles (especially the Leatherback species) feed on jellyfish, they often mistake marine plastics as food and die from indigestion. Similarly, baby turtles have minimal food-finding skills and can only consume small organisms living near the water surface. It is not uncommon for them to ingest the Styrofoam bits floating on the sea. Mass production of synthetic non-biodegradable materials and the eventual release of them into the ocean have led to water pollution and contributed to the rapid decline in sea turtle population.

It seems that it will take time for people to realize the burden that they are imposing on the environment through their consumption and disposal behaviours. It will take an even longer time for them to change such ecologically harmful habits. It is unclear whether the negative consequences from human activities can ever be undone. Nevertheless, I hope that I have made a little difference by organising and participating in this service trip. In addition, I hope I will be able to do more in the future, not only by changing my lifestyle (such as reducing the use of plastic bags and buying products with less packaging) but also by spreading the environmentally-conscious mentality to those around me.

**Conclusion**

This trip provided an invaluable opportunity for me to have direct contact with endangered sea turtles. Interacting with JTP staff and visitors also brought new perspectives – I gained insights into the policy concerns involved in the aforementioned Shrimp-Turtle dispute, as well as how the law can be used to promote conservation. Most importantly, my friends and I acquired a better understanding of marine conservation issues through the hands-on experience and developed a deeper sense of global citizenship. While this is not the most relaxing beach holiday I have ever had, it is definitely the most meaningful one so far!

Lee Siu Chu (PCLL)
spent 6 weeks this summer to visit University College London and Pace Law School in New York to work with leading scholars in my field of interest (environmental law). After coming back to HK, I continue to work on my research project under the supervision of Ms. Jolene Lin as part of Guided Research. I am expecting to produce a research paper proposing suggestions to move forward the staggering negotiations of expanding the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to international aviation, and more specifically, by investigating the incorporation of one of the most contested principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDRRC) in emissions allowance setting and free allowance distribution, two of the core mechanisms in the aviation scheme.

This is all made possible by the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (URFP http://lil.hku.hk/urfp/), which offers full scholarships to HKU students from different faculties to undertake a research internship in an overseas, Mainland or local institution. This allows students to work on a research topic of interest and most importantly, to work with leading scholars in the field and be inspired, both academically and personally.

The greatest benefit from working with different scholars is being bombarded and challenged by different views. This allows me to appreciate the complexity of the debate and to dig deeper and deeper from different directions. There might not be a single destination; there might not be the best solution. But one can only hope that with all these academic debates and discussions, a better solution will emerge and be agreed upon by a transparent selection of all the well-researched solutions on the table.

While I was at UCL, I worked under the supervision of Prof. Joanne Scott, who is a distinguished academic in EU law. She was recently awarded a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship for her research on the global reach of EU climate change law. This is closely related to my research topic. Indeed, I was greatly inspired by her article on EU Climate Change Unilateralism to develop my own research in this area. She has given me great help in sharpening my research questions and valuable advice on how to carry the research forward.

I went to Pace with a very specific research outline and with the view that CBDRRC applies to the EU’s unilateral action and therefore it should be incorporated into the Aviation Directive. However, out of my expectation, this view which forms the fundamental assumption of my research was challenged by Prof. Czarnecki. He asked me to think carefully why CBDRRC should be relevant at all. I was shocked at first since I thought that the answer was quite obvious. But as I researched more and tried to dig out arguments from the other side, I found out that the debate was a tough one. There was no easy answer and this could be a whole new research topic. Sometimes, we overlook the most fundamental questions, and sometimes, these are the most important questions from which other questions evolve.

At Pace, apart from meeting Prof. Czarnecki, I also went to the orientation for new students and attended some JD/LLM classes on various environmental law topics. I knew that Pace is often ranked one of the top three law schools in the US on environmental law. But I was still very impressed by the extensive expertise and experience of both the faculty and students in a wide range of topics in environmental law. It is such a vibrant community. Also, some of the courses offer very practical experience for students as supplemented by weekly academic discussion. For example, in the Environmental Litigation Clinic led by Prof. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., students work alongside attorneys in representing appellants in environmental tort cases. There is also a very special course offering externship in UN Missions, allowing students to gain first-hand experience on the international environmental diplomacy process.

Looking back at the pictures and recounting each and every moment, I am really grateful for this unforgettable journey in life. This is the culmination of the generosity and kindness of many people, people that I respect and love.
This summer I spent 6 weeks in Russia as a SFERA intern under the University’s ILOP (Intensified Learning Opportunity Programme). SFERA is an international youth movement supporting various voluntary activities, but it was just a random decision when I made the application.

As an intern, my tasks there were mainly improving the English language on their website and designing English leaflets, business cards and posters, which I found most satisfying. The English level of the staff there is not very high generally and they lack the skills of producing publicity materials. With these English materials, SFERA can promote themselves more efficiently and hence recruit more youngsters from all around the world to take part in various meaningful activities.

During the internship period, I spent half of the time in a building workcamp organized by SFERA. Together with volunteers from Turkey, Spain and Russia, we helped with the renovation of the Sunday school of an Orthodox church and also played with children of the summer camp there. When communicating with other volunteers, I realized that they have quite different mindsets from most Hong Kong students. Most of them spend much time on volunteering and they are very knowledgeable in many areas like world politics, religion and culture etc. On the contrary, sometimes Hong Kong students are too focused on their academic results and future career so that they are shutting their eyes to the world, which is not desirable in this globalized community nowadays.

In the camp, we had the great opportunity to experience traditional Russian culture, including dances, songs, ancient weapons, handicrafts and food etc. Before I went to Russia, I did not know that Russians also love tea very much! But apart from this, there are quite a lot of differences between the food in Russia and China, for example, they have cold soups and they cook rice with milk for breakfast. These are new to me though I do not really like some of them. Another activity worth mentioning was my excursion to the local Orthodox churches. Personally I am very interested in the Orthodox religion in Russia because I am a Protestant Christian. We got the opportunity to talk to Fathers in the church and had some religious exchanges. I even worked in a monastery in my last week in Russia to help them make pies for sale in their cafés. It was really a precious experience because, without connection, it is difficult to get into any of the monasteries and take part in their internal operation.

The two main things that I gained from this internship are that, first of all, I can help break the stereotypes towards Russians. Before my internship, many people said to me that Russia is a dangerous place and people here do not smile, do not help foreigners and are very unfriendly. However, I found this is absolutely not true. Sometimes I think they are even nicer than most Hong Kong people as many Russians are so interested in talking to foreigners like me. Secondly, I think I have developed a lot after this trip. On the first week of my internship, I had to live alone in a new flat. So I had to find the things I needed in piles of stuff and clean up everything. At home I seldom do housework and cook. Therefore I was forced to learn there. Another great difficulty in Russia is that, especially in my city Nizhny Novgorod, there are almost no people speaking in English and all instructions and signs are in Russian. It had been very difficult for me at the beginning, for example I once bought a weird sauce just because I guessed it wrongly, but then my friends there accompanied me to do many things, both important and miscellaneous. If I had not stayed in a country where I could not speak the language, I would not have realized that I was in fact so blessed to have so many angels around me.

Eriko Lau, LLB 3
Mooting experience

- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2013
- Asia Cup International Law Moot Competition 2013
- Deacons Cup, Grand Final of HKU Compulsory Moot 2013
- Hong Kong Bar Association Cup, Grand Final of HKU Compulsory Moot 2013
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2012
- International Commercial Arbitration Moot by Asian Law Students’ Association 2011

How it started

Unlike most students, my mooting journey did not start from an internal mooting competition at HKU. My encounter with mooting was a coincidence when I was in the second year of my studies. That was when I participated in an ad hoc mooting event during a student conference of the Asian Law Students’ Association in Singapore. The moot problem was modelled on the Vis Moot and involved a contractual dispute of an international sale of goods. The moot was in the form of arbitration. We faced teams from Thailand and Korea in the preliminary round. I can still remember vividly how nervous I was in the first competition when I was making my submissions before the arbitral tribunal. As an inexperienced mooter, I was not used to answering questions from the tribunal. Fortunately I was getting more confident and the team eventually proceeded to the final of the competition, where we eventually lost to the team from National University of Singapore. This very first moot in my life broadened my horizon and I have started to develop an interest in mooting since then.

When I was an exchange student at the University of Warwick, I participated in the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot held in Vienna. The moot problem involved a dispute relating to the failure on the part of the seller to supply raw materials to a yacht. We faced teams from the civil law jurisdictions, and I was so impressed by our opponents’ advocacy quality. The moot was also special to me as I was in a team of four, in which two of my team mates were local British students and the other one came from Bulgaria. Working with students from such a diversified background enhanced my communication skills and interpersonal skills.

When I came back to HKU for my final year of studies, I joined the Jessup Team and the Asia Cup Moot Team. These two moots involved issues relating to Public International Law. The Jessup question this year concerned a hypothetical case involving inter alia, the loss of statehood of a “sinking island”, climate refugees, immigrant detention, and the proposed transfer of detainees to a third state. The Asia Cup moot question covered the issues of diplomatic protection of a torture claimant, human rights violation and jurisdictional immunity of a state. These are all exciting topics in international law and, at the same time, a reflection of what is actually happening in the real world. Since Public International Law is a dynamic legal subject, it was interesting to see how other teams approached the same moot problem from entirely different perspectives.
Apart from the external moots, I also had a chance to participate in an internal moot, namely the HKU Compulsory Moot. The moot problem in the Grand Final involved a legal dispute regarding the sale and purchase of a property. It was fascinating how we managed to put what we learnt in the land law course into practice and argued before a bench comprising leading legal practitioners. The questions from the bench were challenging, and we were invited to think out of the box and consider the practical implication of a particular legal doctrine.

What I have gained
One significant feature of all these mooting activities is the importance attached to written advocacy. In the past, I used to think that a good advocate only needed to speak well in court. It proved to be a too simplistic view. For instance, in writing skeleton submissions in the internal moot, one needs to present submissions succinctly so that judges can follow them easily in the actual moot. On the other hand, writing a memorial for an external moot requires different skills. Mooting teams, in, for example, Jessup and Vis, are usually asked to submit a detailed memorial with around 10,000 words before the oral round. We are expected to identify the issues accurately, draw fine distinctions with previous case law, develop arguments from academic literature and come up with a legally sound submission to advance one party’s case. As a result, a substantial amount of time is devoted to legal research and writing.

I also learnt that preparation is of paramount importance in order to do well in a moot competition. This is because mootings is more than a contest of eloquence. Perhaps the single feature that distinguishes mootings from debating is that mootings requires arguments which are supported by legal authorities, and this cannot be done without thorough legal research. Therefore, in preparing for a moot, I normally spend quite a lot of time on reading cases, statutes, commentaries etc. I would also borrow and watch video recordings of past mooting competitions in the library so that I can learn from the good practices and mistakes of past mooters. In the end, the level of preparation will reflect on your actual mooting performance. The more you prepare, the more confident you will be in making submissions and answering questions from the bench. Preparing for a moot is undoubtedly a time-consuming exercise, but the intellectual satisfaction I get is also very rewarding.

Last but not least, mooting is a wonderful chance to build friendship with my teammates. I can still recall how, when we were preparing for the Jessup moot, we locked ourselves in the mooting chamber and argued on the most difficult issues in the moot problem. Rushing to numerous practice sessions, with teachers and past mooters as our guest judges, after class is also very memorable. I am truly glad that we have become good friends after a year of preparation and hard work.

Bon voyage!
I am grateful that I have participated in different mooting competitions in various stages of my legal studies. I strongly encourage every law student to take part in mooting competitions. Mooting is fun and I hope more students will share the same excitement in the future.

Chan Ho Yuen, Jeff (PCLL)
I was incredibly lucky to be able to go to two continents during my exchange year. My first semester was spent at the University of Victoria in Canada (North America), while I studied at the University of Glasgow in the UK (Europe) for my second semester. Both places were not the traditional cities you would normally visit. Victoria is accessible only by air or ferry, and probably better known as a one-day tour stop from Vancouver. On the flip side, Glasgow is not particularly known for its tourism, but more for being a large Scottish city with an awesome (or atrocious depending on how you look at it) Glaswegian accent.

Living away from my family in a new environment helped me learn more about myself and become more self-reliant. In Victoria, I rented a room at a local Canadian family’s house, whereas in Glasgow I lived in a student dormitory. For the first time in my life I had to share housekeeping duties, such as clearing out the rubbish or cleaning the toilets! Another memorable experience was having to regularly cook for myself, which was initially a challenge. I tried making pancakes one weekend and completely burnt them and smoked up the kitchen! Over time, I became more adept at cooking, and making my own dinner became something I looked forward to everyday after school.

The learning experience was vastly different too. Classes were generally smaller in Canada, and the students were all older than I was (in Canada law can only be studied as a second degree). It was an intimate learning experience, and it was always interesting, in my view, to learn about why my older peers (some with even children to support) would choose to pursue law as a profession. In Glasgow, classes were bigger, but I had a great time studying subjects that few people would encounter in Hong Kong, such as EU Law and Forensic Medicine (and yes that is a law course), despite having to sit through gruelling closed-book exams at the end of the year, a practice we seldom have in Hong Kong nowadays.

Perhaps the one most precious thing I took away from this whole exchange experience was a further discovery of myself. One of my greatest joys was that I lived a more relaxed and laidback lifestyle. I took more time to walk to and from school, enjoy evening runs or while away my afternoons at a café with a good book and good music... all the while gaining a new appreciation for life and the world around us. Going on exchange was one of the best decisions I made in my life, one that I would never regret. I felt like a sponge, absorbing everything that I saw and felt, and I was keen to see and do everything, as much as I possibly could. At the end of the day it does not matter what you actually study whilst on exchange (although of course you still have to study), it is the overall life-changing experience that makes this an once-in-a-lifetime grand adventure that I will never forget.
Connecting Myanmar is a group of dreamers passionate about the country. Most of us were volunteers previously, and we wanted to share the same experience with others – which is why we organize awareness activities in Hong Kong, and volunteering opportunities abroad, in close partnership with students and friends from Myanmar.

My journey started in Yangon with the Faculty of Social Science's Migrant Outreach Education Initiative Programme in 2012. I spent two months there teaching English in a state university, and during that time I fell for this beautiful country with a culture and history unlike anywhere else. Most members of Connecting Myanmar were volunteer teachers in refugee camps or migrant schools at the Thai-Myanmar border, teaching members of ethnic minorities who had fled instability in Myanmar – and for many of the teachers, it was a life-changing experience.

Building on the knowledge we gained and local connections made, we organize volunteering opportunities for other students. We try to match students’ skills to relevant placements, so that they get to practise what they learn and the local community benefits from their expertise. For example, in 2013 we placed law students at the Yangon office of the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma. There, they contributed to the organization’s ongoing legal research in areas of law that have recently been reformed. We also had students with experience in journalism organize journalism workshops at the Thai-Myanmar border, to help migrant students there give voice to their own stories.

As our name suggests, we aim to ‘bridge’ Hong Kong to Myanmar. In response to the plight of people displaced due to the conflict in Kachin state, we organized a fundraising concert at HKU in February 2013. Myanmar Week is a yearly activity on campus comprising of fora on current issues, exhibitions, and a cultural night in which we celebrate Myanmar through music, dance and food.

In Hong Kong, students are under constant pressure to compete with each other – academically, or for internships or jobs. Yet in Myanmar we found it extremely gratifying to find that, through volunteering, we could use our skills to benefit others. We believe that everyone has something to offer, no matter whether they are from HKU, from a refugee camp in Thailand or from an ethnic state in Myanmar, and we can all learn from each other as long as we get connected. That is the belief that drives Connecting Myanmar.
Under the guidance of a dozen human rights experts from the Universitas 21 (U21) member institutions, 87 students from 19 universities examined numerous key issues in human rights, visited the United Nations and met with major human rights NGOs in New York City. We also had firsthand interaction with several human rights agencies and activists in Connecticut, including the American Civil Liberties Union which advocates the free speech of citizens, the Greater Hartford Legal Aid, etc.

Cultural Relativism
One thing that I found rewarding about this summer school was to see diversified cultural views, experiences and languages being put into discussions on human rights, generating a more holistic understanding on this issue – not just from my own perspective, but from students across the globe. We often sat with different students coming from other places, talking about issue of our own home countries, from the executions in Iraq to the Universal Suffrage in Hong Kong, and exchanging our own inconclusive ideas on the meaning of human rights.

Throughout the lectures and discussions, visits to different local NGOs and random talk with other students, the high degree of freedom of speech in the US impressed me the most. During our visit to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), we were informed that its primary concern is to defend individual liberties guaranteed in the laws of the US. A major source of criticism is legal cases in which the ACLU represented an individual or a group that promotes unpopular, extreme viewpoints (or even hate speeches) e.g. Neo-Nazi, Nation of Islam, etc.

This also made me reflect on how to strike a balance between individual rights and public interest as, personally; I felt quite shocked to discover that the right to make hate speeches, which stir up social unrest within the society, could be regarded as a fundamental freedom of speech and could be protected in the US. This kind of over-liberalist approach may somehow lead to excessive expansion of an individual’s right, putting societal interest at stake by exploiting the idea of “right to make your own speech”. Yet, this has also challenged the universality of “human rights".
Different places will have their own values and practices stemming from a diversity of cultural backgrounds so Eastern countries may tend to adopt a more conservative view on human rights than the West. Thus, it is very difficult to apply only one perspective of “human rights” into different local contexts.

Core of Human Rights

“What are human rights?” – this has been the most fundamental question posed to us during the summer school. Since each individual in different countries will interpret it through different lenses, it is quite a challenge to find a consensus on a definition. As a start, we first explore the philosophical principles of natural justice and the systems in the United Nations. We studied different international conventions e.g. ICCPR, ICAT, etc. and conducted an intense mock Nuremberg trial to critically assess the humanitarian issues involved.

Sometimes I found it hard to decide the appropriate proportions of idealism and realism that stand in line with my values. For example, the profound principles laid down in the UDHR are the ideals that we strive for, but the reality is that many countries only ratified international covenants with reservations. And the fact that the United Nations cannot have any binding power to prevent its member states from violating different articles poses enormous hurdles to the realization of human rights globally.

Owing to the biases stemming from different cultural backgrounds, we do not easily make compromises for the wellbeing of others, leading to various kinds of human rights violations. Every Government is tempted to violate human rights by using seemingly justified majority’s interests e.g. in the name of national security to triumph over minorities’ views. On the other hand, some people will attach too much emphasis to individual rights e.g. freedom of speech, ignoring the greater benefits to the whole society. This makes me begin to realize the importance of dialogues between different cultures or countries to cope with disagreements, facilitating mutual understanding and the need for human institutions to keep them in check.

Wake-up Call

Before visiting all those human rights agencies in Hartford region, I did not recognize there are so many human rights concerns existing in the United States, which is a nation generally considered as a land of prosperity and fortune. With countless décor of domineering skyscrapers, people will be easily bewildered by the empowerment of individual wealth and the commercial empires that house different tycoons.

Yet, it is the tremendous income disparity in New York that strikes me the most. Hundreds of roofless sleepers and psychopaths lying in their own filth along the glamorous shopping districts paved with famous brands like Abercrombie & Fitch, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, you name it. Despite the fact that US has signed the ICESCR whose Article 11 has stated “The States Parties recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing”, the US Government has still not yet ratified this covenant and this situation has even been exacerbated by various discriminatory policies.

This summer school experience can really provide me a real-world perspective by exposing myself to the works of different human rights organizations. It certainly made me reflect upon and evaluate my own personal values.

Overview

Although the world we are living in may not be an optimal place where each individual’s rights are well protected, we can change the future of tomorrow. It will not be easy, it will not be quick, but the harvest will be a better world will come into place. The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing. Throughout these two weeks, I have met many passionate people who wish to make this world into a better place for humanity to flourish. We may be few in numbers, but our ideas transcend the self.

“Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, they send forth a ripple of hope ... these ripples build a current which can sweep down walls of oppression and resistance.”  

– Rob. F. Kennedy
Angela Yuen (LLB 3) and Alexandra Kong (LLB 3) joined the Summer Internship Programme sponsored by the Legal Education Trust Fund. During the first two weeks, students attended lectures at the China University of Political Science and Law. In the remaining four weeks, they were separated into 3 groups, going to courts in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing as interns. Here below excerpts from their reports.

Classes at the China University of Political Science and Law — Alexandra Kong (LLB 3)

We had a number of 3-hour classes on a variety of China-related topics by some prestigious professors of the university, including famous professors like Zhang Jin-Fan. Of all the classes, I enjoyed the ones on diplomatic relations of China, the modern history of China and development of the economy of China the most.

The professors highlighted the important principles of each area of law, and went on to discuss their opinion on the fundamental issues to be addressed as each area of law develops. The deepest impression I had from attending the classes was that from learning about the economy from Prof Hong Jie. She explained the inadequacies of a planned economy that China is trying to steer away from, China’s rapid development and the main current issues, such as China’s relationship with other important economies and countries within the region.

After the class of Prof Hong Jie, I asked her a few questions. One was on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, since I studied the law elective International Economic Law last semester and learned a bit from Prof Chin Leng Lim on the topic. She said China shall have to continue to work out trade relations with specific countries and foster regional economic interests in light of relationships like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. I was interested in how Chinese scholars are viewing China’s regional relationships, and Prof Hong brought to a banquet the next day in her handbag a long a thick book to recommend to me. I felt indebted to her for the kindness.

Among all things, what kept me thinking for some time were the common features between those professors. First, they were very open minded in their analyses. Although some Hong Kong people may think of the academics in China as unduly “nationalist”, this is certainly not the case among all professors. They spoke of both the improvements and room for improvement of China, and critically pointed out past and future issues. I really appreciate the professors’ willingness to make balanced judgments, as opposed to some scholars who take one sided routes and aim to attract popular attention.

Secondly, they had a very sharp sense of history, and thus analyse the development of law and economy in line with history. That not only boosts students’ interest in the subjects, but also serves to help students gain a more thorough understanding of the issues, and remember pieces of knowledge in closer connection to each other. I immensely enjoyed the learning at the China University of Political Science and Law partly because of the vivid historical threads within the topics taught.
Internship at Hangzhou Intermediate People’s Court — Angela Yuen (LLB 3)

I was assigned to Hangzhou and spent four weeks in the Hangzhou Intermediate People’s Court. There I had the chance to see the law in action for myself in the PRC. My impression of the PRC courts was not good before joining the summer programme as I heard different rumours and bad things about PRC courts. I was surprised by the court’s strict adherence to procedures. “The court system should serve the people” (司法为人民) is an important principle guiding the courts in China. It was surprising to see that there are lots of measures implemented to achieve the aim. One time we went to a basic level court which is located in a village area. The judges sometimes go to the village to conduct court proceedings, called “Xunhui fating” (巡回法庭) to help villagers settle disputes. Judges also play a role in educating the public about law and they give talks in villages and schools. The simple proceedings employed and the writing of writ service provided by courts are also dedicated to enable to access to justice. I was very impressed by the effort paid by mainland courts to ensure access to justice. The learning experience was very rewarding as the PRC adopted the civil law system which has so many differences from our Hong Kong common law system. Seeing that they have different procedures, different principles always made me question the reasons behind our common law principles and procedures and try to understand those in the PRC civil law system. It made me reflect more on our system and gain deeper understanding of not only the legal system of the PRC, but also the system of Hong Kong.

The natural beauty of Hangzhou added colour to our internship. West Lake is the most famous among all. Sightseeing in Hangzhou was refreshing as we could get close to nature. The trees, lakes and lotus ponds in Hangzhou were precious to city-dwellers like us. The heat in Hangzhou is also worth mentioning. We happened to be in Hangzhou in its hottest month and high temperature of greater than 40 degrees during daytime accompanied us for four weeks. I was grateful that I was not cooked other than getting some tan. Despite the heat, we had a great time in Hangzhou. We felt like we were at home in Hangzhou with the hospitality and warmth we received from Hangzhou judges and students of Zhejiang University.

I gained much deeper understanding of the PRC legal system and experienced life in mainland cities during this summer programme. I often miss the six-week journey after getting back to Hong Kong. Beijing, Hangzhou, Shanghai, the people and the food are too great to forget.
I spent one year on exchange at the Renmin University of China (RUC). Although an unconventional choice, for most students seem to prefer going to Europe, Australia or the United States, I was very happy about my decision. I guess the best proof of it is the fact that I decided to stay here for my LLM.

Renmin University celebrated just last year its 75th year anniversary. It is located in the Haidian district of Beijing, which is well known for its IT firms and universities. The university is regarded as one of the best in China, but its law faculty is particularly renowned and often seen as the number one place in China for law studies.

The basic Bachelor of Laws equivalent at RUC is also four years long. However, during the fourth year students have no classes. The entire fourth year is spent on writing your final thesis and possibly doing an internship or going on exchange. Hence, most of my classes were elective courses with the third year students (the year before me), I was free to choose to select any courses I wanted to from the ones offered by the law faculty. My overall academic experience was very positive. I took six LLB level law courses taught in Chinese and two LLM level law courses taught in English. The professors at RUC are all very passionate and dedicated about the subjects they teach. They are also very easy to approach. For example, after each lecture there is a half hour break before the next lecture begins. The professors stayed every time behind to patiently answer any questions students might have. The lectures were never just recitation of law and theory but included discussions about the problems law has rectified or the problems it needs to rectify. Because the semester in China is a month or so longer than at HKU at RUC we had more time to discuss these matters. There were no seminars but the class size is clearly smaller in comparison to HKU. At RUC the class size of all the courses I attended ranged between 10 to 40 students.

A non-Chinese student studying a degree taught in Chinese is by no means an anomaly in China, or, if it was before, it is not anymore. There are a lot of Korean students, but also numerous students from different countries in Africa and Europe as well as Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and the United States – all studying their full-degrees in China in Chinese. Therefore, it was also fairly easy for me, as another non-Chinese student, to blend in in the campus life and the lectures without being the odd one out in the student body.

The local students and the international students live separately. The international students have their own dormitories. Therefore mingling with the local students is not necessarily very easy and the international students have their own circles. But with some effort one can make local friends as well. RUC has a lot of student societies, which welcome new members. At the beginning of the semester there is a society fair where the different societies have booths and recruit new members. By joining a society one can easily get to learn more about how locals lead their university life. I joined quite a few societies last year. One of the most memorable experiences was joining the RUC Drama Society. At the end of the year I also got a chance to perform in a play.

The residences are similar to HKU dormitories in the sense that most of them are double rooms (some single rooms if you pay more), there is a common bathroom on each floor, common laundry facilities and the visiting times are restricted. However, the dormitories do not organize any hall activities like at HKU. So there is no similar hall culture. Another significant difference is that hot water is switched off in the afternoon and nighttime, but that is something one gets used to very fast. And to be honest, although at the beginning it was quite difficult to get used to, the fact that hot water is turned off at one is a great way to encourage students going to sleep early.

It has certainly been a very interesting experience and it is remarkable how different the dynamics and the culture are in Beijing and Hong Kong. There are great things to do and great people to meet in university. Beijing or other interesting cities nearby. But what you make out of it depends very much on your own initiative – things are not spoon fed here. As I mentioned above, I am very satisfied with my year at RUC and look forward to returning to the city for my LLM degree next year.
WHEN LAW IS IN DIFFERENT COLORS......

This summer, Cheung Po Yiu (LLB 2) attended illustration courses organized by Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, University of the Arts London with the support of the Woo Po Shing Oversea Summer School Travelling Scholarship. By lessons from her favourite cartoonist, visiting museums and the Supreme Court, and sketching in local markets, she gained more insights in illustration and how law and art could be merged. Being an art enthusiast and law student, she made a short comic using the renowned tort law case Donoghue v. Stevenson [1932] AC 562, HL as her final project, to show how law means more than just lengthy sentences and thick books.

“We are governed by law, yet sometimes we do not really know what it is. The situation is made worse when it comes to laymen. I will make good use of all the skills and techniques I have learnt here, producing some more case law comics in the not too distant future. With pictures and colours I believe law can be made more accessible to the general public.”
IN AN OUTDOOR CAFÉ...

ENJOY.

TRY THIS ICE CREAM FLOAT. THIS IS THE BEST SELLER HERE.

MMM...

THIS IS REALLY NICE.

HAVE SOME MORE.

THANKS.
"Plop"

"What's that!?"

Gosh! That's a snail. A drunk snail.

That's ridiculous. How could a £20 ice cream float contain a snail!? I'm gonna sue the manufacturer!
TRIAL DAY...

MR. SNAIL, COULD YOU DESCRIBE HOW YOU GOT INTO THE BOTTLE OF GINGER BEER?

... 

MR. SNAIL?
WHEN DID YOU GET INTO THE BOTTLE?
PLease answer the question!

DURING MANUFACTURING OR IN CAFÉ?

...

AS THE DEFENDANT IS NOT ELIGIBLE, I'M GOING TO DISMISS THE CASE.

CRASH!!

...
New Opportunities of Studying Abroad: New Double Degree Agreement with Cambridge

This year, more than 120 LLB and double degree students will spend a semester or a full year ‘on exchange’ at top overseas universities pursuant to our numerous reciprocal exchange agreements. During the period of exchange they will have the opportunity to study the common law at source, in North America, UK and Australasia with some of its most distinguished professors, to be exposed to different approaches to legal issues and legal education, and to make great strides in emotional and social maturity. The benefits of such exchanges to our bright but relatively young students are incalculable. Our students on exchange are also excellent ambassadors for our Faculty, and have thus helped the Faculty to attract international students to enroll in our programmes. The internationalization of the Faculty’s student body has in turn brought immense and long-term benefits to our local students.

In addition to the normal exchange programme, we have established arrangements to enable some of our students to spend a year as visiting students at Oxford (three of our law students are attending Oxford this year) and Yale (one student this year pursuant to a Yale-HKU agreement). Next year, similar arrangements will be possible with Cambridge and Harvard. We are also making exciting plans for double degrees with top law schools overseas, and you will hear more from us about these arrangements.
Your support makes a difference

The benefits brought about by these experiences are invaluable and probably endless. The Faculty has been working hard to negotiate fee waivers and/or provide funding for the students, but there is always a limit as to how much the Faculty can do, and overseas education/experience is expensive. We need your support. Your support will be most useful in helping many students with good potential but not the financial means, to have the chance of benefiting from these hard-won opportunities.

With the generosity of donors and alumni, 3 Scholarships (awarded on the basis of both academic merit and financial needs) have already been established to support up to 9 students to go on exchange annually:

- Madam Lau Kit Fong (Sau Chee) Memorial Scholarship
- Taolin Memorial Scholarship
- 1972 Law Graduates Scholarship

We hope that many more than just 9 students can benefit. By setting up a scholarship provided by your class, you can join hands with your classmates to help these students to excel.

If you would like to make a pledge or have more information, please contact Ms Rachel Li of the Law Faculty Office (lirachel@hku.hk; 3917 2919).

More souvenirs available at: http://www.law.hku.hk/souvenir
Welcome Home, MCL graduates!

On 7 November 2013, more than 50 MCL graduates and their family members visited the new home of the Faculty, the Cheng Yu Tung Tower. They are from the Shenzhen People's Court, which has been sending judges to study the Master of Common Law (MCL) programme since 2002. Under the collaboration, over one hundred Shenzhen judges have completed common law training with us, many of whom are now Divisional Heads. Among them, 徐强 (MCL, 2007), 廖超伟 (MCL 2009), 熊晓婷 (MCL 2013) and 吴奕盈 (MCL 2013) have recently been appointed judges of the newly established Qianhai court (前海法庭).

It was announced at the reunion that the Shenzhen Alumni Association had been established to enhance communication among MCL graduates and the Faculty of Law. The reunion concluded with a dinner in Shenzhen.

Professor C.F. Lee, the then Deputy Vice-Chancellor signing the agreement with the Shenzhen People's Court in 2001.